

## 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.

<b>Community name:</b>	Town of Greenwood 593 Gore Road Greenwood ME 04255
<b>Self-Evaluation responses provided by:</b> Please include contact info	Kim Sparks, Town Manager <a href="mailto:kimsparks@roadrunner.com">kimsparks@roadrunner.com</a> 207-875-2773
<b>Date:</b>	5/02/2022
<b>Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop?</b> Include the date of the workshop.	

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

<b>What are two things your community is doing well?</b>	Keeping the property tax rate down for our taxpayers and provide excellent customer service. We have been able to achieve this through energy saving measures such as upgrading out streetlights to LEDs and signing a purchase power agreement with a solar farm. In addition, we collaborate regionally to help provide additional services to our seniors and vulnerable populations.
<b>What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?</b>	There are additional energy savings the town could achieve in our facilities and equipment. In addition, the integrity of our roads is a priority for safety and commerce. Roads and culverts are becoming more susceptible to damage from extreme weather events and
<b>What is important for your community to address in the long-term?</b>	Energy savings. Reduce the risks of flooding on our roads and infrastructure. Increase affordable housing.

<b>What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?</b>	1. Work to lesson our dependency on fossil fuels 2. Work on ways to conserve energy 3. Educate our residents on importance of saving energy <b>Need to ask the community what they think too here</b>
<b>Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards</b>	
<b>1) Has your community assessed the likelihood of various types of hazards or disruptive events?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
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: In 2017 as part of our Hazard Mitigation Plan Greenwood took an extensive inventory of our assets and their risk to extreme weather events brining more ice, stronger winds, and flooding. The plan ranks projects in terms of priority.  In addition, we assessed the likelihood of hazard or chemical spill along Route 26 as being high. We have also identified forest fires, drought, dam failure as other potential events of concern.
<b>2) Has your community assessed how the likelihood of each hazard has changed over time and may change in the future?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
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 noticed that storms seem to be stronger – more ice and windstorms. We also are experiencing more drought which in turn could result to wildfires and dry wells. We have tracked hazardous spill events and speeding on Route 26 which is trending upward.
<b>3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Explanation: Flooding of the sand/salt shed could have impacts on treating roads causing further disruption during winter weather events. Greenwood Road is a vital access road for our community which serves as the main road connecting us to outside resources like hospitals, or additional fire/life safety response. Flooding on several other roads in the community could also impeded or slow down access to residents in an emergency if roads are compromised by flood waters and negatively impact businesses. Structural damage is most likely along Alder River and along the Little Androscoggin which could cause loss of life, shutdown local businesses, damage streets, bridges and other infrastructure and buildings.  Severe winter storms also may disrupt transportation, emergency response and other community services as well as electrical power and phone service which impacts local industry. Snow load can also cause buildings to collapse. There are also health risks to consider when combining cold, overexertion and slick surfaces.

	<p>Severe summer storms can produce high winds, rain, hail and lightening that can cause power outages, fires, flash flooding and road closures.</p> <p>Road closures that could also be caused by hazardous spills threatens public health and environmental resources and risks damage to properties.</p> <p>Hazards resulting from an earthquake could include danger to life and property from falling objects and structural failure, including of our three dams which could inundate the area, cause loss of life, and impact utilities and property and force the evacuation of people and essential resources. It could also include loss of power and telephone service. A significant event would result in a great need for search and rescue resources and firefighting.</p> <p>Prolonged drought could have consequential effects including dry or low domestic wells, loss of drinking water, economic loss to businesses and increased danger of forest fires.</p>
<p><b>4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.</p>	<p>Explanation: We are presently working on updating our Hazard Mitigation Plan. Road infrastructure needs were well identified in the 2017 plan and prescribed to hedge impacts of road flooding. These includes updating culverts, shoring up bridges, improving drainage, stabilizing slopes, and building up roads. We have also identified vulnerable infrastructure such as the town hall which will benefit from improved drainage as well as the relocation of the sand/salt building and equipment to an area less susceptible to flooding. Greenwood also participates in the National Flood Insurance Program which assists properties located in the 100-year flood plain purchase flood insurance.</p> <p>Greenwood has also identified additional fire suppression needs as fire becomes a more serious threat in the face of prolonged droughts. The town was ranked 9/10 with 10 being the lowest for the last full Insurance Services Office which set the Fire Suppression Rating. The town has also prepared a community Emergency Checklist Plan that lays out procedures to respond to natural and technical hazards.</p>
<p><b>6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>

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: All new culvert replacements are being built to withstand a 100-year flood event. Through the AARP partnership in the Bethel Region Age-Friendly Community Initiative seniors living alone can receive a call each day from a neighbor to check in on their well-being, provide them rides, and provide them with other health and safety resources when a prolonged power outage is anticipated, or to ensure they are not experiencing hardship during a heat wave or when heating assistance may be needed.
<b>7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?</b>	<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 town's Emergency Checklist Plan would address multiple events such as flooding, followed by dam failure.
<b>8) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?</b>	<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 have identified the potential for emerging risks associated with prolonged drought resulting in private wells in private wells drying out and additional risk of wildfires.

Understanding Sensitivity and Building Resilience	
<b>9) Is your community tracking underlying societal characteristics and trends that increase vulnerability?</b>	<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: Greenwood has an aging population with limited affordable housing for our residents.
<b>10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

<p>Look in your community's comprehensive plan or economic development plan for strategies that might address these trends.</p>	<p>Explanation: Greenwood has several ways to help elderly and low-income residents age in place and stay in the community including offering demand response door-to-door transportation through Western Maine Transportation Service. In addition, the AARP Bethel Region Age-Friendly Community Initiative provides a service to seniors check in on their well-being, provide them rides, and provide them with other health and safety resources when a prolonged power outage is anticipated, or to ensure they are not experiencing hardship during a heat wave or when heating assistance may be needed.</p> <p>Town policy is to seek to achieve 10% of new year-round residential development to meet affordable housing guidelines as required in the Growth Management Law. We are working with the Maine Forest Center and the towns of Newry, Bethel, and Woodstock to develop an ordinance that supports increased densities and housing types that serve the elderly, and include affordable housing.</p>
<p><b>10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>For example, a rainy-day fund.</p>	<p>Explanation: Our auditors require that we have at least 50% of our operating budget in reserve in the event that something does occur.</p>
<p><b>12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?</b></p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes      <input type="checkbox"/> No</p>
<p>For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.</p>	<p>Explanation: We have mutual aid agreements with our neighboring towns for ambulance and firefighting services. We also can rely on the Bethel Region Age-Friendly Community Initiative to reach seniors.</p>

Improving Long-term Adaptive Capacity	
<b>13) Does your community have plans or policies that anticipate future climate risks and community sensitivity trends?</b>	<input checked="" 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: Our Hazard Mitigation plan does account for 100-year flooding impacts to infrastructure for capital improvements.
<b>14) Are there resources to sustain new capacity when needed?</b>	<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:
<b>15) Does the community have policies in place to build back smarter or recover with resilience after a disruptive event?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" 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: The Town's Floodplain Management Ordinance requires properties within the flood hazard area to apply for a Flood Hazard Development Permit to elevate structures out of the flood zones.
<b>16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
This might be a table-top exercise with emergency management and community stakeholders, or financial health analysis.	Explanation: Greenwood has mutual aid agreements with our neighboring towns of Bethel, West Paris, Woodstock for firefighting services. Together the communities drill on response to several types of emergencies.
<b>17) Does the community have a policy or process for managing uncertainty?</b>	<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?	We adopted an Emergency Operations Plan in 2016 which identifies the responsibilities and processes to manage emergencies.