Policy-Based Solutions

Policy-based solutions consist of zoning laws, ordinances, codes, regulations, tax incentives, and financial mechanisms that can enhance the City's resilience to flooding.
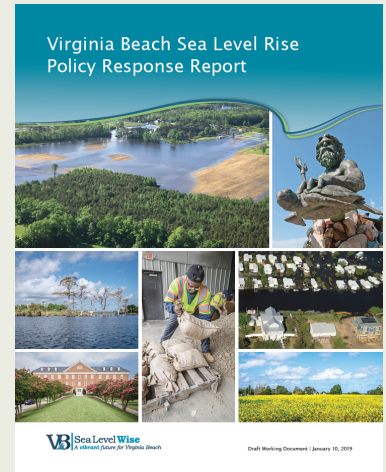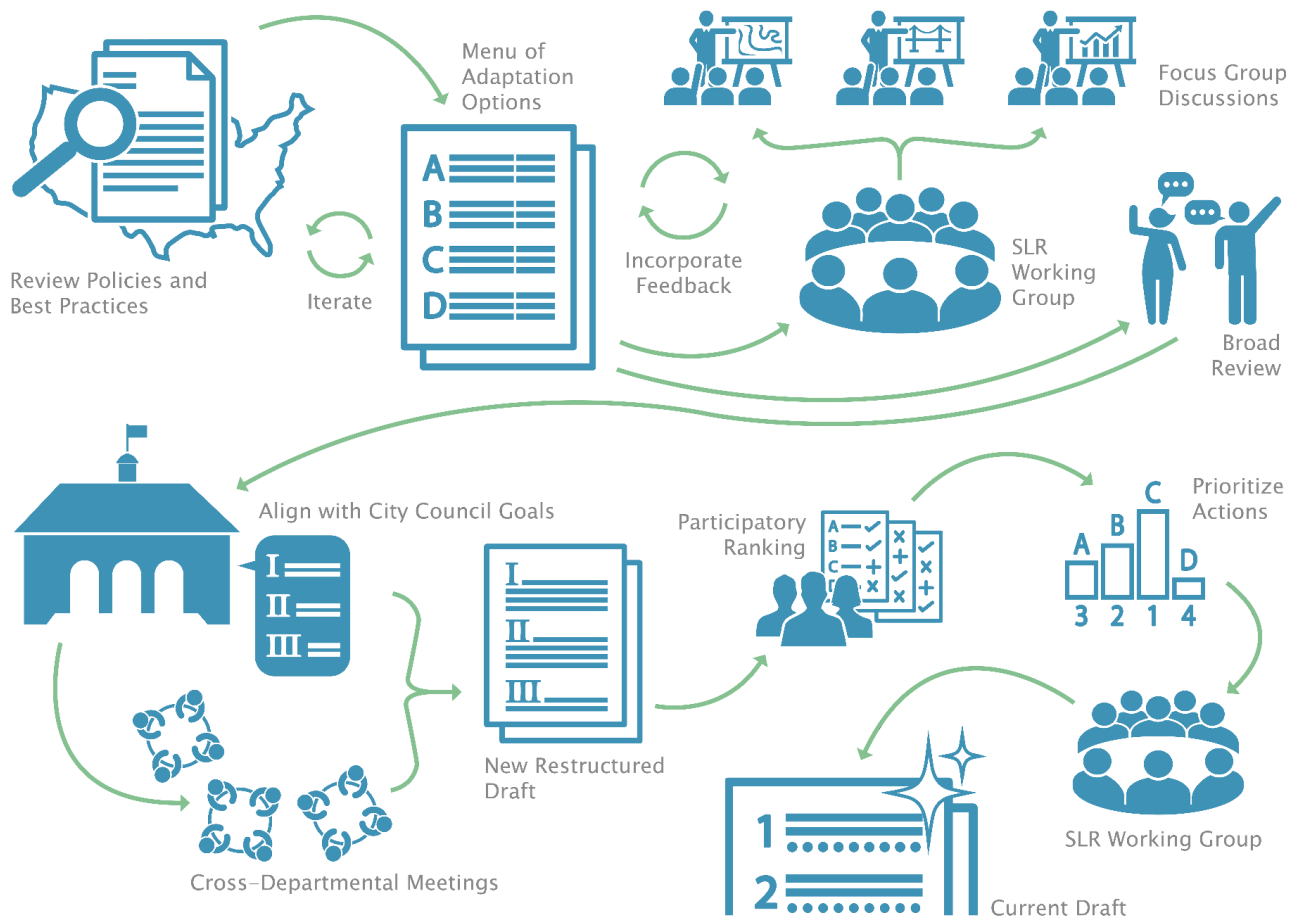
Policy Report

What is it?

- Guidelines for instilling policy-based adaptation solutions to reduce long-term flood risk

- Starting place from which flood vulnerabilities can be addressed from a policy perspective.

- Presentation of activities that the City should explore, evaluate, and/or undertake as part of a comprehensive Long-term approach.

- Reflection of City wide staff perspective and priorities.

Why is it Important?

Policy solutions can be implemented faster and at a significantly lower cost than large infrastructure interventions. Policy changes are just one set of tools in the toolbox to adapt to changing precipitation, recurrent flooding, and sea level rise.

Virginia Beach Sea Level Rise Policy Response Report

VB | Sea Level **Wise** — *A vibrant future for Virginia Beach* — Draft Working Document | January 10, 2019

Process

Review Policies and Best Practices

Iterate

Menu of Adaptation Options

A B C D

Incorporate Feedback

Focus Group Discussions

SLR Working Group

Broad Review

Align with City Council Goals

Cross-Departmental Meetings

New Restructured Draft

Participatory Ranking

Prioritize Actions

A B C D
3 2 1 4

Current Draft

SLR Working Group

Following significant engagement and feedback from community stakeholders, the City will begin implementing higher priority action items.

Policy-Based Solutions

Goals

Policy-based adaptation actions are organized under seven overarching goals:

1 Plan for a Future with More Frequent and Intense Flooding

2 Enhance the Flood Resilience of Infrastructure Systems

3 Enhance the Flood Resilience of Buildings and Neighborhoods

4 Protect Businesses and Enhance the Local Economy

5 Preserve and Enhance Natural Flood Buffers and Open Space

6 Improve City Coordination and Responsiveness

7 Advocate for Policy Changes that Support Local Resilience

7 Goals → 32 Objectives → 182 Actions

7 Goals
The goals provide a framework for organizing primary outcomes.

32 Objectives
The objectives are focus areas that are vital to achieving the strategy.

182 Actions
The actions are specific tactics for meeting the outlined objectives.

Action Prioritization Rankings

Action items evolved from national best practices, interviews with City staff, collaborative workshops, working group meetings, and discussions with relevant City departments.

City staff scored each action item across nine key evaluation variables reflecting potential feasibility, effectiveness, and impact. Aggregated scores were compiled to create the ultimate prioritization rankings.

Menu of Actions

Evaluation Variables
- Technical Feasability
- Project Effectiveness
- Administrative Needs
- Political Support
- Legal Concerns
- Cost
- Cost-Effectiveness
- Environmental Impacts
- Social Vulnerability Impacts

Participatory Scoring

Aggregated Rankings

Prioritized Actions