

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:	Bowdoinham
Self-Evaluation responses provided by: Please include contact info	Yvette Meunier, Director of Planning & Development, and Staff of the Comprehensive Planning Committee Jenn Curtis, Director of Planning & Development, and the Comprehensive Planning Committee
Date:	August 13, 2024 June 14, 2022
Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop? Include the date of the workshop.	Discussed during a Comprehensive Planning Committee meeting on August 13, 2024 June 14, 2022

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?	Keeping our Comprehensive Plan Current (Adopted June 1, 2024). Implementing existing plans, such as the Comprehensive Plan, including the replacement of culverts. Engaging in volunteerism – the Community has a robust volunteer ethic, with many active community-support organizations.
What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?	Updating the Land Use Ordinance to encourage smart growth. Create a Public Health Committee Update the Comprehensive Plan as informed by the Community Resilience Partnership Prioritize and implement strategies in the new Comprehensive Plan.
What is important for your community to address in the long-term?	Preparing for low probability, high consequence events

What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?

Replace the Abbagadasset Bridge on Brown's Point Rd ([DOT plans to do this in Summer 2025](#))
~~Increase energy efficiency at town facilities, to include lighting, heat pumps, window replacement, etc.~~ [Develop the Waterfront Park](#)
[Continue to support the Merrymeeting Trail](#)
[Protect working agricultural land](#)
Increase the Rainy-Day Fund
Improve reliability of electrical service by producing our own electricity, and installing back-up generators for town facilities
The Committee also identified as priorities:
Increasing EV charger capacity to improve resilience
Plan for a conservation goal of conserving 30% of land in the community by 2030 and ensuring adequate shoreline stabilization along the shoreline to keep the land we have.
Ensuring adequate groundwater protection, including resilience from flooding

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards	
1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?	<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: A delegation of staff and self-selected community members took part in the effort to update the Sagadahoc County Hazard Mitigation Plan, with specific information about Bowdoinham.
2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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 Community reviewed the previous list of Hazard Mitigation Goals at the meeting mentioned above. Several culvert replacement actions had been taken. One recurring important issue is the need to replace the <u>and the DOT is prepared to replace the Abbagadasset Bridge on Browns Point Road in 2025d.</u> The community also identified the need for shoreline stabilization, continued work to replace culverts, and the need to floodproof a town-owned building in the flood zone, among other things.
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: To some degree; for instance, the weight limit posting on a local bridge impedes loaded fire-trucks from driving over it to access the properties on the other side.
4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Explanation: Bowdoinham has completed several of the culvert replacement / improvement projects that were listed as planned in the previous version of the HMP. Recently, the community took steps to amend the Shoreland Zoning ordinance to better prepare the village gas station for flooding.
6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <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: The Town has a higher-than-required freeboard. <u>The Town has been offering heating and cooling shelters during extreme weather events. Prolonged power outages and lack of cell service are concerns we need to address.</u>
7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	Explanation: The Comprehensive Planning Committee is considering proximal events in its planning.
8) 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: Tick-borne illnesses are a great concern in the community. The Volunteer Fire Department has been training to do controlled burns to manage wildfires. The Comprehensive Planning Committee is considering drinking water contamination risk. The Committee recently recommended several uses with high drinking water contamination risk be disallowed from the rural agricultural district, where there is no public water source available. The Committee is also recommending a new Public Health Committee be established that would be responsive to health threats.

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?	<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: As part of the 10-year Comprehensive Planning cycle, the Committee documents characteristics of people and housing needs.
10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input 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 comprehensive plan supports creation of diverse housing, including affordable housing; support for the Age Friendly Committee, and providing public services in a manner that supports growth in identified growth areas. The village walkability plan prioritizes a sidewalk to Preble St, where there is an affordable housing complex. The Town has abundant volunteers working at the Fire and Rescue Department, the Food Pantry, the Age Friendly Committee, and the Gift Shop, which provides donated household goods and clothing for free.
10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Explanation: the town aspires to.

12) 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: The Bowdoinham Fire and Rescue engages in mutual aid with neighboring communities. Merrymeeting Hall, a recently rehabbed Legion Hall in the village that is run by the Historical Society, opened its doors to victims of a fire this last winter .

Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input 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: 20 + <u>24</u> Comprehensive Plan Chapter on Sea Level Rise & Climate Change that includes goals, key issues, recommendations, and plan implementation.
14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input 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: Sometimes. The Town is challenged to maintain older roads and buildings and maintain existing sidewalks, and parks.
15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input 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: Yes; the Town of Bowdoinham requires new construction or substantial improvement located within Zone AE to have the lowest floor elevated three feet above the base flood elevation.
16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or a financial health analysis.	Explanation: County EMA runs tabletop exercises annually or other training/analysis that Bowdoinham participates in.

17) 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: The Town has an Emergency Operations Plan that attempts to guide operations and best practices in a large-scale event (natural or man-made).