

Municipal Self-Assessment Template Guidelines (March 2020) - Statement of Changes (from January 2009 version)

The original template was 31 pages for a document that OPA hopes will be in the range of 10-20 pages and gave the impression that the assessment process was more complex than it needs to be. This rewrite is intended to simplify the process for municipalities so that they can achieve plan endorsement in a timely and cost effective manner. There are also considerations that were not in place in 2009 that must be addressed in 2020 – these items were added.

Items Deleted/ Rationale

- Introduction – calling for a description of the SDRP and PE requirements / Unnecessary
- Sample Graphs and charts / links provided; samples took up 18 pages
- Community Inventory – State Plan Policy Map Planning Area boundaries / OPA has; available online
- Digital Zoning Map/ required in Prepetition materials
- Consistency Section –State Plan – left Goals; removed strategies policies & indicators but provided link to same / simplification of document
- Also provided reference/link to center criteria table rather than embedding them / simplification
- Proposed PA Changes Matrix removed/not necessary if submitted in GIS format as requested
- Board of Adjustments report requirement / not needed per OPA & DEP (Use variances added back per HFMA)
- Reference to what a county should do / see County/Reg PE guidelines
- Community Facilities detail section/ it's in the inventory of key characteristics (more detail will be added if we do a fillable PDF)
- Request for zoning amendments / it's in the prepetition list

Items Added/Rationale

- Note to user / Provides guidance on the template's purpose and the process for MSA submittal per the Rules
- Underutilized land – “to the extent this data exists”/wording from the Rules
- Waiver requests for visioning should be based on recent visioning process / reflects current waiver requirements
- Recent and Upcoming Development Activities – Resiliency measures / required to assess consistency with EO 89
- New sections: Sustainability/ Statement & Climate Change Statement / required for consistency with EO 89 & 100 (combined per DEP)
- Affordable housing & EJ info added in multiple sections / (OPA, EDA, HMFA, DEP)
- Waiver information & what if in special resource area to 'Note for the User' section / DEP & Pinelands suggestions
- 3 year requirement for 'recent' to get a waiver for Vision/public participation / reasonable (DOT/OPA)
- Examples provided in several sections / (HFMA, EDA, AG, DEP)
- New section for pending state actions/ it's in the prepetition list but its important (DEP)

Items Modified/Rationale

- Table of Contents made to follow Rule requirements plus EOs 89 and 100
- Location & Regional Context/ Moved to Existing Conditions
- Community inventory became Existing Conditions-Inventory of Key Characteristics / Including items required by Rules and adding items supporting EO 89 & 100 and skipping items that would be submitted as part of the Prepetition checklist
- Infrastructure / asking for analysis rather than basic maps
- Status of Master Plan and other relevant planning activities / moved to Existing Conditions – Review of Existing Plans
- Consistency sections / Local and State combined into 1 section for efficiency
- Combined Sustainability & Climate Change Statements into Sustainability/Resiliency per (per DEP)
- Table of Contents made to conform to section titles (per DOT)
- Changed Underutilized Land to Redevelopment and Rehabilitation Areas & added Fair Share settlements (DEP & HFMA)
- Waiver requests described in the Note to User section / for clarity
- Added the word 'optional' to items requested “if data exists”/ (multiple requests DEP, public...)

