

## Notes on Environment-related Issues ~ A Working Document



**What do we mean by environment-related issues, such as water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief, and recovery?**

“Environment-related issues” refer to the overall condition and health of our planet and, in relation to applications for funding, our Upstate Region. A common way to protect and preserve environmental health is through limiting the use of resources, or reducing exposure to unhealthy processes or systems.

**Water conservation** includes the policies, strategies and activities to sustainably manage the natural resource of fresh water, to protect the hydrosphere, and to meet the current and future human demand (affected by population, household size, growth, and affluence).

**Energy conservation** is the effort to reduce wasteful energy consumption by using fewer energy services, and can be done by using energy more effectively or changing one's behavior to use less energy resources.

**Climate mitigation, or climate change mitigation** includes avoiding and reducing emissions of heat-trapping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere to prevent the planet from warming to more extreme temperatures, and promoting systems of environmental health and environmental justice that lend themselves to this.

**Water and energy conservation** are important tools for climate change mitigation, as energy is required to produce clean and reliable water sources, and water conservation leads to energy conservation. The rapidly changing conditions on our planet, many resulting from extensive resource use and increased climate emissions, have resulted in increased frequency and intensity of climate emergencies, including extreme fires and flooding.

**Emergency preparedness, relief, and recovery** is designed to lessen the likelihood and impact from natural disasters, or disasters that threaten the environment, including animals and humans.

*When considering environment-related issues, think of forest health, water, drought, the air we all breathe, wildfires, floods, climate change, resource depletion, and resilience. Think projects related to public awareness, perception, and education about these issues.*