

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts: Next Steps

Objective: Take actions that support environmental sustainability and address the impacts of climate change on the island.

Mechanism for Addressing Priority

Community Resilience Partnership [a program of the Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF)] **and a 9 member “Climate Working Group”**.

What is the Community Resilience Partnership?

The Community Resilience Partnership is a state program the town can enroll in after meeting certain requirements. The goal of the program is to help municipal and tribal governments reduce carbon emissions, transition to clean energy, and become more resilient to climate change effects such as to extreme weather, flooding, rising sea levels, public health impacts, and more by providing grants and direct support.

Joining the Partnership makes the Town eligible to apply for up to a \$50k Community Action Grant for climate related projects. To join the Partnership, the Town has to

1. Adopt a municipal climate resolution.
2. Establish a citizen working group to coordinate activities to reduce energy use and costs, transition to clean energy and make the community more resilient to climate change.

Working Group Mission

The purpose of the Climate Working Group is to assess the current status of progress toward climate action and environmental sustainability on the island and identify, prioritize, and implement actions the Town and Community can take to increase overall resilience through adaptation and mitigation strategies that reduce the impacts of sea-level rise and climate change.

Community Resilience Partnership Enrollment Process / Working Group

Goals

1. Complete a Community Resilience Self-Evaluation and review a List of Community Actions to assess the Town’s existing climate action progress.
2. Prioritize actions from the GOPIF List of Community Actions that the Town wants to pursue.

3. Working with Rick and the Select Board, choose one or more Community Actions to implement. (*Examples of potential actions: conducting an energy audit of Town properties; installing energy efficient lighting and heating; assessing risk to community infrastructure from sea-level rise and climate change*)
4. Hold a public meeting or workshop during which the identified Action(s) will be discussed.
5. The Select Board adopts a Climate Resolution.
6. Ensure implementation of chosen priority or priorities: Apply for a Community Action Grant to implement the chosen priority or priorities (up to \$50k) – either in September 2022 or March 2023. If a grant is not awarded, determine other ways to fund implementation.
7. Because the Community Resilience Partnership is ongoing, determine next steps, including ongoing role of the Working Group and how to address the next priority or set of priorities identified from the List of Community Actions

Metrics

The Working Group will know they are on track to achieve their mission in alignment with process values – inclusivity and transparency – and the community vision by ensuring that

- Designated member(s) of the Group meet(s) monthly with Rick and member(s) from the other working groups to request feedback and share updates which will be reported monthly to the Select Board and Community
- All goals are accomplished according to the Work Plan timeline
- The Group conducts a transparent and inclusive process in alignment with the Vision Statement according to their Work Plan timeline

Prospective Partners and Advisors

Governor's Office of Policy Innovation & the Future

Appropriate State agencies

North Haven Conservation Partners

North Haven Community School

Composition of Working Group

A 9-member Group would be comprised of

- 2 business owners with shorefront property
- 2 year-round community members with general interest
- 2 seasonal community members with general interest

- 1 person who works on the water
- 1 Town employee
- 1 NHCP member

Timeline

- April 2022 – Form Working Group
- April 2023 – Working Group goals complete; Select Board and Working Group determine next steps

Other Notes

What does the Board need to do to be part of the Service Provider Grant?

Sign a Letter of Commitment agreeing to take part in the Community Resilience Partnership Program and to be a participating community in the Service Provider Grant.

Join Us!

If you are interested in joining the Climate Working Group, please fill out the form located on the Vision Hub under Focus Priorities & Objectives or contact Mia (mcolloredomansfeld@islandinstitute.org) for a paper or pdf version.