

Planning

▶ "Creating a better future depends, in part, on the knowledge and involvement of citizens and on a decision-making process that embraces and encourages differing perspectives of those affected by governmental policy. Steps toward a more sustainable future include developing community-driven strategic planning and collaborative regional planning; decreasing sprawl' and creating strong, diversified local economies while increasing jobs and other economic opportunities."

Wingspread II Conference, Communities in Harm's Way

▶ "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

Margaret Mead

▶ "We can't control forces of nature. But we can control what comes afterward. We have a chance to start fresh."

Governor Hunt, North Carolina

▶ "Land use planning to reduce natural hazards is ultimately and fundamentally about promoting a more sustainable human settlement pattern and living more lightly and sensibly on the earth."

Timothy Bealley, Hazards Researcher

▶ "The world we have created today as a result of our thinking thus far has problems which cannot be solved by thinking the way we thought when we created them."

Albert Einstein

▶ "In the aftermath of a natural disaster, property owners and local officials often make decisions to rebuild homes, businesses, and public facilities in the same style, place, and design as the originals."

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These early decisions can foreclose many opportunities to reshape the patterns of development in a community so as to make it better and safer by reducing vulnerability to future disasters."

Jim Schwab, American Planning Association

- ▶ "Through planning, we can change the way we design and develop our cities and towns. Communities can become more disaster resistant, more sustainable. We have seen it happen."
- ▶ "Community planning is essential to the creation of disaster-resistant communities."
- ▶ "Through wise planning approaches, we can make sure that everyone comes together to build a disaster-resistant America"
- ▶ "The planning process is as important as the plan itself."

Senior FEMA Officials

- ▶ "We need to help community leaders think about hazard loss reduction as not just one more thing to do but about how it can and should be integrated into other community programs and priorities that enhance the economic vitality and quality of life for their citizens."

Ken Deutsch, Manager, Mitigation and Community Disaster Preparedness, American Red Cross

- ▶ "Following a disaster, communities can make hazard mitigation and sustainable development part of their recovery, and break the cycle of "disaster-reconstruction-disaster."
- ▶ "The public and local officials must become more sophisticated about living with natural events and using the tools and methodologies designed to create livable communities: building standards, development regulations, capital improvement programs, land and property acquisition, taxation and fiscal policies, public awareness."

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FEMA, "Rebuilding for a More Sustainable Future," November 2000

- ▶ "Losses from hazards—and the fact that the nation cannot seem to reduce them—result from shortsighted and narrow conceptions of the human relationship to the natural environment."
- ▶ "Wise land-use planning that limits expansion into sensitive areas is essential to sustainable hazard mitigation. Indeed, land-use planning hazard mitigation and sustainable communities are concepts with a shared vision in which people and property are kept out of the way of hazards, the mitigative qualities of the natural environment are maintained and the development is resilient in the face of natural forces."
- ▶ "The process will advance the idea that each locality controls the character of its disasters, forcing stakeholders to take responsibility for natural hazards and resources and realize that the decisions they make today will determine future losses."
- ▶ "No single approach to bringing hazards mitigation into existence shows more promise at this time than increased use of sound and equitable land-use management."

Dennis Mileti, University of Colorado at Boulder, "Disasters by Design"

- ▶ "A number of benefits that follow when governments plan before they act are: 1) providing information about the location and nature of various hazards, plans ensure that the limitations of hazard-prone areas are understood by policy makers, potential investors, and community residents; 2) indicating the most appropriate uses of land in a community (and showing that hazardous areas do not always have to be used more intensively for communities to realize economic and other development objectives), plans make it possible for communities to consider and where economically efficient, actually adopt restrictions on building in hazardous areas; and 3) good land-use plans help educate the public, and this education, in turn, increases demand for action."

Burby and May, 1997
