

## Dewberry Sees Metropolitan Areas Leading Growth for Climate Adaptation & Resiliency Practice

*Dewberry is a leading, market-facing firm with a proven history of providing professional services to a wide variety of public- and private-sector clients. With over 2,000 employees and more than 50 locations nationwide, the firm is able to provide deep subject-matter expertise as well as a vast pool of national resources. Their services cover a range of engineering, architecture, and consulting capabilities including climate change, emergency management, environmental, geospatial, planning/programming, resilience, risk management and vulnerability, and site/civil engineering. Last year Dewberry generated \$462.2 million in revenue due largely to historic growth in the southeast region, as well as an increase in strategic hires and marquee project wins across the country. In 2018, Dewberry acquired **J3 Engineering**, which will help to bolster their land planning, site/civil, and water resources capabilities in the region. In 2016, they acquired the 120-person full-service consulting engineering and surveying firm **Preble-Rish** and now have more than 320 employees throughout the state of Florida.*

*Jane Frantz, Associate Vice President, has almost 20 years of professional experience in resilience and emergency management. She is the program manager for Dewberry's \$38 million indefinite delivery/indefinite quantity (IDIQ) contract for FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP). She also led the development of FEMA-approved local and regional mitigation plans encompassing more than 275 communities nationwide along with more than 15 disaster resistant university plans, and has spoken at numerous workshops, conferences and trainings on resilience.*

*Mathew Mampara, Associate Vice President and has 20 years of professional experience. He leads a diverse team of technical professionals in helping communities and organizations manage natural resources and natural hazard risk to an operational resilience focus. He works with local, regional, state and national organizations, leveraging engineering, scientific, and stochastic tools within a geospatial framework. He helps communities understand risks posed by extreme weather and climate change. At the national level, Mr. Mampara has provided subject matter expertise in supporting the development and conceptualization of FEMA's \$1 billion Risk MAP program - the largest natural hazard risk analysis program in the world.*

### **CCBJ: What technologies are being deployed for adaptation and resiliency services?**

Dewberry: Increasingly, we're employing data visualization and analytical tools to help power municipal decision-making. This technology has helped present land use planning and loss avoidance information in compelling ways.

We are also harnessing open science tools like Jupyter notebook to capture analyses in a reproducible and transferrable

way. And while we have used cloud infrastructure for more than the past couple of years, we are growing our investment in that area to increase both the resolution and scale of the analyses we're executing.

### **CCBJ: When it comes to adaptation and resiliency customer trends, are state and local governments still the major clients?**

Dewberry: State and local governments are definitely major clients. We think that more and more, cities are realizing that they must take action independent of the

federal government to protect their community's long-term interests and have found creative ways to finance their actions.

### **CCBJ: Have you observed any trends on a federal level?**

Dewberry: The federal government is still focusing on resilience and climate adaptation, though it's often framed as future risk or risk-informed decision-making rather than as climate change. We believe the military will continue to address climate adaptation as part of military readiness; the impacts of Hurricane Michael and the floods in Nebraska earlier this year to Air Force bases show the need for increased resilience.

### **CCBJ: What opportunities do you foresee in the near future for the Adaptation and Resiliency segment of the climate change industry?**

Dewberry: For the time being, much of the leadership in this area continues to be at the local level, with medium to large metropolitan areas leading the way. These municipalities are moving from vulnerability assessments to grappling with the implications of adaptation from a design and construction standpoint to achieve true resiliency. The era of crafting adaptation and resiliency design solutions is dawning. There remain, however, significant needs to advance our collective "design toolbox."

### **CCBJ: How has business been for Dewberry over the last couple of years?**

Dewberry: Business has been steady in the adaptation arena for us. We've definitely seen an increase in interest in resilience and climate adaptation from across the market sectors we work in. Where before it may have been coming from tradi-

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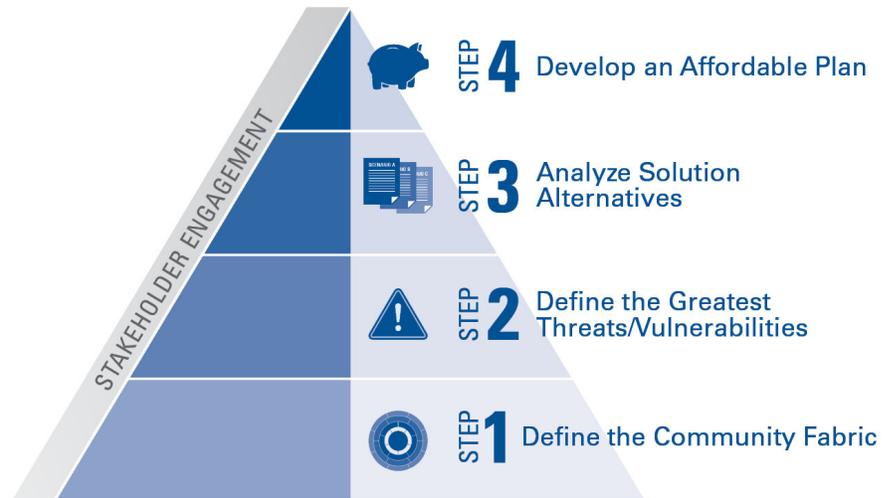
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**Dewberry Adaptation & Resilience Project Plan Pyramid**

Source: Dewberry

tional clients in emergency and floodplain management, now we are delivering those services to clients in transportation, water/wastewater, energy and building design.

**CCBJ: Can you provide some details on your Climate Change practice?**

Dewberry: We bring a resilience focus to climate change adaptation. We apply the disciplines of engineering, GIS, science, data analytics, and planning disciplines to help our clients understand their current and future natural hazard risks and to make informed decisions about planning and design standards, how to reduce risk, and increase resilience. Coastal engineering and science and geospatial analyses are particular strong suits for us.

**CCBJ: How does your firm differentiate?**

Dewberry: Rather than a standard “one size fits all” approach, we offer a customized framework that gives our clients the tools, services, and specialized expertise founded on their specific goals, objectives, and values.

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**CCBJ: What are funding trends? How are things changing and how do you think it will be in the next 5 years? What about in the next 10 years?**

Dewberry: Federal funding will remain available but it won’t come close to funding the totality of what’s needed. There’s federal legislation in motion to create revolving loan funds for resilience and adaptation projects similar to the model that’s been used with success to fund water and wastewater improvement projects, but there will still be a shortfall.

Communities will need to be creative in finding alternative approaches including accessing private capital through resilience bonds for infrastructure projects, implementing tax incentives for retrofit projects, or using on-bill payment to finance projects at the individual customer level. ⚙️

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