

# Get Started | Vision, Values, and Goals

## WHO

These exercises are for the practitioner and planning team to complete in the Get Started step.

## WHAT

Three exercises that help the project team (Climate Adaptation Practitioner and Planning Team) discuss and define the vision, values, and goals of the project. These will help inform decision points throughout the Steps to Resilience.

## SUPPORTING RESOURCES

The article [Urban resilience for whom, what, when, where, and why?](#) (Meerow and Newell, 2016) can be used to help clearly articulate the aspects of resilience being considered within the goals of the scope of the project and how these compare to the large vision for adaptation and resilience.

## INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the following steps in the order listed. Each person in the group should have their own worksheet. Discuss after each exercise.

### The 5 Ws of Resilience Exercise

- ☐ Answer as many of the questions, in as much detail as possible. If additional context is needed, use the [urban resilience article](#).

### Visioning Exercise

- ☐ Visioning generates a common goal, hope, and encouragement; offers a possibility for fundamental change; gives people a sense of control; gives a group something to move toward; and, generates creative thinking and passion. These questions are meant to facilitate a brainstorming session, write down whatever comes to mind.
- ☐ When everyone has made notes on their worksheets, the ideas should be sorted into different categories based on emerging themes.

### Define Values, Goals, and Vision Exercise

- ☐ Using the previous two exercises, construct values, goals, and vision statements as a team. The 5 W's Exercise provides an excellent starting point for values and goals. Consider the answers to each W with respect to values and goals for the community. Think about the reason you started this project to begin with, what was the motivation? Come up with at least three, but no more than five, short phrases or sentences.
- ☐ Use the common themes that came out of the visioning exercise to construct at least three, but no more than five, vision statements. It may be helpful to review what fits in each theme as well. For

example, if one theme was “Better Transportation,” what about transportation should be better? What is working and what isn’t? The final vision statement could be, “In the future, our community will have a complete network of multi-modal transportation options that connects each neighborhood.”

# Exercise | The 5 Ws of Resilience

## Who

Who determines what is desirable in an urban system? Whose resilience is prioritized? Who is included (and excluded) from the urban system?

## What

What perturbations should the urban system be resilient to? What networks and sectors are included in the urban system? Is the focus on generic or specific resilience?

## When

Is the focus on rapid-onset disturbances or slow-onset changes? Is the focus on short-term resilience or long-term resilience? Is the focus on the resilience of present or future generations?

## Where

Where are the spatial boundaries of the urban system? Is the resilience of some areas prioritized over others? Does building resilience in some areas affect resilience elsewhere?

## Why

What is the goal of building urban resilience? What are the underlying motivations for building urban resilience? Is the focus on the process or outcome?

# Exercise | Visioning

## Visioning Prompts

- What do you hope will be true about the community and surrounding areas in the future?
- What do you want to see preserved?
- What do you want to see improved, enhanced, or even created if it doesn't exist now?
- A “resilient community” can mean or include a wide range of components or aspects of life: ecological, social, climatic, physical, cultural, political, psychological, economic.
- Think about daily life, but also particular events throughout the seasons/ the year.

## Notes

# Exercise | Define Values, Goals, and Vision

**Our community values (things we care about) . . .**

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**Our goals (desired outcomes) are . . .**

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**We envision . . .**

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# IMPLEMENTATION EXAMPLES

## Example 1 - Define goals and create a project plan

- Broken into categories for action, the goals developed in the [Austin Climate Equity Plan](#) have both climate change and equity in mind. This Plan also details the equity-centered approach, vision, and values used throughout the planning process.
- The plan development process for the City of Tallahassee included several meetings and followed the Steps to Resilience framework. A brief overview and a timeline can be found in the [Community Resilience Plan](#).
- Richmond, Virginia's [RVAgreen 2050 initiative](#) provides a detailed timeline and resources for each milestone. This covers not only the plan itself, but also the steps leading up to it.

## Example 2 - Understand background and historical context of the community

- Not only does the [Austin Climate Equity Plan](#) explore the historical context of shocks and stressors, but an entire section of the report is devoted to understanding policies and structures that perpetuate racial and economic inequities.
- The [San Diego draft Climate Action Plan](#) (still in draft at the time of this writing) aligns the City's Climate Equity Index map with historic redlining maps to visualize similarities and recognize the legacy of disinvestment in particular neighborhoods.
- The [Pittsburgh Resilience Strategy](#) recognizes the legacy of segregated and inequitable schools, neighborhoods, and labor markets through their exploration of historical factors, such as redlining, and a detailed summary of how these factors present themselves in the City today.