



GREEN LAKE COUNTY

OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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Green Lake County Received Pre-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Planning Grant

(Green Lake, WI) Green Lake County, like the rest of the State of Wisconsin, is vulnerable to a variety of disasters. Wisconsin has incurred disaster-related damages totaling nearly \$3 billion in the last three decades, with almost half of that occurring in the 1990s alone. These losses can be reduced through mitigation activities. It is estimated that for every dollar spent on mitigation, \$2 to \$3 in future damages can be avoided. Hazard mitigation breaks the cycle of damage and repair.

Mitigation actions reduce or eliminate the long-term risk to human life and property from hazards. These preventative actions can be simple such as elevating a furnace in a basement that sometimes has water on the floor. Mitigation can also have a comprehensive approach such as relocating buildings out of the floodplain or strengthening critical facilities to prevent wind damage and provide stronger shelter.

In an effort to better prepare Green Lake County to manage its vulnerability to disaster, Gary Podoll, Green Lake County Emergency Management Director, applied for and received a Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) planning grant. This goal of this grant is to complete an approvable plan, which will serve as a roadmap that outlines potential cost-effective hazard mitigation activities, some of which might be available for future grant funding.

The plan is designed to look at the risks and vulnerabilities that the county faces from natural disaster and to highlight mitigation strategies that might reduce future losses. As part of this planning process, Podoll is assembling a workgroup to review and guide the planning activities. The workgroup is reviewing initial background information about Green Lake County and has begun identifying strategies that might help.

Podoll stated, "I am very excited about this part of the planning process. The input from the workgroup can have long-lasting impacts, making Green Lake County safer and more disaster resistant."

FEMA has recognized the importance of having members of the community involved in the process and Podoll would like to ensure that all interested members of the community have an opportunity to provide input into the plan. If you are interested in more information about the plan or would like to provide input into the plan, please contact Gary Podoll at 920-361-5416.