

**7th ANNUAL JOINT OCEAN - MONMOUTH COUNTIES
CRS USERS GROUP MEETING (Virtual)
September 18, 2025 @10:00 AM**

*Recording can be provided on request –
contact Bridget.neary@co.monmouth.nj.us

1. Welcome & Introductions

2. Presentations – all presentations will be sent as attachments to the meeting notes and posted here: <https://www.visitmonmouth.com/page.aspx?Id=4667>

NJ CHAMP Program. Presenters Jillian Stokely of NJOEM and Josh Nessenson of the NJ Infrastructure Bank (I-Bank) gave an overview of the Community Hazard Assistance Mitigation Program (CHAMP). This program provides and administers low-interest rate loans to qualified New Jersey municipalities, counties, agencies, instrumentalities and other eligible entities in New Jersey for the purpose of financing hazard mitigation and resilience projects. This presentation also covered the status of other FEMA and State pre- and post- disaster funding programs and the role of Hazard Mitigation Plans. Contacts: jnessenson@njib.gov (I-Bank), Jillian.Stokley@njosp.gov (NJOEM), Katelynne.Wolf@njosp.gov (NJOEM, Monmouth County point of contact)

C-PACE Program. Presenter Max Frank of the NJ Economic Development Authority discussed the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program, which is a financing solution available in New Jersey that enables owners of commercial properties to obtain fixed rate, low-interest, long-term financing for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and resiliency projects which is paid back over time through a voluntary assessment on the property. Requires municipality to adopt a resolution enabling participation in the program. Contact: Max.Frank@njeda.gov (NJEDA)

NJDEP's Resilient NJ Climate Resilience Funding Directory. Presenter Meghan Leavey of NJDEP's Office of Climate Resilience gave an overview and then demonstration of the directory which is designed to support Resilient NJ, an assistance program that supports local and regional climate resilience planning and efforts throughout the state and region. This tool aims to empower stakeholders to access, apply for, and secure funding to plan and implement resilience projects by offering an easy-to-navigate directory. Contact: Meghan.Leavey@dep.nj.gov (NJDEP) The directory can be accessed here: <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/196a9c8077e847c3b4a815d7c814930c>

3. County Updates

Ocean County – Evangelia Vasilakis

- The FY25 Hazard Mitigation Plan was approved by FEMA on 5/19/2025 and adopted by the County and all 33 municipalities. The FY25 plan will expire on May 18, 2030. The approved plan is available to view or download on the Sheriff's Office website at: https://sheriff.co.ocean.nj.us/firmOEMRegContent?ID=842bbc36-7fde-46d6-8ede-5188b6549348&2025_Multi-Jurisdictional_All_Hazard_Mitigation_Plan The next annual plan maintenance and steering committee meeting will be held in May 2026.
- Ocean County created an online mapping application for NJ REAL that can be found on the County website at [County of Ocean NJ REAL Map Viewer](#)
- Next Ocean County CRS Users Group meeting will be on December 9th @10am virtually

Monmouth County – Joe Barris and Bridget Neary

- The Hazard Mitigation Plan update was approved by FEMA and now needs to be adopted by all municipalities.
- FMA grant and shared service agreement renewals for CRS/floodplain management software (Forerunner) for term of March 2026-March 2027. Need to hear back from towns by October 1 about whether they plan to renew their agreement.
- Next users group meeting will be January 8th, 2026 @10am.
- Monmouth Beach Rising Art Installation, October 3 & 4. <https://www.monmoutharts.org/monmouth-beach-rising>
- Monmouth County and Monmouth University may be partnering with some towns for a Resilient NJ planning grant

4. Partner Announcements/Updates

ISO/Verisk – Danielle DeHart and Jason Rotter

- Due to FEMA budget cuts, only towns going through CRS cycle verifications had to submit elevation certificates this year. This is being waived for recertifications this year. Towns should have received an email. Continue to keep EC records as usual, but they do not need to be submitted.
- New 2025 CRS Coordinator’s Manual. No activity updates, primarily changes to language used and coordinated 2017 manual and 2021 addendum. Summary of changes: https://www.fema.gov/sites/default/files/documents/fema_hmd_crs-coordinators-manual-summary-changes_092025.pdf
- Contact Danielle with any CRS questions: danielle.dehart@verisk.com

NJDEP

- Meghan Leavey announced a funding opportunity for regional planning through Resilient NJ program. Requires a minimum of three towns to apply. Grantees will be paired with a consultant to create a regional resilience action plan. Application closing date is October 14th. For more information: <https://dep.nj.gov/ocr/resilientnj/>
 - Bridget added that Tom Herrington of Monmouth University would like to talk to any municipalities interested to discuss a potential partnership for this grant and plan: therring@monmouth.edu
- Ayah Sukkar announced that the State NFIP Coordinator’s Office is continuing efforts to work with communities to adopt the model code coordinated floodplain management ordinance. Communities that have not yet done so will be contacted by them.

NJ Coastal Coalition (NJCC) – Tom Quirk

- The NJCC began in Atlantic and Cape May Counties and now has several towns in Ocean and Monmouth County that have joined. It is free to join and benefits include an emergency weather app, the Tidal Flooding Talk show, and a multi-jurisdictional program for public information for an additional fee. NJCC holds monthly meetings offering peer to peer knowledge and idea sharing. To learn more about NJCC and how to join visit <https://njcoastalcoalition.com/> or email Tom at aacmcoastalcoalition@gmail.com

New Jersey Association of Floodplain Management (NJAFM) - Joe Barris

- NJAFM Conference will be held October 21-23 in Atlantic City at the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino. It is eligible for 10+ CECs for CFMs. For more information or to register: <https://www.njafm.org/conference.html>