Building Resilience: A Community Perspective on Energy Codes

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U.S. National Policy Overview

• Characteristics of traditional policy approaches to disaster relief:
  • Reactive
  • Delayed
  • Retrospective (replacement of “like” with “like”)
  • Inefficient
Should we accept this picture as the norm?
U.S. National Policy Overview

• Consequences of policy solutions that only respond to disasters:
  • Economic loss
  • Vulnerable building stock
  • No investment in mitigation or adaptation
  • Abandonment
A New Age for Resilience Policy

• **Proactive** v. reactive
• **Tailored solutions** v. one size fits all
• **Efficient** v. wasteful
• **Incentivize** v. compensate
Bipartisan Budget Act

• Budget deal passed in February 2018
• Authorized an increased federal cost share for states implementing resilience measures:
  • Mitigation planning
  • Adoption & enforcement of codes
  • Community Rating System participation
  • Incentive programs
Disaster Recovery Reform Act

• DRRA passed in October 2018
• Authorized Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program with percent set aside
• Recovery consistent with latest codes and standards
• Define resilience and resilient
• More than 50 reforms impact FEMA regulations - https://www.fema.gov/disaster-recovery-reform-act-2018
Reforms in more detail...

• Stafford Act provides federal government’s primary authority for administering disaster relief.
• What changed?
  • Section 203: Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program
  • Section 402 and 406: Hazard Mitigation Grant Program
• How do these reforms related to codes?
Reforms in more detail...

- Congress recognized the adoption and enforcement of consensus-based codes as a mitigation strategy.
- **Building energy codes** included as part of the recognized consensus-based codes (resilience impact statement).
- Permits the repair of damaged buildings to the latest codes and standards.