The National Windstorm Impact Reduction Program (NWIRP) was established by Congress to achieve measurable reductions in the loss of life and property from windstorms through a coordinated federal effort, in cooperation with other levels of government, academia, and the private sector, aimed at improving the understanding of windstorms and their impacts and developing and encouraging the implementation of cost-effective mitigation measures to reduce these impacts.1

In September 2015, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was named as the lead agency for the NWIRP, with primary responsibility for planning and coordinating the plan and interfacing with other federal agencies. The final strategic report has been issued, and it details a program “of windstorm research, development, implementation, education, and outreach activities performed by the NWIRP-designated program agencies and private-sector organizations.”2

GOAL A. IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING OF WINDSTORM PROCESSES AND HAZARDS.

Objective 1: Advance understanding of windstorms and associated hazards.

Objective 2: Develop tools to improve windstorm data collection and analysis.

Objective 3: Understand long-term trends in windstorm frequency, intensity, and location.

Objective 4: Develop tools to improve windstorm hazard assessment.

GOAL B. IMPROVE THE UNDERSTANDING OF WINDSTORM IMPACTS ON COMMUNITIES.

Objective 5: Advance understanding of windstorm effects on the built environment.

Objective 6: Develop computational tools for use in wind and flood modeling on buildings and infrastructure.

Objective 7: Improve understanding of economic and social factors influencing windstorm risk reduction measures.

Objective 8: Develop tools to improve post-storm impact data collection, analysis, and archiving.

Objective 9: Develop advanced risk assessment and loss estimation tools.

GOAL C. IMPROVE THE WINDSTORM RESILIENCE OF COMMUNITIES NATIONWIDE.

Objective 10: Develop tools to improve the performance of buildings and other structures in windstorms.

Objective 11: Support the development of windstorm-resilient standards and building codes.

Objective 12: Promote the implementation of windstorm-resilient measures.

Objective 13: Improve windstorm forecast accuracy and warning time.

Objective 14: Improve storm readiness, emergency communications, and response.

The plan includes eight areas of strategic priorities (SP):

SP-1: Develop baseline estimates of loss of life and property due to windstorms.

NWIRP Strategic Plan.

Caption: NWIRP Strategic Plan.
The Metal Roofing Alliance (MRA) is seeking stories from homeowners with metal roofs who survived Mother Nature’s wrath for a chance to earn the title of MRA’s Top Survivor Home of the Year and a $1,500 grand prize. To enter, homeowners simply need to submit their story in 200 words or less about the challenge their home withstood during 2018, along with a photo via the official entry page at www.metalroofing.com. For each qualified entry received, MRA also will donate $50 to the American Red Cross to help with disaster relief efforts, up to a total of $5,000. The search for MRA’s Top Survivor Home of the Year ends on January 15, 2019.

“With climate extremes becoming increasingly common, taking steps to make homes more defensible and resilient is essential no matter where homeowners live,” said Renee Ramey, MRA executive director. Building and renovating homes so that they are better able to withstand climate extremes is a hot topic in the industry, given the massive challenges homeowners have faced in recent years. That includes using more durable, longer-lasting, and stronger materials like metal roofs, in addition to construction methods that not only meet, but exceed codes for being able to better stand up against monster storms and help prevent damage from climate-related events, such as wildfires.

For official rules and details about the Metal Roofing Alliance’s Top Survivor Home of the Year competition, visit www.metalroofing.com.