



Memo

To: Town Council

From: Anthony Wilson, Town Manager

Meeting date: Jan. 22, 2024

Re: Community Resilience Partnership

The Town of Winthrop is seeking to successfully enroll in the State's [Community Resilience Partnership](#) program, with the assistance of the Kennebec Valley Council of Governments. The program assists communities in reducing carbon emissions, transitioning to clean energy, and becoming more resilient to the effects of climate change, including extreme weather and flooding. If accepted into the program, the Town will receive \$50,000 to help fund its resilience activities. That amount increases to \$125,000 if we can partner with another participating community.

Enrollment in the program requires:

- Completing a **community resilience self-evaluation**, which is attached. This was accomplished Oct. 25 in a discussion between KVCOG Resilience Coordinator Grainne Shaw and the directors of our Town's government.
- Completing a **list of community actions** that have been completed or are in progress. This is incorporated in the self-evaluation.
- Holding a **public workshop** to review the assessment results and prioritize projects for implementation.
- Adopting a **municipal resolution**, which is also attached, that designates a citizen committee or a municipal employee to coordinate the resilience efforts.

The purpose of the Jan. 22 forum is to fulfill the third requirement and, possibly, the fourth. Ms. Shaw will facilitate the forum, during which other citizen ideas will be considered. To date, proposed ideas have included:

- Manchester is also enrolling in the program and conducted its public forum Jan. 11. The top identified need was **mitigating flood damage** caused by severe storms. Again, if we can identify a way to engage in joint flood control, we could increase our combined funding by 25%.
- In a discussion with the Cobbossee Watershed District last week, its staff noted two possibilities: **flood-control infrastructure** to mitigate erosion and runoff into Winthrop's lakes (which degrades water quality) and **improvements to the Annabessacook Lake dam** between Winthrop and Monmouth. The latter project would help mitigate flooding and shoreline erosion. Monmouth is interested in

pursuing funds for that project, and will discuss that during its public forum on Wednesday, Jan. 22.

- The Conservation Commission is interested in developing an **open-space plan** to help preserve some of the town's undeveloped areas.
- The Town could look to contract with KVCOG for **resiliency planning**. Ms. Shaw can talk more about that at the forum.
- The Town could consider installing **electric vehicle charging stations** in public spaces such as the downtown municipal lot (which would have the added benefit of encouraging people to spend time in the village), the Bailey Public Library parking lot and/or Hannaford's parking lot.

One other possibility is helping to fund the transition to **energy efficient fixtures**. So, for instance and if it is allowable, the payback time to our planned conversions to heat pumps and LED lighting could be accelerated.

We are including the municipal resolution in case the Council is ready to act after the forum, though that is not critical. If the Council wants more time to digest what it hears, we could return with the resolution at your Feb. 5 meeting.

Community Resilience Self-Evaluation

Instructions: This tool is intended to help organize your community’s approach to increasing resilience to natural hazards and climate change impacts. Answer the questions to the best of your knowledge and seek information from your colleagues in municipal and county government and organizations in your community. Provide any relevant information in the explanation field. If it is difficult to give a clear yes or no response to a question, use the explanation field to explain why. **There are no wrong answers and the responses here will not affect your community’s eligibility to receive grants.** Where the response to a question is no, that may indicate an area of opportunity to address through a Community Action Grant.

Community name:	Town of Winthrop
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	Anthony Wilson, Town Manager Winthrop municipal Department heads
Date:	10/25/23
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	

Once the questions on the following pages are complete, use these prompts to identify potential next steps for your community:

What are two things your community is doing well?	-Strong Public Safety Department & Community Support -Full time Planner position -Involved Comp Plan Committee
What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?	-Land use policy improvement -Stronger public outreach
What is important for your community to address in the long-term?	-Land use policy improvement -Improve town energy efficiency and reduce fossil fuel use
What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?	-Reduce fossil fuel usage -Investigate local options for clean energy solutions Implement -Land use recommendations contained in Comp Plan -Open space planning

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards	
1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan is a good starting place to find this information. Hazards can include storms, floods, wind, fire, extreme temperatures, drought, etc. Likelihood could be indicated either numerically or qualitatively as low, medium, or high.	Explanation: No Town specific plans are past useful life and may not address changes in hazards and risk
2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If your community has not tracked trends historically, you might infer past trends by determining if current priorities have shifted compared to past hazard mitigation plans. For example, drought or wildfire might be an emerging concern.	Explanation: No Rely on historical knowledge of events to compare with current/predicted
3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Explanation: No - historical knowledge from long term residents
4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Explanation: No We rely on the County Hazard Mitigation plan, no formal plan for Winthrop
6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
These events could be, for example, a 1-in-100 year flood, or a prolonged electricity outage or heating fuel shortage. What events might the community need to consider?	Explanation: Yes, Community is aware of increasing events, taking steps such as generators at critical facilities
7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	Explanation: yes, has not been documented but we are aware of cascading events
8) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In addition to natural hazards, consider public health threats that might be worsened by climate change, such as contamination of drinking water sources and vector-borne diseases from ticks and mosquitos.	Explanation: Yes, aware of risk of wildfire in wooded parts of town

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This information might be found in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan. Examples of characteristics and trends might include older or low-income populations, low housing availability, reliance on a single economic driver, aging infrastructure, environmental degradation, etc.	Explanation: Yes, included in updated comprehensive plan
10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Look in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.	Explanation: Yes in comprehensive plan
10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Explanation: General fund in accordance with town council
12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	Explanation: Mutual Aid agreements, informal agreements

Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan chapter that describes how the community is planning for climate change impacts, or a capital improvement plan that requires construction projects to consider future conditions like sea level rise, extreme rain, or drought.	Explanation: No, local knowledge and plans are aware of sensitive areas

14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This is different from Question 10 in that these resources would need to sustain a new long-term commitment rather than a one-time, short-term response. For example, if flooding emerges as an issue, a revenue source such as a stormwater utility fee could sustain a new community stormwater management program.	Explanation: No
15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a flood ordinance that requires compliance with the current building codes after substantial damage, or a communitywide post-disaster recovery plan.	Explanation: Align with floodplain ordinance
16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or a financial health analysis.	Explanation: No
17) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the community have a way of making important decisions when information is incomplete or unavailable?	Explanation: Community contact system, no PA system Use social media

Community Resilience Partnership

List of Community Actions

Revised December 1, 2021

Instructions: The List of Community Actions are suggested activities for communities that align with the goals and strategies of Maine Won't Wait. Communities will use the List first as a self-assessment tool during the enrollment process to aid in determining where progress has already been made, then as a guide for identifying future priorities and funding opportunities. In the left-most column, indicate actions that may be "complete", "in-progress", or "future priority" for your community. Optionally, feel free to share additional details if desired in columns to the right.

All of the actions on the List – from planning projects to developing ordinances to capital improvements – are eligible for no-match Community Action Grants. Communities are encouraged to combine multiple related actions from the Inventory into a single application. Recognizing that some communities have in-house capacity and others do not, the grants may fund staff time or be used to hire external capacity, such as a consultant or regional planning organization, to assist with the project.

Community Action Grants are capped at \$50,000 for individual communities and \$125,000 for collaborative projects from a group of two or more communities. Action-specific caps may also apply (for example, communities may request up to a certain amount per electric vehicle purchase).

Community Action Grants may be used to augment other state funding opportunities, such as Efficiency Maine's rebate programs. However, the applicant must demonstrate that the other source of funding has been or will be maximized before funding from a Community Action Grant is allowed. For example, a town wishing to purchase an electric vehicle or upgrade to energy efficient LED lighting must

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[Community Resilience Partnership | Office of Policy Innovation & Future \(maine.gov\)](#)

Community Resilience Partnership

List of Community Actions

Revised April 2023

See Instructions on Introduction tab below.

✓ Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Column A as complete, in progress, future priority, etc.)	Additional Resources (\$=funding source)
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Strategy Area A: Embrace the Future of Transportation

Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)

Note: A maximum of \$7,500 of a Community Action Grant may be applied to the purchase of an electric vehicle for municipal or tribal fleets (Action A1). Eligible vehicles for Action A1 include light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty on-road electric vehicles as well as electric riding mowers and electric outboard engines that are part of a municipal fleet, all subject to the maximum award amount. **Where applicable, Efficiency Maine’s electric vehicle rebate (Action A1) or EV charging rebate (Action A2) must be included in the applicant’s project budget.**

A1	Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.	Efficiency Maine: Municipal EV rebates (\$)
A2	Install EV chargers in public parking areas.	Efficiency Maine: EV supply equipment initiative (\$)
A3	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.	Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)
A4	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.	Example: Bar Harbor Municipal Code

Improve Mobility and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

A5	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including bike and walking infrastructure.	
A6	Implement strategies that encourage municipal/tribal employees to commute via carpools, public transit, bike/walk, or other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.	
A7	Adopt a telework policy for municipal/tribal government staff positions that can work remotely some days per week.	
A8	Adopt land use and development policies in plans and codes that reduce the need for driving (e.g. locating schools, workplaces, and shopping near where people live; encouraging density of development near housing and transportation).	

	A9	Adopt a Complete Streets policy which addresses safety, bike/pedestrian uses, and transit.	Maine DOT Complete Streets
	A10	Adopt a broadband plan that reduces the need to drive by increasing access to high speed internet for underserved residents to support telecommuting, access to remote education and telehealth.	Connect Maine planning and infrastructure grants (\$)

Strategy Area B: Modernize Maine's Buildings

Transition to Cleaner Heating and Cooling, and Efficient Appliances in Municipal/Tribal Buildings

<p>Note: Energy efficiency projects (Actions B1-B5) such as heat pumps, VRF systems, LED lighting upgrades, water heaters, etc. must be eligible for Efficiency Maine's incentives. The applicant's project budget must include applicable Efficiency Maine rebates or incentives.</p>		
B1	Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency and building envelope weatherization improvements for municipal/tribal buildings. Collaborate with local school district for school building improvements.	Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)
B2	Upgrade to energy efficient interior lighting in municipal/tribal buildings.	Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)
B3	Upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal/tribal buildings.	Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)
B4	Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings.	Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)
B5	Upgrade streetlights and exterior lighting for municipally/tribally-owned facilities with energy efficient LED lighting (and minimize light pollution with downlighting where possible).	Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)
B6	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	

Advance the Design and Construction of New Buildings

B7	Adopt the energy efficiency stretch building code (currently IECC 2021).	International Energy Conservation Code 2021
B8	Require EV charging readiness and solar energy readiness for all new construction.	Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)
B9	Support regular professional development for code enforcement officers, especially Efficiency Maine's code trainings.	Efficiency Maine trainings
B10	Adopt C-PACE ordinance for commercial property owners to install renewable energy systems, energy efficiency measures, and EV charging infrastructure (pending state program launch).	Efficiency Maine: Energy Loan Comparison Chart (PDF)

Strategy Area C: Reduce Emissions through Clean Energy Innovation

Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

C1	Conduct a baseline for energy useage by municipal/tribal government including electricity, heating and transportation fuels, and other energy sources.	
C2	Identify and track a simplified set of emissions indicators for community emissions reduction (e.g. number of EVs registered in the community, number of homes with solar panels, number of heat pump rebates from Efficiency Maine).	
C3	Adopt a resolution setting targets and a plan for reducing emissions and advancing clean energy from municipal/tribal operations that align with the state's targets.	

Advance Clean Energy Adoption

C4	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance(s) that allows, enables, or encourages community-appropriate renewable energy and energy storage installations.	US DOE SolSmart program and technical assistance
C5	Adopt a streamlined permitting process for small-scale renewable energy installations.	US Department of Energy: SolarApp

Transition to Clean Energy

C6	Enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA) or adopt a clean power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewable energy.	USDA Rural Development: Rural Energy for America (\$)
C7	Install a renewable energy project (solar, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digestion, etc.) on municipal/tribal property (e.g. school rooftop, wellhead protection area, landfill, brownfield site, etc.).	USDA Rural Development: Rural Energy for America (\$)

Strategy Area D: Grow Jobs and Protect Natural Resource Industries

Support Maine's Natural Resource Economy

D1	Adopt policies that enable, support, or incentivize local food production and consumption, including community gardens.	
D2	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	

Support Clean Energy Jobs and Businesses

D3	Assess the suitability of privately-owned brownfield and disturbed/contaminated sites for clean energy projects and encourage project development.	US EPA RePowering America's Land program
D4	Establish incentives for clean energy industry or businesses to locate in community.	
D5	Encourage and support clean energy industries in economic development plans.	

Strategy Area E: Protect the Environment & Promote Natural Climate Solutions

Protect Natural and Working Lands and Waters

E1	Set targets for increasing green space and tree planting to increase shade and water access in public spaces and carbon sequestration.	DACF Project Canopy (\$)
E2	Incorporate a goal into conservation plans of conserving 30% of land in the community by 2030 (including undeveloped town property), with a priority on addressing conservation gaps related to high biodiversity areas, undeveloped blocks, and land and water connectivity.	IWF: Beginning with Habitat
E3	Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities and adaptation options.	ME DEP Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds List & grants (\$)
E4	Develop a natural resource and habitat inventory that includes climate stressors and impacts.	ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
E5	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas.	
E6	Preserve climate-threatened natural areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, and headwater streams through zoning or other regulations.	
E7	Implement a source water protection program.	
E8	Adopt policies that prioritize natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection for coastlines, rivers, and lakes.	
E9	Identify and protect sites for living shorelines and saltmarsh migration areas.	ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance
E10	Identify and protect open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience.	ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance

Strategy Area F: Build Healthy & Resilient Communities

Plan for Community Resilience

F1	Conduct a community vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations and includes a review of existing plans and policies. Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities (may be a standalone plan or included in a comprehensive plan).	
F2	Update the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan to address changing/future conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.	
F3	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans.	
F4	Develop a storm debris management plan.	

Reduce Flood Risk

F5	Complete the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist.	Maine Flood Resilience Checklist
F6	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	FEMA's Community Rating System
F7	Enroll in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for community residents.	FEMA's Community Rating System
F8	Achieve CRS Class 6 or better, maximizing flood insurance savings for community residents.	FEMA's Community Rating System
F9	Map sea level rise projections in the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan.	
F10	Require consideration of sea level rise projections and impacts in planning and permitting coastal development.	
F11	Adopt freeboard requirements in the special flood hazard area and higher freeboard critical infrastructure and long-lifespan assets.	
F12	Adopt a low-impact design (LID) standard for stormwater management.	Low Impact Design Manual for Maine Communities (PDF)

Strengthen Public Health		
F13	Identify and plan to reduce public health threats in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.	US CDC Health Harm Cards and Climate & Health Planning Worksheet
F14	Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents.	US CDC Heat & Health Tracker Resources: Heat Response Plans and Use of Cooling Centers
F15	Establish a peer-to-peer program for checking in on vulnerable community members during extreme heat or cold events.	
F16	Increase community-level resilience to mosquito-borne diseases by implementing vector controls to decrease mosquito habitat.	Maine CDC Mosquito-Borne Illness Prevention & Response Guidance for Maine Towns and Communities (PDF)
F17	Implement school-based programs to educate students about prevention of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases.	Maine CDC Vectorborne School Curricula

Strategy Area G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

Assess climate vulnerability of infrastructure

G1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure that includes: 1) the climate hazards to which infrastructure assets are exposed and how the intensity and likelihood will change over time; 2) the susceptibility to damage or failure given location, design, age, condition, and state of repair; and 3) the consequences that impairment or failure of the infrastructure will have on the community.	
G2	Develop a Capital Investment Plan that a) identifies vulnerable municipal/tribal facilities and assets, and b) prioritizes resilience in improvements and/or new construction.	

Utilize climate-ready standards, designs, and practices to improve infrastructure

G3	Improve and protect drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events.	
G4	Adopt a policy that prioritizes green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas.	
G5	Adopt DEP's Stream Smart Crossing Guidelines as standard practice for culvert and bridge improvements. Identify vulnerable crossings and apply for DEP improvement funds.	DEP Stream Smart Crossings Grants and Pocket Guide (\$)
G6	Assess wastewater treatment facilities for clean energy potential (solar, anaerobic digester, etc.).	

Strategy Area H: Engage Maine People

	H1	Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders.	
Increase public awareness of climate change impacts and opportunities to take action			
	H2	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation for residents and businesses.	US CDC Climate & Community Health (PDF)
	H3	Amplify public health advisories for climate-related health and weather events, such as air quality advisories, extreme heat or cold events, extreme storms, power outages, waterborne disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, vectorborne disease trends, etc.	NWS advisories (weather.gov/gyx and weather.gov/car); DEP air quality advisories (maine.gov/dep/air/ozone/index.html); ME Tracking Network displays of near real-time heat illness, cold illness, or tickborne diseases (data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking)
	H4	Engage youth in resilience, clean energy, and energy use reduction.	
	H5	Engage populations that are vulnerable to climate impacts in resilience, clean energy, and GHG emissions reduction.	
Engage the business community and recognize climate leadership			
	H6	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge among businesses.	
	H7	Initiate a community bulk purchasing program with a vendor, or vendors, to provide low cost equipment such as heat pumps and solar for interested residents and businesses.	Portland's "Electrify Everything!" Initiative
Note: Bulk purchasing (Action H7): Grant funds may not be used to purchase or subsidize equipment or services for residential or commercial properties, but may be used for program design and capacity building .			



WHEREAS, the Town of Winthrop has completed the Community Resilience Partnership’s Community Resilience Self-Assessment and List of Community Actions, and has held a community workshop on Jan. 22, 2024, that prioritized the following action areas:

_____;

BE IT RESOLVED, the Town of Winthrop commits to participating in the Community Resilience Partnership, which supports community leadership in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resiliency to extreme weather and climate change impacts;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Town of Winthrop’s Town Council designates _____ to coordinate planning, implementation, and monitoring of energy and resilience projects and to be the primary point of contact to the Community Resilience Partnership.

DATE: Jan. 22, 2024

Shannon McDonnell, Chair

Bruce Burns, Vice Chair

Linda Caprara

James Steele

Andy Wess

Roy Weymouth

Aaron White