



CHARTER
of the
ARCTIC COMMUNITY RESILIENCE WORKING GROUP
ARCTIC EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE

A. Official Designation

The Chair of the Arctic Executive Steering Committee (AESC) hereby establishes the Arctic Resilience Working Group (ARWG) to operate in accordance with this charter. This working group is established under Executive Order 13689 (“Enhancing Coordination of National Efforts in the Arctic”), which permits the AESC Chair to establish working groups to focus on key issues and assist in carrying out the responsibilities of the AESC.

B. Purpose and Scope

The ARWG serves as the forum within the AESC for developing coordinated Federal actions that bolster Arctic community resilience by addressing imminent threats to communities, including coastal and riverine erosion, flooding, and permafrost degradation. Federal representatives to the ARWG are subject matter experts who are tasked to develop policy recommendations and pilot efforts to increase Arctic community resilience. The ARWG is empowered to communicate and collaborate with the State of Alaska, local governments, Tribal governments, Alaska Native communities, tribal-serving organizations, and other partners to develop actions for the AESC to consider. It is recognized that the actions of the ARWG themselves are primary actions of departments and agencies, developed and funded through the Executive Branch budget process. The ARWG will provide high-level coordination and increased transparency to improve knowledge transfer between Federal agencies and between the Federal government and the State of Alaska and local and Tribal governments.

C. Functions

The ARWG will have the following functions:

1. Ensure strong community engagement and collaboration in Federal activities that increase resilience, wellbeing, health and prosperity.
2. Align Federal, State and Tribal resources to empower and assist Arctic communities in developing and implementing short- and long-term solutions for resilience.

3. Advance planning approaches and programs to at-risk communities for urgently needed relief.
4. Advance technical training, including infrastructure planning, management and maintenance, and build capacity to effectively use Federal and other appropriate financial support mechanisms.
5. Incorporate appropriate technology for energy efficiency and other infrastructure to assist at-risk communities with short- and long-term resilience efforts.
6. Recommend legislative changes that may, if implemented, reduce barriers to successful relocation, managed retreat, or other resilience actions and protect community infrastructure.
7. Identify and coordinate Federal funding programs available for community resilience efforts, recommend new programs, and seek to waive requirements that are barriers to access by rural, unserved, under-served or otherwise disadvantaged communities.
8. Coordinate to deliver analysis and planning tools for near- and long-term resilience, including mapping, ocean observing, weather forecasting, and projections of erosion, Arctic-specific impacts and change processes, and sea level rise.
9. Report to the AESC on progress and challenges in developing solutions.
10. Develop and coordinate community resilience initiatives assigned by or in support of the AESC.

D. Membership

The following departments and agencies are represented on the ARWG:

Denali Commission;
Department of Agriculture;
Department of Commerce;
Department of Defense;
Department of Energy;
Department of Health and Human Services;
Department of Homeland Security;
Department of Housing and Urban Development;
Department of the Interior;
Department of Labor;
Department of Transportation;
Environmental Protection Agency;
National Science Foundation; and
Other agencies or offices as determined appropriate by the ARWG chair or co-chairs

The following organizations in the Executive Office of the President are also represented on the ARWG:

Council on Environmental Quality;
Office of Management and Budget; and
Office of Science and Technology Policy

E. Governance and Operations

The ARWG will be led by a chair or co-chairs from member agencies selected by the Executive Officer of the AESC from ARWG membership. The ARWG shall meet at least once per month. Subgroups will be established as needed to advance specific tasking to the ARWG. The ARWG is empowered to advance Federal coordination that will enhance Arctic community resilience, to engage with State, Tribal, and other partners, and to recommend policy solutions or other Federal actions as needed to improve Arctic community resilience.

The ARWG recognizes that pursuant to Executive Order 14008 (“Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad”), the National Climate Task Force has established a number of interagency working groups (IWGs) to address climate resilience issues, including IWGs associated with specific climate impacts (such as coastal erosion, floods, droughts, wildfires and extreme heat) and systemic issues related to infrastructure development and environmental justice issues. The ARWG, as a subgroup of the AESC, will engage, as appropriate, with other relevant climate resilience IWGs – and vice versa – through the White House Climate Policy Office and the Council for Environmental Quality, which coordinate the National Climate Task Force’s whole-of-government interagency climate resilience activities.

F. State and Local Government Interface

The ARWG will establish the relationships needed to realize the full engagement of the affected Arctic communities in determining solutions for their communities. Collaboration with representatives from the State of Alaska is a primary mechanism to identify and respond to needs of communities. The ARWG will also seek input from Arctic communities about their plans to build resilience and adaptive capacity. This engagement may include State-wide engagement efforts or engagement with private and non-profit organizations. The ARWG may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups on an individual basis, subject to the requirements imposed by the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

G. Determination

I hereby determine that the establishment of the Arctic Resilience Working Group is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the coordinated actions of such a group.

Approved:



Dr. Alondra Nelson
Deputy Director for Science and Society
Performing the Duties of the Director
Office of Science and Technology Policy
Chair, Arctic Executive Steering Committee

4/27/22

Date