



Town of Berlin

Jurisdictional Annex to the

MULTIJURISDICTIONAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN

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Town of Berlin Annex

This is the jurisdictional annex for the Town of Berlin. The jurisdiction’s governing body passed a formal resolution to participate in updating this multi-jurisdictional hazard mitigation plan (HMP). A copy of its resolution is maintained at the local government offices and at the Rensselaer County Bureau of Public Safety.

Contact Information

Table 1: Contact Information for the Town of Berlin

Name	Title	Contact Information
Robert Jaeger	Town Supervisor	Phone: 518-658-2161 Email: berlinsupervisor@fairpoint.net

Introduction

The Town of Berlin has a fully integrated approach to hazard mitigation planning and program implementation. Table 2 lists the participants in the 2024 process for updating the HMP.

Table 2: Participants in the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the Town of Berlin

Title	Title	Jurisdiction
Walter A. Yerton	Building Inspector/Code Enforcement	Town of Berlin
Rob Jaeger	Town Supervisor	Town of Berlin

Jurisdiction Profile

Location and Land Area

The Town of Berlin is in southeast Rensselaer County, in the eastern part of New York State. It shares a border with Grafton and Petersburgh to the north, Stephentown to the south, Massachusetts to the east, and Poestenkill and Sand Lake to the west.

According to U.S. Census Bureau 2020 QuickFacts,¹ Rensselaer County has a total area of 665 square miles (1,720 km²), of which 652 square miles (1,690 km²) is land and 13 square miles (34 km²) (1.9%) is water. Of that, the Town of Berlin has a total area of 59.91 square miles (155.18 km²), of which 59.60 square miles (154.35 km²) of it is land and 0.32 square miles (0.83 km²) of it is water.

Population

According to the 2024 World Population Review, the population of the Town of Berlin is estimated to be 1,783 persons.²

Demographics

According to 2024 World Population Review³, The population of the Town of Berlin includes 954 females and 1,076 males. Young and old subsets of the population may have unique needs regarding care requirements and potential cognitive and/or mobility limitations before, during, and after a disaster.

The portion of the population who speak a language other than English is 2.31%.⁴ People who do not speak English well may have trouble understanding instructions regarding disaster preparation, response, and recovery.

Of those 25 years old and older, 35.9% are high school graduates, and 14.25% have received their bachelor's degree or higher.⁵ Higher education can help enhance skills associated with cognition and evaluation of risk. Higher education can, therefore, foster an overall improved perception of risk, particularly where individuals may not have prior direct experience preparing for, responding to, or recovering from a particular hazard in their daily lives.

In 2024, there were 773 total households and 2.6 persons per household.⁶ Persons living alone sometimes have less of a direct social circle for support before, during, and after a disaster.

The U.S. Census Bureau classifies all people not living in housing units (houses, apartments, mobile homes, rented rooms) as living in group quarters. The two types of group quarters are institutional (correctional facilities, nursing homes, mental hospitals) and non-institutional (college dormitories, military barracks, group homes, missions, and shelters). The U. S. Census Bureau maintains no information on group quarters for this municipality. The needs of persons living in group quarters are unique, and

¹ U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts, "Rensselaer County, New York; United States." <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/rensselaercountynewyork,US/PST045223>.

² World Population Review, "Berlin Town, New York Population 2024." <https://worldpopulationreview.com/us-cities/new-york/berlin>

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Ibid.

⁶ Ibid.

residents are likely to have access and functional needs and unique care requirements before, during, and after a disaster.

According to the 2024 World Population Review, the median household income in the Town of Berlin was \$72,760, and the percentage of people in poverty was 10.59%.⁷ Lower-income people have limited financial resources to draw from pre- and post-disaster scenarios and will likely require support as they prepare for and recover from hazard events.

The number of civilians with disabilities is 16.9. The percentage of persons (civilian, non-institutionalized) without health insurance is 1.3%.⁸ Persons with disabilities have access and functional needs, such as cognitive or mobility limitations, that may put them at greater risk before, during, and after a hazard event.

Brief History

The area that is now Rensselaer County was inhabited by the Algonquian-speaking Mohican Indian tribe at the time of European encounter. Kiliaen van Rensselaer, a Dutch jeweler and merchant, purchased the area in 1630 as part of the Dutch colony of New Netherland. The land passed from English rule (1664) to Dutch control (1673), then back to English rule (1674) until American independence in 1776. Rensselaer County was created in the 1790s from an area originally part of the extensive Albany County. In 1807, the county reorganized.⁹

The Town of Berlin was incorporated in 1765 and named a town in 1806, one of the many New York towns with a German name. Berlin had its economic roots as a center for dairy farming; however, many of the farms were subdivided in the last decades of the 20th century. The town now serves primarily as a bedroom community for the Albany, NY, capital district but retains some notable industries.

Governing Body

The municipality's governing body comprises a Town Board, a Town Supervisor, a Deputy Supervisor, three Councilmen, and other department heads. This council serves as the county's municipal/local government, performing executive functions of different natures. The people elect members of this governing body.

Growth and Development Trends

Performing an assessment of growth and development trends is one step of a hazard mitigation plan update. This look into the future is important because development in hazard areas could put more people and property in harm's way and, in turn, could increase potential disaster-related damage and

⁷ Ibid

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ 2020 Rensselaer County Hazard Mitigation Plan, "Town of Berlin Annex-Brief History",

losses at a time when the mitigation plan’s purpose is to reduce the potential for damage from natural disasters.

An evaluation of growth and development trends was undertaken by each participating jurisdiction as part of the development of the initial plan in 2011 and updated in 2020. The Town of Berlin has reported no changes in development since the 2020 plan.

The town's population has decreased by 0.83%, from 1,808 in 2000 to 1,793 people in 2024.

The Town of Berlin did not note any major residential or commercial development or significant infrastructure development planned for the next five years. Development trends in the town are characterized by the development of farmlands and woodlands for second homes.

The Town of Berlin enforces NY State Regulations, 1988 Land Use Regulations (currently under review) to protect new development from the effects of natural hazards. Land Use Regulations require compliance with all State Environmental Quality Review requirements.

Hazard Identification

The Calculated Priority Risk Index (CPRI) is a comprehensive assessment tool used to evaluate and prioritize risks in a given context. It considers various factors, such as probability, impact, and urgency, to determine the level of risk associated with particular events or situations. By considering these variables, the CPRI helps organizations and individuals make informed decisions about risk management and mitigation strategies. It provides a systematic approach to identifying and addressing potential issues, allowing for more efficient allocation of resources and proactive risk prevention. With the CPRI, stakeholders can prioritize their focus on the most critical risks, leading to more effective risk management and, ultimately, better outcomes. Table 3 shows the factors for calculating the CPRI.

Table 3: Factors in the Calculated Priority Risk Index

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
Probability What is the likelihood of the hazard occurring?	1	Unlikely	Less than 1% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of greater than every 100 years.	30%
	2	Occasional	1%–10% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 11–100 years.	
	3	Likely	11%–90% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of 1–10 years.	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
	4	Highly Likely	91%–100% probability of occurrence in the next year or a recurrence interval of less than 1 year.	
Potential Consequences What will be the overall impact in terms of injuries, damage, death, continuity of operations, and environmental and economic impacts?	1	Negligible	Very few injuries, if any. Only minor property damage and minimal disruption of quality of life. Temporary shutdown of critical facilities.	30%
	2	Limited	Minor injuries only. More than 10% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for more than one day.	
	3	Critical	Multiple deaths/injuries possible. More than 25% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities more than one week.	
	4	Catastrophic	High number of deaths/injuries possible. More than 50% of property in affected area damaged or destroyed. Complete shutdown of critical facilities for 30 days or more.	
Warning Time How long will be there be between when it is recognized the hazard is approaching and when the hazard will begin to affect the community?	1	Self-defined	More than 24 hours	10%
	2	Self-defined	12–24 hours.	
	3	Self-defined	6–12 hours.	
	4	Self-defined	Less than 6 hours.	
Duration What is the length of time the hazard will remain active, including how long emergency operations will need to continue after the hazard event?	1	Brief	Up to 6 hours.	10%
	2	Intermediate	Up to one day.	
	3	Extended	Up to one week.	
	4	Prolonged	More than one week.	

Risk Index Factor	Degree of Risk Level		Criteria	Factor Weight for Degree of Risk Level
Spatial Extent How large of an area could be impacted by a hazard event? Are impacts localized or regional?	1	Negligible	Less than 1% of area affected.	20%
	2	Small	1%–25% of area affected.	
	3	Moderate	25%–50% of area affected.	
	4	Large	Greater than 50% of area affected.	

RISK FACTOR EQUATION

$$RF \text{ Value} = [(Probability \times .30) + (Magnitude \times .30) + (Onset \times .10) + (Duration \times .10) + (Frequency \times .20)]$$

Table 4 presents the CPRI for the Town of Berlin with respect to the different hazards the jurisdiction might experience.

Table 4: Types of Hazard Events with Calculated Priority Risk Index for the Town of Berlin

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Drought	3	3	1	4	4	3.1
Earthquake	2	1	4	1	4	2.2
Extreme Temperatures	3	2	1	3	4	2.7
Flooding	3	3	2	3	2	2.7
Hazardous Materials	2	2	4	3	2	2.3
High Winds	4	2	4	1	2	2.7
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	2	2	1	3	2	2
Landslide	2	2	4	3	1	2.1
Lightning	4	1	4	1	1	2.2
Terrorism	1	2	4	3	1	1.8
Tornado	2	2	4	3	2	2.3
Utility & Infrastructure Failure	4	2	4	3	1	2.7

Type of Hazard Event	Probability	Potential Consequences	Warning Time	Duration	Spatial Extent	Risk Factor Value
Wildfire	2	3	4	3	2	2.6
Winter Storm	3	3	1	3	3	2.8
Other?	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Hazard Event History

Understanding hazard event histories is crucial for effective risk management. Analyzing past events allows us to identify trends, patterns, and recurring risk factors. This knowledge enables us to better prepare for and mitigate the impact of future hazards. Examining hazard event histories provides valuable insights to inform decision-making and help prioritize resources for risk prevention and response efforts. Table 5 lists some of the more notable events in the Town of Berlin since the 2020 plan update.

Table 5: Notable Hazard Events in the Town of Berlin Since 2020

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If Applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
Drought	None	None	None	None
Earthquake	None	04/05/2024	No reported impacts	Earthquake with epicenter in NJ, felt in some parts of the county
Extreme Temperature	None	07/20/2019	Heat index values in the 100°F–110°F range in the warmest spots of the Hudson Valley.	Extreme Heat
	None	08/12/2021	Heat indices reached 95°F–104°F across parts of the Hudson River from Albany and points southward reaching 105°F–110°F.	Extreme Heat
	None	01/20/2019	Cold weather prompted the closing of schools and the opening of warming shelters across the region.	Extreme Cold: Wind chills falling to -20°F to -40°F across most of the region.
	None	01/30/2019	The wind chills prompted many schools to close or delay opening, and there were several reports of water main breaks due to the cold.	Extreme Cold: Wind chills fell to -15°F to -35°F.
	None	02/03/2023–02/04/2023	Warming centers were opened.	Arctic Cold: With extreme wind chills some squalls; temperatures ranging from -18°F to -39°F; wind gusts up to 44 mph across the county
Flooding (Including Flooding, Dam Failure, and Ice Jams)	None	None	None	None
Hazardous Materials	None	None	None	None

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If Applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
High Wind	None	04/04/2024	Traffic delays and power outages. \$7,500 in property damage in Eastern Rensselaer County	See bullet point in following text passage.
Hurricane or Tropical Storm	EM-3565	08/21/2021–08/24/2021	N/A	N/A
Landslide	None	None	None	None
Lightning	None	None	None	None
Terrorism	None	None	None	None
Tornado	None	None	None	None
Utility & Infrastructure Failure	N/A	04/04/2024	Traffic delays and power outages due to 04/04/2024 high winds. Also, occasional power outages wind and winter storms, significant delays in returning power to those in Hollows.	
Wildfire	None	None	None	None
Winter Storm (including Ice Storm and Snowstorm)	None	12/16/2020–12/17/2020	Downed trees and power lines from weight of snow	Snowfall in Rensselaer County ranging from 17.3 in to 26 in
	None	12/15/2022–12/17/2022		Nor'easter, snowfall ranging from 1 in to 12 in in the county.
	None	03/13/2023–03/15/2023	Downed trees and power lines with widespread power outages	Nor'easter, heavy wet snow, accumulations from 12 in to 31 in in the county

Type of Hazard Event	FEMA Disaster # (If Applicable)	Date(s)	Damage or Impacts	Description
Winter Storm (cont.)	None	03/22/2024– 03/23/2024	State of emergency declared due to significant power outages throughout the county. Many trees down and powerlines down, leading to many road closures throughout county.	Long period of rain, followed by freezing rain and sleet and then freezing temperatures; up to 0.5 in ice, and snow accumulations ranging from 4 in to 11.5 in

According to the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the notable events in the Town of Berlin since 2019¹⁰ include the following:

- April 04, 2024** – High Wind: A robust storm system brought heavy snow and damaging winds to eastern New York on April 3–5, 2024. Wind gusts ranged from 30 to 65 mph, with a maximum gust of 85 mph recorded in Rensselaer County. The storm caused traffic delays and power outages due to downed powerlines and trees. The storm caused \$7,500 in property damage to eastern Rensselaer County.

National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) Summary

The National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) is a Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) program that provides flood insurance to millions of policyholders across the country. The following information is provided to meet federal standards. The Town of Berlin answered the NFIP questions in Table 6 through Table 8 to the best of its ability.

Table 6: Responses on Floodplain Management from the Town of Berlin

Question	Response
Who is the floodplain manager? Is this their primary or secondary role?	Code Enforcement
Does the floodplain manager have adequate training and capacity for their role? If not, what else is needed?	Yes
How does the community enforce its floodplain rules? Does enforcement include monitoring compliance and acting to correct violations?	Code Enforcement
When was the community’s most recent Community Assistance Visit (CAV)?	Unknown
Were any violations noted on the community’s most recent CAV?	No
Is there an upcoming CAV? If no, is one needed?	Unknown
When was the most recent floodplain management ordinance adopted?	1979

¹⁰ National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). “Storm Events Database, Rensselaer County, New York.” https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/stormevents/listevents.jsp?eventType=ALL&beginDate_mm=01&beginDate_dd=01&beginDate_yyyy=2020&endDate_mm=09&endDate_dd=30&endDate_yyyy=2024&county=RENSELAER%3A83&hailfilter=0.00&tornfilter=0&windfilter=000&sort=DT&submitbutton=Search&statefips=36%2CNEW+YORK.

Question	Response
Does your community participate in the Community Rating System (CRS)? If so, describe the steps the community has taken to achieve the CRS goals.	No
Does the community's floodplain management ordinance include any higher standards? If so, please list.	No
Who is responsible for permitting?	Code Enforcement
How does the community issue development permits in the special flood hazard area?	Code Enforcement Officer / Planning Board
Does the community maintain elevation certificates?	No
Does the community track the number of buildings in the special flood hazard area? If yes, are there any trends?	No
How many repetitive loss (RL) structures does the community have? (List number and type of structure)	None
How many severe repetitive loss (SRL) structures does the community have? (List number and type of structure)	None
Have any RL/SRL properties been mitigated since the last plan update?	No
Who is responsible for making substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	Code Enforcement Officer
How does the substantial damage/substantial improvement process work in your community?	Inspection/Permitting
Is there sufficient staff and training to make substantial damage/substantial improvement determinations?	Yes
How are substantial damage/substantial improvement requirements messaged to the public before and after an event?	News media
Have any substantially damaged/substantially improved structures been mitigated since the last plan update?	No

Question	Response
How will the community remain in compliance with the NFIP moving forward? (Simply stating "the community will continue to comply with the NFIP" will not meet FEMA's planning requirements)	Abide by FEMA regulations

Table 7: Responses on Floodplain Mapping from the Town of Berlin

Question	Response
How does the community support map change requests? This could be requests during the Risk MAP process or through Letters of Map Amendment or Revision.	Never had to make changes
When did the latest Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) become effective?	08/17/1979
When was the latest FIRM adopted?	08/17/1979
Is the FIRM and Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report in an accessible location? How would the public get access to their flood map information?	Code Enforcement Officer
Does the community use any Risk MAP products? If so, describe.	No
Does the community collect updated floodplain data or modeling? Is this shared with partners and with FEMA?	Yes
Other comments?	None

Table 8: Responses on Flood Insurance and Outreach from the Town of Berlin

Question	Response
How does the community educate the public on floodplain management and the availability of flood insurance, in and out of the floodplain?	Education is available by FEMA and its partners training and tools. The NFIP is managed by FEMA. The public is delivered information via a network of over 50 insurance companies and via the NFIPdirect web portal.
How does the community engage with insurance agents on flood insurance?	Case-by-case basis
Does the community (or state) have flood hazard disclosure laws?	By Real Property Law

Question	Response
How familiar is the public with their flood insurance options?	Based upon post insurance requirements
How many properties have flood insurance in the community?	Unknown, there has been no census on flood plain done in recent years.
Are there any areas where flood insurance is lacking?	Unknown
Other comments?	None

Critical Facilities Information

The following information is provided to meet standard F1. Identifying critical facilities in flood-prone areas is crucial for effective emergency planning and risk management. By understanding the potential impact of flooding on these facilities, local authorities can develop proactive strategies to mitigate risks and ensure the safety and functionality of these important assets during flood events. This information is valuable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts. Table 9 lists the critical facilities (emergency facilities, critical infrastructure and utilities, and other key facilities, as presented in Risk Assessment) that are in the floodplain in the Town of Berlin.

Table 9: Critical Facilities Located in the Floodplain in the Town of Berlin

Critical Facility	Type of Facility	Jurisdiction	1% Chance? Zone AE	0.2% Chance? Zone X (Shaded)	How has this facility been protected from flooding?	Feasibility of Mitigating the Flood Risk
No critical facilities are in the floodplain.						

Jurisdiction/Public Identified Vulnerabilities

Table 10 provides crucial information on critical facilities in the Town of Berlin, highlighting the town's vulnerability to identified hazards. It outlines the susceptibility of assets to damage from the identified hazards, offering valuable insights into their potential impact on these essential facilities. By understanding the risks to these assets, local authorities can develop proactive strategies to mitigate the vulnerabilities and ensure the safety and functionality of these important assets during hazard events. This data is invaluable for decision-making and prioritizing resources for emergency response and preparedness efforts, ultimately contributing to more effective risk management and building the resilience of the community.

Table 10: Vulnerable Assets in the Vulnerable Assets in the Town of Berlin

Vulnerable Assets	What makes this group/asset vulnerable during hazards? Have there ever been issues with recovery after an event?
People (residents, workers, visiting populations, and socially vulnerable populations like seniors, individuals with disabilities, lower-income individuals, etc.)	
25% are elderly 20% on lower end of income scale	N/A
Structures (residential, commercial, industrial, government-owned, planned capital improvement, etc.)	
Cedwick Inn	N/A
Economic Assets (major employers, primary economic sectors, key infrastructure like telecommunications networks, etc.)	
SM Gallivan Corporation - mulch	N/A
Natural, Historic, and Cultural Resources (areas of conservation, beaches, parks, critical habitats, community centers, historic places, etc.)	
Cherry Plain State Park	N/A
Critical Facilities and Infrastructure (hospitals, law enforcement, water, power, transportation systems, etc.)	
Elementary or high school	No generators
Community Activities (major local events, such as festivals, or economic events, like farming or fishing)	
Hunting and fishing very prevalent	N/A
Some farming/cattle but minimal	N/A
Are there any other assets that you can think to include?	
None	N/A

Additional Public Involvement

As part of this 2025 plan update, the [Jurisdiction Name] undertook various activities to (a) alert the public and other stakeholders to the fact that the HMP Planning Committee was developing the update and (b) provide the public and other stakeholders with a forum to ask questions and submit comments and suggestions on the process. Table 11 presents the outreach activities undertaken by the Town of Berlin for the 2025 plan update.

Table 11: Outreach Activities Undertaken by the Town of Berlin

Activity Date	Type of Activity	Activity Details	Department and/or Staff Member
January 23, 2025	Public Social Media Outreach	Shared county social media and website postings on town website, social media pages	Town Supervisor
Various dates	Town Meeting	Informed public attending town council meetings of plan update and invited them to participate.	Town Supervisor

Capabilities Assessment

Local mitigation capabilities are essential for reducing the impact of hazards on communities. Local authorities can effectively mitigate hazards by leveraging existing authorities, policies, programs, and resources. These capabilities encompass a range of strategies, such as land use planning, building codes and enforcement, public education and outreach, infrastructure protection, and natural resource protection. Through collaboration with various stakeholders, including emergency management agencies, public works departments, and environmental organizations, local communities can implement comprehensive mitigation efforts to minimize the impact of disasters. Table 12 through Table 15 provide the capabilities of the Town of Berlin.

Planning and Regulatory

Planning and regulatory capabilities are the plans, policies, codes, and ordinances that prevent and reduce the impacts of hazards.

Table 12: : Planning and Regulatory Capabilities of the Town of Berlin

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Building code	Y	Be informed of State and County building codes
Zoning ordinance	N	N/A
Subdivision ordinance or regulations	N	N/A

Regulatory Tools (Codes, Ordinances, Plans)	In Place (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Special purpose ordinances (floodplain management, stormwater management, hillside or steep slope ordinances, wildfire ordinances, hazard setback requirements)	N	N/A
Growth management ordinances (also called "smart growth" or anti-sprawl programs)	N	N/A
Site plan review requirements	Y	Setbacks and encroachments reviewed for any mitigation projects
General, comprehensive or master plan	N (in process)	N/A
A capital improvements plan	N	N/A
An economic development plan	N	N/A
An emergency response plan	Y	Updated HMP to be Integrated with emergency response plan
A post-disaster recovery plan	N	N/A
A post-disaster recovery ordinance	N	N/A
Real estate disclosure requirements	N	N/A
Other	None	N/A

Administrative and Technical

Administrative and technical capabilities include staff and their skills.

Table 13: Administrative Capabilities of the Town of Berlin¹¹

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Planner(s) or engineer(s) with knowledge of land development and land management practices	N	N/A
Engineer(s) or professional(s) trained in construction practices related to buildings and/or infrastructure	N	N/A

¹¹ All communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program; as such, they are required by the regulations to have an appointed floodplain manager.

Staff/Personnel Resources	Available (Y or N)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Planners or Engineer(s) with an understanding of natural and/or human-caused hazards	N	N/A
Floodplain manager	Yes, Code Enforcement	Facilitate flood mitigation projects
Surveyors	N	N/A
Staff with education or expertise to assess the community's vulnerability to hazards	N	N/A
Personnel skilled in GIS and/or HAZUS	N	N/A
Scientists familiar with the hazards of the community	N	N/A
Emergency manager	N	N/A
Grant writers	N	N/A
Staff with expertise or training in benefit/cost analysis	N	N/A

Financial

Financial capabilities are the resources to fund mitigation actions.

Table 14: Financial Capabilities of the Town of Berlin

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	No	N/A
Capital improvements project funding	Yes	Debris dams projects could be funded through capital improvements, partnered with Environmental Conservation Department.
Authority to levy taxes for specific purposes	Don't know	N/A
Fees for water, sewer, gas, or electric service	Yes	Unknown

Financial Resources	Accessible or Eligible to Use (Yes/No/Don't Know)	How has or could this resource support hazard mitigation?
Impact fees for homebuyers or developers for new developments/homes	No	N/A
Incur debt through general obligation bonds	Yes	Unknown
Incur debt through special tax and revenue bonds	Don't know	N/A
Incur debt through private activity bonds	Don't know	N/A
Withhold spending in hazard-prone areas	No	N/A
State mitigation grant programs	No	N/A
Community Development Block Grants (CDBG)	Yes	Unknown
Other	None	N/A

Education and Outreach

Education and outreach capabilities are programs and methods that could communicate about and encourage risk reduction.

Table 15: Education and Outreach Capabilities of the Town of Berlin

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Community newsletter(s)	No	N/A	None
Hazard awareness campaigns (such as Firewise, Storm Ready, Severe Weather Awareness Week, school programs)	No	N/A	None

Education and Outreach Capability	In Place (Y/N)	Does this resource currently incorporate hazard mitigation?	Notes
Public meetings/events (Please describe.)	When needed, like town board meetings	Unknown	None
Emergency management listserv	No	N/A	None
Local news	No	N/A	None
Distributing hard copies of notices (e.g., public libraries, door-to-door outreach)	No	N/A	None
Insurance disclosures/outreach	No	N/A	None
Organizations that represent, advocate for, or interact with underserved and vulnerable communities (Please describe.)	No	N/A	None
Social media (Please describe.)	Town webpage	To inform public of mitigation plans and projects	None
Other? (Please describe.)	N/A	N/A	None

Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve Capabilities

Table 16 presents opportunities for the Town of Berlin to expand or improve capabilities.

Table 16: Opportunities to Expand and/or Improve the Capabilities of the Town of Berlin

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Planning and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The comprehensive plan needs to be updated because of new development in town, such as new Stewart's. Encouraging business growth and small business owners
Administrative and Technical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On case-by-case basis, they will hire surveyors, engineers, grant writers. Not needed that much
Financial	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need funding to provide these services Grant funding helps to allow

Capability Type	Opportunity to Expand and/or Improve
Education and Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taconic Valley Rescue Squad has started a Facebook page that will be able to post updates as needed • Rescue Squad had CPR class at school.

Mitigation Strategy

Table 17 presents details about the 2019 mitigation actions. Table 18 presents the actions in the 2025 update, and Table 19 shows the prioritization of the mitigation actions.

Table 17: Status of Actions for the Town of Berlin in 2019¹²

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department Title	Status Update
1	Comprehensive Plan Update *NEW*	The existing plan does not tie in the hazard mitigation plan.	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update.	Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025
2	Land Use Ordinance Update *NEW*	The existing ordinance does not tie in the hazard mitigation plan.	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update.	Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025
3	Debris Removal (2011 BE-1)	Debris jams in the channel impede flood flows.	Work to prevent flooding in the valley by ensuring that debris jams in the channel are removed on an ongoing basis.	Town Board	Continues to be a viable action for 2025 Little Hoosic
4	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach (2011 BE-CL-1)	Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and hazard mitigation measures they can take on their	Public awareness program on hazards, prevention, and mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web presence (local municipal websites to link up to this site, if they haven't already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support	County-led action item. Core Planning Group (CPG) Member Town Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025

¹² Projects related to Critical Facilities (CF) must protect the facility from the 500-year event or worst damage scenario, whichever is greater.

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department Title	Status Update
		properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety before, during, and after a hazard event.	preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters, advertisements, or radio/TV announcements at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources) (public education).		
5	Request code/ordinance review by County as needed (2011 BE-CL-2)	Communities are safer and more resilient when new construction and substantial improvements consider the latest information on hazard vulnerabilities and measures to reduce risk.	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify/amend the codes/ordinances as applicable (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025
6	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 BE-CL-3)	Staff changes can lead to a loss of institutional knowledge. Even when staff is the	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025 CEO does appropriate training

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department Title	Status Update
		same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to regulate activities in hazard areas better to protect lives and property.			
7	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 BE-CL-4)	A long-term vision for the community that does not consider hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Considering natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025
8	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 BE-CL-5)	When municipal staff are not armed with information on zoning and planning issues that sometimes arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation, they may make decisions that don't	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues that arise regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	Continues to be a viable action for 2025

Initiative Number	Initiative Name	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Project Lead/ Department Title	Status Update
		foster community resiliency.			
9	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 BE-NFIP-1)	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to comply with latest FEMA regulations.	Planning Board	Continues to be a viable action for 2025
10	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance when New FIRMs are Issued (2011 BE-NFIP-4)	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs.	Planning Board	Continues to be a viable action for 2025

Table 18: Proposed 2025 Mitigation Actions for the Town of Berlin¹³

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal/Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
1	Comprehensive Plan Update	No	Improve capabilities. Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	Flooding	The existing plan does not tie in the hazard mitigation plan.	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update.	Supervisor	No	No	1–3 years	\$5,000	Public awareness	BRIC, FMA, HMGP	Medium
2	Land Use Ordinance Update	No	Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	Flooding	The existing ordinance does not tie in the hazard mitigation plan.	Integrate hazard mitigation plan into the comprehensive plan update.	Supervisor	No	No	1–3 years	\$2,000	Public awareness	BRIC, FMA, HMGP	High
3	Channel Management project (2011 BE-1)	No	Improve capabilities. Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	Flooding, hurricane/tropical storm, winter storms	Debris jams in the channel impede flood flows.	Work to prevent flooding in the valley by ensuring that debris jams in the channel are removed on an ongoing basis.	Supervisor	No	No	1–3 years	\$100,000	Damage prevention	BRIC, FMA, HMGP	High
4	Participate in County-Led Hazard Mitigation Outreach (2011 BE-CL-1)	No	Increase public awareness. Improve capabilities.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds,	Residents could benefit from additional information on hazards, risks, and mitigation measures they	Public awareness program on hazards, prevention, and mitigation: County will maintain a hazard mitigation and mitigation planning web	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	No	No	1–3 years	Unknown	Increased awareness	BRIC, HMGP	High

¹³ BRIC = Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities, DEC = Department of Environmental Conservation, FMA = Flood Mitigation Assistance, HMGP = Hazard Mitigation Grant Program, NYSDOT = New York State Department of Transportation

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal/Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
			Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	hurricane/tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	can take on their properties to reduce damages and improve resident safety before, during, and after a hazard event.	presence (local municipal websites to link up to this site, if they haven't already done so); all participating jurisdictions to support preparation of a joint annual hazard mitigation and mitigation planning fact sheet and its distribution; periodic discussion of hazard mitigation and the mitigation plan at other regular local meetings; use of annual flyers, newsletters, advertisements, or radio/TV announcements at the discretion of each jurisdiction (incorporating as much free information as possible from the FEMA Publications Warehouse and other appropriate sources) (public education).								
5	Request Code/Ordinance Review by County As Needed (2011 BE-CL-2)	No	Improve capabilities. Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	Flood	Communities are safer and more resilient when new construction and substantial improvements consider the latest information on hazard vulnerabilities and	Code update: Review existing local codes and ordinances against the identified hazards to determine whether there need to be any amendments to address identified hazards and, where a need is identified, modify/amend the	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	No	No	1-3 years	Unknown	Damage prevention	BRIC, HMGP, FMA	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal/Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
					measures to reduce risk.	codes/ordinances as applicable (prevention).								
6	Send CEO to County-Led Training (2011 BE-CL-3)	No	Improve capabilities.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	There can be a loss of institutional knowledge with staff changes. Even when staff is the same, continual training improves local capabilities and allows officials to regulate activities in hazard areas better to protect lives and property.	Code enforcement: Enforcement of NYS and Local Building Codes with Continual CEO training (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	No	No	1 year	Unknown	Knowledge transfer	BRIC, HMGP	High
7	Send Comprehensive Plan Update to County for Review by County Planning (2011 BE-CL-4)	No	Improve capabilities. Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/tropical storms, landslide, lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	A long-term vision for the community that does not consider hazard areas can put lives and property at risk. Considering natural hazards and hazard mitigation measures can make the community more resilient.	Ensure that local comprehensive plans incorporate natural disaster mitigation techniques through a courtesy review of draft plans by the County Planning Department (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	No	No	1–3 years	Unknown	Knowledge transfer	BRIC, HMGP	Medium
8	Attend County-Led Workshops on Natural Hazards and Hazard Mitigation (2011 BE-CL-5)	No	Improve capabilities.	Drought, earthquake, extreme temperatures, flooding, hazardous materials, high winds, hurricane/tropical storms, landslide,	Municipal staff who are not armed with information on zoning and planning issues that sometimes arise regarding natural hazards	Hold periodic workshops for municipalities regarding zoning and planning issues regarding natural hazards and hazard mitigation (prevention).	County-led action item. CPG Member Town Supervisor	No	No	1–3 years	Unknown	Knowledge transfer	BRIC, HMGP	Medium

Project #	Project Name	Action Worksheet (Yes/No)	Goal/Objective Being Met	Hazard to Be Mitigated	Description of the Problem	Description of the Solution	Lead Agency	Related to CF?	EHP Issues	Estimated Timeline	Estimated Costs	Estimated Benefits	Potential Funding Sources	Priority
				lightning, terrorism, tornado, utility, and infrastructure failure, wildfire, winter storms	and hazard mitigation may make decisions that do not foster community resiliency.									
9	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance per New FEMA Regulations (as needed) (2011 BE-NFIP-1)	No	Improve capabilities. Protect existing assets. Promote resilient new development.	Flood	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating according to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, which does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise the floodplain management ordinance to comply with the latest FEMA regulations	Planning Board	No	No	1-3 years	Unknown	Public awareness	BRIC, HMGP, FMA	High
10	Update Floodplain Management Ordinance when New FIRMs are Issued (2011 BE-NFIP-4)	No	Improve capabilities. Protect existing assets.	Flood	Outdated ordinances mean that a community is not regulating to the latest codes and standards or hazard information, and that does not foster community resiliency.	Update/revise the floodplain management ordinance to be consistent with potential future new FIRMs.	Planning Board	No	No	1-3 years	Unknown	Updated standards	BRIC, HMGP, FMA	High

Table 19: Prioritization of Mitigation Actions for the Town of Berlin

#	Social	Technical	Administrative	Political	Legal	Economic	Environmental	Priority
1	3	2	2	2	3	2	3	Medium
2	3	3	3	3	3	4	3	High
3	4	4	3	3	3	3	4	High
4	4	4	4	4	3	3	3	High
5	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	Medium
6	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	High
7	4	4	2	2	2	2	3	Medium
8	2	4	2	3	2	2	3	Medium
9	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	High
10	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	High