

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.

Community name:	Town of Northport
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	James Kossuth, Town Administrator 16 Beech Hill Road Northport, ME 04849 338-3819x6, administrator@northportmaine.org
Date:	June 14, 2023
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	The June 12, 2023, community workshop discussed the List of Actions, as well as the Town’s strengths and vulnerabilities. The workshop did not specifically discuss this evaluation, but this evaluation is prepared in light of the discussion at the workshop.

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

What are two things your community is doing well?	(1) Engaging and communicating with the community on these issues, thru an online survey, community workshop, and word of mouth; (2) recruiting community members to take a more active role in resiliency planning
What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?	(1) Direct outreach to more vulnerable and less-engaged populations (older, lower income); (2) Updating older policies and ordinances
What is important for your community to address in the long-term?	Shoreline stabilization
What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?	(1) Stabilizing the shoreline in specific areas to prevent further damage to the bank and possibly undermine roads; (2) Conducting a vulnerability assessment for other critical community infrastructure; (3) Conducting a community vulnerability assessment to identify risks and vulnerable

	populations; (4) Increasing outreach and peer-to-peer connections with more vulnerable populations (older, lower income).
--	---

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards	
1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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: Not specifically. We have the 2020 Waldo County Hazard Identification, Risk Assessment, and Consequence Analysis Plan, but we have not specifically assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards on our own.
2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?	<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: We have not specifically tracked changes over time, but we have been collecting anecdotal evidence that some events, such as very intense rainstorms, are becoming more frequent and more intense.
3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Explanation: Intense rainstorms cause road flooding at the same locations each time – Bog Road, Beech Hill Road, and Prescott Hill Road – which can hinder emergency services.
4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Explanation: Not yet. We are hoping that the Community Resilience Partnership is a step in that direction.
5) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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: We are using this Community Resilience Partnership process to begin that process.
6) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?	<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:

7) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?	<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: We started this process because of our increasing awareness of the risk to the Town’s shoreline and associated infrastructure (roads, parks) from increasingly intense rainstorms and coastal flooding. There will always, by definition, be blind spots, but we will always work to identifying as many “unknown unknowns” as we can.

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
--	--

8) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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: We are not actively tracking these characteristics and trends. Our comprehensive plan was last updated in 2003.
9) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Look in your community’s comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.	Explanation: See above. Until we start tracking the characteristics and trends, we are not in a position to proactively address vulnerabilities associated with them.
10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Explanation: The Town has close to \$1M in its undesignated fund balance that could be used in an emergency.
11) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	Explanation: We do have a mutual aid agreement with Waldo County for EMS, and mutual aid agreements with Belfast and Lincolnville for fire.

Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
--	--

12) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan	Explanation: The comprehensive plan was last updated

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.	in 2003, and we are hoping that thru this Community Resilience Partnership we will begin to develop plans and policies.
---	---

13) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This is different from Question 10 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: We do not currently have any in place, but we could create new funding sources if necessary.
14) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?	<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: We have a floodplain ordinance that imposes conditions on building or rebuilding in flood-prone areas.
15) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?	<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:
16) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Does the community have a way of making important decisions when information is incomplete or unavailable?	Explanation: We adopted an emergency operations plan in 2013, and it should probably be reviewed and updated.