

15 Glossary



Adaptation – refers to adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected changes with the intent of moderating the negative effects of the expected changes. For instance, flood zone regulations are a form of adaptation (while reducing greenhouse gases is a form of mitigation).

Affordable Housing - property, whether owned or rented, that cost no more than 28 to 30 percent of gross household income.

American Community Survey (ACS) – is an ongoing statistical survey by the U.S. Census Bureau. It regularly gathers information previously contained only in the long form of the decennial census, such as ancestry, educational attainment, income, language proficiency, migration, disability, employment, and housing characteristics.

Build-out –an estimate of the amount of potential development for an area. A built-out community is typically one that has five (5) percent or less vacant property available for development.

Bulky Waste – is waste types that are too large to be accepted by the regular waste collection. Newport bulky waste is collected curbside through a pre-paid Bulky Waste Collection Sticker program.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – is a 5-year financial plan for Newport to identify needed infrastructure enhancements throughout the city. Newport’s CIP is annually updated to re-evaluate existing projects and add new projects to the plan.

Clean City Program – is a program to help manage trash and recycling, and taking other steps to make the city cleaner and greener.

Climate Change – is the long-term phenomenon of rising average global temperatures as a result of man-made and naturally occurring events. The effects of climate change include, but are not limited to, severe seasonal natural hazards, severe natural hazards occurring out of season and rising sea levels.

Cluster Subdivision - is the grouping of residential properties arranged on a development site in groupings in order to maximize the use of open land area for open space, recreation or agriculture. Typically, the density of such subdivision is calculated using the total acreage of the development site, inclusive of the open land area.

Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) or CDBG Small Cities Money - this grant money comes from the federal government and goes directly to so-called "entitlement" communities with populations of 50,000 or more. The Rhode Island Department of Administration manages CDBG Small Cities funds for the State of Rhode Island, including Newport. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis to cities and towns for community development activities. Housing preservation, rehabilitation, and conversion are among the most prominent activities funded.

Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) - this federal law requires that federally insured banks, state banks and trust companies, state-chartered savings banks, and loan associations help meet the credit needs of low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. Under the act, if such needs are not met, banks may be denied the ability to expand or merge with other banks. In addition, state and municipal monies cannot be deposited in a non-complying bank.

Cost-Burdened Housing – is considered to occur when the amount dedicated to paying for rent or mortgage is 30% or more of the household’s total gross income.

Cultural Resources – are defined as the collective evidence of past inhabitants interaction with their environment through past activities and accomplishments of people. Cultural uses of the natural environment, the built environment, and human social institutions are all examples of cultural resources.

Decennial Census – is a population census of the American people that is conducted once every 10 years and mandated by United States Constitution. The decennial census is administered by the United States Census Bureau.

Density – is a number of units--people, dwellings, trees, square feet of building--in a given land area.

Disability Status – Disability is defined as the product of interactions among individuals’ bodies; their physical, emotional, and mental health; and the physical and social environment in which they live, work, or play. Disability exists where this interaction results in limitations of activities and restrictions to full participation at school, at work, at home, or in the community. ACS identifies serious difficulty with four basic areas of functioning –hearing, vision, cognition, and ambulation. *Source: American Community Survey*

Dwelling Unit (DU) – A house or apartment that is a separate and independent housekeeping unit, occupied or intended for occupancy by one household.

Energy Resilience – is the ability of the energy system to rebound from disturbances.

Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) – stands for the Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA’s duties include the development and administration of the nation’s Flood Insurance Program (NFIP). The NFIP develops and adopts flood maps, which illustrate flood zones that are used by participating communities in regulating the location and design of buildings, utilities and other man-made improvements.

Federal Housing Administration (FHA) – the FHA is probably most commonly known for the mortgage insurance that it provides for many lower cost housing programs.

Flood Zones – are land areas subject to some level of flooding. There are different types of flood zones and each type of zone has different probabilities of flood risk and therefore different standards for development and construction, calibrated to reflect those risks. The standard flood zone is the “A” zone, otherwise known as the 100 year zone. Other zones are established for special risk areas, such as “V” zones in coastal areas subject to high velocity winds.

Hazard Mitigation – is a sustained action taken to permanently reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and their property from the effect of natural or man-made hazards.

Housing and Urban Development (HUD) – the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is the lead Federal housing agency, and provides funding for housing and community development activities as well as rent subsidies.

Infrastructure – is a generic term used to describe all types of non-building, man-made structures and systems, such as, utility pipes, electrical power generation and transmission systems, roads, bridges, water and sewer treatment facilities and other similar systems and structures. Infrastructure is essential to the safe operation of any community and is in many cases exposed to risks associated with natural hazards.

Income, Household – is the income of the householder and all other individuals 15 years old and over in the household, whether they are related to the householder or not.

Income, Extremely Low – consists of families whose incomes do not exceed the Federal Poverty Level or 30 percent of the median income. For Newport, this figure was \$27,000 in 2014.

Income, Low – refers to an income figure representative of 50 percent of the median income. For Newport residents in 2014, this figure was \$30,660.

Income, Low and Moderate (LMI) – is a scale of income ranging from the Low to the Moderate income figures.

Income, Median Household - a figure representative of the midpoint of gross household income. The median income for individuals is based on individuals 15 years old and over with income. For residents of Newport in 2014, the median household income was \$61,320. In other words, an equal number of households earned less than \$61,320 as earned more. *Source: American Community Survey*

Income, Moderate – a figure representative of 80 percent of the median income. For the City of Newport in 2014, this value was \$49,056.

Labor Force – is made up of all the members of a population who are able to work.

Mitigation – is any action taken to permanently eliminate or reduce the cause of actual or expected changes with the intent of moderating the negative effects of actual or expected changes. Unlike adaptation (see above), mitigation seeks to intervene in ways that reduce the causes, as opposed to responding or adjusting to impacts.

Mixed Income Housing – refers to housing on a single site that provides a range of rental or ownership opportunities for a spectrum of incomes, usually including low, moderate, and market-rate units.

National Historic Landmarks (NHL) – is a building, site, structure, or object that is officially recognized by the United States government for its outstanding historical significance. As of August 2014, there are a total 2,540 total Landmarks listed nationally. Forty-five (45) are in Rhode Island, twenty-three (23) of which are in Newport.

Source: National Park Service, Web. 14 Jan. 2016)

National Historic Landmarks Program – is the program administered by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that officially recognizes National Historic Landmarks to identify nationally significant landmarks because they possess exceptional value or quality in illustrating or interpreting the heritage of the United States.

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) – legislation enacted in 1966 intended to preserve historical and archaeological sites throughout the county.

National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) – is the United States government's official list of districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects deemed worthy of preservation. As of July 2015, there are a total 90,540 total Landmarks listed nationally. Seven Hundred Seventy-Six (776) are in Rhode Island, sixty-six (66) of which are in Newport. (Source: National Park Service, Web. 14 Jan. 2016).

National Register of Historic Places Program – is the program administered by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior that officially recognizes National Historic Places to identify, evaluate, and protect America's historic and archeological resources.

Natural Hazard – a naturally occurring event or physical condition that has the potential to cause fatalities, injuries, property and infrastructure damage, agricultural loss, damage to the environment, interruption of business, or other types of harm or loss. *Source: Rhode Island State Hazard Mitigation Plan 2014*

Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan (NHMP) – is a plan to identify local policies and actions that can be implemented over the long term to reduce risk and future losses from natural hazards.

Natural Resources – environmental and ecological assets; the land, water, plants and animals that sustain us and enhance our quality of life. Planning for natural resources means planning for natural resource protection, including conservation, quality protection measures and improved development practices.

Neighborhood – a localized geographic area used to describe a sub-area of a community that has common character such as natural or historic character or is tied to a common local landmark, such as a church, school, or other asset.

Non-Renewable Energy Resource – is a resource of economic value that cannot be readily replaced by natural means on a level equal to its consumption. Most fossil fuels, such as oil, natural gas and coal are considered nonrenewable resources in that their use is not sustainable because their formation takes billions of years.

Nor'easter – is a wind driven storm that typically occurs along the eastern coast of the United States.

Poverty – The U.S. Census Bureau determines Poverty status by comparing annual income to a set of dollar values called poverty thresholds that vary by family size, number of children and age of householder. If a family's pre-tax income is less than the dollar value of their threshold, then that family and every individual in it are considered to be in poverty. For people not living in families, poverty status is determined by comparing the individual's income to his or her poverty threshold.

The poverty thresholds are updated annually to allow for changes in the cost of living using the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U). They do not vary geographically. The ACS is a continuous survey and people respond throughout the year. Since income is reported for the previous 12 months, the appropriate poverty threshold for each family is determined by multiplying the base-year poverty threshold (1982) by the average of monthly CPI values for the 12 months preceding the survey month. *Source: quickfacts.census.gov*

Poverty Level – is the minimum amount of gross income that a household needs to provide for their basic necessities including food, water, shelter, and transportation. As households vary in size, the poverty level changes based on how many members are in a household.

Public Housing – the Newport Housing Authority, in cooperation with HUD, maintains public housing for low/moderate-income families and for elderly and differently abled individuals. Rents are set at 30 percent of a resident's household income and are adjusted annually.

Recyclables – material(s) that still have useful physical or chemical properties after serving their original purpose and that can be reused or remanufactured into additional products, thereby serving as substitutes for raw materials.

Renewable Energy Resource – is a resource of economic value that can be readily replaced, a source that is not depleted when used, such as biomass, wind, hydroelectric, solar or tidal power.

Resiliency – Resiliency in the context of natural hazards is the ability of a system or place to withstand or adapt and recover from, the impacts of a storm or other natural event. Coastal communities like Newport are placing more emphasis on resiliency in order to avoid the human and financial costs associated with natural hazards, particularly coastal storms.

Road, Arterial – carry traffic to and from an expressways, or another arterial, and serve those major movements of traffic within or through the City. Also, arterials connect principal traffic generators within Newport. Arterials handle trips between different areas of Newport forming a skeletal transportation system. Broadway, Admiral Kalbfus Road, and Memorial Boulevard are examples of arterials.

Road, Collector – serve as traffic funnels from a particular area of the Newport by linking local streets with the more major routes (arterials). Collectors are not intended to handle long trips and are generally shorter in length than arterials. Bliss Road and Coggeshall Avenue are examples of collectors.

Road, Local – by definition, are designed to provide access to residential areas. However, Newport's local streets may occasionally function as through streets in some areas. These local streets make up a large percentage of the total street mileage in Newport, but carry a relatively small proportion of the vehicle miles traveled. Hunter Avenue is an example of a local street.

Sharing Economy – refers to the shared creation, distribution, trade, and usage of goods and services by different people and parties. Newport's economy has a sharing aspect due to the amount of seasonal housing located within the City. The rise of companies like AirBnB further the sharing economy in Newport, allowing houses that would otherwise be vacant for long stretches of the year to be occupied.

Special Area Management Plan (SAMP) – stands for Special Area Management Plan. A SAMP is intended to address a unique scope or type of issues experienced in a particular setting or environment, specifically within coastal areas. For instance, Newport participated as a partner in the development of the Aquidneck Island SAMP, which helped to coordinate and align plans from multiple west side jurisdictions into a coherent set of strategies. More recently, Newport is participating in the State's "Shoreline Change SAMP," a comprehensive effort to identify new tools designed to better help communities address the impacts of climate change, sea level rise and storm surge.

Sea Level Rise – is the gradual, but long-term rise of the mean sea-level, between high and low tide, due to natural and man-made causes. Usually and most notably, observed at the coastline.

Solid Waste – is any discarded material that is non-liquid, non-soluble, including garbage or refuse, organic or inorganic, whether recyclable or non-recyclable.

STEAM – is an approach to education that covers the fields of study in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics.

Storm Surge – is an abnormal rise of water generated by a storm, over and above the predicted astronomical tide.

Storm Tide – is the water level rise during a storm due to the combination of storm surge and the astronomical tide. A 15 ft. storm surge on top of a high tide that is 2 ft. above mean sea level produces a 17 ft. storm tide.

Stormwater – is water that originates during precipitation events and snow/ice melt that "runs off" across the land instead of seeping into the ground.

Subsidized Housing - privately owned housing in which rents are set at fair market value and tenants pay 30 percent of their household income with the difference covered by the government. Housing can be in multi-units like Rolling Green or in individual apartments in which the tenant is given the subsidy directly. *Section 8 Existing Housing*.

United States Census Bureau (USCB) – is a principal agency of the U.S. Federal Statistical System responsible for producing data about the American people and economy.

Watershed – is a landform defined by highpoints and ridgelines that descend into lower elevations and stream valleys. A watershed carries the water from rainfalls and snow melts into soils, groundwaters, creeks, and streams. These eventually flow into larger rivers and then the sea.

Water Treatment Plant – is a facility that provides processes for treating water to make them potable.

Wastewater – is spent or used water with dissolved or suspended solids, discharged from homes, commercial establishments, farms, and industries.

Yard Waste – is solid waste composed of grass clippings, leaves, twigs, branches, and other garden refuse.

Zoning – describes the regulatory control of the use of land, and buildings by the City of Newport within its jurisdictional boundary. Areas of land are divided by appropriate authorities into zones within which various uses are permitted and regulated.