GETTING THERE FROM HERE:

A BASELINE FOR ADVANCING CLIMATE ACTION IN SOUTHERN MAINE

Regional Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

REGIONAL SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCE PROGRAM – Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission

January 2021

MEMBER TOWNS

Kennebunk

Kennebunkport

Kittery

Ogunquit

Wells

York

SMPDC

Contents

Executive Summary

The Southern Maine Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program was established in 2019 when the towns of Kittery, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, Wells, and York sought to create a regional program to support their individual sustainability and coastal resiliency efforts. To establish a baseline of sustainability and coastal resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the coastal York Country region, the Program conducted a comprehensive assessment of individual town and regional action undertaken to-date.

Each of the Program's six towns was evaluated on identical sustainability and resilience strategies within twelve categories, with strategies grouped into 22 indicators that reflect broadscale sustainability and coastal resilience goals that are relevant to this region. By comparing and synthesizing the results from the individual assessments of each town, the regional assessment identified:

1. Common **Strategies for Success** that enable progress on actions.
2. Common **Barriers and Challenges** that limit the towns' ability to implement actions.
3. **Regional Priorities and Next Steps** identified from common priorities among the towns' future efforts that could benefit from a regional approach.

Findings from the regional assessment are summarized below and expanded upon in the full-length report. This analysis and the identified regional priorities will guide the future work of the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program.

Regional Assessment Key Findings

Strategies for Success:

- **Incorporating the action into town long-term planning priorities.** Towns that have incorporated specific sustainability or resilience goals into their long-term plans are more likely to have made progress on those actions.

- **Having a committee that advises, directs, and champions efforts on the action.** The towns that have formally established municipal committees with clear and documented charges have made more progress on related actions.

- **Outside funding is available for work on the action.** When towns have access to and the ability to pursue grants or other funding sources, they are more likely to make progress on an action.

- **Community partners support the town's efforts on the action.** Local non-profits and land trusts play a key role in supporting town's efforts by providing technical assistance, funding, and capacity.

Barriers and Challenges:

- **Lack of municipal staff expertise, capacity, and training on sustainability and resilience principles.** This results in missed opportunities for sustainability and resilience to be incorporated into municipal projects and day-to-day operations.
- **Low Community Engagement/Participation**. Towns with communities that are less engaged in sustainability and resilience initiatives have pursued fewer actions due to the lack of direction, support, and committee participation.
- **Insufficient outside funding.** Strategies where there is limited access to outside funding tend to not be pursued as often as strategies where funding is readily available.
- **Lack of technical expertise and guidance.** Many sustainability and resilience actions require new and specific expertise, which require guidance from state or regional sources.
- **Minimal State guidance and directives.** To-date, little guidance, direction, or order has been issued or provided by State government to encourage, incentivize, and/or require action at the municipal level.
- **Limited municipal budgets.** Towns struggle to find and allocate scarce financial resources to support sustainability and resilience actions.
- **Low prioritization of issues by municipal governing bodies.** A lack of support for or interest in sustainability and resilience actions by the governing body can significantly hinder towns' progress.
- **Resistance to regulatory approaches.** Utilizing regulatory approaches for addressing climate impacts is a valuable tool for reducing climate impacts to people, property, and the environment, yet has largely been unemployed in the region.

Regional Priorities

To expand upon individual town action, address barriers, and accelerate progress, many efforts would benefit from a regional approach. Potential regional priorities and next steps were identified based on common priorities and needs among the towns' sustainability and resilience efforts.

Regional Priorities include:

1. Understand communitywide GHG emissions for our region to plan and take action on emissions reductions.
2. Understand regional climate change impacts and developing a plan with specific strategies to address those impacts.
3. Prepare for coastal hazards.
4. Help local businesses be sustainable and resilient to climate change.
5. Facilitate regional efforts to procure renewable energy for municipal operations.
6. Provide technical assistance to support sustainable transportation efforts.
7. Ensure municipal and regional climate change goals and priorities align with and support the State of Maine Climate Action Plan.
8. Increase staff and committee capacity for addressing sustainability and resilience in municipal operations.
9. Engage community members on local climate change, sustainability, and resilience issues.
10. Work with committees and local non-profits to collaborate on and promote local events and education campaigns
11. Support watershed health.

The work of Karina Graeter and Abbie Sherwin, co-leaders of the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program, was featured in Maine Won't Wait: A Four-Year Plan for Climate Action as an example of successful regional collaboration to address climate change issues.

Introduction

The Southern Maine Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program (the Program) was established in 2019 when the towns of Kittery, Kennebunk, Kennebunkport, Ogunquit, Wells, and York sought to create a regional program to support their individual sustainability and coastal resiliency efforts. Managed by the Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission (SMPDC), the Program works to foster more sustainable and resilient communities by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action.

One of the primary objectives of the Program is to establish a baseline of sustainability and coastal resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the coastal York Country region. To achieve that objective, SMPDC conducted a comprehensive assessment of individual town and regional action on sustainability and resilience undertaken to-date. Town assessments aid the municipalities with identifying specific priorities to help inform municipal planning, policies, and strategies. The regional assessment helps to identify and prioritize areas of current and potential regional collaboration on sustainability and coastal resilience issues. It also serves as a repository of information on individual towns' past efforts to create a resource for all communities to draw from the knowledge and experiences of each other.

To conduct the town assessments, Program staff developed a framework for municipalities to evaluate current and past sustainability and resilience initiatives, select suitable goals and actions, identify tailored objectives and strategies to advance municipal priorities, and access informational resources. Working with municipal staff and committee members, the framework was completed for each town, with existing planning and policy documents reviewed to identify current municipal priorities. Each town was evaluated on identical strategies within twelve categories, with strategies grouped into 22 "Indicators of Progress" that reflect broadscale sustainability and coastal resilience goals that are relevant to this region. Detailed descriptions of the Indicators of Progress are presented in Appendix A. A qualitative assessment of the towns' progress on each indicator, ranging from "Not yet considered" to "Excelling", was completed. Each town's progress on sustainability and resilience action in individual town assessments was synthesized, presented in Appendix B.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is when a healthy environment, economic prosperity and social justice are pursued simultaneously to ensure the well-being and quality of life of present and future generations.

What is Resilience?

Community resilience is the capacity of a community to absorb, withstand, recover from, and adapt to changing conditions and disturbances while sustaining key functions, structures, and performance. It involves all dimensions of a system, including social, built, and natural environments within a community.

Coastal resilience refers specifically to disasters and events arising from coastal hazards such as sea level rise, increased flooding, more frequent and intense storm surges, and shoreline erosion. It can be achieved by minimizing vulnerabilities through adaptation and mitigation planning.

Climate resilience is the ability to anticipate, prepare for, and respond to hazardous events, trends, or disturbances related to climate. Creating climate resilience consists of mitigation (*i.e.* greenhouse gas emissions reductions) and adaptation to climate change impacts.

To conduct the regional assessment, Program staff compared and synthesized the results and findings of the individual town assessments. For each category, the relative progress of the towns on each indicator was assessed and actions frequently pursued by towns were examined. Staff investigated common factors that appeared to enable successful implementation of actions, and determined collective barriers and challenges that the towns faced. Through this process, common priorities for towns' future sustainability and resilience efforts, as well as regional actions that could be taken to accelerate progress while addressing barriers that the towns face, were identified.

Results of the regional assessment are shared in the following sections. First presented is a detailed analysis of regional progress on sustainability and resilience actions by category. Lessons and best practices for making progress across all categories, with specific examples from the towns, are then shared. The final section presents regional priorities and next steps that will guide the work of the Program. By harnessing the power of regional action to build upon individual town efforts, address barriers, and accelerate progress, the Program will strive toward a sustainable and resilient future for coastal York County.

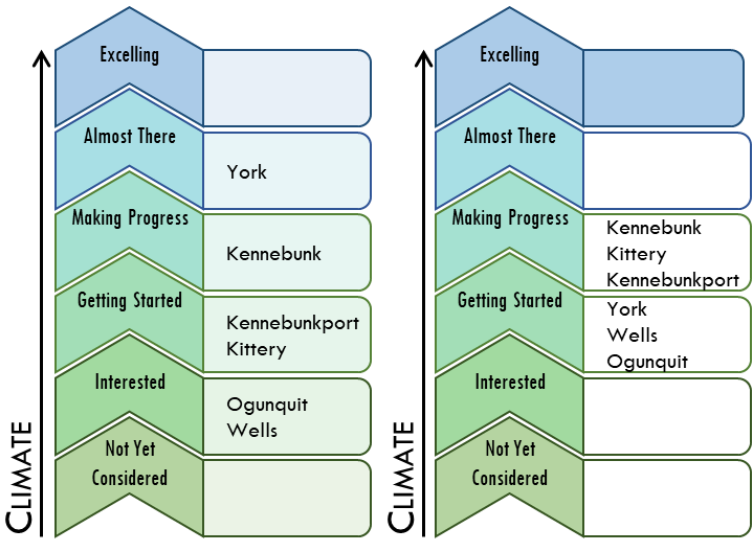
Category	Indicator
Climate	○ Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan ○ Assess vulnerability to climate change
Coastal Hazards	○ Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations ○ Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies
Economic Development	○ Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses
Energy	○ Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures ○ Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses ○ Support development of and access to renewable energy
Land Ecosystems	○ Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches
Leadership	○ Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network
Mobility	○ Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks ○ Adopt a complete streets policy ○ Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet
Municipal Operations	○ Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies ○ Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities ○ Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies
Sustainable Communities	○ Connect residents to resources and services that support wellbeing and enhance community resilience ○ Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues
Sustainable Development	○ Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability
Waste & Recycling	○ Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services
Water	○ Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards ○ Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures

Detailed Progress by Category

Climate

Towns in the region have accelerated their work on climate action in the past decade. Progress addressing town greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions varies among the towns. Those towns with the longest standing energy-focused committees have made the most progress (York and Kennebunk). Committees supply volunteer time, expertise, and help to prioritize these issues with the town's governing body. Kennebunk, Kennebunkport and York have hired college students and recent graduates to assist them with their GHG inventory efforts. To-date, towns have primarily funded climate mitigation (i.e. GHG reduction) planning internally, having received very little grant funding. York voters have approved $150k in funding for a Climate Action Plan, the development of which is starting soon. Towns would benefit from streamlined state or regional assistance on climate mitigation, with resources such as a GHG inventory framework, assistance on standardizing the data collection process, suggested or regionalized goals, and funding for climate action planning.

Climate change adaptation has become a priority issue for the region as towns are already experiencing impacts, including extensive damage and flooding from recent storm events and more frequent nuisance flooding. All towns have taken initial steps to assess their vulnerability to climate change. Much of this work has occurred through grant funded projects, often overseen by partners from planning and research institutions such as SMPDC, Woods Hole Group, or the Wells Reserve. To-date, vulnerability assessments have been focused on coastal issues. There are several ongoing grant-funded projects, including: assessments of the economic and social impacts of sea level rise and storm surge; development of a regional economic resilience plan to prepare for sea level rise and coastal storms; development of a model coastal resilience ordinance; and design of erosion and sedimentation control standards that account for climate change impacts. Further, all of the towns have advanced flood modeling completed by Ransom Engineering. This assessment work is vital for understanding impacts and lays the groundwork for developing and initiating adaptation strategies and reducing vulnerabilities. The region would benefit from the synthesis of these various studies and their results as well as the institutionalization of the adaptation work to push climate adaptation action forward.



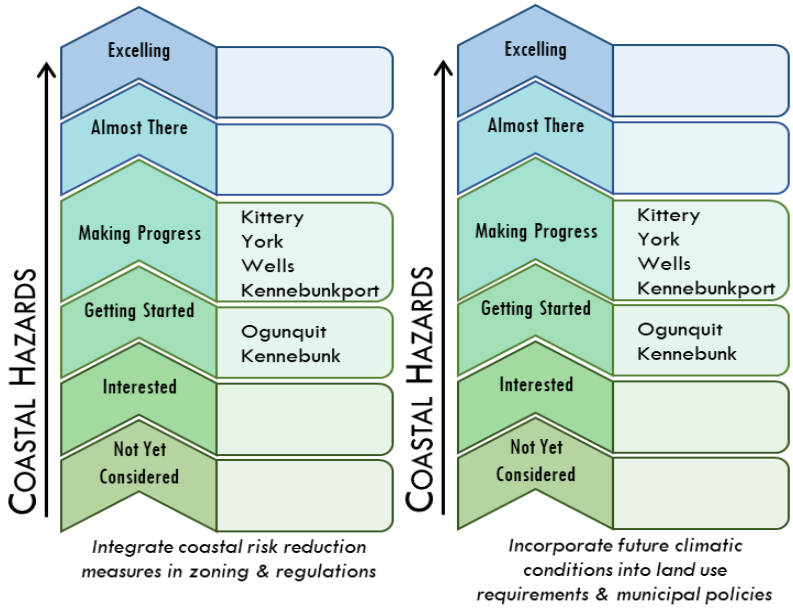
Coastal Hazards

Evaluating and addressing coastal hazards and the risks they pose are priorities for all of the towns. The local and regional economies are heavily dependent on coastal areas and also highly vulnerable to hazards such as flooding and erosion. Economic centers that double as cultural hubs, such as Dock Square, Kennebunk's lower village, and Long Sands, are at risk of coastal flooding, sea level rise, and beach erosion. Towns are at varying points on the spectrum of planning and action.

While none of the towns explicitly integrate sea level rise or storm surge hazards in their zoning and regulations, each towns' comprehensive plan makes mention of the need to address coastal flood hazards and several towns have entire chapters devoted to certain coastal hazards. Further, several municipalities are undertaking comprehensive plan update processes, offering a timely opportunity to incorporate specific land use measures to address coastal hazards and provide the enabling foundation for adopting regulations to reduce risks. Kittery, for example, has a coastal community resilience chapter that includes a strategy to review and revise Town codes to account for the impacts of sea level rise and climate adaptation.

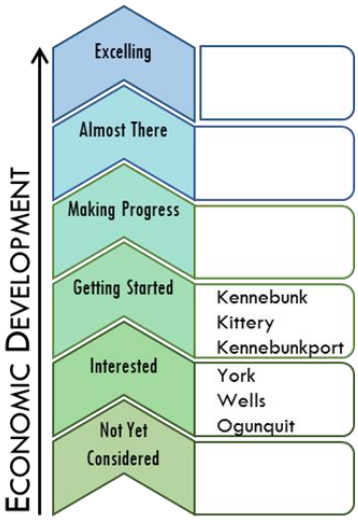
Some towns are beginning to account for climate change in land use codes and municipal policies. Most of the considerations are focused on coastal flooding and sea level rise. York and Kennebunkport require new structures within the regulatory floodplain to be elevated two feet above the base flood elevation (BFE) of the 100-year storm event, which provides more risk reduction for coastal structures than the state minimum of one foot above BFE. Wells also incorporated some flood risk reduction measures in its floodplain management ordinance, including more protective thresholds triggering compliance of development with floodplain development standards.

The Town of Kittery considers climate change impacts in its long-term budgeting and capital improvement plan process. York's stormwater design standards use higher storm frequencies than those required by state regulations. Additionally, several towns have discussed elevating roads vulnerable to flood hazards and Kennebunk and Kennebunkport have already elevated some roadway sections to reduce flooding. Kennebunk and York have integrated resilience measures in repair work to municipal seawalls and Wells is in the process of pursuing funding to repair and strengthen existing seawalls. Additionally, York, Kennebunk, Wells, and Kittery are involved in grant-funded projects led by SMDPC that are developing specific coastal adaptation and resilience land use and zoning strategies, which will be transferable to all the towns.



Economic Development

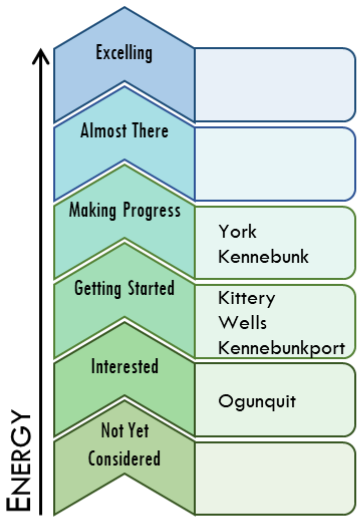
Efforts in the region to promote and support sustainability and resilience action for local businesses have been somewhat limited. Kittery has begun to engage the business community through the KCAC, which requires two members to be representatives of local businesses, one of which must include aquaculture. Kennebunk and Kennebunkport participated in a Wells Reserve led project, "Decreasing Vulnerability for our Beach-Based Businesses", which worked with local businesses to assess their ability to maintain operations during and after a disaster. The small towns in our region do not necessarily have the economic development capacity to lead this work, but they could benefit from and support a regional outreach and education effort to connect businesses to assistance on sustainability and resilience. The SMPDC economic development department and their EPA Brownfields assistance program is a potential partner for incorporating sustainability and resilience into economic development activities.



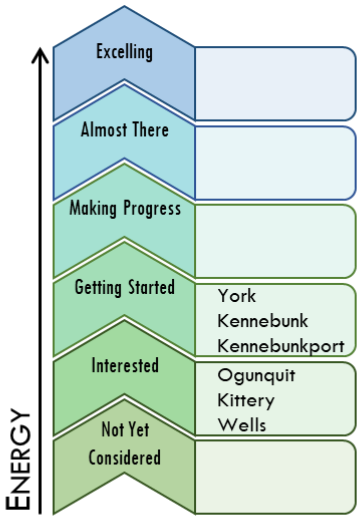
Promote & support sustainability & resilience actions for local businesses

Energy

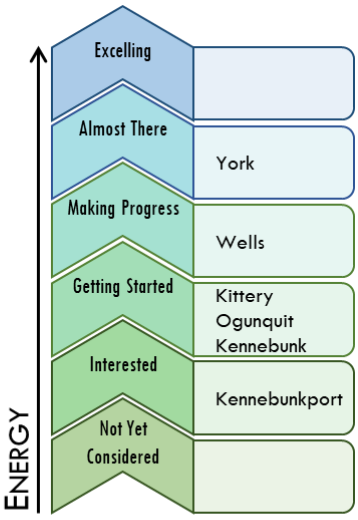
Town efforts in energy-related actions have been primarily focused on reducing municipal energy use and fossil fuel consumption. Singular energy efficiency projects are relatively easy for municipalities to undertake, due to clear and visible ties between reducing energy use and cost savings. With several rebates and grant programs available through Efficiency Maine Trust, there can be little upfront cost for small-scale upgrades. Thus, energy efficiency projects are seen as 'low hanging fruit", easily achievable and visible actions that can be highlighted by towns as action that benefits the town's bottom line while simultaneously reducing climate impact. Upgrading streetlights to LEDs has been a priority for all 6 towns, all of whom have either completed or are in progress of completing upgrades. Energy efficiency upgrades are often incorporated into larger building projects, such as major renovations or new construction. Towns with energy-focused committees (Wells, Kennebunk, and York) have made the most progress. Towns could



Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption & implement municipal energy efficiency measures



Promote energy efficiency for residents & businesses

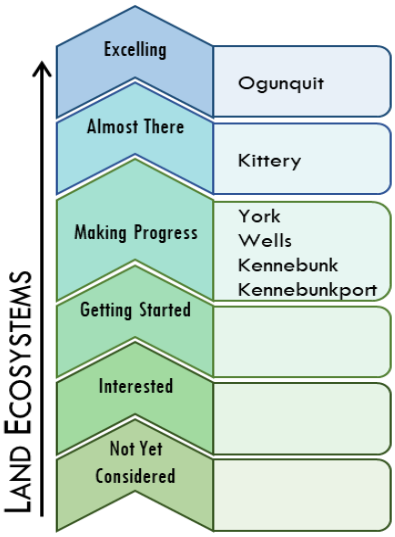


Support development of & access to renewable energy

benefit from direct technical assistance and funding for energy audits, renewable energy installations, and energy efficiency actions.

Energy efficiency for residents and businesses has been less of a focus for the municipalities. Town energy-related committees have done some outreach about other organization's weatherization programs. The Maine Climate Action Plan Strategy B calls for Maine to "Modernize Maine's Buildings: Energy-Efficient, Smart and Cost-Effective Homes and Businesses." The towns will likely need support to provide weatherization outreach and to community members available through state programs.

Since the Net Energy Billing Program and other state solar laws passed in 2019, all municipalities have started to actively consider solar electricity opportunities. York and Wells have installed roof-top solar on municipal properties and are exploring larger municipal solar efforts on underutilized land. Some of the towns are exploring a collaborative Net Energy Billing Credit Agreement procurement. York has, and Kittery is developing, ordinances permitting the development of small-, medium-, and large-scale solar. Work regarding both municipal and community solar development is generally led by town managers, planning departments, and town committees. Municipalities could benefit from technical assistance in the planning board process for solar developments to ensure that new solar developments have a positive impact on the community. Technical assistance for securing their own renewable energy resources, either through solar on municipal property or through the Net Energy Billing program would be beneficial.

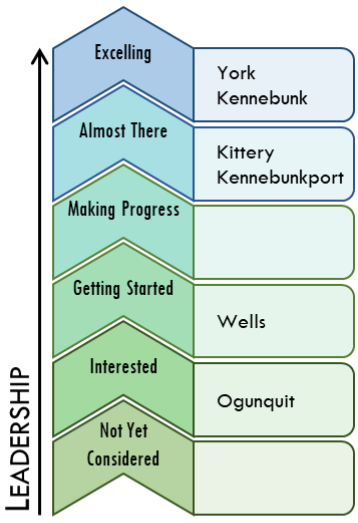


Promote & practice environmentally-friendly & sustainable landscape approaches

Land Ecosystems

Promoting and practicing environmentally friendly and sustainable landscape approaches have been priorities for our municipalities for many years. As a result, Land Ecosystems is one of the categories where the towns have pursued the most actions. There are several factors that contribute to this sustained action. The towns 1) must manage their own lands and landscapes 2) frequently partner with several strong conservation groups or ecosystem-focused non-profits, and 3) have a strong nature-based tourism culture that supports the local economy. Much of this work is driven by dedicated and knowledgeable municipal staff, including members of the public works and planning departments. To-date, forest management work is the least prominent. This may become an important topic as the State develops plans or programs on forest management for carbon sequestration to meet state carbon neutrality targets.

One common identified issue for towns is pesticide and fertilizer use by residents and businesses. There has been public education and outreach regarding this topic, but towns lack the capacity and authority to enforce community pesticide use regulations and could benefit from statewide guidance and support on this topic.



Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability & resilience network

Leadership

All program towns have demonstrated commitment to leading their communities and the State in sustainability and resilience action. The establishment of the Regional Program is itself an example of the

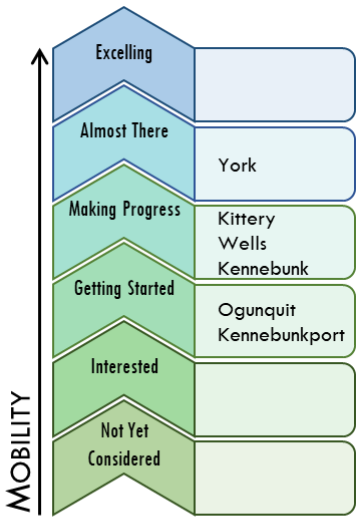
leadership shown by each of the six towns. Most of the towns have partnered with universities and research groups to complete specific projects. Three of the towns have worked with students through the UNH Sustainability Fellow Program. Towns with committees are playing more active roles in regional and national sustainability and resilience networks. The towns will benefit from continuing and expanding collaboration through the Regional Program and working in partnership with other networks to share best practices and participate in peer learning.

Mobility

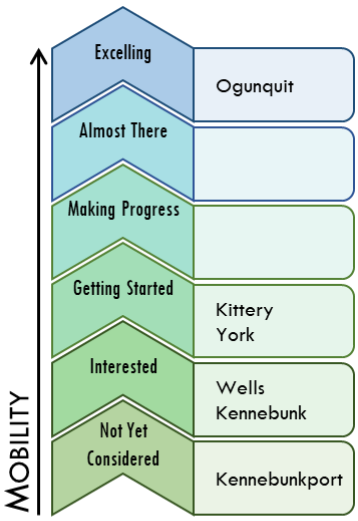
Efforts related to sustainable transportation vary greatly among the towns. In general, all towns aim to incorporate sidewalks and bike lanes where feasible to increase accessibility and safety. Towns such as York and Ogunquit with Bike and Pedestrian Committees have made more progress on promoting safe and accessible alternative transportation through bicycle and pedestrian planning and complete streets efforts. Only Ogunquit has adopted a Complete Streets policy, but both Kittery and York have identified it as a priority in municipal planning documents. Other towns such as Wells and Kittery have focused more heavily on transit systems. In general, municipal staff share that the lack of transit options is a barrier to alternative transportation for their community members.

All the towns are in the beginning stages of supporting the electrification of the transportation system. Some have installed public EV chargers with the help of Efficiency Maine grants, and a few have started incorporating EVs into the municipal fleets. None have done regulatory work to ensure new developments support EV readiness. There is significant funding and technical expertise available to communities to promote municipal fleet and EV charging infrastructure, but the towns could use direct support to access resources and understand the regulatory implications of EV expansion.

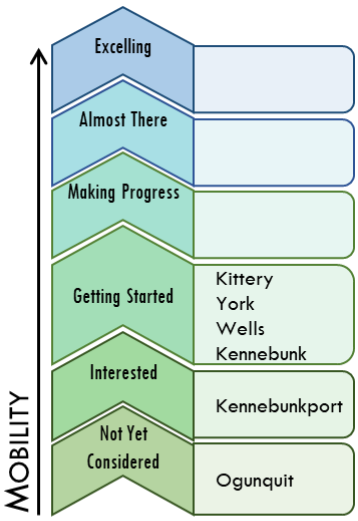
The towns have access to varying levels of regional funding and support for sustainable and resilient transportation initiatives. Kittery and York are part of the Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System Metropolitan Planning Organization (KACTS MPO), a committee responsible for planning and programming federally funded transportation projects. The KACTS MPO provides regional coordination, funding, and staff resources for transportation projects in the region. The remaining Towns in the region are supported by Maine Dept. of Transportation (MDOT) rural assistance funds, which are not necessarily tied to regional coordination. The SMPDC transportation department provides primarily staff support for the



Promote & facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle & pedestrian networks



Adopt a complete streets policy



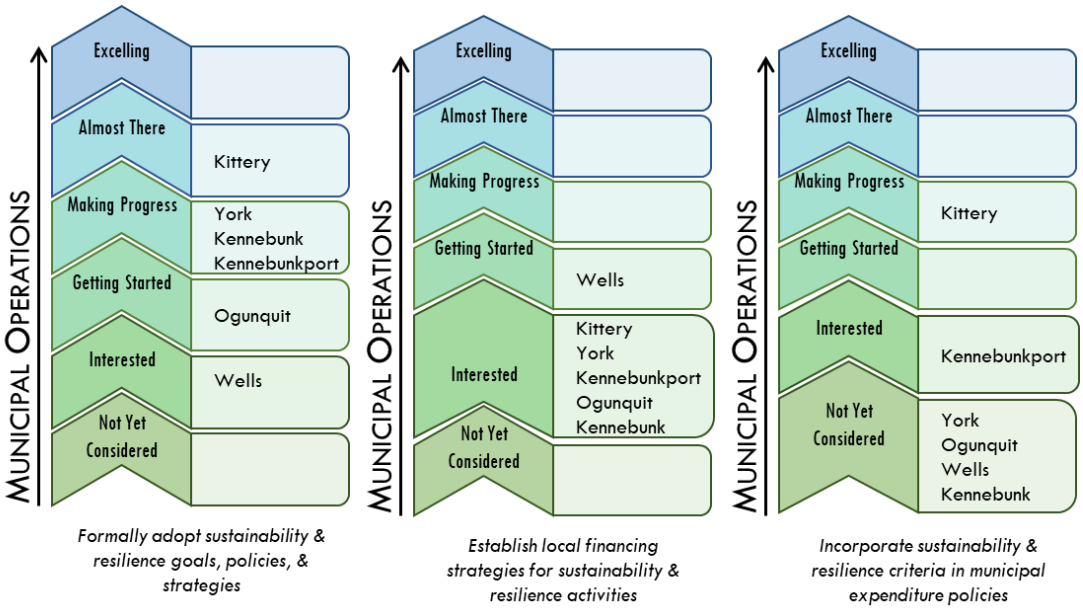
Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet

KACTS MPO and administers the MDOT rural assistance funds in York County. This lends itself to future internal coordination between the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program and the SMPDC Transportation Department to increase regional action.

Municipal Operations

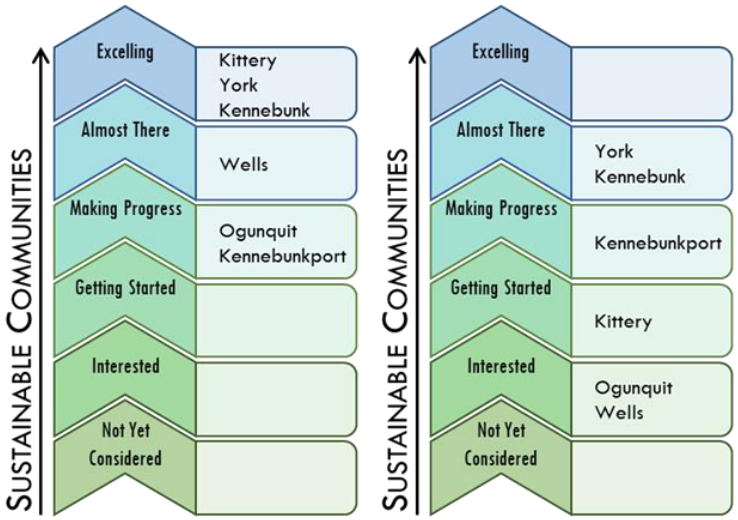
Towns are working to formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies. Much of this progress relates to whether or not towns have incorporated sustainability and resilience in their comprehensive plans or recently updated their plans to address such issues. Those towns that do have recent updates have all incorporated climate change and sustainability/resilience goals and strategies. All the towns except Kennebunkport have established a municipal committee to advise on sustainability resilience issues, although they are working with the town's Conservation Commission to make climate change a part of their charge. None of the towns have a stand-alone sustainability or resilience plan. Both Kennebunk and York have joined the Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate and Energy. York is the only town to set a GHG reduction target. Kennebunkport has formally adopted climate change goals through the Board of Selectmen.

Less work has been done to establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities. Some of the towns have used Power Purchase Agreements for solar systems and leases for financing EVs, and many have utilized grant funding wherever possible. None of the towns currently have long-term budgeting or planning for energy efficiency upgrades, and none have specific funds set aside for reinvesting cost savings into sustainability or resilience initiatives (i.e. a green revolving fund). Kittery is the only town to begin considering sustainability and resilience criteria for its Capital Improvement Program. Towns could benefit from training and technical support on how to create long-term funding for sustainability and resilience work with municipal budgets and capital improvement plans.



Sustainable Communities

The municipalities are successfully connecting residents to resources and services that support wellbeing and enhance community resilience. Generally, larger towns provide more services than smaller communities, due to larger municipal budgets. This is especially true with supporting access to local foods through sources like farmers markets or community gardens. Regional collaboration could help smaller communities connect residents to services in other towns.



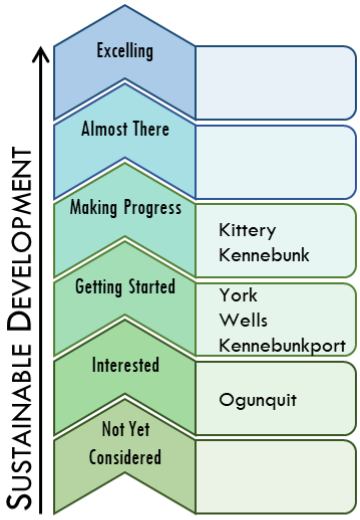
Connect residents to resources & services that support wellbeing & enhance community resilience

Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, & resilience issues

Each town has a vested interest in outreach and engagement on local climate and sustainability issues. For towns with strong committees and other local non-profits, there are many opportunities for residents to engage these issues. Kittery, Kennebunk, and York have grass-roots community groups that engage residents. However, little information is publicly available (e.g. through the town websites) about the towns' efforts to promote sustainability and resilience through municipal operations. Increasing regional collaboration and communication could expand the reach of outreach and engagement efforts to all communities in the region and promote broader understanding of the towns' efforts.

Sustainable Development

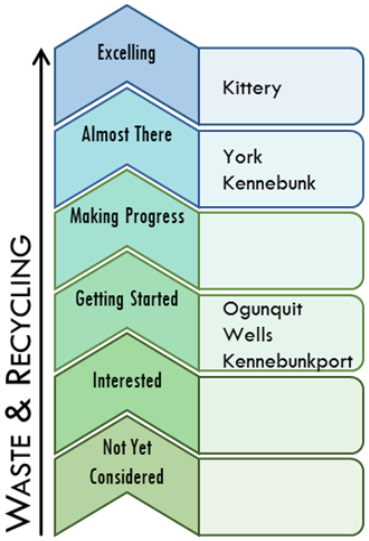
Progress varies among towns on sustainable development. Recent increases in development activity and decreases in housing affordability in southern Maine have led many towns to begin facilitating compact, mixed use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability. Protecting greenfields and open space has been a priority for the towns for many years. This work is often done through development requirements, such as open space subdivisions, and partnerships with local conservation organizations. Affordable housing has been a particularly important issue in recent years, leading to the formation of an Affordable Housing Committee in Kittery and Kennebunk and zoning regulation changes in York to require affordable housing in new developments. Increased regional coordination on sustainable development could be achieved through partnering with the SMPDC Land Use Planning Department and the SMPDC EPA Brownfields assistance program.



Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts & increases housing affordability

Waste

Each town in the region is responsible for its own waste management services. Waste and recycling have been top priorities for many of the towns. Towns have successfully used ordinances to influence resident behavior and increase recycling rates. Kittery and York have a mandatory recycling ordinance. Kennebunk has an ordinance banning single-use plastic bags, and language in the solid waste ordinance permitting curbside compost pickup. Some towns have a solid waste committee or recycling committee to advise the town on waste issues, while others do not. All the towns have struggled with the recent changes to the U.S. recycling market, particularly those towns that were paying for single-stream curbside recycling. Kennebunkport ceased their curbside recycling program until they could negotiate a new recycling contract. As with other services, the larger towns with more resources have more encompassing waste management services. Waste management efforts in all towns have focused on residential, not commercial waste. Outreach and education on waste tend to be limited to signage and mailers for most communities. Kennebunk and Kennebunkport have used MDEP grant funds to create lobster trap compost bin programs. A regional education and outreach campaign would help the towns encourage waste reduction, recycling and composting by residents, municipal staff and businesses.



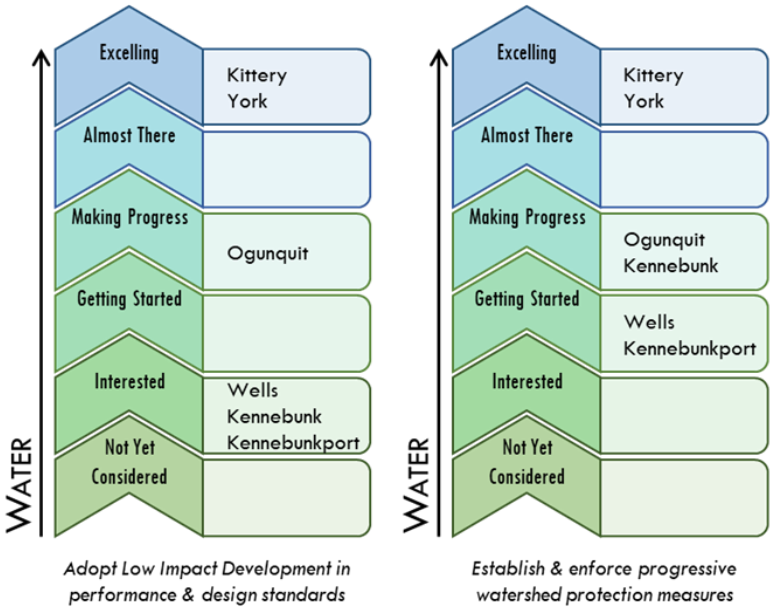
Deliver sustainable & affordable waste management services

Water

Managing stormwater and minimizing water quality impacts of development are top priorities for all the towns, especially in recent years as development pressure in the region has intensified. While towns' interest in employing low impact development (LID) is growing, it is neither widely utilized nor broadly cited in towns' land use requirements. The Town of York is the only one to require LID through its land use ordinance for development projects triggering site plan or subdivision review. York also incentivizes LID by allowing for increased impervious coverage in certain zoning districts if LID is utilized. York's LID provision requires that developers submit proposed LID strategies for stormwater management but does not include any criteria or design standards for LID measures. Kittery is in the process of amending its land use ordinance to require LID for commercial land uses. Both Kittery and York are Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) communities, and therefore have enhanced stormwater management requirements and programs that could serve as model examples for other towns. Encouraging and requiring the use of LID techniques regionally would help towns address water quality concerns and precipitation-based flooding events while providing ancillary resilience benefits, including climate mitigation through carbon sequestration by plants, restored aquatic habitat, reduced heat island effect by shading and minimizing impervious surfaces, improved groundwater recharge, enhanced neighborhood beauty, and increased property values.

Watershed-based management is a challenging endeavor, as watershed boundaries seldom follow municipal borders or fall entirely within one town, lending the management style perfectly to a true regional approach. The six towns have made progress on a number of watershed protection efforts and in some cases, have collaborated on watershed-based projects. All towns continue to face development pressure and land use practices that contribute to polluted waters and environmental degradation. All six towns support land conservation efforts to protect water quality and watershed resources. The Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge has been a key player for conserving ecologically significant and

environmentally sensitive land in the region. Kennebunk and Kennebunkport recently participated in the Kennebunk River Watershed-based Management planning effort, actively implementing protective zoning measures for the Branch Brook Aquifer and are interested in pursuing improved stormwater management practices for water quality protection. Wells has strong protective measures for groundwater and aquifer recharge areas through its land use code.



Kittery and York have implemented exemplary water quality protection measures, including wetlands and watershed protection ordinances, support for the York River Watershed Wild and Scenic designation process, and watershed-based restoration projects. York also has ordinances requiring the use of low impact development (LID), periodic pump out of septic systems, and open space subdivisions provisions requiring development designs centered around conserving open space, ecological features, and the natural environment. Kittery has implemented green infrastructure projects to manage stormwater runoff on municipal properties. Ogunquit has undertaken watershed protection measures and implemented green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) projects to reduce water pollution from stormwater runoff through the Ogunquit River Watershed Restoration Project. Working with neighboring communities, such as Wells, that have land within the Watershed to address ongoing water quality issues is of the utmost importance for the Town.

Lessons and Best Practices for Achieving Progress

Successful Strategies

Program municipalities have achieved success implementing a range of sustainability and resilience actions. While each towns' individual efforts are detailed in the town specific Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Reports (Appendix B), this report outlines a summary of key activities and exemplary efforts in the six-town region. Across the many actions undertaken, there are several common strategies and characteristics that appear to enable progress.

Municipalities tend to make more progress on actions when:

1. **The action is incorporated into town long-term planning priorities.** Towns that have incorporated specific sustainability or resilience goals into their long-term plans are more likely to have made progress on those actions. This is the case for many land ecosystem, sustainable development, and climate strategies.

   Examples:

   - The Town of Kittery's comprehensive plan (updated in 2015) features a section on Coastal Community Resilience, with the goal to "Establish short, medium, and long term plans to address the effects of climate change…". This goal led to the establishment of the Kittery Climate Adaptation Committee and efforts to assess Kittery's vulnerability to climate change. Kittery's comprehensive plan also incorporates sustainability as a guiding principle, evaluating each topic of the plan on how it aligns with sustainability principles.

   - The Town of York has an Energy Chapter in its comprehensive plan and incorporates sustainability as a key theme throughout the plan. The Energy Chapter has guided the work of the York Energy Efficiency Steering Committee and has led to many municipal energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.

2. **The town has a committee that advises, directs, and champions efforts.** The towns that have formally established municipal committees with clear and documented charges have made more progress on related actions. Committees include those focused on topics such as climate, energy, sustainability, bicycle and pedestrian, affordable housing, or solid waste and recycling. Active and engaged conservation commissions can also drive action forward. The longevity and level of involvement of these committees influence the towns' progress on different actions. Additionally, effective coordination with and support from the towns' select boards and/or councils generally enables more success.

Kittery municipal staff and committee members participate in a planning workshop to go through the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist.

Examples:

- Both York and Kennebunk have had energy-related committees since the late 2000s. These long-standing committees they have been able to make significant progress on the towns' energy efficiency and renewable energy efforts.

- The Town of Ogunquit established a Sustainability Committee in 2020. Because the committee is charged with addressing all sustainability issues, it provides flexibility for the committee to work on various sustainability and resilience actions.

The Town of Kittery installed a two port Level 2 EV charging station at the Rice Library.

- The Town of Kittery established the Kittery Climate Adaptation Committee to advise the town on ways to make Kittery more resilient in the face of risks associated with warming temperatures and rising seas. The committee also has town subcommittees – Built & Natural Landscape Impacts subcommittee and Energy Efficiency subcommittee – to carry out detailed work on specific topics.

3. **Outside funding is available for work on the action.** When towns have access to and the ability to pursue grants or other funding sources, they are more likely to make progress on an action. This is the case for energy efficiency projects (that are often supported by rebates), EV charging projects, climate vulnerability assessments, and watershed management efforts.

   Examples:

   - Ogunquit tapped into federal funding under section 319 of the Clean Water Act and the Maine Coastal Communities Grant Program for multiple projects to study pollutant sources, reduce bacteria levels, and improve water quality in the Ogunquit River Watershed.

   - All six towns are participating in grant-funded efforts to assess social and economic impacts of coastal storms and sea level rise and develop targeted and tailored adaptation and mitigation strategies. Much needed coastal vulnerability assessments and related resilience planning activities are

Kittery has worked on the Spruce Creek Watershed Restoration project for over a decade with funding assistance from the Environmental protection agency under section 319 of the Clean Water Act.

occurring through outside funding secured for the towns by SMPDC.

- Through the efforts of its Energy Efficiency Committee, the Town of Kennebunk was able to install EV charging stations with grant funding from Efficiency Maine.

4. **Community partners support the town's efforts.** Local non-profits play a key role in supporting town's efforts, particularly for land ecosystem, water, coastal hazard, and climate actions. They provide technical assistance, funding, and capacity that can make it feasible to act on sustainability and resilience issues.

   Examples:

   - All the towns have consistently worked with local land trusts to conserve and preserve land and local ecosystems. The Town of Wells, for example, works with its conservation commission and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Rachel Carson National Wildlife Refuge to conserve properties that are vulnerable to flooding or erosion hazards or have ecological significance which it acquires through tax foreclosure.

The towns of Ogunquit and Wells partner with the Maine Audubon and other agencies to monitor the endangered species such as the Least Tern and Piping plover.

   - Kennebunkport partnered with SMPDC and the local nonprofit Kennebunkport Climate Initiative to advise the Board of Selectmen to set municipal climate change goals.
   - The Town of York has partnered with the York Land Trust and York Water District to conserve and protect land surrounding the Town's drinking water source.

Barriers and Challenges

In addition to the common factors that enable success on sustainability and resilience efforts, there are several common barriers and challenges that limit the towns' ability to implement actions, including:

- **Lack of municipal staff expertise, capacity, and training on sustainability and resilience principles.** Most municipal staff are already stretched thin with existing workloads and job responsibilities and lack the capacity and the expertise to be able to adequately integrate these principles into their work. To date, there has been little to no sustainability and resilience training provided to municipal staff, elected officials, or committee members. This results in missed opportunities for sustainability and resilience to be incorporated into municipal projects and day-to-day operations. This is particularly important for financing actions, which can be easier to budget for when part of a larger or ongoing effort.
- **Low Community Engagement/Participation.** Towns rely on community members for direction, support, and committee participation. Towns with communities that are less engaged in sustainability and resilience initiatives, such as Wells and Ogunquit, have pursued fewer actions. Smaller towns often face a greater challenge engaging the community as they have limited staff capacity for outreach and fewer residents to volunteer on committees.

- **Insufficient outside funding**. Strategies where there is limited access to outside funding tend to not be pursued as often as those strategies where funding is readily available. This is often the case for Waste and Recycling efforts, for which more sustainable practices are often the more expensive option.

When the Town of Ogunquit planted a new garden on the Marginal Way, they created a wildlife friendly design that is a Certified Wildlife Habitat by the National Wildlife Federation.

- **Lack of technical expertise and guidance**. Many sustainability and resilience actions require new and specific knowledge. When municipalities do not have the technical expertise in house to undertake a sustainability or resilience action, they can turn to guidance from state or regional sources. However, these are often limited as well, such as guidance for renewable energy development and procurement, actions to support the electrification of the transportation system, and GHG inventories and climate action planning. As a result, municipalities have been less inclined to pursue these strategies.

- **Minimal State guidance and directives**. To-date, little guidance, direction, or order has been issued or provided by State government to encourage, incentivize, and/or require sustainability and resilience action at the municipal level. With the recent efforts of the Maine Climate Council and release of the State Climate Action Plan, there should be more resources, support, and guidance being provided to towns and regions for advancing climate action.

- **Limited municipal budgets.** Towns have finite financial resources and seemingly ever-growing lists of programs, services, and initiatives to fund. Finding and allocating scarce financial resources to support sustainability and resilience actions, which are largely new investments for towns and therefore can carry a sense of uncertainty, has been challenging.

- **Low prioritization of issues by municipal governing bodies.** As with any elected body, municipal select boards and councils are subject to shifting political winds and priorities. A lack of support for or interest in sustainability and resilience action by the governing body can significantly hinder towns' progress.

- **Resistance to regulatory approaches**. Utilizing regulatory tools to address climate change is a strategy that has been discussed but not yet meaningfully pursued within the six towns. Community discussions about amending existing or developing new regulations can trigger hesitation, insecurity, and opposition. This is especially the case for regulations related to climate change, due to inherent uncertainty associated with exact future climate conditions and impacts, and longstanding support for individual property rights. Regulatory approaches that incorporate climate change are also relatively new and untested in Maine. Additionally, development of sound regulatory strategies grounded in science requires foundational information about anticipated climate impacts, local vulnerabilities, and effective measures for addressing those impacts. Towns are currently in the initial stage of gathering that information.

Meaningful Progress through Regional Action

The SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program is building upon towns' individual progress on sustainability and resilience efforts through a collaborative regional approach to advance municipal action. Through this regional partnership, our towns have demonstrated a commitment to effective and meaningful climate action in order to help protect the places, natural resources, and way of life so valued by communities for future generations.

For Program communities, some of the greatest obstacles to mitigating and adapting to climate change are the lack of capacity, strapped financial resources, and uncertainty about what actions to take to make progress on sustainability and resilience issues. A regional strategy is a unique and timely opportunity for addressing these obstacles and advancing efforts. By helping the towns communicate and work together on climate change initiatives, we are capitalizing on peer learning to share knowledge and experiences and leveraging resources for regional initiatives that have a broader impact. To build upon individual municipal action, address barriers, and accelerate progress, the Regional Program is focusing on three primary areas of action:

1. Facilitating regional coordination, advocacy, and outreach.
2. Collecting, synthesizing, and disseminating relevant information and tools.
3. Providing expert support with research assistance and training.

Potential regional next steps to increase the sustainability and resilience of Coastal York County are detailed below. Town-specific potential next steps are listed in the individual town reports (Appendix B).

Solar panels on the roof of the Wells Town Garage reduce municipal electricity emissions and produce utility cost savings.

Regional Priorities and Next Steps

1. Understand communitywide GHG emissions for our region to plan and take action on emissions reductions	•Develop a framework for communitywide GHG emissions for Maine Municipalities and use that framework to assess communitywide GHG emissions for all towns and the region.
2. Understand regional climate change impacts and developing a plan with specific strategies to address those impacts	•Assess social and economic vulnerabilities to coastal flooding, sea level rise, and storm surge and develop locally-tailored regulatory and policy strategies to enhance coastal community resilience.
3. Prepare for coastal hazards	•Assess coastal hazard impacts and local vulnerabilities. •Develop targeted and tailored land use strategies, policy measures, and funding mechanisms that address hazards and local vulnerabilities.
4. Help local businesses be sustainable and resilient to climate change	•Develop a regional sustainable and resilient business program to provide education, resources, and technical assistance to local businesses.
5. Facilitate regional efforts to procure renewable energy for municipal operations	•Lead the Southern Maine Solar Collaborative to procure a common Net Energy Billing Credit Agreement for a group of Southern Maine towns to support Maine distributed solar development and reduce municipal energy costs.
6. Provide technical assistance to support sustainable transportation efforts	•Assist towns in supporting EV adoption through the development and delivery of a Municipal EV Readiness toolkit in partnership with regional transportation organizations. •Collaborate with regional transportation organizations to ensure sustainability and resilience are integral parts of regional transportation efforts.
7. Ensure municipal and regional climate change goals and priorities align with and support the State of Maine Climate Action Plan	•Facilitate a municipal workshop detailing the Maine Climate Action Plan and its impact on Southern Maine municipalities

Regional Priorities and Next Steps (Continued)

8. Increase staff and committee capacity for addressing sustainability and resilience in municipal operations	•Develop an educational program and outreach materials for municipal staff and committee members.
9. Engage community members on local climate change, sustainability, and resilience issues	•Work with committees and local non-profits to collaborate on and promote local events and education campaigns.
10. Work with committees and local non-profits to collaborate on and promote local events and education campaigns	•Work with committees and local non-profits to expand outreach and education on waste and recycling priorities.
11. Support watershed health	•Pursue watershed-based management approaches and coordinated strategies for protecting water quality, natural resources, and the important activities and livelihoods that depend on them. •Encourage and require low impact development (LID) measures to manage stormwater, improve environmental health, and mitigate climate impacts.

Conclusion

Southern Maine municipalities are on the front lines of climate change. Our towns are already experiencing the impacts of increasingly intense and frequent storms, extreme weather events, and shifting environmental conditions. Strapped financial resources, lack of capacity, and limited technical support and guidance pose significant barriers for municipalities to understand and address climate change. Navigating the world of sustainability and resilience can be an overwhelming challenge for our communities struggling to balance issues of community planning, public welfare and safety, fiscal responsibility, and economic health. The Southern Maine Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program is helping our municipalities move the needle of climate action by leveraging resources, addressing barriers, and providing necessary resources and capacity. The Program is assisting towns with undertaking coordinated and impactful initiatives and providing a roadmap for achieving a sustainable and resilient future, helping towns with 'getting there from here'.

Appendix A: Indicators of Progress

To conduct the individual town assessments, each town was evaluated on identical sustainability and resilience strategies within twelve categories, with strategies grouped into 22 indicators that reflect broadscale goals that are relevant to this region. The categories and indicators are as follows:

Climate

Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan

Reducing municipal and communitywide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are vital to limiting our towns' contributions to climate change. Conducting a GHG emissions inventory, setting GHG reduction targets, and implementing a climate action plan are steps towns can take to ensure they are working toward a low carbon future.

Climate change vulnerability assessment

Our communities are already experiencing the impacts of climate change from rising sea levels, increases in extreme precipitation, and warmer temperatures. Assessing a community's vulnerability to climate change and implementing adaptation strategies increases the town's climate resilience.

Coastal Hazards

Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations

Coastal hazards such as strong storms, rising seas, and shoreline erosion pose significant and growing threats to the region's coastal communities, where concentrated development of homes, businesses, and municipal infrastructure along the coastline make the area extremely vulnerable. Developing and implementing land use strategies and regulations that reduce risk in vulnerable areas protects people, property, and natural resources while enhancing community-wide resilience.

Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies

Municipal policy making and land use decisions are generally undertaken with an eye toward the future. The impacts of decisions and policies made in the short-term are often not fully realized until the longer-term. Accounting for climate change and projected future conditions in municipal policies and land use decisions can help to ensure that decisions made today minimize vulnerabilities and protect community investments in the future.

Economic Development

Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses

Local businesses are vital to a thriving, sustainable economy. Municipalities play an important role in encouraging local businesses to be more sustainable and to be resilient to coastal and climate impacts through outreach and education.

Energy

Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures
Municipalities are leading the effort to create a sustainable, low carbon future. Municipal efforts to reduce fossil fuel consumption through renewable energy procurement and energy efficiency measures also result in significant savings for municipalities and taxpayers, fostering economic sustainability.

Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses
Energy efficiency efforts help reduce communitywide GHG emissions and save residents and businesses money on utility costs. Towns can encourage community members to undertake energy efficiency measures through incentives, regulatory changes, and outreach and education.

Support development of and access to renewable energy
Local renewable energy helps decrease communitywide GHG emissions and increase the resilience of the local energy system. Municipalities can support the development of renewable energy by adopting new codes and permitting practices, adapting building and development regulations, supporting renewable energy development on underutilized public and private properties, and conducting education and outreach programs for residents and businesses.

Land Ecosystems

Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches
Sustainably managing land ecosystems promotes human and ecological health. Municipalities can support sustainable landscape approaches on municipal properties through community forest and landscape management strategies. Towns may also encourage environmentally-friendly landscape practices in the community through incentives, regulations, and education and outreach.

Leadership

Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network
Municipalities must work collaboratively to lead the way to a more sustainable and resilient future. Collaboration may involve reporting municipal data to regional or national efforts, creating regional plans to achieve sustainability and resilience, and partnering with local schools to undertake sustainability or resilience actions.

Mobility

Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks
Abundant and safe alternative transportation options decrease GHG emissions and promote accessibility. Municipalities may support alternative transportation by increasing bike and pedestrian networks and collaborating to expand transit options.

Adopt a complete streets policy
Complete Streets are streets designed and built for all travelers, creating roads that are safer, more accessible, and encourage alternative forms of transportation that reduce GHG emissions. A Complete Streets policy establishes the foundation for ensuring that all streets in a community serve all users, either through new construction or redesign of existing streets.

Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet
The broadscale adoption of Electric Vehicles (EVs) and the electrification of the transportation system are key to decreasing communitywide GHG emissions. Municipalities can lead by example by incorporating EVs into municipal fleets and installing public EV charging stations. They can also encourage EV infrastructure development through regulatory changes and development incentives.

Municipal Operations

Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies
Formally adopting goals, policies, and strategies can make sustainability and resilience priorities for the community and establish a foundation for future action. Doing so helps to incorporate these principles into the culture and day-to-day operations of the municipality. This may be done through a standalone sustainability plan or policy, or by incorporating sustainability and resilience as key themes in the town's comprehensive plan.

Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities
It can be a challenge for municipalities to find funding for sustainability and resilience actions. While some efforts can be funded through grant projects, long term success depends on establishing local financing strategies. Financing for efforts should be incorporated throughout the municipal budget. Towns can also use unique financing strategies like power purchase agreements, leases, energy saving performance contracts, and green revolving funds to pursue renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.

Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies
Municipalities make many purchases and financial decisions each year. These decisions are an opportunity for the town to ensure that municipal decisions are made with sustainability and resilience in mind. Towns that incorporate specific criteria into municipal expenditure policies can work to align expenditures with the town's sustainability and resilience goals and priorities.

Sustainable Communities

Connect residents to resources and services that support wellbeing and enhance community resilience
The health and wellbeing of its residents are vital to a sustainable and resilient community. Municipalities can foster community resilience by being prepared for environmental and public health crises and by connecting residents to human services and local, healthy foods.

Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues
Community members play a key role in creating a culture of sustainability and resilience by taking action in their own homes and businesses and by providing support and input into municipal initiatives. Towns can enable individual and community action by actively engaging community members on local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues through education events, the town website, and other communication outlets.

Sustainable Development

Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability

Sustainable development ensures that as towns grown and change, they do so in a way that reduces environmental impacts and increases community resilience. Municipalities can promote sustainable development through zoning and development regulations, affordable housing initiatives, partnerships with developers, and land use planning.

Waste

Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services

Sustainable waste management reduces the environmental impact of waste through reduction, reuse, and recycling. Municipalities are responsible for ensuring that residents and businesses have the ability to dispose of their waste properly. Municipalities can strive to operate their waste management services as sustainably as possible, and they can educate community members on the values of waste reduction, recycling, and composting.

Water

Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards

Employing practices that utilize and mimic natural processes lessens the detrimental impacts of development by protecting water quality, preserving habitat, creating green space, and reducing flood risk. By implementing low impact development (LID) principles and practices, stormwater can be managed in a way that reduces impacts of built areas and helps to improve community resilience today and into the future as precipitation patterns shift and intensify.

Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures

Water quality is a top priority for the State and southern Maine region, with implications for drinking water, public health, recreation opportunities, fishing activities, and tourism. Climate change can make it more challenging for communities to protect water quality, provide safe drinking water and wastewater services, and maintain healthy aquatic systems. Implementing watershed-based protection measures that address future climate impacts, including increases in temperatures and precipitation, habitat chances, and saltwater intrusion, can reduce stormwater runoff pollutant transport, protect upstream and downstream water quality, and preserve natural resources.

Appendix B: Town Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessments

Assessment order:

1. Kennebunk
2. Kennebunkport
3. Kittery
4. Ogunquit
5. Wells
6. York

TOWN OF KENNEBUNK

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

As a 2007 signatory of the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the Town of Kennebunk has long been committed to creating a sustainable and resilient community. As part of this commitment, in 2019 Kennebunk joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities in coastal York County by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the Coastal York Country region. Through the work of the Select Board and the Kennebunk Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (KEEAC), the Town has committed to significant climate change actions as part of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy. Residents and students in Kennebunk are actively engaged in sustainability and resilience issues through KEEAC, RSU 21 school district, and non-profit partners.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), Kennebunk was evaluated on many strategies within twelve sustainability and resilience categories. Strategies were grouped into 22 indicators, shown below. Kennebunk's status on each progress indicator ranges from "Not Yet Considered" to "Excelling". Explanations for each indicator and suggested next steps are detailed on the following pages.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	Making Progress
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Getting Started
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	Getting Started
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	Getting Started
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	Getting Started
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	Making Progress
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	Getting Started
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	Getting Started
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	Making Progress
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	Excelling
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	Making Progress
	Adopt a complete streets policy	Interested
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Getting Started
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	Making Progress
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	Interested
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Not yet considered
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	Excelling
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	Almost there
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	Making Progress
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	Almost there
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	Interested
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	Making Progress

TOWN OF KENNEBUNK

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Climate: Kennebunk has a long history of leading climate initiatives, signing the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement in 2007 and resigning in 2014. Kennebunk also joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCOM) in 2018. Kennebunk completed a municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory with the help of New School students in 2019 and completed a community-wide GHG inventory with the help of a UNH Sustainability Fellow in 2020.

NEXT STEPS:

- Standardize the municipal GHG inventory data collection process by tracking building energy consumption (*i.e.* with EnergyStar Portfolio Manager or through the finance department).
- Work through KEEAC to establish a GHG emissions reduction target for municipal and/or community-wide emissions.
- Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment to evaluate non-coastal vulnerabilities.
- Develop a Climate Action Plan with achievable actions to reduce community emissions and that incorporates climate adaptation measures.

Coastal Hazards: Kennebunk has taken steps to address coastal hazards, including integrating resilience measures in repair work to municipal seawalls and elevating vulnerable roads. The Town is participating in a regional grant project assessing and planning for the economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events.

NEXT STEPS:

- Include updated sea level rise projections, coastal erosion rates, and goals to address those hazards in the Town's Comprehensive Plan in order to enable policies and land use measures that protect people, property, and places.
- Establish a coastal hazard overlay zoning district and accompanying development standards to ensure new and redevelopment in areas vulnerable to storm surge and future sea level rise are resilient.
- Amend the floodplain management ordinance to incorporate enhanced flood risk reduction measures such as increased freeboard height requirements and accounting for cumulative improvement costs in the definition of substantial improvement and damage.
- Pursue participation in the Community Rating System to reduce flood risk and flood insurance costs.

Economic Development: Kennebunk participated in a 2016-2018 project through Wells Reserve that focused business resilience with the Lower Village businesses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

Energy: The Kennebunk Energy Efficiency Advisory Committee (KEEAC) was formed in 2006 to advise on ways for the Town to reduce municipal fossil fuel use and increase energy efficiency. Kennebunk completed energy audits of municipal facilities in 2016 and has been implementing simple energy efficiency measures including LED lighting upgrades and window inserts. Kennebunk has partnered with Kennebunk Light and Power to support energy efficiency measures, and KEEAC promotes energy efficiency resources on its website. Kennebunk has begun supporting the development of renewable energy, adopting a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) ordinance in 2011 and allowing for small wind energy systems as an accessory use in the zoning ordinance.

NEXT STEPS:

- Complete the streetlight LED conversion project, collaborating with Kennebunk Light and Power.
- Work through KEEAC to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and educate the community about renewable energy options.
- Adopt a renewable energy ordinance prescribing the permitting, standards, and allowable use of renewable energy systems.

Land Ecosystems:

Kennebunk's Dept. of Public Works strives to manage municipal landscapes sustainably, limiting irrigation and mowing and contracting with a pest services company that uses integrated pest management strategies. The Tree Committee actively works to plant trees in locations where they make a direct, positive impact on the community or act as a buffer to filter air and water, limit storm runoff, and stabilize soil. The Conservation Commission works to protect the town's natural resources and to implement Kennebunk's Open Space Plan.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider adapting the subdivision and development codes to encourage sustainable landscaping in the community.
- Encourage community-wide use of integrated pest management strategies through a pesticide policy and/or community education programs.
- Work through the Conservation Commission, Tree Committee and partnerships with local non-profit organizations to educate the community about the value of trees, native plants, and sustainable landscaping.

Leadership:

Through the efforts of the KEEAC and the Select Board, Kennebunk is an active member of ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability, and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCOM).

NEXT STEPS:

- Publicly report Kennebunk's community-wide GHG inventory as part of the GCOM commitment.
- Work through KEEAC to actively participate in regional/state networks, such as by reporting local data to advance national and international sustainability efforts.
- Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability and resilience broadly in the community and externally.

Mobility:

While Kennebunk has no formal Bike and Pedestrian committee, the Dept of Public Works strives to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and infrastructure. Community Development, Planning & Codes is currently exploring options for identifying gaps and barriers to bike and pedestrian travel. The Town of Kennebunk, in partnership with York County Community Action Corporation (YCCAC), recently developed the Kennebunk In-Town Transportation (KITT) network, a flex-route bus service that increases access to transit. Kennebunk does not have a Complete Streets policy, but does try to incorporate complete street principles in road redesigns. The town has begun to facilitate the electrification of the transportation system. KEEAC is working to install public EV charging stations, and the town has purchased their first EV as the Fire Chief command vehicle.

NEXT STEPS:

- Identify gaps in the bike and pedestrian networks and create a Bike and Pedestrian Plan to implement strategies for improving connectivity and safety.
- Consider establishing a Complete Streets Policy to ensure access for all road users.
- Continue to pursue public EV charging station installation and collaborate with businesses to develop EV infrastructure.
- Establish a fleet purchasing policy to prioritize electric vehicles and continue exploring EV fleet opportunities.

Municipal Operations:

As part of the GCOM commitment, Kennebunk plans to create a climate action plan that will formalize sustainability and resilience goals and strategies. Kennebunk does not have regular financing strategies in place for sustainability and resilience activities outside of committee budgets. Sustainability and resilience criteria are not incorporated into Kennebunk's municipal expenditure policies.

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure that sustainability and resilience are incorporated into the next Comprehensive Plan update.
- Create a Climate Action Plan with goals and strategies for mitigating and adapting to climate change.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades.
- Integrate sustainability and resiliency into capital planning criteria.

TOWN OF KENNEBUNK

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Sustainable Communities: Kennebunk Social Services connects residents to vital community services while the Parks and Rec. Dept. Healthy Kennebunk program promotes community well being. Kennebunk is proposing the adoption of an Emergency Management Agency Ordinance that would enhance community resilience to environmental disasters and public health crises. Kennebunk has a weekly farmers' market that increases access to local foods. The Community Garden Committee works to increase access to local foods by providing garden space and advice on growing. The KEEAC frequently partners with local non-profits to engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues.

NEXT STEPS:

- Apply emergency management lessons from Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience.
- Host events educating the public about climate change and local impacts and how to reduce GHG emissions.

Sustainable Development: Kennebunk strives to facilitate compact, mixed-use development, allowing for mixed-use in many land use zones, and working to implement the strategies in the Open Space Plan. Kennebunk has worked to redevelop underutilized properties such as in the Waterhouse Center Project. Kennebunk's affordable housing committee works to improve the availability of affordable housing.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider revising and/or developing codes to promote sustainable building and site practices.
- Explore incentives for green building in new construction and re-construction.
- Identify sustainable development priorities in the Comprehensive Plan update.

Waste & Recycling: Kennebunk has a Pay as You Throw (PAYT) trash program, and the fees go directly to paying for curbside trash and recycling. Kennebunk has contracted with We Compost It! to offer curbside composting to residents, designating the business as the acceptable residential compost vendor in the Solid Waste Ordinance. Volunteers run the Treasure Chest, a swap shop at the transfer station to prevent the landfilling of usable goods. Kennebunk lead the state in discouraging single-use plastics, passing an ordinance banning single use plastic carry out bags in 2016 and an ordinance banning the release of balloons. Much of the education and outreach activities on waste and recycling have been coordinated through Casella. Kennebunk is also leading a lobster trap compost bin program promoting residential composting.

NEXT STEPS:

- Provide recycling and composting infrastructure at public places.
- Explore a construction and demolition recycling policy to keep C&D materials out of landfills and ensure they are recycled.
- Continue to partner with the schools to promote education about consumption and waste.
- Consider a mandatory recycling ordinance that applies to single and multifamily residences and businesses.

Water: Kennebunk has implemented water quality protection measures in the Branch Brook aquifer area and Kennebunk River Watershed. The Town participates in the Kennebunk River Watershed Management effort and is interested in pursuing improved stormwater management practices. The Conservation Commission is exploring a wetland mitigation ordinance.

NEXT STEPS:

- Enhance the Town's existing land use regulations and policies by encouraging and/or requiring the use of low impact development and green infrastructure approaches for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects requiring site plan review.
- Implement recommendations of the Kennebunk River Watershed Management Plan.
- Collaborate with neighbor municipalities to pursue watershed protection and flood mitigation projects.
- Complete an inventory of septic systems in Town to inform planning and water quality protection efforts.

TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

As a quaint New England town with abundant natural resources and rich cultural heritage, Kennebunkport strives to foster a sustainable, resilient community for its residents, visitors, and ecosystems. In 2019, Kennebunkport joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities in coastal York County by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the coastal York Country region. Kennebunkport is making climate change a key consideration in the Comprehensive Plan update, ensuring that sustainability and resilience will be priorities in future municipal initiatives.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), Kennebunkport was evaluated on many strategies within twelve sustainability and resilience categories. Strategies were grouped into 22 indicators, shown below. Kennebunkport's status on each progress indicator ranges from "Not Yet Considered" to "Excelling". Explanations for each indicator and suggested next steps are detailed on the following pages.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	Getting Started
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Making Progress
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	Making Progress
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	Getting Started
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	Getting Started
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	Getting started
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	Getting Started
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	Interested
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	Making Progress
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	Almost there
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	Getting started
	Adopt a complete streets policy	Not Yet Considered
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Interested
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	Making Progress
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	Interested
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Interested
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	Making Progress
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	Making progress
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	Getting started
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	Getting Started
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	Interested
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	Getting Started

TOWN OF KENNEBUNKPORT

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Climate: Kennebunkport has started prioritizing climate change action in recent years. A municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory was completed in 2019 with the help of a UNH Sustainability Fellow, and Kennebunkport is incorporating climate change impacts throughout all chapters of the new Comprehensive Plan. The Board of Selectmen approved town climate change goals and priorities in 2020. The Town is also partnering with the Kennebunkport Climate Initiative to engage students on climate action and to advance climate change dialogue and planning.

NEXT STEPS:

- Standardize the municipal GHG inventory data collection process by tracking building energy consumption (*i.e.* with EnergyStar Portfolio Manager or through the finance department).
- Measure and monitor GHG emissions for a community-wide GHG inventory.
- Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment to evaluate non-coastal vulnerabilities.
- Develop a Climate Action Plan with achievable actions to reduce community emissions and that incorporates climate adaptation measures.

Coastal Hazards: Evaluating and adapting to the impacts of coastal hazards are priorities for Kennebunkport. The Town's Dock Square area and beachfront neighborhoods already experience flooding and shoreline erosion issues. Kennebunkport has been working to address its risk to flooding from sea level rise, storm surge and extreme weather. The Town is elevating some of its roadways to reduce flooding and is participating in an EDA grant-funded project assessing and planning for the economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events. Kennebunkport also had advanced flood modeling completed by Ransom Engineering.

NEXT STEPS:

- Include updated sea level rise projections, coastal erosion rates, and goals to address those hazards in the Town's Comprehensive Plan in order to enable policies and land use measures that protect people, property, and places.
- Adopt a policy that limits or prohibits municipal funds being used for development in existing and potential future flood hazard areas, unless expressly for adaptation, mitigation, or resilience measures.
- Consider establishing a coastal hazard overlay zoning district and accompanying development standards to ensure new and redevelopment in areas vulnerable to storm surge and future sea level rise are resilient.

Economic Development: Kennebunkport participated in a 2016-2018 project through the Wells Reserve that focused business resilience with the Dock Square businesses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

Energy: Kennebunkport has begun exploring municipal energy efficiency measures, such as LED lighting upgrades, attic insulation, and energy efficient technology in new buildings. The town is also exploring opportunities to participate in Maine's Net Energy Billing Program to support solar development. Kennebunkport has not yet undertaken any efforts to promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses. Kennebunkport has started to support the development of renewable energy, passing a Property Assessed Clean Energy ordinance and installing solar panels on the fire station roof.

NEXT STEPS:

- Complete the streetlight LED conversion project.
- Continue exploring options for procuring solar electricity for municipal operations, including on and off-site options.
- Work with non-profit partners to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and educate the community about renewable energy options.
- Adopt a renewable energy ordinance prescribing the permitting, standards, and allowable use of renewable energy systems.

Land Ecosystems:

Kennebunkport's Conservation Commission and Shade Tree Committee lead efforts to promote sustainable, environmentally-friendly landscaping in the Town. The Shade Tree Committee actively works to plant trees in locations where they make a direct, positive impact on the community. The Dept. of Public Works is pursing forest management plans for town owned lands to ensure climate resilience.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider adapting the subdivision and development codes to encourage sustainable landscaping in the community.
- Encourage community-wide use of integrated pest management strategies through a pesticide policy and/or community education programs.
- Work through the Conservation Commission, Shade Tree Committee and partnerships with local non-profit organizations to educate the community about the value of trees, native plants, and sustainable landscaping.

Leadership:

Kennebunkport does not currently have a committee that leads sustainability and resilience efforts in town. Kennebunkport is a member of ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability.

NEXT STEPS:

- Designate a town committee and/or staff members to lead municipal sustainability and resilience efforts.
- Actively participate in regional/state networks, such as by reporting local data to advance national and international sustainability efforts.
- Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability and resilience broadly in the community and externally.

Mobility:

While Kennebunkport has no formal Bike and Pedestrian committee, the Department of Public Works strives to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and infrastructure. Bike and pedestrian planning was recommended in the 2012 Comprehensive Plan, but has not yet taken place. Kennebunkport does not have a Complete Streets policy, but does try to incorporate complete street principles in road redesigns. Kennebunkport is exploring opportunities for both EV fleet vehicles and public EV charging stations.

NEXT STEPS:

- Identify gaps in the bike and pedestrian networks and create a Bike and Pedestrian Plan to implement strategies for improving connectivity and safety.
- Consider establishing a Complete Streets Policy.
- Pursue public EV charging station installation and collaborate with businesses to develop EV infrastructure.
- Establish a fleet purchasing policy to prioritize electric vehicles and continue exploring EV fleet opportunities.

Municipal Operations:

As part of the Comprehensive Plan update, Kennebunkport is incorporating climate change impacts throughout the plan. Kennebunkport does not have regular financing strategies in place for sustainability and resilience activities. Sustainability and resilience criteria are not incorporated into Kennebunkport's municipal expenditure policies.

NEXT STEPS:

- Formalize climate change, sustainability, and/or resilience goals and plans for the Town.
- Explore strategies such as PPAs, leases, and EPSCs to finance renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings.
- Consider incorporating sustainability and resilience as themes in the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades.

Sustainable Communities:

Kennebunkport's Public Health Dept. services connects residents to vital community services that enhance wellbeing and promote community resilience. There is currently no farmers's market or community garden in Kennebunkport that would enhance access to local foods. Kennebunkport frequently partners with Kennebunkport Conservation Trust and the Kennebunkport Climate Initiative to host education and outreach events on sustainability, resilience, and climate change for community members.

NEXT STEPS:

- Apply emergency management lessons from Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience.
- Host events educating the public about climate change and local impacts and how to reduce GHG emissions.
- Support the development of community gardens and increased access to local foods.
- Develop online materials for the community about sustainability initiatives and other allied organizations and government agencies.

Sustainable Development:

Kennebunkport is interested in ways to facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability. Open space preservation is a requirement of the subdivision regulations. Preserving and acquiring green space/open space was identified as a priority in the 2012 Comprehensive plan, as was promoting housing affordability. Kennebunkport has recently completed a Village Parcel master plan that recommends compact, affordable development on a parcel of land recently purchased by the municipality.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider revising and/or developing codes to promote sustainable building and site practices.
- Explore incentives for green building in new construction and re-construction.
- Identify sustainable development priorities in the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Ensure that compact, affordable development is incorporated into the Village Parcel project.

Waste & Recycling:

Kennebunkport's waste and recycling efforts are advised by the Solid Waste Committee, which also leads outreach and education efforts. The committee led a successful lobster trap compost bin program promoting residential composting. After disbanding curbside recycling due to escalating costs, Kennebunkport is re-starting a curbside recycling program in 2021. Kennebunkport partners with Kennebunk to offer disposal and recycling for items at the Kennebunk transfer station.

NEXT STEPS:

- Provide recycling and composting infrastructure at public places.
- Continue to explore opportunities for offering composting services for residents and businesses.
- Continue to develop partnerships with the schools to promote education about consumption and waste.
- Consider a mandatory recycling ordinance that applies to single and multifamily residences and businesses.

Water:

Kennebunkport protects water quality by supporting watershed conservation efforts, protective zoning for the Branch Brook Aquifer, and participation on the 2020 regional Kennebunk River Watershed Management project. Most properties are served by public water. The Town limits the use of pesticides and fertilizers on municipal property.

NEXT STEPS:

- Implement recommendations of the Kennebunk River Watershed Management Plan.
- Enhance existing land use regulations to require the use of Low Impact Development (LID) for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects, and develop associated performance standards and stormwater management criteria.
- Adopt a policy that all municipal development projects will utilize LID techniques and green infrastructure.
- Adopt a septic inspection and pump out ordinance to ensure proper functioning of systems and minimize potential detrimental impacts to water quality and the environment.
- Incorporate wetland impact assessment requirement in land use requirements and enact and enforce policies that preserve, protect, and restore wetlands, including those smaller than the 10-acre threshold used for shoreland zoning.

TOWN OF KITTERY

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

The oldest incorporated town in Maine, the Town of Kittery has a long history of supporting the sustainability and resilience of its community. In 2019, Kittery joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the Coastal York Country region. Kittery excels in waste management and watershed protection efforts. The Town is also making significant progress on climate change mitigation and adaptation initiatives, including establishing the Kittery Climate Adaptation Committee, incorporating climate resilience into the Comprehensive Plan, and conducting coastal flood vulnerability assessments.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), Kittery was evaluated on a variety of sustainability and resilience strategies within twelve categories, with strategies grouped into 22 indicators as shown below. Kittery's status on each progress indicator ranges from "Not Yet Considered" to "Excelling". Explanations for each indicator are detailed on the following pages. Also listed are suggested *Next Steps* for potential future sustainability and resilience efforts that reflect priorities identified by Town staff as well as efforts identified by regional program staff for the Town to consider.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	Getting Started
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Making Progress
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	Making Progress
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	Getting Started
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	Getting Started
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	Getting Started
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	Interested
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	Getting Started
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	Almost There
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	Almost there
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	Making Progress
	Adopt a complete streets policy	Getting started
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Getting started
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	Almost there
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	Interested
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Making Progress
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	Excelling
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	Getting started
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	Making Progress
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	Excelling
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	Excelling
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	Excelling

TOWN OF KITTERY

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Climate: Kittery's actions on climate are guided by the goals and strategies laid out in the Coastal Community Resilience section in the Town's Comprehensive Plan. The Town is undertaking its first municipal greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory in 2020 and has also begun to address vulnerability to climate change and its impacts. In 2019, Kittery established the Kittery Climate Adaptation Committee (KCAC) to advance the Town's resilience to climate change.

NEXT STEPS:

- Work with KCAC to complete municipal and community-wide GHG inventories and to establish a GHG emissions reduction target for municipal and/or community-wide emissions.
- Assess non-coastal vulnerabilities to climate change.
- Create a climate adaptation or resilience plan and begin implementing climate adaptation strategies.

Coastal Hazards: The Town has recently undertaken several initiatives to evaluate and plan for coastal hazards, including completing the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist in 2020 and participating in an EDA grant-funded project assessing the economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events. A UNH Sustainability fellow developed hazard assessment maps with different flooding/sea level rise scenarios and planning recommendations for the Town. Kittery's Comprehensive Plan addresses coastal resilience, providing the enabling foundation for adoption of regulatory and policy actions to make the Town more climate resilient.

NEXT STEPS:

- Establish a coastal hazard overlay zoning district, based on adopted sea level rise scenarios, and accompanying development standards to ensure new and redevelopment in areas vulnerable to storm surge and sea level rise are resilient.
- Amend the floodplain management ordinance to incorporate enhanced flood risk reduction measures such as increased freeboard height requirements and accounting for cumulative improvement costs in the definition of substantial improvement and damage.
- Incorporate future precipitation projections in land use regulations and amend ordinances to require the use of more robust storm frequencies (e.g., 24-hour rainfall of a 30-year storm event) for stormwater management and design standards.

Economic Development: In partnership with the Portsmouth Navel Shipyard, Kittery undertook a Joint Land Use Study to address community growth and military readiness, with a primary objective to provide for sustainable growth in an economically, environmentally, and socially conscious manner. Kittery engages the business community on sustainability and resiliency issues through the KCAC, which requires two members to be representatives of local business, one of which must include aquaculture.

NEXT STEPS:

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Work through KCAC to support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

Energy: Reducing municipal fossil fuel consumption and implementing energy efficiency measures are both recommendations of Kittery's comprehensive plan. Kittery completed an upgrade to LED streetlights in 2019. The KCAC is working to promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses. Kittery supported the development of renewable energy by adopting a Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) ordinance in 2011 and adding a solar stipulation for lot configurations to the Land Use and Development Code in 2015. The town is currently considering a solar energy ordinance prescribing the permitting, standards, and allowable use of roof-top and ground mounted solar.

NEXT STEPS:

- Improve municipal energy efficiency by tracking building energy consumption (i.e. with EnergyStar Portfolio Manager), conducting energy audits of municipal facilities to identify opportunities for energy conservation, and continuing to implement energy efficiency measures as opportunities arise.
- Work through KCAC to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and renewable energy options.
- Work through KCAC to review and adopt the solar energy ordinance.

TOWN OF KITTERY

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Land Ecosystems: Kittery practices environmentally-friendly landscape practices through the public works Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and the Spruce Creek Watershed Management Program. Kittery has begun incorporating sustainable landscaping standards into the Title 16: Land Use and Development Code. Kittery has hosted multiple outreach events to connect residents to sustainable landscaping information, such as Yardscaping workshops.

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue working through Conservation Commission to connect residents to sustainable landscaping resources.
- Continue incorporating sustainable landscape requirements into the Title 16: Land Use and Development Code.
- Work through the Conservation Commission to encourage community-wide use of integrated pest management to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides.

Leadership: Kittery is playing an active role in leading sustainability and resilience efforts in Maine. Kittery's sustainability and resilience activities are guided by the Kittery Climate Adaptation Committee (KCAC). Town Manager Kendra Amaral serves on the Maine Climate Council transportation working group, and Kittery joined ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability in 2020.

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue working through KCAC to actively participate in regional/state sustainability and resilience networks.
- Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability and resilience broadly in the community and externally.

Mobility: Kittery strives to facilitate transit systems and bike and pedestrian networks. The Town is in the process of developing a Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Kittery has also worked to extend regional transit and will be further exploring alternative transportation opportunities as part of a Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) Implementation Grant in collaboration with the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. A complete streets policy is recommended in the Kittery Comprehensive plan. Kittery installed a level 2 EV charging station at Rice Library and is exploring EV charging station incentive opportunities and EV fleet vehicle opportunities. Kittery is in the process of acquiring their first electric vehicle.

NEXT STEPS:

- Complete the Bicycle and Pedestrian plan and begin implementing strategies.
- Ensure alternative transportation projects and initiatives result from the JLUS implementation grant.
- Begin developing a Complete Streets Policy.
- Continue to pursue EV charging station installation at public sites.
- Collaborate with businesses to develop EV infrastructure.
- Establish a fleet purchasing policy to prioritize electric vehicles.

Municipal Operations: Sustainability is a guiding principle of Kittery's Comprehensive plan and the KCAC is charged with addressing Kittery's sustainability and resilience issues. Kittery strives to embed sustainability and resilience into existing operations, financial planning and expenditures. Kittery is in the process of incorporating sustainability criteria into their Capital Improvement Program.

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure sustainability and resilience criteria are successfully incorporated into the Capital Improvement Program.
- Formalize sustainability and resilience goals and plans for the Town, as recommended by the Comprehensive Plan.
- Explore strategies such as Power Purchase Agreements, leases, and Energy Savings Performance Contracts to finance renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades (i.e. boilers and chillers for heating and cooling, window, door and rooftop replacements, and modified ductwork).

TOWN OF KITTERY

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Sustainable Communities: Kittery connects residents to vital community services that enhance wellbeing and community resilience through the Kittery Community Center and Kittery Welfare Assistance. The Town also has an Emergency Management Agency Ordinance to prepare for environmental disasters and public health crises. Kittery supports the Kittery Community Market to promote local food access, offering a space in the Kittery Community Center for the winter market. Kittery has begun working through the KCAC to engage residents on local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues.

NEXT STEPS:

- Apply emergency management lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience.
- Collaborate with partner organizations to support community gardens and increased access to local foods.
- Host events educating the public about climate change and local impacts and how to reduce GHG emissions.
- Develop online materials for the community about sustainability initiatives and other allied organizations and government agencies.

Sustainable Development: Kittery is undertaking a recodification of the Title 16: Land Use and Development Code to incorporate sustainable development principles and practices. It is addressing infill development, mixed use zoning, open space preservation, redevelopment of underutilized properties, transit-oriented development, and housing affordability. Kittery is also addressing housing affordability and transit-oriented development through the JLUS implementation grant. In 2020 Kittery approved a number of housing initiatives, establishing a housing reserve fund, creating a process to utilize the proceeds from the sale of tax-foreclosed properties for affordable housing, and formally establishing a Housing Committee to work on affordable housing initiatives.

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue addressing transit-oriented development and housing affordability through the JLUS implementation grant.

Waste & Recycling: Kittery delivers sustainable and affordable waste management services. The town requires mandatory recycling for residents and at the transfer station. Municipal departments are also required to recycle. There is a Freebie Barn at the transfer station for donations, and curbside composting is available to residents and businesses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Explore a construction and demolition recycling policy to keep these materials out of landfills and ensure they are recycled.
- Continue to explore partnerships with the schools to promote education about consumption and waste.

Water: An MS4 community and an active member of the Southern Maine Stormwater Management Group (SMSWG), Kittery has adopted enhanced stormwater management regulations and policies. The Town has implemented water quality protection measures through a wetlands conservation ordinance, the Spruce Creek Watershed project, and green infrastructure projects to manage stormwater runoff on municipal properties. The Town is currently amending its land use ordinance to require low impact development (LID) for commercial land uses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Enhance the Town's existing land use regulations and policies that encourage and/or require the use of low impact development and green infrastructure approaches for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects requiring site plan review.
- Enact a pesticide and fertilizer ordinance.
- Adopt a septic inspection and pump out ordinance to ensure septic systems, especially those in areas vulnerable to current and future flooding, function properly and to minimize potential detrimental impacts to water quality and the environment.

TOWN OF OGUNQUIT

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

As the "beautiful place by the sea," Ogunquit prides itself on its stewardship of natural resources. Ogunquit formed its Sustainability Committee in 2020 to advise on sustainability, climate adaptation and resiliency issues. In 2019, Ogunquit joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities in coastal York County by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the Coastal York Country region. Ogunquit excels in promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly landscape approaches, passing a Pesticide Ordinance in 2015 and using integrated pest management and low-impact practices to manage municipal landscapes. Ogunquit is also the only town in the region that has adopted a Complete Streets Policy to ensure safe access for all road users.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), Ogunquit was evaluated on many strategies within twelve sustainability and resilience categories. Strategies were grouped into 22 indicators, shown below. Ogunquit's status on each progress indicator ranges from "Not Yet Considered" to "Excelling". Explanations for each indicator and suggested next steps are detailed on the following pages.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	Interested
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Getting Started
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	Getting Started
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	Interested
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	Interested
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	Getting Started
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	Interested
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	Getting Started
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	Excelling
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	Interested
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	Getting started
	Adopt a complete streets policy	Excelling
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Not Yet Considered
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	Getting started
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	Interested
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Not yet considered
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	Making Progress
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	Interested
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	Interested
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	Getting Started
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	Making Progress
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	Making Progress

TOWN OF OGUNQUIT

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Climate: Ogunquit has not yet begun measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for municipal or community-wide inventories. Ogunquit is beginning to assess the Town's vulnerability to climate change, participating in a regional project assessing impacts of coastal climate-related hazards.

NEXT STEPS:

- Complete municipal and community-wide GHG inventories.
- Work with the Sustainability Committee to establish a GHG emissions reduction target for municipal and/or community-wide emissions.
- Assess non-coastal vulnerabilities to climate change.

Coastal Hazards: Known for its sandy beaches and quaint seaside village, Ogunquit has culturally and economically significant assets and areas that are already at-risk of coastal flooding and erosion. The Town is beginning efforts to evaluate and plan for coastal climate impacts, including participating in a grant-funded regional project assessing economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events.

NEXT STEPS:

- Assess social and economic impacts of sea level rise, storm surge, and coastal erosion on people, property and the natural environment.
- Continue and enhance efforts to incorporate climate resilience measures in repair activities and long-range planning for the Marginal Way and other coastal cultural assets.
- Amend the floodplain management ordinance to incorporate enhanced flood risk reduction measures such as increased freeboard height requirements.
- Include updated sea level rise projections, coastal erosion rates, and goals to address those hazards in the Town's Comprehensive Plan in order to enable policies and land use measures that protect people, property, and places.
- Consider establishing a coastal hazard overlay zoning district and accompanying development standards to direct development away from high-risk areas and ensure new and redevelopment in vulnerable areas are resilient.

Economic Development: Ogunquit has not yet taken specific actions to promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

Energy: Ogunquit is interested in municipal energy efficiency measures, and the Town has begun exploring opportunities such as LED street lighting upgrades and the installation of occupancy sensors. Ogunquit has not yet undertaken any efforts to promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses. Ogunquit has worked to support the development of renewable energy, passing a Property Assessed Clean Energy ordinance, and permitting small wind energy systems and freestanding PV solar panel systems as an accessory use in most zoning districts. The town is also exploring opportunities to participate in the Maine Net Solar Energy Billing program for solar development.

NEXT STEPS:

- Work through the Sustainability Committee to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and educate the community about renewable energy options.
- Conduct energy audits of municipal facilities to identify opportunities for energy conservation.
- Explore opportunities for procuring renewable electricity for municipal operations, including roof-top solar and community solar farms.
- Adopt a renewable energy ordinance prescribing the permitting, standards, and allowable use of renewable energy systems.

Land Ecosystems:

Ogunquit promotes and practices environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches though municipal operations and the work of the Conservation Commission and Marginal Way Committee. Ogunquit passed a Pesticide Use Ordinance in 2015 and uses integrated pest management and low-impact practices to manage municipal landscapes. A pollinator garden was planted as part of the Marginal Way Garden. Native landscaping is required in many cases throughout the Code of Ordinances when development disturbs vegetation.

NEXT STEPS:

- Work through the Conservation Commission and Marginal Way Committee to continue to educate the community about the value of trees, native plants, and sustainable landscaping.
- Continue to educate and encourage the community to use integrated pest management to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides.
- Strategically plant trees to act as a buffer to filter air and water, limit storm runoff, and stabilize soil.

Leadership:

The Town has not yet participated as an active member of national and/or regional sustainability and resilience networks.

NEXT STEPS:

- Participate in regional state, and/or national networks to plan for and achieve sustainability and resilience, such as ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability or the New England Municipal Sustainability Network.
- Partner with local universities and schools to identify opportunities for research on sustainability and resilience issues.
- Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability broadly in the community and externally.

Mobility:

Ogunquit has a Bike and Pedestrian committee that works to identify gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle networks including crosswalk lighting, dangerous intersections, and bike parking. Ogunquit adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2020. Ogunquit has not yet explored ways to support the electrification of the transportation system.

NEXT STEPS:

- Explore opportunities for EV charging station installation at public sites and collaborate with businesses to develop EV infrastructure.
- Establish a fleet purchasing policy to prioritize electric vehicles.
- Work with local transportation providers to expand service and service areas and increase ridership.

Municipal Operations:

In 2020, Ogunquit created the Sustainability Committee to advise the Select Board on sustainability, climate adaptation, and resiliency issues. Ogunquit does not yet have formal sustainability and resilience goals, policies, or strategies, nor does it have regular financing strategies in place for sustainability and resilience activities outside of committee budgets. Sustainability and resilience criteria are not incorporated into Ogunquit's municipal expenditure policies.

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure that sustainability and resilience are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Explore strategies such as PPAs, leases, and EPSCs to finance renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades.
- Integrate sustainability and resiliency into capital planning criteria.

Sustainable Communities:

Ogunquit has created a Covid-19 task force that is working to increase community resilience in response to the public health crisis. Ogunquit also began the Ogunquit Cares program that connects residents to vital community services that enhance wellbeing and community resilience. Ogunquit supports local food access through the Community Garden at Beach Plum Farm. The Sustainability Committee is exploring ways to engage the community on climate, sustainability, and resilience issues.

NEXT STEPS:

- Take emergency management lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience.
- Host events educating the public about climate change and local impacts and how to reduce GHG emissions.
- Develop online materials for the community about sustainability initiatives and other allied organizations and government agencies.

Sustainable Development:

Ogunquit is interested in ways to facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability. Preserving and acquiring green space/open space was identified as a priority in the FY21 budget committee workshop.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider revising and/or developing codes to allow mixed-use development, redevelop underutilized properties, and promote housing diversity and affordability.
- Explore incentives for green building in new construction and re-construction.

Waste & Recycling:

Solid waste management efforts in Ogunquit were advised by the recycling committee, although this Committee appears to no longer be active. The Solid Waste Ordinance encourages, but does not require, recycling. Ogunquit currently does not offer curbside recycling or waste disposal. Ogunquit businesses and residents can get curbside composting from Mr. Fox compost in York.

NEXT STEPS:

- Revitalize the Recycling Committee to advise the Select Board on ways to provide sustainable and affordable waste management services and educate residents and businesses on recycling, composting, and waste reduction.
- Explore a PAYT trash program, as well as recycling alternatives to increase recycling and decrease trash.
- Provide recycling and composting infrastructure at public places.
- Develop a mandatory recycling ordinance that applies to single and multifamily residences and businesses.

Water:

Water quality is a priority issue for Ogunquit. The Town has undertaken watershed protection measures and implemented green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) projects to reduce water pollution from stormwater runoff through the Ogunquit River Watershed Restoration Project. Continuing to improve stormwater management and incorporating LID practices in land use regulations is an identified area of interest for the Town.

NEXT STEPS:

- Enhance the Town's existing land use regulations and policies by encouraging and/or requiring the use of low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure approaches for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects requiring site plan review.
- Amend the Town's pesticide to improve its efficacy and enforceability and adopt a fertilizer ordinance.
- Consider adopting a septic inspection and pump out ordinance to ensure septic systems, especially those in areas vulnerable to current and future flooding, function properly and to minimize potential detrimental impacts to water quality and the environment.

TOWN OF WELLS

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

As the "friendliest town in Maine", Wells is committed to creating a thriving and healthy community for its residents, visitors, and ecosystems. As part of this commitment, in 2019 Wells joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities in coastal York County by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the Coastal York Country region. Wells is working diligently to assess and adapt to coastal hazards and coastal climate change impacts. Through the work of the Wells Energy Advisory Committee, Wells has made substantial progress implementing municipal solar and promoting renewable energy development.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), Wells was evaluated on many strategies within twelve sustainability and resilience categories. Strategies were grouped into 22 indicators, shown below. Wells's status on each progress indicator ranges from "Not Yet Considered" to "Excelling". Explanations for each indicator and suggested next steps are detailed on the following pages.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	Interested
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Making Progress
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	Making Progress
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	Interested
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	Interested
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	Getting Started
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	Interested
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	Making Progress
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	Making Progress
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	Getting Started
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	Making Progress
	Adopt a complete streets policy	Interested
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Getting started
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	Interested
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	Getting started
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Not yet considered
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	Almost There
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	Interested
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	Getting started
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	Getting Started
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	Interested
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	Getting Started

TOWN OF WELLS

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

Climate: Wells has not yet begun measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for municipal or community-wide inventories. Wells is participating in a Maine Coastal Communities Grant-funded project assessing the economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events. In 2014 a New England Climate Adaptation project lead by Wells Reserve conducted a risk assessment evaluating Wells' vulnerability to climate change.

NEXT STEPS:

- Complete municipal and community-wide GHG inventories.
- Work with the Wells Energy Advisory Committee (WEAC) to establish a GHG emissions reduction target for municipal and/or community-wide emissions.
- Create a climate adaptation or resilience plan and begin implementing climate adaptation strategies.

Coastal Hazards: Known for its expansive barrier beach and coastal wetlands, Wells has sustained significant flood-related damage in the past and has been working to address its flood risk through a series of studies, including updated flood modeling. Wells has completed several initiatives to evaluate and plan for coastal hazards, including completing the Flood Resilience Checklist and participating in grant-funded projects examining the feasibility of a regional dredge to address shoaling in Wells Harbor, assessing the economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events, and developing a model coastal resilience ordinance. The Town has already incorporated some flood risk reduction measures in its floodplain management ordinance. Wells has partnered with the Conservation Commission to use proceeds from sales of tax-foreclosed properties to purchase flood-prone land in town.

NEXT STEPS:

- Establish a coastal hazard overlay zoning district and accompanying development standards to ensure new and redevelopment in areas vulnerable to storm surge and future sea level rise are resilient.
- Resume participation in the Community Rating System to reduce flood risk and flood insurance costs.
- Incorporate future precipitation projections in land use regulations and amend ordinances to require the use of more robust storm frequencies (e.g., 24-hour rainfall of a 30-year storm event) for stormwater management and design standards.
- Adopt a policy that limits municipal funds being used for development in flood hazard areas, unless expressly for adaptation, mitigation, or resilience measures.

Economic Development: Wells has not yet taken specific actions to promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

Energy: Reducing municipal fossil fuel consumption has been a priority for Wells and the WEAC. The Town has conducted a pilot project to replace current streetlight bulbs with more efficient LED bulbs. Wells installed solar panels at the Town Garage and at the Wells Sanitary District. The Town is currently developing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a power purchase agreement to procure solar electricity for municipal operations. Wells has not yet undertaken efforts to promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses. The Town has worked to support the development of renewable energy, passing a Property Assessed Clean Energy ordinance and facilitating the development of solar farms on underutilized town-owned properties.

NEXT STEPS:

- Finalize and release the Request for Proposals for the municipal solar project and work with SMPDC to evaluate bids.
- Work through the WEAC to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and educate the community about renewable energy options.
- Adopt a renewable energy ordinance prescribing the permitting, standards, and allowable use of renewable energy systems.

Land Ecosystems:

Wells strives to practice sustainable landscaping by replacing turf with sustainable landscaping alternatives and use integrated pest management strategies for municipal landscapes to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides. Wells also restricts residential/commercial pesticide application in the Aquifer Protection District. Since 1981, the Wells Conservation Commission has served to protect the town's natural assets, establishing a land bank for residents to invest in the purchase of ecologically significant lands.

NEXT STEPS:

- Work through the Conservation Commission and partnerships with local non-profit organizations to educate the community about the value of trees, native plants, and sustainable landscaping.
- Consider adapting the subdivision and development codes to encourage sustainable landscaping in the community.
- Encourage community-wide use of integrated pest management strategies through a pesticide policy and/or community education programs to reduce fertilizer and pesticide use.

Leadership:

Wells has not yet participated as an active member of national and/or regional sustainability and resilience networks. The Town frequently partners with Wells Reserve and local schools to research sustainability and resilience issues in the community.

NEXT STEPS:

- Participate in regional state, and/or national networks to plan for and achieve sustainability and resilience, such as ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability or the New England Municipal Sustainability Network.
- Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability broadly in the community and externally.

Mobility:

While Wells has no formal Bike and Pedestrian committee, the Public Works Department works to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety and infrastructure. The Wells Transportation Center is a hub for transit in coastal York County, and Wells coordinates with transportation partners to expand transit opportunities. The town does not have a Complete Streets Policy but has begun supporting the electrification of the transportation system by installing EV charging stations at public sites and leasing an Electric Vehicle as part of the municipal fleet.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider establishing a Bike and Pedestrian Committee to advise on strategies for improving connectivity and safety.
- Consider establishing a Complete Streets Policy to ensure safe access for all users.
- Continue to pursue public EV charging station installation and collaborate with businesses to develop EV infrastructure.
- Establish a fleet purchasing policy to prioritize electric vehicles and continue exploring EV fleet opportunities.

Municipal Operations:

Wells has not yet formalized any sustainability and resilience goals, policies, or priorities. While the WEAC does work on some topics regarding sustainability and resiliency, these are not officially part of the Committee's charge. Wells has taken advantage of different financing strategies for renewable energy projects, but the Town does not have regular financing strategies in place for sustainability and resilience activities outside of committee budgets. Sustainability and resilience criteria are not incorporated into the Town's municipal expenditure policies.

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure that sustainability and resilience are incorporated into the next Comprehensive Plan update.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades.
- Integrate sustainability and resiliency into capital planning criteria.

Sustainable Communities:

Many municipal departments link town residents with resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience, including Emergency Management, Emergency Medical Services, Parks and Recreation, and Wells Volunteers. Wells supports local food access at the Wells Farmers Market. The Town has not yet actively engaged community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues.

NEXT STEPS:

- Take emergency management lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience.
- Work through the WEAC to host events educating the public about climate change, renewable energy, and energy efficiency.
- Support and promote the development of a community garden and increased access to local foods.

Sustainable Development:

Wells land use zoning allows for a diverse variety of housing types and emphasizes open space conservation. The Town is prioritizing commercial development in the new Transportation Center District to support the Wells Transportation Center and is supporting the redevelopment of an underutilized and contaminated landfill site and gravel pit for solar farms. There is currently no mixed-use specific zoning to promote walkability and neighborhood development.

NEXT STEPS:

- Modify zoning and building regulations to facilitated mixed-use and infill development.
- Explore incentives for green building in new construction and re-construction.

Waste & Recycling:

Wells has a Pay as You Throw program for trash to encourage recycling. The transfer station allows residents and businesses to dispose of hard to recycle items including electronics, construction debris, and bulky items. The Town does not currently have a recycling or solid waste committee. Residential composting services are not currently available in Wells.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider creating a Solid Waste Committee to advise the Select Board on ways to provide sustainable and affordable waste management services and educate the community about waste reduction, recycling, and composting.
- Provide recycling and composting infrastructure at public places.
- Develop a mandatory recycling ordinance that applies to single and multifamily residences and businesses.
- Work to gain access to curbside composting services for residents and businesses.

Water:

Wells is served by the regional Water District KKW. Undeveloped parcels around the headwaters of the Webhannet River Watershed and conserved lands managed by the Rachel Carson Wildlife Refuge near the mouth of the River offer some protection of water quality within Wells. The Town's land use regulations include groundwater protection districts and stormwater management measures for aquifer recharge areas.

NEXT STEPS:

- Enhance the Town's existing land use regulations and policies by encouraging and/or requiring the use of low impact development and green infrastructure approaches for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects requiring site plan review.
- Incorporate wetland impact assessment requirement in land use requirements and enact and enforce policies that preserve, protect, and restore wetlands, including those smaller than the 10-acre threshold used for shoreland zoning.
- Enact a pesticide and fertilizer ordinance.
- Complete an inventory of septic systems in Town to inform planning and water quality protection efforts.
- Develop a septic inspection and pump out ordinance to ensure septic systems, especially those in areas vulnerable to current and future flooding, function properly and to minimize potential detrimental impacts to water quality and the environment.

TOWN OF YORK

2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

The Town of York strives to incorporate sustainability and resilience into all aspects of the community. Sustainability is a key goal of the Town's Comprehensive Plan. York defines sustainability as "a concept that recognizes the interrelatedness of the energy, environmental, economic, development, and civic health of the Town, and the importance of ensuring that future generations can share in the many of York's resources that exist today". In 2019, York joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities in coastal York County by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the Coastal York Country region. Through the work of the York Energy Efficiency Steering Committee, York has made significant strides in implementing energy efficiency and renewable energy for municipal operations. The Town has paved the way for renewable energy development with the adoption of the Sustainable Energy Efficient Buildings code. York also excels in watershed management practices and regulations.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), York was evaluated on many strategies within twelve sustainability and resilience categories. Strategies were grouped into 22 indicators, shown below. York's status on each progress indicator ranges from "Not Yet Considered" to "Excelling". Explanations for each indicator and suggested next steps are detailed on the following pages.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	Almost There
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	Getting Started
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	Making Progress
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	Interested
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	Interested
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	Making Progress
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	Getting Started
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	Almost There
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	Making Progress
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	Excelling
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	Almost There
	Adopt a complete streets policy	Getting started
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Getting started
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	Making Progress
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	Interested
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Not yet considered
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	Excelling
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	Almost there
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	Getting started
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	Almost there
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	Excelling
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	Excelling

Climate:

York has made significant strides towards understanding the Town's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, completing both municipal and community-wide GHG inventories. The Town has set targets to reduce community and municipal GHG emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050 and is beginning to develop a Climate Action Plan that will guide mitigation strategies. A climate change vulnerability assessment and climate adaptation strategies will also be part of the Climate Action Plan.

NEXT STEPS:

- Standardize the municipal GHG inventory data collection process by tracking building energy consumption (*i.e.* with EnergyStar Portfolio Manager or through the finance department).
- Develop a Climate Action Plan with achievable actions to reduce community emissions.
- Conduct a climate change vulnerability assessment to evaluate non-coastal vulnerabilities.
- Ensure that climate adaptation and community resilience are incorporated into the Climate Action and Comprehensive Plans.

Coastal Hazards:

Coastal hazards, especially storm surge and sea level rise, are of particular concern for York. The Town was the first in Maine to have a sea level rise chapter in its Comprehensive Plan and is committed to updating and refining the chapter in its forthcoming Plan update. York is participating in two projects assessing the economic and social impacts of storm surge and sea level rise and is working with DEP to evaluate the impact of its new seawall design on beach sediment dynamics.

NEXT STEPS:

- Incorporate the most recent projections of sea level rise, precipitation, marsh migration, and shoreline change in the forthcoming Comprehensive Plan update.
- Establish a coastal hazard overlay zoning district and accompanying development standards to direct development away from high-risk areas and ensure new and redevelopment in vulnerable areas are resilient.
- Amend the floodplain management ordinance to incorporate enhanced flood risk reduction measures such as accounting for cumulative improvement costs in the definition of substantial improvement and damage.
- Assess impacts of sea level rise and shoreline change on the Town's beaches and subsequent impacts to the local economy.
- Assess impacts of saltwater intrusion and groundwater rise caused by sea level rise on water supplies and infrastructure.

Economic Development:

York has not yet taken specific actions to promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses.

NEXT STEPS:

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

Energy:

Reducing municipal fossil fuel consumption has been a priority for York and the York Energy Efficiency Steering Committee (YEESC). Since an energy audit in 2011, many energy efficiency projects have been completed including air sealing, insulation, lighting upgrades, and rooftop solar. York requires all new municipal buildings to meet energy efficiency criteria under Article 9: Sustainable Energy Efficient Buildings. The Town has done some work promoting energy efficiency for residents and businesses, such as supporting weatherization programs through York Community Service Association. York has undertaken several strategies to support the development of renewable energy, such as adopting a Property Assessed Clean Energy Ordinance, adopting ordinances that facilitate small windmill and solar installations on private property, and pursuing a municipal solar farm on underutilized town properties.

NEXT STEPS:

- Finalize and release the Request for Proposals for municipal solar farms on the landfill sites.
- Work through the YEESC to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and educate the community about renewable energy options.
- Explore energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings with longer-term payback (e.g., windows, roofs, ductwork).

Land Ecosystems:

The York Conservation Commission leads efforts to promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches in town. The Commission is currently focused on the Town's beach trash policy, invasive plant strategies, a potential new pesticide policy, and proposing amendments to the Open Space Conservation Subdivision Ordinance.

NEXT STEPS:

- Incorporate sustainable landscape approaches into municipal landscaping, such as: strategically planting trees to act as a buffer to filter air and water, limit stormwater runoff, and stabilize soil, manage lawns using natural products and low-impact practices, use integrated pest management strategies for municipal landscapes to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides, and use native and sustainable landscaping on municipal properties.
- Encourage community-wide use of integrated pest management strategies through a pesticide policy or ordinance and/or community education programs.

Leadership:

Through the efforts of the Board of Selectmen and YEESC, York is an member of ICLEI: Local Govts. for Sustainability, Urban Sustainability Directors Network, and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

NEXT STEPS:

- Partner with local universities and schools to identify opportunities for research on sustainability issues such as identifying climate change vulnerabilities, supporting local and sustainable food systems, and developing waste reduction strategies
- Share information about municipal sustainability initiatives broadly in the community and externally through events, the town website, and active participation in sustainability and resilience networks.

Mobility:

York strives to facilitate alternative transportation. With the support of the Bike and Pedestrian Committee, the Town drafted and adopted a Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan in 2017 and actively pursues strategies to promote bike and pedestrian safety. York coordinates on regional transportation through the Kittery Area Comprehensive Transportation System (KACTS). York is also interested in facilitating the electrification of the transportation system, exploring opportunities for public EV charging station installation and electric fleet vehicles. The Energy Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan recommends the development of a Green Fleet Policy.

NEXT STEPS:

- Continue to promote safe and secure walkability and sidewalks along Route 1 and in the Nubble and beach areas.
- Ensure that Bike lanes or adequate shoulder space for bike safety is integral to all road projects.
- Adopt a Complete Streets policy as recommended in the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan.
- Develop a Green Fleet Policy to prioritize the purchase of EVs and reduce municipal transportation emissions.
- Investigate local transit needs and opportunities to support an aging population, such as demand-response transit.

Municipal Operations:

York formally adopted a sustainability goal in its current Comprehensive Plan (Goal 1.4) and is planning on incorporating sustainability as a key theme in the next Comprehensive Plan update. Many of the Town's sustainability efforts are supported by work of the YEESC, Bike and Pedestrian Committee, and Conservation Commission. A town-wide Sustainability Policy has been drafted, but not yet approved. York does not have regular financing strategies in place for sustainability and resilience activities outside of committee budgets. Sustainability and resilience criteria are not incorporated into York's municipal expenditure policies.

NEXT STEPS:

- Ensure York's sustainability goals remain in the Comprehensive plan update and consider adding resilience as a key theme.
- Explore strategies such as Power Purchase Agreements, leases, and Energy Savings Performance Contracts to finance renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades (i.e. boilers and chillers for heating and cooling, window, door and rooftop replacements, and modified ductwork).
- Integrate sustainability and resiliency into capital planning criteria by evaluating each project for its influence on York's environmental, economic, and social sustainability and for its resilience to coastal and climate change impacts.

Sustainable Communities:

York partners with York Community Services Association to connect residents to vital community services that enhance wellbeing and community resilience, such as general assistance and family services. The Town supports local food access through the York (Gateway) Farmers' Market and the York Community Garden. The Energy Steering Committee and private organizations lead many outreach and education events about climate, sustainability, and resilience issues.

NEXT STEPS:

- Take emergency management lessons from Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience, such as revising emergency ordinances, policies and procedures and improving inter-municipal coordination and collaboration.
- Support the acceptance of SNAP/EBT benefits and the York (Gateway) Farmers' Market.
- Develop online materials for the community about sustainability initiatives and allied organizations and govt. agencies.
- Support the York Community Garden to increase accessibility and develop standards for use.

Sustainable Development:

York has made significant efforts to promote more affordable housing through the Zoning Ordinance, including a workforce affordable housing requirement in the development standards for subdivisions, provisions for converting buildings to affordable apartments, a York Village Affordable Elderly Housing Overlay District, and a Workforce Affordable Housing Overlay District. The Open Space Conservation Subdivision requirement serves to conserve environmentally important and ecologically significant features.

NEXT STEPS:

- Consider revising and/or developing codes to promote sustainable building and site practices.
- Explore incentives for green building in new construction and re-construction as recommended in the Comprehensive Plan Energy Chapter.

Waste & Recycling:

York provides curbside trash and recycling pick up to residents, as well as recycling services at the Town's transfer station. The Town has taken a lead in discouraging single-use plastics, banning plastic bags in 2015 and banning polystyrene foam in 2019. York also has a mandatory recycling ordinance that applies to single and multi-family residences. The Recycling Committee leads outreach and education activities and is actively looking for opportunities for community composting programs.

NEXT STEPS:

- Provide recycling and composting infrastructure at public places.
- Explore a construction and demolition recycling policy to keep these materials out of landfills and ensure they are recycled.
- Continue to explore community composting program (at the York Community Garden, transfer facility or through a third-party) and education to residents and businesses.

Water:

As an MS4 community and active member of the Southern Maine Stormwater Management Group, York has adopted enhanced stormwater management regulations and policies. The Town has implemented a number of exemplary water quality protection measures, including wetlands and watershed protection ordinances, the York River Watershed project, and Cape Neddick River Watershed restoration and protection projects. The Town also has ordinances requiring the use of low impact development (LID), periodic pump out of septic systems, and open space subdivisions provisions requiring development designs centered around conserving open space, ecological features, and the natural environment.

NEXT STEPS:

- Enhance existing land use regulations requiring the use of LID for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects by developing performance standards and LID criteria.
- Adopt an ordinance limiting and/or prohibiting the use of chemical pesticides and fertilizers.
- Adopt a policy that all municipal development projects will utilize LID techniques and green infrastructure.
- Incorporate future precipitation projections in land use regulations and amend stormwater design standards to address both peak flow and volume.