



Plan Overview

Freeport-McMoRan sponsored this Greenlee County Resilience Action Plan to help the community identify risks that could negatively impact residents and public and private institutions. Interviews with community leaders, along with primary and sourced data, were used to identify and measure risks. Challenges were identified related to the economy, housing, civic engagement, and water availability & disaster response.

This plan outlines strategic actions to mitigate risks and enhance overall community resiliency. Each strategy includes specific actions and resources for project leads and partners to utilize to create a resilient future.

Economy

Greenlee County's economy is overwhelmingly dependent on mining, making it vulnerable to industry fluctuations. Diversifying the economy beyond mining will help mitigate the impact of potential downturns in mining and ensure long-term stability.

Economic development is driven by the reciprocal relationship between a region's appeal as both a place to live and conduct business, fostering a virtuous cycle of prosperity. Investing in projects that enhance the quality of place boosts community pride and stimulates local economic activity by attracting residents and visitors to spend more time and money within the area.

1 | Assess Regional Economic Development Support Structure

Prioritize economic development objectives and identify approach to achieve outcomes.

Lead: Local First Arizona

2 | Main Street Development

A vibrant main street can bolster economic development by attracting new businesses, investments, residents, and tourists.

Lead: Clifton Social Club, Greenlee County Tourism Association

Housing

Greenlee County's workforce housing shortage impacts business and community growth. Housing demand historically aligns with copper prices, making adaptable housing crucial. Investing in local amenities is essential for attracting new residents, which contributes to community sustainability.

Greenlee also struggles with blight, and the improvement of the local housing market depends in part on remediation of problem properties.

Community Connectedness

Building a connected community enhances resilience by fostering unity and trust among residents, which becomes crucial during crises. However, Greenlee County faces challenges with low civic engagement, as indicated by low participation in census, voter registration, and unfilled elected positions, highlighting the need for efforts to promote community involvement and strengthen bonds among residents.

1 | Refresh County's Housing Study

Refresh Housing Feasibility Study to consider requirements for both new build development as well as in-fill development. Blight reduction should be considered as part of the overall housing strategy.

Lead: Greenlee County & SEAGO

2 | Regional Housing Conference

A forum to explore innovative housing solutions and foster partnerships to create regional housing development strategies.

Lead: SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

3 | Blight Reduction

A Community Foundation is a sustainable model to rehabilitate problem properties and put them back on the housing market.

Lead: Town of Duncan / Town of Clifton

1 | Greenlee County Futures Forum

Strengthen relationships between local organizations at an annual forum to collaborate regarding initiatives and issues.

Lead: Clifton Social Club, Duncan Pride Society

2 | Promote Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteering promotional campaign and forum can facilitate increased community participation.

Lead: Clifton Social Club, Duncan Pride Society

Climate Resilience & Disaster Response

Greenlee County's primary climate challenges are drought, wildfire, landslide, and riverine flooding. Drought poses threats to water resources vital for agriculture, industry, and daily life. Wildfire risks are exacerbated by long-term droughts, threatening lives and property.

1 | Infrastructure Needs Assessments

An Infrastructure Needs Assessment would provide municipalities a prioritized list of projects and data to craft compelling funding requests.

Lead: Town of Duncan / Town of Clifton

2 | Invasive Species Removal & Restoration

Tamarisks contribute to drought, wildfire, and flooding, impacting climate resilience. Support invasive plant removal and native vegetation restoration.

Lead: Gila Watershed Partnership

3 | Flood Mitigation

Flood risk can be reduced through restoration of the ciénega for green infrastructure.

Lead: Greenlee County Planning & Zoning

4 | Radio Communication

In a crisis, radio communication among first responders increases responder safety and efficiency.

Lead: Greenlee County Health and Emergency Management