



# 2024 Action Progress Report

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Yarmouth  
Climate Action Plan

June 2025



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**This report was developed by the Sustainability Department and Yarmouth's Climate Action Fellow with input from the Yarmouth Climate Action Board and other Town departments and committees.**

# Introduction

In the spring of 2024, Yarmouth’s Town Council adopted the Town’s first Climate Action Plan. Developed by a volunteer Task Force over the course of two years, the Climate Action Plan (CAP) was guided by best practices, staff input, and shaped by community priorities. The CAP is a clear roadmap that will guide Yarmouth towards net zero and prepare our community for the intensifying impacts of a changing climate.

## CONNECTION TO REGIONAL AND STATE CLIMATE GOALS

Tackling climate change requires decisive action across federal, state, regional, and local governments. In 2024, the State released the updated Maine Climate Action Plan—Maine Won’t Wait. The action plan includes strategies for decarbonizing transportation and buildings, maximizing waste reduction, conserving land, building resilience, and growing our clean energy economy. By taking action, communities like Yarmouth will benefit from -and contribute to- State-level climate efforts.

## COLLECTIVE ACTION

The goals of the Yarmouth’s Climate Action Plan span across many areas of Town operations and community priorities. With collective action across departments, Town leadership, volunteer committees, and engaged community members, we will be able to implement the Climate Action Plan and meet our goals.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers who support this work!



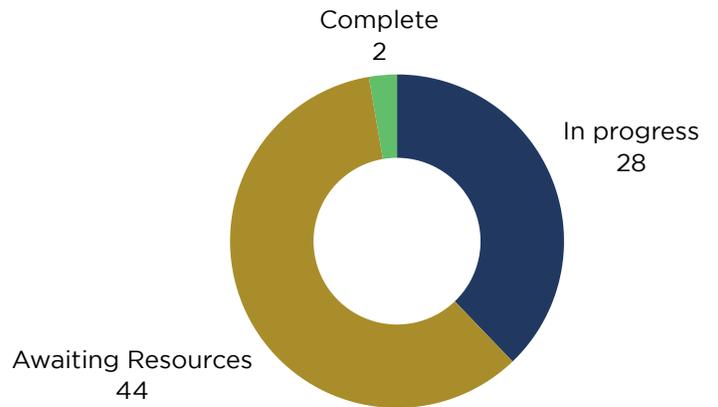
# Introduction

## Progress in Year One

The Climate Action Plan contains a total of 74 recommended actions for the Town to implement over the coming decade. In the first year since the Plan's adoption, the Town has made significant strides in starting implementation, including adding staff capacity and organizing a new volunteer board -the Climate Action Board (YCAB)- to facilitate sustainability efforts in town and advise the Town Council on climate, energy, and resilience policy.

Over the past year, various Town staff, departments, and committees have initiated approximately one third of the actions in the CAP. Efforts this year have also illuminated gaps of the CAP and areas where YCAB can focus additional energy.

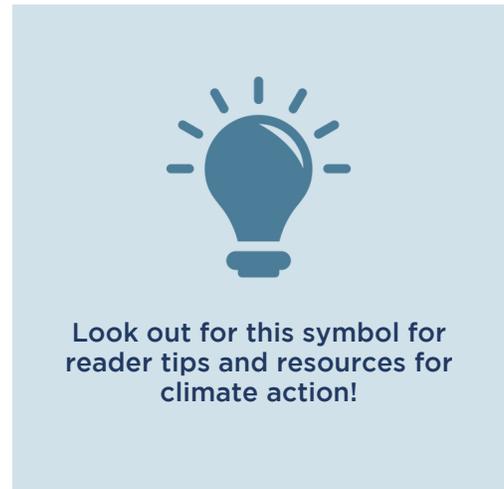
Progress Status of CAP Actions



# How to Read this Report

## Progress towards our 10 Goals

This report details progress made towards achieving each of the 10 goals in the CAP. Each goal has one page that highlights progress the Town has made, key trends in available data, a description of what the Town can focus on to continue momentum, and resources for readers to be part of the solution.



## Status of All Actions

In the appendix of this report, you can find the full matrix of all 74 CAP actions with the status and a description of progress for each one.

## Data Deep Dive

If you are interested in doing a deeper dive into community, Municipal, and School fossil fuel and emissions data, check out the [2024 Data Report](#). Data included in this report can be found with sources in the Data Report.

## Context for Climate Action

You can read the full [Climate Action Plan](#) to understand how the plan was developed, and get more context for each focus of the Plan, the 10 goals, and its intended implementation.



# Efficient Transportation and Land Use

## Goal 1: Reduce emissions from transportation.

In 2024, nearly half of all emissions in Yarmouth come from driving cars in town. Emissions from transportation and total miles driven in town have been increasing in the last decade but there has been a steady rise in electric and hybrid vehicles in town.

To achieve Goal 1, we will need to reduce the total miles we drive and electrify our vehicles. Over the past year, the Town has made progress in supporting biking and walking infrastructure, as well as exploring policy to facilitate EV charging and analyze opportunities to reduce emissions from the municipal fleet.

The region has several important initiatives that can support action for this Goal, including a regional EV Charging Infrastructure Plan (GPCOG) and the State's installation of fast chargers on major corridors. In the next year, the fleet electrification roadmap is an opportunity to guide vehicle purchasing for a lower-carbon municipal fleet. The Town can also focus efforts to ensure future public EV charging is equitably distributed.

# 5%

Of 2024 registered vehicles in town were electric vehicles (3%) or plug-in hybrids (2%). Combined, this is a 4% increase since 2020.

# 12

Level-2 EV chargers in town open to the public as of 2024 - a two-fold increase since 2019.

## PROGRESS

- ✓ Upcoming development of a town-wide Active Transportation Plan for building safe, connected biking and walking networks. Related to finalizing a Vision Zero policy.
- ✓ YCAB has proposed an ordinance to expand EV charging infrastructure requirements for new and redeveloped parking lots.
- ✓ Sustainability Department completing an electrification analysis of the Town and School's light-duty fleet.
- ✓ Wayfinding trail maps and bike racks being installed to facilitate getting around town car-free.

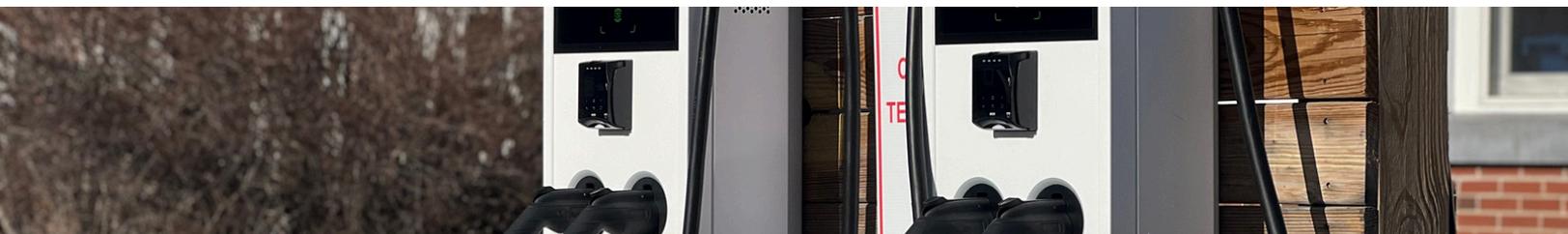


### Be Part of the Solution

Switch your next car to electric - get info on charging, retailers, and incentives from [Efficiency Maine](#).

Swap one local driving trip each week to walking or biking.

Pick up a copy of the [new wayfinding trail map](#) for info on bike routes around town.



# Efficient Transportation and Land Use

## Goal 2: Plan for future land use that reduces emissions and is resilient to climate impacts.

Forward-thinking land use policies and development practices help balance the needs of our growing community while reducing reliance on fossil fuels and minimizing risks from climate-related impacts, like intensifying flooding and heat.

In 2024, the Town adopted an updated Comprehensive Plan, that will guide resilient and inclusive land use planning. Related to Goal 2, a large focus of the past year for the Town has been initiating implementation of the Comprehensive Plan. Additional planning efforts related to stormwater management and low-impact development, locally and State-led, are also underway.

Looking ahead, the Town can use the existing and upcoming plans and studies to amend land use policies to integrate climate resilience and sustainability. The Yarmouth Climate Action Board will support these policy efforts in addition to river restoration. The Town can continue to center resilience policy and programs on those areas and communities within Yarmouth that are most vulnerable to climate risks and stressors.

# 6,709

Approximate ridership of the Metro BREEZE public bus in 2024. After falling 50% in the early 2020s, ridership has been climbing. 2024 ridership was slightly higher than 2019.

# 10%

Increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) from 2016 to 2024 - an increase of about 8 million miles.

### PROGRESS

- ✓ The Planning and Sustainability Departments are working with GPCOG to audit Town ordinances and identify opportunities to incorporate climate resilience.
- ✓ Implementation of priority policies of the Comprehensive Plan support development close to existing infrastructure and transit.
- ✓ Several developments approved by the Planning Board will locate housing close to walking trails, bike infrastructure, and public transit stops.
- ✓ Tree Stewardship Working Group convened to consider developing a Tree Ordinance.
- ✓ Town Council voted to approve a resolution committing to the restoration of the Royal River, including dam removal.



### Be Part of the Solution

Stay up to date with Town and local organizations work to restore the Royal River.

[Request a street tree](#) from YCS.

[Subscribe to the Sustainability Department Newsletter](#) for policy and project updates.



# Healthy Buildings and Renewable Energy

## Goal 3: Reduce emissions from buildings while making homes and businesses resilient to climate change.

To reduce GHGs associated with buildings, we need to maximize the energy efficiency of new and existing buildings and ensure homes and businesses can benefit from an increasingly clean electricity grid. Ultimately, that means reducing our reliance on fossil fuels.

Over the past year, the Town has had focus on energy efficiency in both municipal and community programs. Several planning efforts were also initiated that focus on enhancing the resiliency of new development, relating to both Goal 2 and Goal 3.

Looking ahead, a large focus for the Sustainability Department will be expanding education and programs that support residents and businesses to reduce energy use and electrify. Through these projects, the Sustainability Department and YCAB will maintain a focus on bringing the value of energy efficiency to those in our community who would benefit most from reduced energy costs and cooling.

# 26%

of total community emissions in 2024 comes from homes and another 24% from commercial buildings (based off modeled data).

# 11%

Decrease in commercial electricity consumption between 2019 and 2024.

# 76

Home heat pump permits issued in 2024. According to Efficiency Maine, those installations are equivalent to powering 83 homes.

## PROGRESS

- ✓ Maine adopted the 2021 IECC building code which went into effect in April, 2025.
- ✓ The Sustainability Department was awarded a grant to initiate a free Energy Coaching service to households, which will be a new offering of Efficiency Yarmouth in 2025-2026.
- ✓ The Town Council adopted a Commercial PACE ordinance in early 2025. Passing this ordinance allows businesses in Yarmouth to utilize a special financing option for clean energy upgrades.
- ✓ The Sustainability Department is implementing a technical assistance award through a State program to complete an energy audit, energy conservation plan, and energy benchmarking for the Library and Public Works garage.



### Be Part of the Solution

Consider weatherizing your home. Many insulators can conduct an energy audit to determine high priority projects to save you energy and money. Efficiency Maine maintains a list of registered vendors that provide energy audits. Simply choose “Energy Audit” from the list of services.



# Healthy Buildings and Renewable Energy

## Goal 4: Meet 100% of electricity needs with renewable energy.

Yarmouth's progress towards reducing GHGs from our electricity relies on trends in the overall grid. Although the State continues to 'green the grid', recent changes at the federal level pose challenges for Maine's renewable energy strategy and threaten potential funding for electrification. This may slow the transition away from fossil fuels, which is necessary to meet local and State goals.

Despite broader challenges, the region continues to support clean energy and Yarmouth residents continue to install solar to offset their energy needs. Even though electrification and business activity have increased, electricity use has decreased or remained steady (for businesses and homes, respectively). This is important because energy efficiency is a key companion strategy to electrifying so our grid can be resilient in the face of increased demand.

Over the past year, the Town has continued efforts to develop community solar and is working on policies to guide thoughtful clean energy development. Implementing these two efforts will be critical to Goal 4, and the Town can also focus on community education and outreach to facilitate and accelerate local clean energy adoption.

### +288kW

of solar capacity was added to homes in 2023 and 2024 (from permit data). That's equivalent to powering 50 homes throughout the year.

### 55%

of Maine's electricity comes from renewable energy. The State's goal is 80% renewable by 2030.

## PROGRESS

- ✓ The Sustainability and Planning Departments are drafting ordinance language that sets standards for solar and battery storage of different sizes.
- ✓ The Town is working with a developer to propose a 1 MW community solar project on Sligo Road that will generate clean energy for subscribed Yarmouth households.
- ✓ Town received technical assistance through a State program (MECERP) to support revitalization projects at current and former industrial sites (i.e., Wyman Station) to support economic and clean energy goals. The Economic Development Advisory Board has a Wyman Station Work Group that is determining next steps.



### Be Part of the Solution

Explore if a buying into [community solar](#) makes sense for you.

To take advantage of a cleaner energy grid, consider [heating your home and hot water with heat pump technology](#). Efficiency Maine has resources and information, including a list of available incentives.



# Circular Economy

## Goal 5: Reduce community waste.

The way we buy, use, and dispose of materials has impacts beyond the trash or recycling bin. Every time something is thrown away, we end the life cycle of the natural resources and energy used to create that product - resulting in the release of embodied carbon. Our linear economy also means more fossil fuels will be burned to manufacture, transport, and store goods we will buy to replace items we toss. By transforming how we consume products and manage waste we can reduce emissions, save families money, keep our environment clean, and empower our local economy.

Over the past year, several groups in town have continued and built upon efforts to develop a circular sharing economy. The Town also continues successful waste diversion efforts that keep usable materials from incineration.

Looking ahead, the Town can continue to educate the community about opportunities to divert waste (through reuse, composting, and proper recycling). YCAB can also explore how to support community partners to foster lending, borrowing, and repair opportunities. YCAB will also strategize on opportunities to move other actions in Goal 5 forward.

# 20%

Decrease in total waste incinerated compared to 2019, and a 9% increase in recycling tonnage.

# 135

Tons of textiles and clothing collected at the Transfer Station for Apparel Impact and Salvation Army in 2024.

### PROGRESS

- ✓ Library has purchased power stations, among other items to launch a 'Library of Things' borrowing program.
- ✓ Clam Festival directors continue to explore and integrate and explore waste reduction practices, such as increased composting and reusables.
- ✓ Yarmouth's ResilienceCorps Fellow completed research on opportunities for the Town to integrate construction and demolition recycling policies, and confirmed further State and regional direction is needed to facilitate local action.



### Be Part of the Solution

Ideas for how Yarmouth can be more 'circular'? Reach out to share thoughts with [the Sustainability Department!](#)

Check out the items for borrowing in the Library's new 'Library of Things'.

See the [Zero Waste Purchasing Guide](#) from YHS Environmental Action Club.



# Thriving Natural Environment

## Goal 6: Permanently conserve 30% of Yarmouth land by 2050

Natural lands and waters around us sequester carbon, support biodiversity, and insulate our community against severe weather and sea level rise. Ensuring these lands are resilient and protected ensures the health of our community as it continues to grow.

As laid out in the CAP, conserving priority natural spaces is a primary goal that the Town will need to balance with other needs of our community, including sustainable economic opportunities and affordable housing. In 2024, YCAB has continued efforts with partners to update and build on the data from Open Space Plan (2019), which can help identify conservation priorities based on ecosystem and habitat importance.

Looking ahead, the Climate Action Board aims to support Town leaders to identify a clear path for conservation in Yarmouth and build capacity and resources to achieve conservation goals.

# 5%

of land in Yarmouth is permanently conserved while 12% of land is under some form of conservation, according to the Maine Conserved Land Database.



### Be Part of the Solution

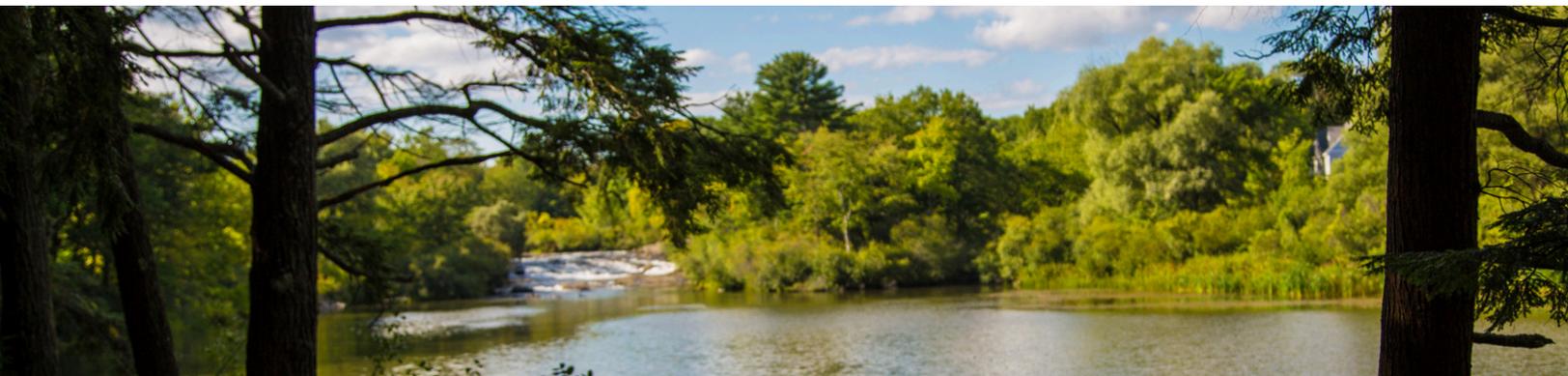
Look into [conservation easements](#) for your property or enroll in a [tax reduction program](#) such as Open Space or Tree Growth.

Donate or get involved with local land trusts or land conservation organizations, like [Royal River Conservation Trust](#) and [Maine Coast Heritage Trust](#).

## PROGRESS



Climate Action Board members have been engaging stakeholders to update data from the Open Space Plan (2019) Priority Map and assess how to move forward strategies under Goal 6.



# Thriving Natural Environment

## Goal 7: Adopt stewardship practices that increase carbon storage and enhance the ecosystem's resilience to climate change.

Yarmouth recognizes the importance of the environment around us and aims to be a steward to these valuable lands and waters. These essential ecosystems are essential spaces for people and wildlife.

In 2024, the Town continued to plant native trees, manage invasive species on public lands, and integrate resilience and carbon sequestration into management plans for recreation spaces. Several town groups, including the Tree Advisory Committee and YCAB, also have been doing outreach and education through planting events.

Looking ahead, the Climate Action Board aims to support efforts to protect local ecology - increasing the current tree canopy, restoring a healthy understory of native plant species, and providing education to the community about sustainable land management.

# +200

Native trees and shrubs planted by Yarmouth Community Services (YCS) in 2024 which will support wildlife and sequester carbon as they grow.

# 62

Acres of Town-owned land underwent invasive mitigation work by YCS.

## PROGRESS

- ✓ YCAB continues Rewild Yarmouth - seasonal education campaigns on stewardship and sustainable landscaping.
- ✓ Various Town projects are also incorporating green infrastructure, such as a new bioswale in Royal River Park to be installed in 2026.
- ✓ An effort to reforest areas of Yarmouth Elementary School is underway. Students and parent volunteers helped plant tree plugs and pollinator flowers in June 2025.
- ✓ YCS is implementing the Invasive Plant Management Plan, and incorporating climate resilience into town-owned space management plans.



### Be Part of the Solution

Learn about common sources of water pollution you can control (like pet waste and garden chemicals) and explore ways to make your landscape less maintenance. Check out the [full catalogue of 'yardscaping' tips](#).

Add native plants to your garden that provide food and habitat for pollinators and wildlife. Search [the Maine Audubon's online resource](#).



# Connected and Safe Community

## Goal 8: Protect public safety by integrating climate projections into emergency preparedness protocols.

Hazards from a changing climate will bring a cascade of impacts across our community. The Town will strive to ensure everyone has access to the resources they need during emergencies and our community is proactively building resilience to climate risks.

Over the past year, the Town has initiated several planning efforts, educational resources, and policy audits that have a focus on enhancing adaptation and resilience. The Sustainability Department also identified several areas of the CAP that should have enhanced focus for YCAB, including stormwater management and water quality.

Looking ahead, YCAB will support staff to integrate local vulnerability data and climate projections into protocols and operations that protect public health and safety, particularly emergency access during storm events.

### PROGRESS

- ✓ Land use ordinances have been updated to incorporate the most recent FEMA maps. Policies required by MDEP related to reducing flood risk and managing stormwater development practices are upcoming in 2025-26.
- ✓ Economic and Community Development Department will begin the development of a Working Waterfront Master Plan, incorporating climate change data for best adaptation strategies for waterfront infrastructure and businesses at risk.
- ✓ Sustainability Department developing a Coastal Bluff Toolkit to educate residents about potential damage from coastal erosion.
- ✓ Town staff continue to strategize on protocols for providing warming centers.



#### Be Part of the Solution

Sign up to receive [CodeRED](#) town alerts during a local emergency.

Learn how climate change is [exacerbating different risks](#) to our region.



# Connected and Safe Community

## Goal 9: Enhance public health to improve community resilience to climate change.

The burden of climate change will not be felt equally across the community. People with existing social vulnerabilities, such as seniors or cost-burdened households, will be disproportionately impacted by climate hazards and climate-related health risks.

In the past year, the Merrill Memorial Library hosted events focused on climate solutions and resilience and the Planning Department facilitated several zoning amendments that support local food production.

Looking ahead, the Sustainability Department and YCAB aim to engage with partners to identify opportunities to educate the community about climate-related health risks. YCAB can also organize efforts around the State Climate Plan goals for local food production, climate-related mental health resources, and preparing for changing risks to physical health from climate change. As with implementing other goals of the CAP, Goal 9 has a focus on equity: ensuring resources are centered around those with conditions or circumstances that could be exacerbated by climate impacts, such as power outages, extreme heat, and vector-borne disease.

### PROGRESS

- ✓ The Library held several events focused on climate change topics, including an event highlighting staying safe during intensifying storms.
- ✓ In March 2025, the Planning Board voted to recommend a zoning text amendment to allow facilities for storage and processing of Agricultural Products under 3,000 square feet, and reviewed as a Special Exception and Major Site Plan, for the Rural Residential zone. This allows more flexibility in land use policy for food production.



#### Be Part of the Solution

A strong and connected community is resilient - donate or get involved with [Yarmouth Cares about Neighbors \(YCAN\)](#).

Learn more about [how climate change impacts health](#) and wellbeing.



# Connected and Safe Community

## Goal 10: Protect critical infrastructure.

Yarmouth will continue to take steps to protect the services and infrastructure our community depends on while preparing for intensifying impacts of a changing climate, with equity at the forefront of decision making.

In the past year, the Town committed to several resilience-focused planning efforts that will shape policy. The Town also completed some capital projects that serve to make critical infrastructure more resilient.

Looking ahead, the Sustainability Department can focus on implementing recommendations from these planning efforts to integrate resilience best practices and climate data into policy, operations, and capital planning. This could include implementing recommendations from the Resilience Audit, Working Waterfront Master Plan, and the Comprehensive Plan. The Sustainability Department will have a focus on identifying grant opportunities to support the rising costs of infrastructure upgrades.

# +3

Recent upgrades to stream crossings that follow 'StreamSmart' design principles. These designs are more resilient to climate impacts and reduce barriers to aquatic wildlife.

## PROGRESS

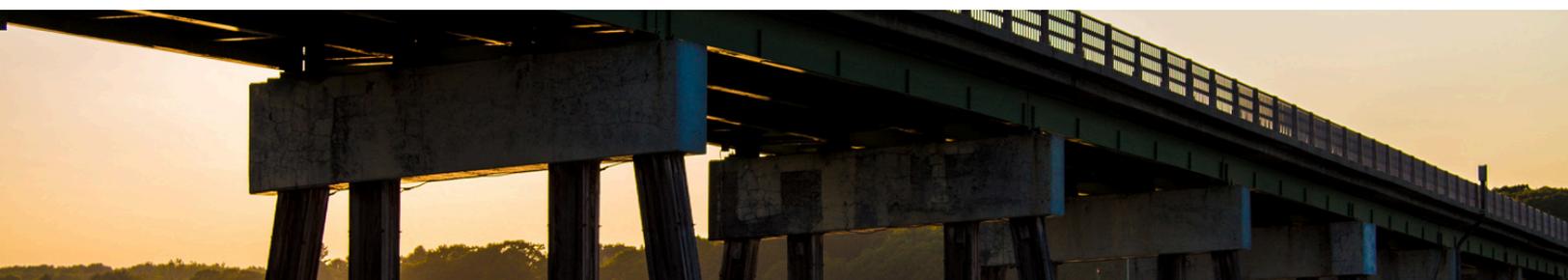
-  The Planning and Sustainability Departments are working with GPCOG to audit Town ordinances and identify opportunities to incorporate flood resilience and climate resilience. Implementation may include policy and capital strategies to enhance the climate resiliency of public and private infrastructure.
-  The Town upgraded a stream crossing culvert on the only access road to the wastewater treatment plant - which was at risk of damage or failure during extreme storms.



### Be Part of the Solution

Create an emergency plan for your family. See the guide at [Ready.gov](https://www.ready.gov).

Look at maps relating to [sea level rise](#), [storm surge](#), and [coastal erosion](#) to identify risks or impacts to your property.



## Conclusion

In the first year since adopting the Climate Action Plan, Yarmouth has made meaningful progress. With nearly a third of actions now underway, this year laid the foundation for what will be an ongoing effort to reduce emissions, strengthen local resilience, and support a more sustainable, equitable future for our community. From expanding solar installations and building EV infrastructure to launching new education programs and planning for resilient infrastructure, many departments, volunteers, and community members have stepped up to lead the way.

At the same time, this first year has revealed clear areas for deeper focus—especially in stormwater management, circular economy, public health equity, and ensuring that resilience planning translates into on-the-ground action. Continued leadership from staff, boards, and engaged residents will be essential in moving the full set of CAP goals forward.

Creating a sustainable and climate-resilient Yarmouth will require shared responsibility and collaboration across all sectors. Every department, business, household, and individual has a role to play.

**Thank you to everyone who has already contributed to this work. Let's build on this momentum together!**

# Appendix A. ALL ACTION PROGRESS

- Complete:** Action has been completed. 
- In Progress:** Action implementation is underway. 
- Awaiting Resources:** Action may be implemented when staff time, funding, or other resources are available. 

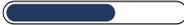
Quick Win: Short-term actions that have the potential to maintain implementation momentum.

High Impact: Actions that have the potential to get us the furthest toward the Town's goals

 Action aligns with the Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan (2024)

Goal 1: Reduce emissions from transportation.		
Strategy 1.1: Expand infrastructure for accessible and safe walking, biking, and other active transportation.		
Action 1.1.1: Complete a comprehensive, town-wide transportation planning process, resulting in an adopted implementation plan that includes non-motorized trail expansion, increased bike/walk infrastructure, and changes in parking requirements that incentivize active transportation.	 	The Planning Department and Bike Ped Committee will complete a town-wide Active Transportation Plan in the coming year. This plan will create a clear vision and actionable plan for building safe, connected active transportation networks that support biking, walking, and other micro-mobility options.
Action 1.1.2: Facilitate the completion of the Beth Condon Memorial Pathway from Cumberland to Freeport and the Casco Bay Trail.	 	Maine DOT, Town Engineer, and Planning Department working on construction of Beth Condon Pathway to Freeport. Construction towards Cumberland to be started in 2025.
Strategy 1.2: Increase public transit use.		
Action 1.2.1: Expand public transportation infrastructure, integrated with bike and pedestrian routes, to increase frequency, accessibility, desirability, and connectivity of public transport options.	 	Yarmouth participates in Greater Portland Metro service with the BREEZ bus, and actively serves on the Board. New sidewalk extensions and crosswalks support access to the new bus stop on Route One.
Action 1.2.2: Provide information for residents to reduce miles traveled for work and recreation.	 	Trails wayfinding map published in spring 2025. Bike racks being installed at priority locations around town. In future, wayfinding signage and maps could include the transit stops in town.
Strategy 1.3: Accelerate electric vehicle adoption.		
Action 1.3.1: Establish a comprehensive EV outreach and education campaign for residents and local businesses.		Awaiting Resources
Action 1.3.2: Establish a municipal electrical vehicle procurement plan that phases out purchases of fossil-fuel based vehicles by 2030, starting with passenger vehicles and moving to medium- and heavy-duty vehicles as feasible across departments.		The Sustainability Department is working with Maine Clean Communities and DOE Energy to Communities to do an electrification analysis of the Town and School's light-duty fleet. The electrification analysis will contribute to an Electrification Roadmap, and potentially a procurement policy or plan.

# Appendix A. ALL ACTION PROGRESS

<p><b>Action 1.3.3: Partner with the School Department to transition school bus fleet to all-electric.</b></p>		<p>The School District previously acquired two electric school buses with grant funds, but the vehicles have been inoperable due to manufacturer issues.</p>
<p><b>Action 1.3.4: Continue building out EV charging infrastructure on town and school properties to ensure charging capacity for an entirely electric fleet.</b></p>		<p>The Fleet Electrification Roadmap (1.3.2) will include initial recommendations to build out charging infrastructure needed depending on fleet transition scenarios.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 1.4: Expand public EV charging network.</b></p>		
<p><b>Action 1.4.1: Expand EV charger requirement for parking lots and new site proposals to all zones in town.</b></p>		<p>The Climate Action Board proposed an ordinance to expand EV charging infrastructure requirements for new and redeveloped parking lots.</p>
<p><b>Action 1.4.2: Facilitate expansion of regional EV charging network with businesses.</b></p>		<p>Awaiting resources. Upcoming Regional EV Charging Plan will help direct efforts in this area.</p>
<p><b>Goal 2: Plan for future land use that reduces emissions and is resilient to climate change impacts.</b></p>		
<p><b>Strategy 2.1: Strengthen policies and enforcement to promote sustainable, resilient, and accessible land use practices in coordination with Comprehensive Plan implementation.</b></p>		
<p><b>Action 2.1.1: Amend zoning ordinances to reduce emissions by allowing for more dense, mixed-use areas close to transit and economic centers, and prioritizing adaptive reuse of existing buildings.</b></p>		<p>The Comprehensive Plan, completed in 2024, includes strategies to encourage dense, walkable neighborhoods. First introduction of MDR and zoning reform recommendations to the Planning Board in April 2025.</p>
<p><b>Action 2.1.2: Establish criteria in subdivision, site plan, and Character-based Development Code to incorporate current climate data and manage adherence to land protection and stewardship goals.</b></p>		<p>The Planning and Sustainability Departments contracted with GPCOG to provide recommendations to integrate climate hazards and adaptation best practices into zoning and land use ordinances. In 2025, staff will review recommendations and collaborate with stakeholders to consider policy proposals.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 2.2: Increase tree canopy.</b></p>		
<p><b>Action 2.2.1: Assess current tree canopy cover and ensure resources for increasing cover by planting and maintaining climate- resilient species.</b></p>		<p>Tree Advisory Committee and YCS staff continue reforestation efforts, including a project at YES. Tree Stewardship Working Group may recommend creation of a canopy assessment and targets.</p>
<p><b>Action 2.2.2: Establish zoning ordinance and/or incentives that serve to protect mature trees and reduce lot clearing.</b></p>		<p>Tree Stewardship Working Group is presenting a Resolution for Town Council consideration before moving into assessment or ordinance development.</p>

# Appendix A. ALL ACTION PROGRESS

<b>Strategy 2.3: Support restoration of riverine and coastal ecosystems.</b>		
<b>Action 2.3.1: Restore the ecological function of the Royal River by removing all barriers, taking into consideration the river restoration feasibility study by the Army Corps of Engineers.</b>		In early 2025, the Town Council voted to approve a resolution committing to the restoration of the Royal River, including dam removal. Next steps include pursuing funding for relevant work.
<b>Action 2.3.2: Review the Royal River Corridor Plan (2009) and expand and update the Plan with a focus on climate resilience.</b>		Awaiting Resources
<b>Action 2.3.3: Promote guidance for protection/restoration of erodable bluffs, steep slopes, and shorelines using nature-based-solutions (regrading, tree-planting, retreat) for both private and town-owned lands.</b>		Sustainability Department creating a toolkit to educate homeowners on bluff erosion and solutions. The toolkit will be made available to the public in Summer 2025.
<b>Action 2.3.4: Amend zoning to increase shoreline setbacks for freshwater and saltwater areas while encouraging low-impact development, in consultation with DEP as applicable.</b>		The Planning and Engineering Departments will incorporate required Low Impact Development (LID) measures in accordance with upcoming Maine DEP requirements for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit.
<b>Goal 3: Reduce emissions from buildings while making homes and businesses resilient to climate change.</b>		
<b>Strategy 3.1: Actively promote weatherization, efficiency, electrification, and other emission-reducing upgrades in existing buildings.</b>		
<b>Action 3.1.1: Adopt a Commercial PACE ordinance and develop materials to support use of residential and commercial programs.</b>		The Town Council adopted a Commercial PACE ordinance in early 2025. Yarmouth businesses now have access to utilize this funding mechanism for low-interest loans on green investments.
<b>Action 3.1.2: Phase in an Energy Benchmarking Ordinance for large commercial, residential, and municipal and school facilities that begins with a pilot benchmarking program with businesses.</b>		Awaiting Resources. However, energy conservation plans and benchmarking pilot to be completed for two municipal facilities through a State technical assistance program in 2025-2026.
<b>Action 3.1.3: Review and update the Yarmouth Historic Preservation Advisory Ordinance to include tools, policies, and incentives that retain embodied carbon and increase energy efficiency in historic building rehabilitations.</b>		Awaiting Resources

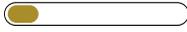
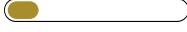
# Appendix A. ALL ACTION PROGRESS

<p><b>Action 3.1.4: Continue and expand Efficiency Yarmouth as a resource for residents.</b></p>		<p>The Sustainability Department was awarded a grant with GPCOG and the Town of Falmouth to initiate a free Energy Coaching service to households, which will be a new offering of Efficiency Yarmouth and initiated in 2025-26.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 3.2: Require new construction and major renovations to meet the highest standards for efficiency, carbon neutrality, and climate resilience by 2030.</b></p>		
<p><b>Action 3.2.1: Require and support new development and major renovations (including municipal and school) to be powered by renewable energy and climate resilient from 2030 on.</b></p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Action 3.2.2: Adopt the optional Maine Energy Stretch code IECC 2021 and advocate with the State for advancing energy codes in the future.</b></p>		<p>Maine adopted the 2021 IECC building code which went into effect in April, 2025.</p>
<p><b>Action 3.2.3: Integrate renewable energy and efficiency in affordable housing developments, with a focus on reducing housing costs for tenants.</b></p>		<p>Awaiting Resources. The Climate Action Board provides comments on development proposals via the Planning Board and advocates for energy efficiency, electrification, and resilience in affordable housing and commercial development.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 3.3: Adapt municipal and school buildings to climate resilient, zero emission facilities.</b></p>		
<p><b>Action 3.3.1: Develop and fund a plan for all school and municipal facilities to maximize energy efficiency and be powered by renewable energy by 2030.</b></p>		<p>In 2025, the School Committee officially integrated sustainability into their Core Commitments, including priorities to explore reducing emissions, minimizing waste, and incorporate environmental education across the curriculum. Several energy efficiency projects underway, including LED light retrofit at the Public Works garage and energy audits for two facilities, but at this time the Town does not have a comprehensive capital plan for achieving net zero facilities.</p>
<p><b>Action 3.3.2: Explore adopting a Carbon Shadow Price for addressing emissions produced through municipal capital investments.</b></p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>

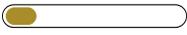
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<b>Goal 4: Meet 100% of electricity needs with renewable energy.</b>		
<b>Strategy 4.1: Foster development of reliable local renewable energy systems.</b>		
<b>Action 4.1.1: Require all new large developments (commercial, residential, or municipal) to evaluate feasibility of district energy or microgrids powered by renewable energy.</b>		Awaiting Resources
<b>Action 4.1.2: Develop and implement a Resilient Power Plan to ensure critical facilities in town have renewable backup power.</b>		Awaiting Resources Town facilities currently have generators.
<b>Strategy 4.2: Reduce barriers to implementing renewable energy.</b>		
<b>Action 4.2.1: Remove barriers in zoning/permitting of renewable energy generation and storage systems, such as implementing policies and practices necessary to achieve SolSmart Gold level certification (or equivalent).</b>		The Sustainability and Planning Departments are drafting ordinance language that sets standards for solar and battery storage of different sizes. Next steps include applying for SolSmart certification.
<b>Action 4.2.2: Develop, incentivize and celebrate local renewable energy generation and storage.</b>		The Town is working with a developer to propose a 1 MW community solar project on Sligo Road that will generate clean energy for subscribed Yarmouth households.
<b>Action 4.2.3: Provide and maintain publicly available resources for residents to facilitate renewable energy adoption.</b>		Awaiting Resources
<b>Action 4.2.4: Develop requirements and design guidance for on-site renewable energy generation and electrification in new construction and major renovations.</b>		Awaiting Resources Standards included in proposed solar ordinance.
<b>Action 4.2.5: Advocate to position the Wyman station facility to support the town's climate action goals.</b>		Yarmouth received technical assistance through the Maine Community Energy Redevelopment Program (MECERP) to support locally determined revitalization projects at current and former industrial sites to support economic and clean energy goals (i.e., Wyman Station). EDAB has a Wyman Station Work Group that is determining next steps.
<b>Strategy 4.3: Pursue 100% renewable energy reliance for government operations.</b>		
<b>Action 4.3.1: Build upon current Municipal and School Power Purchase Agreement to meet 100% of current and forecasted electricity needs with renewable energy.</b>		YCAB is working with the Town's Finance Director to understand the utilization of the solar power credits available from the Town's 20-year power purchase agreement before recommending augmentation.

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<b>Goal 5: Reduce community waste.</b>		
<b>Strategy 5.1: Minimize waste and prioritize sustainable consumption.</b>		
Action 5.1.1: Phase out single use materials in commercial spaces by adopting single use item bans and promoting reuse systems.		Awaiting Resources
Action 5.1.2: Launch a business recognition and outreach program to provide resources for businesses to reduce waste.		Awaiting Resources. YCAB initiated program development and will determine next steps for 2025-26.
Action 5.1.3: Adopt a Municipal Sustainable Purchasing Policy.		Awaiting Resources
Action 5.1.4: Assess opportunities to reduce waste from town operations and facilities by tracking waste and developing a zero waste plan.		Awaiting Resources
<b>Strategy 5.2: Promote a circular resource sharing economy.</b>		
Action 5.2.1: Develop a library of things that serves as a space to foster opportunities for residents to reuse, repair, and create items and materials.		Library has purchased power stations, among other items to launch a Library of Things. YCAB aims to explore reuse and repair community events.
<b>Strategy 5.3: Expand reuse, recycling and composting infrastructure, services, and education.</b>		
Action 5.3.1: Phase in requirements for composting at businesses and apartment buildings that promotes reuse solutions over single use bioplastics.		Awaiting Resources
Action 5.3.2: Require recycling in commercial and multifamily residential buildings by 2026.		Awaiting Resources. Sustainability Department may partner with EcoMaine's Multi-Unit Recycling Program to engage Yarmouth residential developments.
Action 5.3.3: Explore construction and demolition waste ordinances.		Yarmouth's ResilienceCorps Fellow completed research on opportunities for the Town to integrate construction and demolition policies, and confirmed further State and regional direction is needed to facilitate local action.
Action 5.3.4: Enact strategies to minimize waste at Clam Festival and strive to reach zero waste event standards by 2030.		Clam Festival directors continue to integrate and explore and implement waste reduction practices, such as recycling cooking oil and increasing compostable options.

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<b>Goal 6: Permanently conserve 30% of Yarmouth land by 2050.</b>		
Strategy 6.1: Identify resources and build a clear process for local land conservation.		
Action 6.1.1: Assess and prioritize new conservation opportunities, using the Yarmouth Open Space Plan (2019) as a prioritization guide, with a focus on connectivity, carbon storage, habitat, and public access.		The Open Space Plan (2019) Conservation Values Map is being updated by committee volunteers.
Action 6.1.2: Increase the Town's Land Acquisition Fund to a minimum of \$1 million, funded through a Land Bond, grants, and/or annual town budget allocations.		Awaiting Resources
Action 6.1.3: Assess town-owned lands for permanent protection.		Awaiting Resources
Strategy 6.2: Protect properties through purchase or easement with willing landowners, or through partnerships.		
Action 6.2.1: Utilize funds to permanently protect prioritized Town- owned lands.		Awaiting Resources
Action 6.2.2: Partner with willing landowners to permanently conserve land that sustains or enhances carbon sequestration and improves climate resiliency.		Awaiting Resources
<b>Goal 7: Adopt stewardship practices that increase carbon storage and enhance the ecosystem's resilience to climate change.</b>		
Strategy 7.1: Manage all town-owned Open Space for climate resilience and to maximize carbon sequestration.		
Action 7.1.1: Add sections on climate resilience and carbon storage to existing management plans for all town-owned Open Space and include these sections in plan updates moving forward.		YCS is developing a management plan for Camp SOCI that includes sections on climate resiliency and storage.
Action 7.1.2: Develop a dedicated Stewardship Fund for Town- owned open spaces, to be funded through private and public contributions.		Awaiting Resources
Strategy 7.2: Manage invasive plant species.		
Action 7.2.1: Implement and update the Three-year Invasive Vegetation Management Plan to include all town and school vegetation management practices.		YCS is working to implement the three-year invasive plan. Camp SOCI is the next area to be included in the Invasive Management Plan as part of the management plan for that space.

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<p>Action 7.2.2: Develop subdivision ordinance requirements for invasive species management plans.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p>Action 7.2.3: Incentivize invasive species management by private landowners and HOAs through education and outreach.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Strategy 7.3: Support sustainable landscaping by private landowners.</b></p>		
<p>Action 7.3.1: Promote resources for individual residents and business owners to engage in sustainable landscaping to absorb stormwater, protect wetlands and local ecology.</p>		<p>Y CAB and the Sustainability Department continue seasonal education campaigns on stewardship and sustainable landscaping. Various Town projects are also incorporating green infrastructure, such as a new bioswale in Royal River Park to be installed in 2026.</p>
<p>Action 7.3.2: Develop protective rules and incentives to reduce or eliminate ecosystem damaging fertilizer, pesticides, and toxic contaminants reaching our lands and waters.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Goal 8: Protect public safety by integrating climate projections into emergency preparedness protocols.</b></p>		
<p><b>Strategy 8.1: Enhance the community’s preparedness for heat waves and intensifying storms.</b></p>		
<p>Action 8.1.1: Develop a local Hazard Mitigation and Heat Wave Management Plan and implement protocols that address disasters such as intense storms, heat waves, and extended power outages.</p>		<p>Town staff continue to strategize on protocols for providing warming centers. Library’s lending programs will have a focus on resilience resources.</p>
<p>Action 8.1.2: Enhance early warning systems and community evacuation plans.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p>Action 8.1.3: Map town services to identify potential gaps in access for all, especially underrepresented populations.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p>Action 8.1.4: Assess town-owned open spaces and waterways for capacity for increased use during more high heat days, and plan for safe and equitable access</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Strategy 8.2: Plan for the impact of sea level rise and flooding.</b></p>		
<p>Action 8.2.1: Complete the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist and develop an implementation plan to reduce impacts from sea level rise, riverine flooding, and runoff from impervious surfaces.</p>		<p>The Planning and Sustainability Departments are working with GPCOG to audit Town ordinances and identify opportunities to incorporate flood resilience best practices. Implementation of the project recommendations will align with the purposes of the Maine Flood Resilience Checklist.</p>

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<p><b>Action 8.2.2:</b> Revise the floodplain management ordinance to incorporate the anticipated FEMA maps and ensure additional adjustments account for climate change.</p>		<p>Amendments to Chapter 315, Floodplain Management Ordinance, and adjustments to the extent of the Resource Protection District, were adopted by the Town Council in April 2025. The Resilience Audit will also yield recommendations related to integrating climate change impacts into land use policy and standards. Policies required by MDEP related to reducing flood risk and managing stormwater development practices are upcoming in 2025-26.</p>
<p><b>Action 8.2.3:</b> Develop a Working Waterfront Strategic Plan to assess needs for supporting coastal commercial establishments in town, including practices that address climate change mitigation or adaptation.</p>		<p>Economic and Community Development Department will begin the development of a Working Waterfront Master Plan, incorporating climate change data for best adaptation strategies for waterfront infrastructure and businesses at risk.</p>
<p><b>Action 8.2.4:</b> Inform residents and businesses of the potential damage from floods and sea level rise.</p>		<p>Sustainability Department developing a Coastal Bluff Toolkit to educate residents about potential damage from coastal erosion.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 8.3:</b> Prepare for long-term viability of town drinking water supply.</p>		
<p><b>Action 8.3.1:</b> Collaborate with Yarmouth Water District to assess resilience of town water supply quality and quantity based on climate modeling.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Goal 9: Enhance public health to improve community resilience to climate change.</b></p>		
<p><b>Strategy 9.1:</b> Pursue equitable access to resources on climate-related health risks.</p>		
<p><b>Action 9.1.1:</b> Cultivate neighborhood hubs to share climate, energy, and resilience resources, utilizing a similar neighborhood model that was developed in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Action 9.1.2:</b> Develop a community atlas for town organizations and resources, including resilience resources, adaptation tools, and public health and safety information.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Action 9.1.3:</b> Launch a campaign to educate residents on impacts of climate change to mental and physical health.</p>		<p>The library held several events focused on climate change topics, including an event highlighting staying safe during intensifying storms.</p>

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<p><b>Action 9.1.4:</b> Partner with local health and wellness service providers, including educators, to promote access to resources that address chronic stressors, including mental health services.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Strategy 9.2:</b> Support sustainable landscaping by private landowners.</p>		
<p><b>Action 9.2.1:</b> Adopt policies that help preserve existing agriculture operations, facilitate new food production, and support local food distribution systems.</p>		<p>In March 2025, the Planning Board voted to recommend a zoning text amendment to allow facilities for storage and processing of Agricultural Products under 3,000 square feet, and reviewed as a Special Exception and Major Site Plan, for the Rural Residential zone.</p>
<p><b>Strategy 9.3:</b> Improve access for Yarmouth residents to open space.</p>		
<p><b>Action 9.3.1:</b> Complete mapping analysis to identify residents further than a ten-minute walk from green space (public lands, conserved areas, parks, etc.) and integrate into land use planning.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Goal 10: Protect critical infrastructure.</b></p>		
<p><b>Strategy 10.1:</b> Evaluate and improve at-risk public infrastructure.</p>		
<p><b>Action 10.1.1:</b> Conduct a vulnerability impact assessment incorporating projected climate impacts for at-risk public works infrastructure (e.g. water, sewer, culverts, roads, bridges) then develop priorities for investment.</p>		<p>Engineering department has upgraded 3 culverts to meet StreamSmart criteria. Along with supporting numerous infrastructure upgrades to buildings, roads, bridges, and sidewalks.</p>
<p><b>Action 10.1.2:</b> Follow the CoastWise manual guidelines for evaluating, designing and replacing climate-resilient tidal crossings.</p>		<p>Awaiting Resources</p>
<p><b>Action 10.1.3:</b> Assess public waterfront infrastructure and town- owned shorelines for vulnerability to sea level rise projections and incorporate appropriate upgrades into capital strategies.</p>		<p>The Working Waterfront Master Plan will incorporate coastal risk and resiliency considerations (8.2.3). Building on the Vulnerability Assessment (GPCOG, 2024), the Sustainability and Planning Departments are conducting an ordinance audit to incorporate resiliency best practices. Implementation of the recommendations will include policy and capital strategies to enhance coastal resiliency of public and private infrastructure.</p>