

# Resiliency Task Force - Structure

Context: The start of our resiliency planning is being completed by Clarkson's Institute for a Sustainable Environment (ISE) as part of our campus' overall sustainability initiatives and Climate Commitments:

## Clarkson's Sustainability Mission:

*We strive to educate the leaders of tomorrow who embrace the concepts of sustainability and have the skills and sense of professional and personal responsibility to shape a sustainable future. This requires the entire Clarkson University community to work together across organizational boundaries as new behaviors, processes and innovative technologies are embraced, thereby diminishing the University's environmental footprint and improving the wellbeing of individuals, our community and the fiscal health of our institution.*

## Clarkson's Climate Commitment

To align with the Second Nature Carbon Commitment<sup>1</sup> signed by President Collins, October 2015, the Clarkson University Potsdam Campus will:

- Race to Zero - we will work across all university departments to achieve Climate Neutrality by 2025
- **Include** climate neutrality and **resilience in curricular and co-curricular activities for all students**
- **Expand research in climate neutrality and climate resilience**
- **Define resilience thresholds for our community and plan to always meet these thresholds**

Creating a Resiliency Task Force<sup>2</sup> with a joint campus and community structure is the first step in meeting the last three bullets of Clarkson's Climate Commitment. As per the Second Nature climate commitment, the task force will create a resilience assessment to identify potential threats, agree on joint approaches, define and quantify metrics for success and engage in joint capacity building.

## Internal Resiliency Structure

A sub-group of Clarkson's ISE Sustainability Committee has been charged with developing and implementing a resiliency plan. Rather than duplicating efforts, our task is to identify and collaborate with existing campus and community groups to identify potential risks and develop a proposal of feasible capital investments and operational changes to present to the university administration that will increase the resiliency of our institution and region in the face of climate changes. The internal groups include the emergency response team, the microgrid development team, and the capital investment planning team (Figure 1).

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<sup>1</sup> <http://secondnature.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/Carbon-Commitment-Second-Nature.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> This plan was developed January - April 2017 and provides the basis for moving forward with the Resilience Assessment

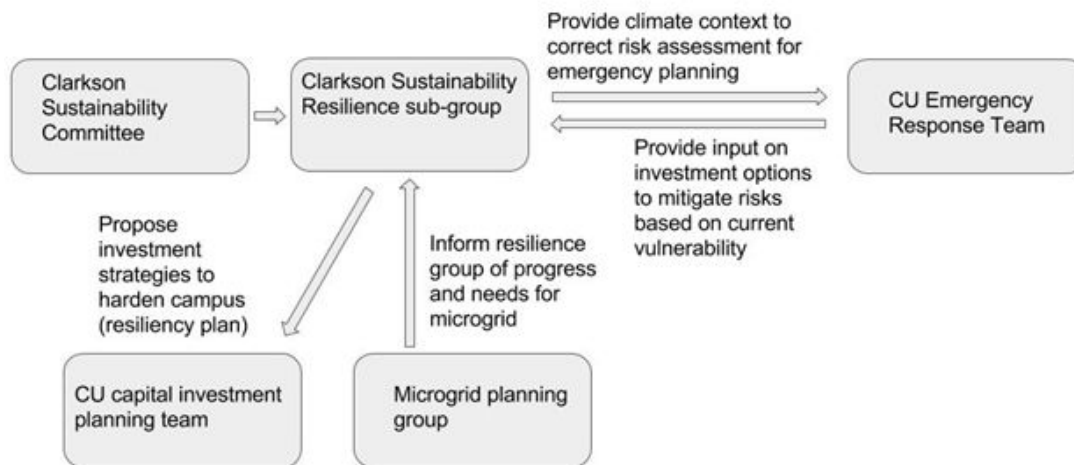


Figure 1: Internal Clarkson groups integrated into the Resiliency Task Force

The emergency response team has created a detailed plan for identifying and responding to campus emergencies ranging from a hazardous waste spill to an active shooter on campus. It focuses mostly on response, not prevention. The resiliency sub-group of the Sustainability Committee is working with this team in two ways. We helping to identify the increased risk of exposure that our area faces - current and future - as a result of climate change. This will help them to create a more resilient emergency response plan. The emergency response team will work to inform us of ways that our campus infrastructure can be hardened against climate, as well as pre-existing hazards.

Clarkson and Potsdam are very fortunate to already have a campus-community partnership to develop and implement a community-wide microgrid system. This team includes research faculty, campus administrators, with representatives from the municipality, public schools, emergency response teams, utility companies and commercial pharmacy, food and fuel distributors. The resiliency committee will stay informed about the development needs of the microgrid through the researchers leading the project and will carry out a resiliency assessment and synthesize the information gathered from the microgrid team. This will be brought to the capital investment planning team on campus. Planned renovations, operating protocols and investments can be analyzed through a lens of resilience and modified to improve the campus.

## External Resiliency Structure

The Resiliency Task Force is also actively partnering with community and municipal groups to create an external resiliency structure (Figure 2). Following the lead of Colgate University, we are using the New York Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) [Climate Smart Communities](#) (CSC) framework to advance resiliency in our community. This approach has the support of the Village of Potsdam trustees and is moving forward with the planning board. We are optimistic that the CSC pledge will soon be adopted by Potsdam and a CSC task force can be created to begin working collaboratively on carbon mitigation and climate resiliency. The

Clarkson members of the task force will help the village through student projects and internships to support the assessments required by the CSC framework.

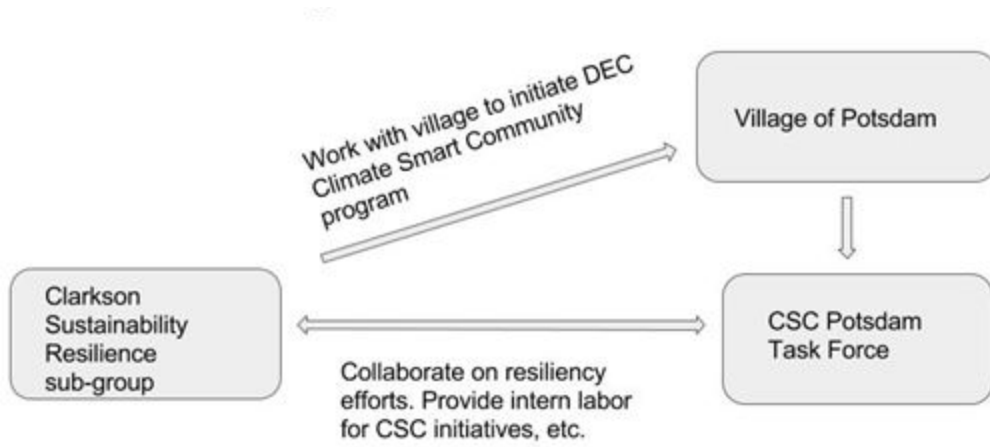


Figure 2: External groups integrated into the Resiliency Task Force