



CLIMATE CHANGE AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION POLICY STATEMENT IMPLEMENTATION IDEAS Office of Preservation Initiatives

Public comments on the draft Climate Change and Historic Preservation Policy Statement led to important edits that improved the document. In some cases, however, the suggestions provided were too specific for inclusion in a broad policy document but were interesting implementation ideas that could be pursued by the preservation community now that the policy statement has been adopted. The following list summarizes many of these ideas.

Develop Needed Technical Guidance

- On applying rehabilitation standards to historic landscaping in drought conditions, wind hazard mitigation, and fire and earthquake adaptation.
- On working with tribes through a shared stewardship model to integrate Indigenous Knowledge.
- On deconstruction, building material reuse, and advancing the circular economy.

Support Industry and Private Development

- Advocate for guidance on rehabilitation standards applied through the current federal rehabilitation tax credit to incorporate clear language promoting specific responses to a broader range of natural hazards.
- Advocate for additional tax credits, tax basis relief, or other types of programs for those that reuse existing buildings, such as federal income tax credit for natural hazard adaptation for owners of historic private homes.
- Develop training for local and state historic preservation departments and organizations, including the mitigation industry/private sector, to support them in encouraging owners of historic properties to mitigate natural hazards.
- Encourage a new nationwide “Resilience Workforce” education development program.

Develop Informational Resources

- Repositories for information sharing to share models and solutions, including an assembly of information about the following: best professional practices, case studies of locations and institutions preserving their historic and cultural assets in the face of rapid climate change, and educational centers leading in research and training at the intersection of preservation and climate change.
- A website or newsletter to share information on developments in cultural heritage climate issues.
- University-level curricula for training future preservationists to understand and manage climate change.
- Historic preservation adaptation curricula at schools of architecture and engineering.

Embed This Issue Within the Federal Government

- Form an intra-governmental task force or ensure there is historic preservation expertise represented in existing intra-governmental climate change initiatives.
- Establish topic-specific federal working groups.

Research

- Develop methodologies to more accurately assess carbon (initial and recurrent) across the lifecycle of historic buildings, so as to inform decision-making about trade-offs (light retrofit, heavy retrofit, deconstruct and build new, etc.).
- Study how local knowledge (in addition to Indigenous Knowledge) can contribute to climate solutions.
- Study creation of a federal climate cultural heritage coordination office.
- Explore improvements to the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards with the assistance of professional architects and landscape architects who have experience with climate change and natural disasters.

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