



News Release

For Immediate Release

Date: Thursday, November 18, 2021

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R1 Resiliency Center Initiative to Enhance Regional Sustainability

ROCKFORD, IL — Region 1 Planning Council will facilitate the process of creating a more resilient region through the new R1 Resiliency Center initiative, approved Wednesday Nov. 17, 2021 by the agency's governing board of appointed and elected leaders.

Rockford Mayor Thomas McNamara introduced the initiative during the GreenTown Rockford Conference held Friday, Nov. 12, 2021 at the Embassy Suites Rockford Riverfront. Region 1 Planning Council staff served as industry expert panelists at the sustainability conference and assisted with the conference planning efforts.

The goal of the initiative is to foster resilient social, economic, and natural systems in all areas of planning across the Northern Illinois region. The R1 Resiliency Center initiative will integrate projects across all local departments and disciplines to anticipate risk, limit impacts, and strengthen the region's ability to recover rapidly from shocks. The R1 Resiliency Center initiative will also address and provide support to crucial community infrastructure issues, including but not limited to: energy security, transportation, job education and retraining, disaster preparedness, local food system support, and waste reduction. As always, equity and transparency will be the driving forces of this initiative and one of the several guiding principles.

Resiliency is defined as the ability to anticipate risk, limit impacts, and recover rapidly from regional shocks to social, economic, and natural systems. Resilient communities can minimize adverse impacts to the aforementioned systems and improve quality of life for residents, to which local governments play a crucial role.

Moving forward, Region 1 Planning Council will be convening local governments, businesses, and community organizations to co-create and lead the Resiliency Center initiative as a collaborative.

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ABOUT R1: Region 1 Planning Council (RPC) is a special-purpose, regional government agency. Regional councils are public organizations comprised of local elected officials that promote collaboration among local governments, working across the jurisdictional silos of states, counties, and municipalities. For more information, visit www.r1planning.org

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