

FORTIFYING THE FUTURE:

Building Better Communities to Adapt to Climate Change

Climate change has intensified natural hazards including hurricanes, wildfires, floods and winter storms making them more frequent and destructive. These hazards pose significant risks to communities and infrastructure, especially those in vulnerable locations and in jurisdictions that have not adopted or effectively enforced modern building codes.

Stable infrastructure, housing and facilities provide communities more than just avoided losses. Benefits include:

- ✓ Continuity of Service
- ✓ Lifelines Support
- ✓ Economic Stability
- ✓ Health Benefits



\$132
BILLION

future losses avoided
(2000-2040)

According to FEMA’s landmark report - Building Codes Save: A Nationwide Study (November 2020), projects that adopt modern natural hazard-resistant building codes will avoid \$132 billion in future losses (2000-2040) and provide a sustainable return on hazard mitigation investment and improve their ability to recover quickly.

Building and energy codes are proven to be the most effective strategy to reduce risk to life and property from future climate events.

Mandeville, Louisiana is a stark depiction of the power of codes.

2005*
Hurricane Katrina

750 NFIP Claims

\$25 Million

2012
Hurricane Isaac

250 NFIP Claims

\$7.5 Million

2021
Hurricane Ida

230 NFIP Claims

\$5.9 Million

*After Katrina, Mandeville proactively adopted a climate action-oriented plan while Louisiana adopted provisions of the International Codes, reducing the impact of subsequent hurricanes.

ONLY
1/3

of the nation’s jurisdictions
have adopted hazard-resistant
codes.

The Authority Having Jurisdiction over building code implementation is typically responsible for planning, land use, and zoning policies, all which may be influenced by climate and weather data.

Every dollar spent on code updates brings \$11 in benefits in the form of averted damages, loss of life, fiscal impacts, etc.

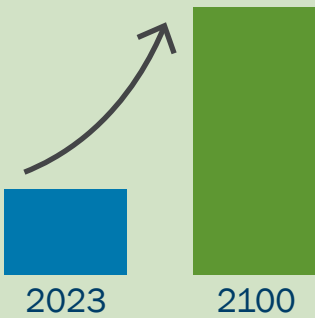
\$1 = \$11



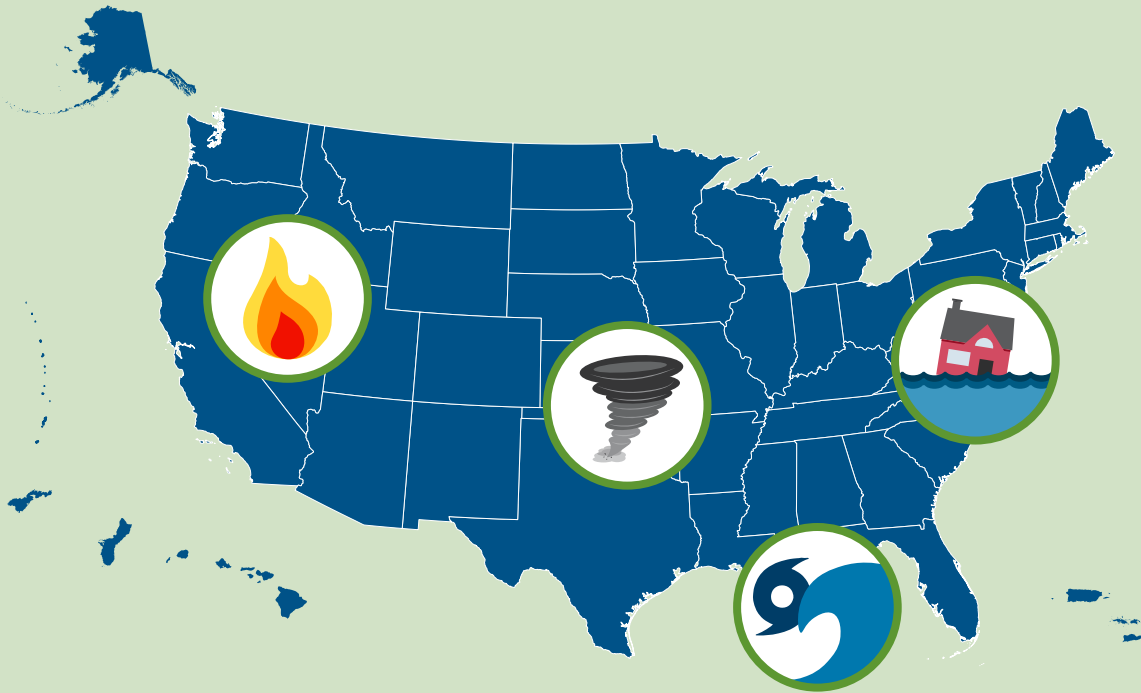
If all new buildings across the U.S. were built to modern editions of the International Codes, the country would save more than \$600 billion by 2060.

Resilient designs or hazard mitigation construction offers the strongest protection to withstand extreme weather events, while building codes and standards are the first crucial step to get there.

The frequency of extreme storms is expected to increase 60% by the year 2100.



Building codes are most effective at mitigating risks for future conditions and ensuring the safety and resilience of our built environment when they are responsive to location-specific climate hazard risks.



More than 40% of the U.S. population lives in areas that have been directly affected by climate-related extreme weather events in the past year alone.



Smart communities are constantly evolving to develop safeguards that will help them adapt to current and future conditions. Advancing infrastructure to incorporate building and energy codes will ensure that these communities are safer from severe weather events.

PRO TIP

Think ‘location-specific climate hazard risks’ and consult with other jurisdictions in your area to share best practices for increasing your community’s resilience.

START HERE

Connect with your local and state building code officials to see if the most recent code is adopted, or if there are state or local amendments that go above adopted codes and standards.