

## Community Resilience Self-Evaluation

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

<b>Community name:</b>	City of Belfast
<b>Self-Evaluation responses provided by:</b> Please include contact info	1) Barbara Bell, on behalf of the City of Belfast Climate Crisis Committee as its Secretary, bcbell@aol.com; 2) Thomas Kittredge, Economic Development Director, City of Belfast, economicdevelopment@cityofbelfast.org; and 3) Bub Fournier, Director, Planning and Codes Department, City of Belfast, directorplanning@cityofbelfast.org
<b>Date:</b>	Responses for this evaluation were provided during the period of 1/17/2023 to 5/22/2023.
<b>Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop?</b> Include the date of the workshop.	This evaluation was discussed during a community workshop, which was held on [DATE].

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

<b>What are two things your community is doing well?</b>	There are actually four things that the City of Belfast (City) and City of Belfast Climate Crisis Committee (CCC) are doing well: 1) recognizing climate change causes problems; 2) updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan to take climate change into account; 3) the CCC educating the community (since 2018) on varied aspects of climate change; and 4) the addition of the Belfast Free Library’s <i>All of Belfast Climate Dialogues</i> as an educational resource.
<b>What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?</b>	1) the recognition and documentation of the costs of inaction regarding climate change; and 2) the record keeping regarding the impacts and costs of climate change to City operations.
<b>What is important for your community to address in the long-term?</b>	1) to address the vulnerability of steep slopes that are located in and around Belfast’s downtown, harbor, and other shoreline areas to erosion, and to conduct a thorough inventory and mapping of the City’s stormwater management system; and 2) to have better coordination between the Waldo County Emergency

	Management Agency and City officials regarding planning for future climate change, including emergencies.
<b>What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?</b>	1) adopting a Climate Action Plan; 2) designating/building emergency shelter(s) for a variety of extreme weather events; 3) investing in Belfast Harbor and other protection for shorelines; 4) improving the overall stormwater management system; and 5) making the community more walkable and bikeable.

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards	
<b>1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan is a good starting place to find this information. Hazards can include storms, floods, wind, fire, extreme temperatures, drought, etc. Likelihood could be indicated either numerically or qualitatively as low, medium, or high.	Explanation: The CCC has directly consulted state experts regarding this. The CCC has studied and reported on flooding, sea level rise, storm surge, and erosion from waves, but not on the broader variety of hazards. In 2019, the City and the CCC completed a <i>Maine Flood Resilience Checklist</i> .
<b>2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If your community has not tracked trends historically, you might infer past trends by determining if current priorities have shifted compared to past hazard mitigation plans. For example, drought or wildfire might be an emerging concern.	Explanation: The CCC has been unable to do this in a detailed, quantitative way to date due to data limitations.
<b>3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Explanation: The CCC authored a series of 3 reports for the Belfast City Council that dealt with the impacts of flooding only, and the City and the CCC helped complete the aforementioned <i>Maine Flood Resilience Checklist</i> .
<b>4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Explanation: Currently only on a limited basis and only for some risk types.
<b>5) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
These events could be, for example, a 1-in-100 year flood, or a prolonged electricity outage or heating fuel shortage. What events might the community need to consider?	Explanation: The CCC has submitted specific recommendations for improving the City's stormwater management system, in order for it to be able to deal with extreme flooding and erosion at certain locations, but these recommendations will not be implemented in advance of the needed aforementioned inventory and mapping of the City's stormwater management system.
<b>6) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	Explanation: No examples of this type were contemplated in the completion of the aforementioned <i>Maine Flood Resiliency Checklist</i> .
<b>7) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
In addition to natural hazards, consider public health threats that might be worsened by climate change, such as contamination of drinking water sources and vector-borne diseases from ticks and mosquitos.	Explanation: The City and the CCC are aware and sensitive to risks from vector-borne diseases, drought, extreme cold, and extreme heat.

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
<b>9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This information might be found in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan. Examples of characteristics and trends might include older or low-income populations, low housing availability, reliance on a single economic driver, aging infrastructure, environmental degradation, etc.	Explanation: The City and the CCC are aware, and the City is beginning to track characteristics and trends regarding housing availability. Additionally, City staff are aware of, and utilize in grant applications, the Center for Disease Control's/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry's <i>Social Vulnerability Index</i> .
<b>10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Look in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.	Explanation: The City has been more proactive with attracting and incentivizing the development of affordable housing, with two recent affordable senior rental housing facilities completed on Wight Street and an affordable rental housing facility under construction on Congress Street.
<b>11) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Explanation: While the City does have an Undesignated Fund Balance, multiple reserve accounts, and access to short-term borrowing to be able to deal with financial emergencies, none of these resources are specifically earmarked to address these types of vulnerabilities.
<b>12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	Explanation: The City's Fire and Ambulance Departments provide services to other communities.
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Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
<b>13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan chapter that describes how the community is planning for climate change impacts, or a capital improvement plan that requires construction projects to consider future conditions like sea level rise, extreme rain, or drought.	Explanation: Multiple sections of the City's Comprehensive Plan address climate change currently.
<b>14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This is different from Question 11 in that these resources would need to sustain a new long-term commitment rather than a one-time, short-term response. For example, if flooding emerges as an issue, a revenue source such as a stormwater utility fee could sustain a new community stormwater management program.	Explanation:
<b>15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a flood ordinance that requires compliance with the current building codes after substantial damage, or a communitywide post-disaster recovery plan.	Explanation: The City does have a flood ordinance that requires compliance with current building codes after substantial damage.
<b>16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or a financial health analysis.	Explanation:
<b>17) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the community have a way of making important decisions when information is incomplete or unavailable?	Explanation:

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Revised April 2023

See Instructions on Introduction tab below.

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

#### Accelerate the Transition to Electric Vehicles (EVs)

	<p><b>Note:</b> A maximum of \$7,500 of a Community Action Grant may be applied to the purchase of an electric vehicle for municipal or tribal fleets (Action A1). Eligible vehicles for Action A1 include light-duty, medium-duty, and heavy-duty on-road electric vehicles as well as electric riding mowers and electric outboard engines that are part of a municipal fleet, all subject to the maximum award amount. <b>Where applicable, Efficiency Maine’s electric vehicle rebate (Action A1) or EV charging rebate (Action A2) must be included in the applicant’s project budget.</b></p>	
has not happened/ will not happen	A1	Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.
in progress	A2	Install EV chargers in public parking areas.
complete	A3	Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.
has not happened/ will not happen	A4	Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.
		<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Municipal EV rebates (\$)</a> <a href="#">Efficiency Maine: EV supply equipment initiative (\$)</a> <a href="#">Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)</a> <a href="#">Example: Bar Harbor Municipal Code</a>

#### Improve Mobility and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)

in progress	A5	Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including bike and walking infrastructure.	
no progress	A6	Implement strategies that encourage municipal/tribal employees to commute via carpools, public transit, bike/walk, or other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.	
in progress	A7	Adopt a telework policy for municipal/tribal government staff positions that can work remotely some days per week.	
complete	A8	Adopt land use and development policies in plans and codes that reduce the need for driving (e.g. locating schools, workplaces, and shopping near where people live; encouraging density of development near housing and transportation).	
has not happened/ will not happen	A9	Adopt a Complete Streets policy which addresses safety, bike/pedestrian uses, and transit.	<a href="#">Maine DOT Complete Streets</a>
in progress	A10	Adopt a broadband plan that reduces the need to drive by increasing access to high speed internet for underserved residents to support telecommuting, access to remote education and telehealth.	<a href="#">Connect Maine planning and infrastructure grants (\$)</a>

### Strategy Area B: Modernize Maine’s Buildings

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

<b>Note:</b> Energy efficiency projects (Actions B1-B5) such as heat pumps, VRF systems, LED lighting upgrades, water heaters, etc. must be eligible for Efficiency Maine's incentives. <b>The applicant's project budget must include applicable Efficiency Maine rebates or incentives.</b>			
in progress	B1	Adopt and execute a plan for energy efficiency and building envelope weatherization improvements for municipal/tribal buildings. Collaborate with local school district for school building improvements.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
in progress	B2	Upgrade to energy efficient interior lighting in municipal/tribal buildings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
in progress	B3	Upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal/tribal buildings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
in progress	B4	Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
in progress	B5	Upgrade streetlights and exterior lighting for municipally/tribally-owned facilities with energy efficient LED lighting (and minimize light pollution with downlighting where possible).	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Public Sector (\$)</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	B6	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	
<b>Advance the Design and Construction of New Buildings</b>			
has not happened/ will not happen	B7	Adopt the energy efficiency stretch building code (currently IECC 2021).	<a href="#">International Energy Conservation Code 2021</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	B8	Require EV charging readiness and solar energy readiness for all new construction.	<a href="#">Municipal Electric Vehicle Readiness Toolkit (Southern Maine Planning and Development Commission)</a>
in progress	B9	Support regular professional development for code enforcement officers, especially Efficiency Maine's code trainings.	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine trainings</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	B10	Adopt C-PACE ordinance for commercial property owners to install renewable energy systems, energy efficiency measures, and EV charging infrastructure (pending state program launch).	<a href="#">Efficiency Maine: Energy Loan Comparison Chart (PDF)</a>
<b>Strategy Area C: Reduce Emissions through Clean Energy Innovation</b>			
<b>Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions</b>			
in progress	C1	Conduct a baseline for energy useage by municipal/tribal government including electricity, heating and transportation fuels, and other energy sources.	
has not happened/ will not happen	C2	Identify and track a simplified set of emissions indicators for community emissions reduction (e.g. number of EVs registered in the community, number of homes with solar panels, number of heat pump rebates from Efficiency Maine).	
has not happened/ will not happen	C3	Adopt a resolution setting targets and a plan for reducing emissions and advancing clean energy from municipal/tribal operations that align with the state's targets.	
<b>Advance Clean Energy Adoption</b>			
has not happened/ will not happen	C4	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance(s) that allows, enables, or encourages community-appropriate renewable energy and energy storage installations.	<a href="#">US DOE SolSmart program and technical assistance</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	C5	Adopt a streamlined permitting process for small-scale renewable energy installations.	<a href="#">US Department of Energy: SolarApp</a>

Transition to Clean Energy			
complete	C6	Enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA) or adopt a clean power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewable energy.	<a href="#">USDA Rural Development: Rural Energy for America (\$)</a>
complete	C7	Install a renewable energy project (solar, wind, geothermal, anaerobic digestion, etc.) on municipal/tribal property (e.g. school rooftop, wellhead protection area, landfill, brownfield site, etc.).	<a href="#">USDA Rural Development: Rural Energy for America (\$)</a>
Strategy Area D: Grow Jobs and Protect Natural Resource Industries			
Support Maine's Natural Resource Economy			
has not happened/ will not happen	D1	Adopt policies that enable, support, or incentivize local food production and consumption, including community gardens.	
has not happened/ will not happen	D2	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	
Support Clean Energy Jobs and Businesses			
has not happened/ will not happen	D3	Assess the suitability of privately-owned brownfield and disturbed/contaminated sites for clean energy projects and encourage project development.	<a href="#">US EPA RePowering America's Land program</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	D4	Establish incentives for clean energy industry or businesses to locate in community.	
has not happened/ will not happen	D5	Encourage and support clean energy industries in economic development plans.	
Strategy Area E: Protect the Environment & Promote Natural Climate Solutions			
Protect Natural and Working Lands and Waters			
has not happened/ will not happen	E1	Set targets for increasing green space and tree planting to increase shade and water access in public spaces and carbon sequestration.	<a href="#">DACF Project Canopy (\$)</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	E2	Incorporate a goal into conservation plans of conserving 30% of land in the community by 2030 (including undeveloped town property), with a priority on addressing conservation gaps related to high biodiversity areas, undeveloped blocks, and land and water connectivity.	<a href="#">IWF: Beginning with Habitat</a>
complete	E3	Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities and adaptation options.	<a href="#">ME DEP Nonpoint Source Priority Watersheds List &amp; grants (\$)</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	E4	Develop a natural resource and habitat inventory that includes climate stressors and impacts.	<a href="#">ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	E5	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas.	
complete	E6	Preserve climate-threatened natural areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, and headwater streams through zoning or other regulations.	
complete	E7	Implement a source water protection program.	
has not happened/ will not happen	E8	Adopt policies that prioritize natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection for coastlines, rivers, and lakes.	
has not happened/ will not happen	E9	Identify and protect sites for living shorelines and saltmarsh migration areas.	<a href="#">ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance</a>



has not happened/ will not happen	E10	Identify and protect open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience.	<a href="#">ME Natural Areas Program: Maps, Data, and Technical Assistance</a>
<b>Strategy Area F: Build Healthy &amp; Resilient Communities</b>			
Plan for Community Resilience			
has not happened/ will not happen	F1	Conduct a community vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations and includes a review of existing plans and policies. Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities (may be a standalone plan or included in a comprehensive plan).	
has not happened/ will not happen	F2	Update the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan to address changing/future conditions and identify specific strategies to reduce vulnerability and increase resilience to climate change impacts.	
has not happened/ will not happen	F3	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans.	
has not happened/ will not happen	F4	Develop a storm debris management plan.	
Reduce Flood Risk			
complete	F5	Complete the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist.	<a href="#">Maine Flood Resilience Checklist</a>
complete	F6	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	<a href="#">FEMA's Community Rating System</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	F7	Enroll in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for community residents.	<a href="#">FEMA's Community Rating System</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	F8	Achieve CRS Class 6 or better, maximizing flood insurance savings for community residents.	<a href="#">FEMA's Community Rating System</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	F9	Map sea level rise projections in the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan.	
has not happened/ will not happen	F10	Require consideration of sea level rise projections and impacts in planning and permitting coastal development.	
has not happened/ will not happen	F11	Adopt freeboard requirements in the special flood hazard area and higher freeboard critical infrastructure and long-lifespan assets.	
has not happened/ will not happen	F12	Adopt a low-impact design (LID) standard for stormwater management.	<a href="#">Low Impact Design Manual for Maine Communities (PDF)</a>
Strengthen Public Health			
has not happened/ will not happen	F13	Identify and plan to reduce public health threats in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.	<a href="#">US CDC Health Harm Cards and Climate &amp; Health Planning Worksheet</a>
in progress	F14	Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents.	<a href="#">US CDC Heat &amp; Health Tracker Resources: Heat Response Plans and Use of Cooling Centers</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	F15	Establish a peer-to-peer program for checking in on vulnerable community members during extreme heat or cold events.	
has not happened/ will not happen	F16	Increase community-level resilience to mosquito-borne diseases by implementing vector controls to decrease mosquito habitat.	<a href="#">Maine CDC Mosquito-Borne Illness Prevention &amp; Response Guidance for Maine Towns and Communities (PDF)</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	F17	Implement school-based programs to educate students about prevention of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases.	<a href="#">Maine CDC Vectorborne School Curricula</a>
<b>Strategy Area G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure</b>			

Assess climate vulnerability of infrastructure			
complete (for wastewater treatment plant only)	G1	Conduct a vulnerability assessment for critical community infrastructure that includes: 1) the climate hazards to which infrastructure assets are exposed and how the intensity and likelihood will change over time; 2) the susceptibility to damage or failure given location, design, age, condition, and state of repair; and 3) the consequences that impairment or failure of the infrastructure will have on the community.	
has not happened/ will not happen	G2	Develop a Capital Investment Plan that a) identifies vulnerable municipal/tribal facilities and assets, and b) prioritizes resilience in improvements and/or new construction.	
Utilize climate-ready standards, designs, and practices to improve infrastructure			
in progress	G3	Improve and protect drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events.	
has not happened/ will not happen	G4	Adopt a policy that prioritizes green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas.	
has not happened/ will not happen	G5	Adopt DEP's Stream Smart Crossing Guidelines as standard practice for culvert and bridge improvements. Identify vulnerable crossings and apply for DEP improvement funds.	<a href="#">DEP Stream Smart Crossings Grants and Pocket Guide (\$)</a>
complete	G6	Assess wastewater treatment facilities for clean energy potential (solar, anaerobic digester, etc.).	
Strategy Area H: Engage Maine People			
complete	H1	Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders.	
Increase public awareness of climate change impacts and opportunities to take action			
has not happened/ will not happen	H2	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation for residents and businesses.	<a href="#">US CDC Climate &amp; Community Health (PDF)</a>
has not happened/ will not happen	H3	Amplify public health advisories for climate-related health and weather events, such as air quality advisories, extreme heat or cold events, extreme storms, power outages, waterborne disease outbreaks, harmful algal blooms, vectorborne disease trends, etc.	NWS advisories ( <a href="http://weather.gov/gyx">weather.gov/gyx</a> and <a href="http://weather.gov/car">weather.gov/car</a> ); DEP air quality advisories ( <a href="http://maine.gov/dep/air/ozone/index.html">maine.gov/dep/air/ozone/index.html</a> ); ME Tracking Network displays of near real-time heat illness, cold illness, or tickborne diseases ( <a href="http://data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking">data.mainepublichealth.gov/tracking</a> )
has not happened/ will not happen	H4	Engage youth in resilience, clean energy, and energy use reduction.	
has not happened/ will not happen	H5	Engage populations that are vulnerable to climate impacts in resilience, clean energy, and GHG emissions reduction.	
Engage the business community and recognize climate leadership			
has not happened/ will not happen	H6	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge among businesses.	
has not happened/ will not happen	H7	Initiate a community bulk purchasing program with a vendor, or vendors, to provide low cost equipment such as heat pumps and solar for interested residents and businesses.	<a href="#">Portland's "Electrify Everything!" Initiative</a>
		<b>Note:</b> Bulk purchasing (Action H7): Grant funds may not be used to purchase or subsidize equipment or services for residential or commercial properties, but may be used for program design and capacity building .	