

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

See Instructions on Introduction tab below.

ii	Strategy Areas & Actions (mark Column A as complete, in progress, future priority, etc.)	Notes
<b>Strategy Area A: Embrace the Future of Transportation</b>		
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>		
	A1 Purchase or lease electric vehicles for municipal or tribal government-owned vehicle fleets.	
C	A2 Install EV chargers in public parking areas.	EV Chargers have been installed in at least four locations in the Town.
	A3 Adopt ordinances to encourage EV charging infrastructure, including at multifamily dwellings, businesses, and public parking areas.	
	A4 Adopt an anti-idling ordinance.	
Improve Mobility and Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)		
	A5 Implement strategies that increase public transit ridership and alternative transportation modes, including bike and walking infrastructure.	
	A6 Implement strategies that encourage municipal/tribal employees to commute via carpools, public transit, bike/walk, or other alternatives to single-occupancy vehicles.	
	A7 Adopt a telework policy for municipal/tribal government staff positions that can work remotely some days per week.	
	A8 Adopt land use and development policies in plans and codes that reduce the need for driving (e.g. locating schools, workplaces, and shopping near where people live; encouraging density of development near housing and transportation).	
	A9 Adopt a Complete Streets policy which addresses safety, bike/pedestrian uses, and transit.	

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

	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.	
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# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

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

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

**Note:** Energy efficiency projects (Actions B1-B5) such as heat pumps, VRF systems, LED lighting upgrades, water heaters, etc. must be eligible for Efficiency Maine's incentives. The energy efficiency project must be located in a municipally, tribally, or publicly-owned building. **The applicant's project budget must include applicable Efficiency Maine rebates or incentives.**

IP	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.	The Town Hall has recently added new double pane windows throughout most of the building.
IP	B2	Upgrade to energy efficient interior lighting in municipal/tribal buildings.	Town Hall has also recently converted 50% of interior lighting to LEDs. The remaining 50% is planned for next year.
C	B3	Upgrade to energy efficient appliances in municipal/tribal buildings.	New Town Hall fridge and water dispenser recently replaced with Energy Star appliances.
C	B4	Install a heat pump system or VRF system for heating/cooling and heat pump water heating in municipal/tribal buildings.	Four new heat pumps added this past year by the Town and 2 more added upstairs by the Surry Community Theater. The Town tried to obtain Efficiency Maine rebates but were told that the funding was exhausted.
IP	B5	Upgrade streetlights and exterior lighting for municipally/tribally-owned facilities with energy efficient LED lighting (and minimize light pollution with downlighting where possible).	Exterior lights on Town Hall will be converted shortly to LED. Versant now provides a NEB/DG credit for the Town's street lights.
	B6	Adjust procurement policies to prioritize climate-friendly Maine forest products (e.g. mass timber, wood-fiber insulation) in construction projects.	

#### Advance the Design and Construction of New Buildings

	B7	Adopt the energy efficiency stretch building code (currently IECC 2021).	
	B8	Require EV charging readiness and solar energy readiness for all new construction.	
	B9	Support regular professional development for code enforcement officers, especially Efficiency Maine's code trainings.	
	B10	Adopt C-PACE ordinance for commercial property owners to install renewable energy systems, energy efficiency measures, and EV charging infrastructure.	

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

### Strategy Area C: Reduce Emissions through Clean Energy Innovation

#### Reduce Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

FP	C1	Conduct a baseline for energy useage by municipal/tribal government including electricity, heating and transportation fuels, and other energy sources.	Check with Town and with fuel and electricity utilities for historic data to use as baseline for future emissions and energy planning. (Climate Resilience Committee)
FP	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).	Climate Resilience Committee
	C3	Adopt a resolution setting targets and a plan for reducing emissions and advancing clean energy from municipal/tribal operations that align with the state's targets.	

#### Advance Clean Energy Adoption

	C4	Adopt a renewable energy ordinance(s) that allows, enables, or encourages community-appropriate renewable energy and energy storage installations.	
	C5	Adopt a streamlined permitting process for small-scale renewable energy installations.	

#### Transition to Clean Energy

	C6	Enter into a long-term service contract or power purchase agreement (PPA) or adopt a clean power purchase policy to ensure increasing local government energy supplies come from renewable energy.	
	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.).	

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

### Strategy Area D: Grow Jobs and Protect Natural Resource Industries

#### Support Maine's Natural Resource Economy

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

#### Support Clean Energy Jobs and Businesses

IP	D3	Assess the suitability of privately-owned brownfield and disturbed/contaminated sites for clean energy projects and encourage project development.	Blue Hill Heritage Trust investigating possible brownfield sites.
	D4	Establish incentives for clean energy industry or businesses to locate in community.	
	D5	Encourage and support clean energy industries in economic development plans.	

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

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

#### Protect Natural and Working Lands and Waters

IP	E1	Set targets for increasing green space and tree planting to increase shade and water access in public spaces and carbon sequestration.	The Town is paying to plant disease-resistant Elm trees and other species that are climate resistant to replace the trees that have already been lost. The Town is also actively treating diseased trees. Blue Hill Heritage Trust has planted a tree nursery which has begun to provide trees to schools and towns in Blue Hill and to other towns on the peninsula.
IP	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.	Currently the Town of Blue Hill has 20% of its land under conservation (Blue Hill Heritage Trust, Town of Blue Hill, Maine Coast Heritage Trust and Acadia National Park.) Given existing targets held by conservation groups, it's quite likely that the goal of 30% by 2030 can be met. Furthermore, given the goals and objectives set out in Blue Hill's new Comp Plan, the actions described in E.3 through E.10 have also been highlighted and prioritized.
IP	E3	Create or update a watershed plan to identify flooding and water quality priorities and adaptation options.	Climate Resilience Committee, Shaw Institute
IP	E4	Develop a natural resource and habitat inventory that includes climate stressors and impacts.	Climate Resilience Committee, Blue Hill Heritage Trust
IP	E5	Conserve, revegetate and reconnect floodplains and buffers in riparian areas.	Blue Hill Heritage Trust and others
FP	E6	Preserve climate-threatened natural areas such as wetlands, riparian areas, and headwater streams through zoning or other regulations.	Planning Board, Select Board
FP	E7	Implement a source water protection program.	Climate Resilience Committee, Planning Board, Select Board
FP	E8	Adopt policies that prioritize natural, nature-based or ecologically enhanced shoreline protection for coastlines, rivers, and lakes.	Planning Board, Select Board, Marine Committee, Climate Resilience Committee
FP	E9	Identify and protect sites for living shorelines and saltmarsh migration areas.	Planning Board, Select Board
FP	E10	Identify and protect open space in the floodplain to increase flood buffers and community resilience.	Planning Board, Select Board

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

### Strategy Area F: Build Healthy & Resilient Communities

#### Plan for Community Resilience

IP	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).	GEI - Gulf of Maine Research Institute contract for a 3 town joint vulnerability assessment with funding from Community Action Grants.
IP	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.	Climate Resilience Committee and Fire Department
	F3	Develop or enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans.	
	F4	Develop a storm debris management plan.	
<b>Reduce Flood Risk</b>			
C	F5	Complete the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist.	
C	F6	Participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	
	F7	Enroll in the NFIP's Community Rating System (CRS) at Class 9 or better, reducing flood insurance premiums for community residents.	
	F8	Achieve CRS Class 6 or better, maximizing flood insurance savings for community residents.	
C	F9	Map sea level rise projections in the local or county EMA hazard mitigation plan.	Sea level rise projection mapping was completed during the comprehensive plan process.
	F10	Require consideration of sea level rise projections and impacts in planning and permitting coastal development.	
	F11	Adopt freeboard requirements in the special flood hazard area and higher freeboard critical infrastructure and long-lifespan assets.	
	F12	Adopt a low-impact design (LID) standard for stormwater management.	

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

### Strengthen Public Health

F13	Identify and plan to reduce public health threats in the community that are exacerbated by climate change.	
F14	Develop and implement an extreme temperatures emergency plan, including strategies that increase use of cooling centers by residents.	
F15	Establish a peer-to-peer program for checking in on vulnerable community members during extreme heat or cold events.	
F16	Increase community-level resilience to mosquito-borne diseases by implementing vector controls to decrease mosquito habitat.	
F17	Implement school-based programs to educate students about prevention of mosquito- and tick-borne diseases.	



# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

### Strategy Area G: Invest in Climate-Ready Infrastructure

#### Assess climate vulnerability of infrastructure

IP	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.	GEI Engineering and Gulf of Maine Research Institute contract for a 3 town joint climate vulnerability assessment funded by a Community Action Grant.
	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

IP	G3	Improve and protect drinking water, wastewater treatment, and stormwater facilities to reduce physical damage and sustain function during extreme weather events.	There are plans and USDA funding to relocate portions of the wastewater treatment plant very soon and the Town has received designs from their management engineers, Olver.
	G4	Adopt a policy that prioritizes green infrastructure to manage stormwater in developed areas.	
IP	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.	The Town would like to conduct a reassessment of stream crossings and identify the most promising ones to fix with assistance from the DEP.
FP	G6	Assess wastewater treatment facilities for clean energy potential (solar, anaerobic digester, etc.).	Olver annually reviews alternative energy options for feasibility.

# Community Resilience Partnership

## List of Community Actions

Completed: August 2024

### Strategy Area H: Engage Maine People

C	H1	Establish or recognize an official committee of community stakeholders.	Blue Hill Climate Resilience Committee
Increase public awareness of climate change impacts and opportunities to take action			
IP	H2	Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation for residents and businesses.	Gulf of Maine Research Institute working with Town volunteers on a climate outreach and engagement strategy.
	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.	
	H4	Engage youth in resilience, clean energy, and energy use reduction.	
	H5	Engage populations that are vulnerable to climate impacts in resilience, clean energy, and GHG emissions reduction.	
Engage the business community and recognize climate leadership			
	H6	Create and support an energy reduction campaign or challenge among businesses.	
	H7	Initiate a community bulk purchasing program with a vendor, or vendors, to provide low cost equipment such as heat pumps and solar for interested residents and businesses.	
<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 .			