IDEAS for CLIMATE RESILIENCE in

HIGHER EDUCATION

UNDERSTAND
THE RISKS

Understand and build upon Springfield's hazard and community vulnerability assessments Identify the degree of vulnerability and exposure to hazards your community may face, and the likely impact of that vulnerability on both educational services and non-traditional needs (beyond education) the community may expect an educational institution to provide.

PROVIDE LEADERSHIP

Provide leadership in communicating anticipated local and regional climate changes, articulating what these changes mean for regional residents, businesses, and governments (translating the science into information that policymakers can apply to their work). Conduct multi-disciplinary adaptation research related to very localized questions regarding specific ecosystems and impacts.

PROTECT VITAL FUNCTIONS

Elevate utility systems and equipment above the local Design Flood Elevation (DFE), the design flood relative to the datum specified on the community's legally designated flood hazard map.

SUPPORT ADAPTATION

Use on-campus building and operational efforts as an opportunity to engage local officials regarding the possibilities for broad community incentives or regulations aimed at climate adaptation; participate in local working groups or committees aimed at improving community climate resilience.

ENSURE PASSIVE SURVIVABILITY

Implement building facade design measures ranging from enhanced insulation, roof overhangs, fixed solar shading devices, and operable windows, for enhanced thermal comfort and mitigation of overheating in the event of a total systems failure.

WORK WITH
NATURE

Use Low Impact Development (LID) techniques in all parking lots, including vegetated swales, permeable pavement, etc., to capture, treat, and reduce peak flows of stormwater runoff.

REDUCE ENERGY CONSUMPTION

Participate in an energy efficiency audit and retrofit. Install wind and/or solar energy systems for both thermal energy (domestic hot water heating) and electric power generation. Reduce transportation-based emissions by transitioning your fleet to high-efficiency or alternative-fuel vehicles and increase the purchasing of local and organic produce by a goal quantity.

REDUCE WASTE Locate recycling containers at all sport games and school festivals to divert plastic beverage containers from the landfill. Compost food waste. Eliminate the purchase and sale of bottled water.