

Charles County, MD Climate Adaptation Report Card

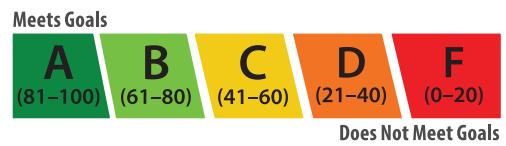
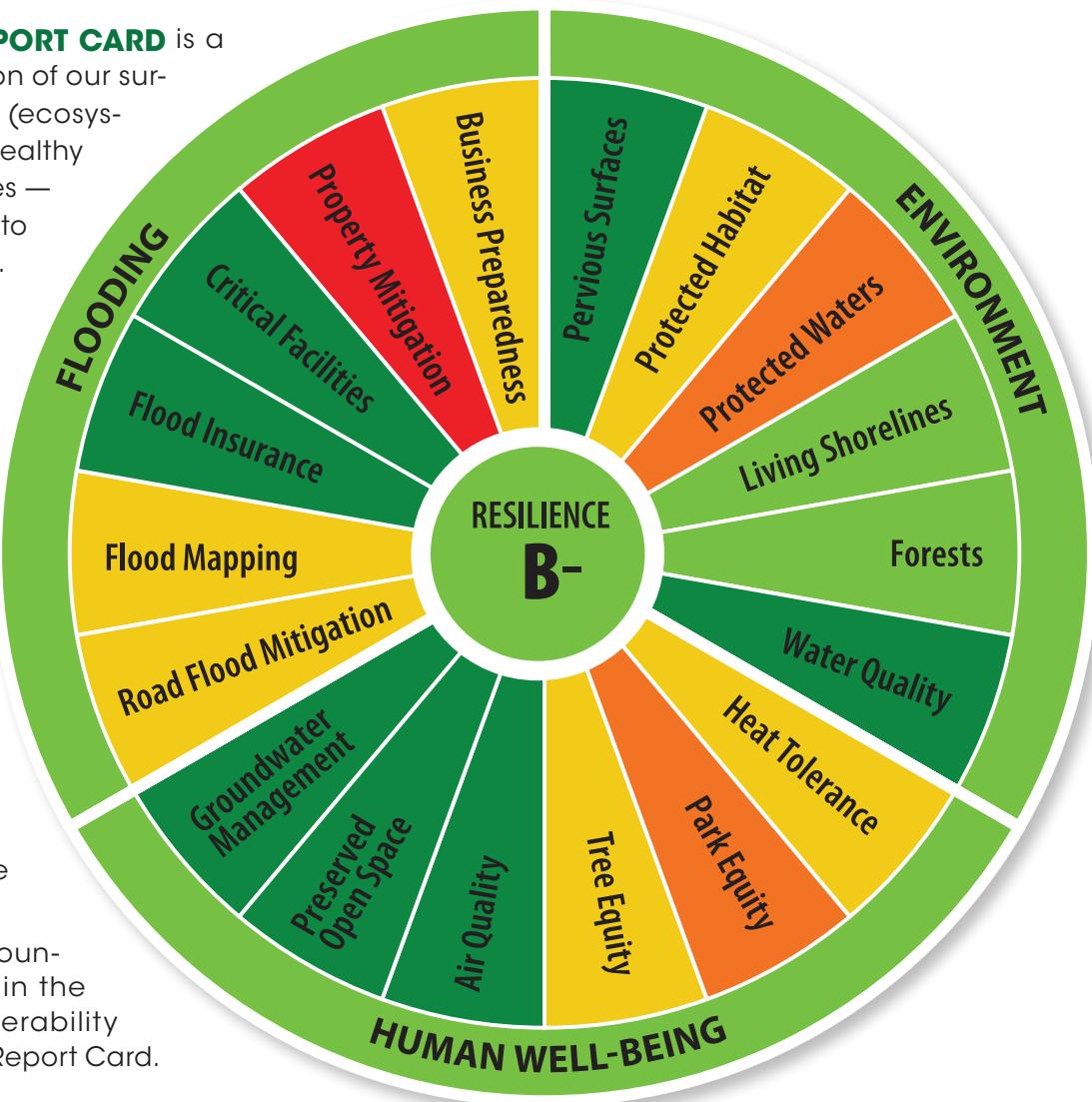
How well are you or your community preparing for climate change?

A **CLIMATE ADAPTATION REPORT CARD** is a tool for measuring the condition of our surrounding natural environment (ecosystems). Healthy ecosystems — healthy forests, wetlands, and shorelines — protect us by helping us adapt to the effects of climate change.

QUICK FACTS:

- Charles County received a score of a B-, which means that the County is working towards resilience, but there is still much work to be done.
- Charles County is particularly vulnerable to riverine flooding, and flood frequency is increasing with climate change. Extreme temperatures and extreme weather (storms, hurricanes, and tornados) are also threats.
- Charles County is the first county in the country, and first in the world, to look at both vulnerability and resilience together in a Report Card.

A **CLIMATE ADAPTATION REPORT CARD** — at the County, individual, or community level — provides a snapshot of current progress and allows us to track improvement over time.



How well are you or your community preparing for climate change?

Complete the form on the opposite side of this document, to score your property or community.

Read the full Climate Adaptation Report online at:



[www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/
government/climate-
adaptation-report-card](http://www.CharlesCountyMD.gov/government/climate-adaptation-report-card)

This assessment was developed by the University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science (UMCES).

RESILIENCE AUTHORITY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC. • 301-638-0801 • A 501(c)(3) Government Instrumentality
CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT • 200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, MD • 301-645-0550 • Maryland Relay 7-1-1



HOW WELL ARE YOU OR YOUR COMMUNITY PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

SCORE YOUR PROPERTY OR COMMUNITY

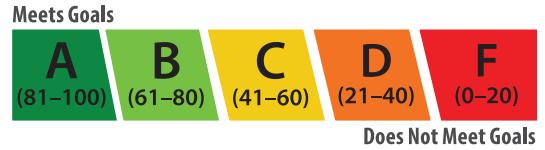
FLOODING		Section Total: ___/5
Do you keep trash and leaf litter out of storm drains?		___/1
Do you or your community have rain gardens in low lying or inundated areas?		___/1
Do you keep a rain barrel to help reduce flooding?		___/1
If so, do you use water from this barrel instead of the tap for watering plants/etc.?		___/1
Does your property or community have trees?		___/1

ENVIRONMENT		Section Total: ___/7
Do you plant any of the following instead of traditional lawn grass?		___/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trees (1 pt) • Bushes (1 pt) • Plants (1 pt) 		
Of the following, which do you AVOID using on your yard/garden/planters?		___/3
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pesticides (1pt) • Herbicides/"weed killers" (1 pt) • Nitrogen or phosphorous-based fertilizers (1 pt) 		
Do you dispose of hazardous waste safely through Charles County Government's Household Hazardous Waste Collection program?		___/1

HUMAN WELL-BEING		Section Total: ___/5
Do you turn off the water while brushing your teeth?		___/1
Do you only run full loads of clothes/dishes?		___/1
Have you weatherized your home (sealed cracks around windows, doors, and pipes; added insulation, etc.)?		___/1
How often do you use a ceiling fan or open windows instead of turning on A/C?		___/2
Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, almost always = 2		
Do you line-dry clothes instead of using the dryer?		___/2
Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, almost always = 2		
How often do you walk, bike, or use public transit (like VanGO) to run errands?		___/2
Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, almost always = 2		
How often do you walk, bike, carpool, or use public transit (like VanGO) to get to work?		___/2
Never = 0, Sometimes = 1, almost always = 2		
Do you own or share an electric vehicle?		___/1
Do you use electric lawn equipment instead of gas-powered?		___/1
What type of heating do you have in your home?		___/3
Electric (heat pump)= 3, Gas= 1, Oil/propane= 0		
Is your home powered by solar, wind, or geothermal?		___/3
Do you recycle regularly?		___/1
Do you compost regularly?		___/2

TOTAL OF ALL THREE SECTIONS: ___/34

Divide your total number of points by 34 (the total number of points possible) and multiply by 100 to get your letter grade.



RESILIENCE AUTHORITY OF CHARLES COUNTY, INC.

301-638-0801 • A 501(c)(3) Government Instrumentality

CHARLES COUNTY GOVERNMENT
200 Baltimore Street, La Plata, MD • 301-645-0550 • Maryland Relay 7-1-1