

Maine Climate Council

Community Resilience Working Group

Co-Chairs:

- Judy East, Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
- Rebecca Boulos, Maine Public Health Association
- Anne Fuchs, Maine Emergency Management Agency

Facilitator: Melanie Gárate, Consensus Building Institute



GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF
Policy Innovation
and the Future



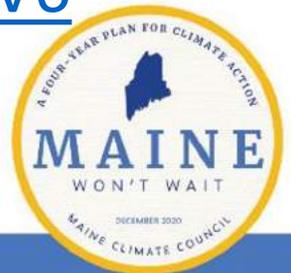
MAINE DEPARTMENT OF
Environmental Protection



February 29, 2024

Welcome

- If you are a working group member:
 - please rename yourselves and add *asterisk in front of your name
- If you are a member of the public and / or interested state staff
 - please rename yourselves to include “public participant”
- Everyone’s voices are valuable
 - We will take working group member comments / questions first
 - Public participants, please add your comments and questions to the chat and we will make time to get to them
- Fill out demographics form: <https://forms.gle/BbNp1aJsDqcSB8eV6>
 - Only have to fill out once – all participants can fill out



This meeting will be recorded.

Meeting Goals

Members discuss draft recommendations for:

- Integrating resilience and emergency management response / recovery planning
- Getting out of harm's way
- Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

Meeting Agenda

- 9:00 am Welcome
- 9:10 am Draft policy recommendations: Integrating resilience and emergency management response/recovery planning & discussion
- 10:00 am Draft policy recommendations Getting out of harm's way
- 10:50 am BREAK
- 11:00 am Draft policy recommendations: Resilience goals and metrics & discussion
- 11:50 am Next steps
- 12:00 pm Adjourn



Guidance on feedback for draft policy recommendations

- Subworking group members will share their draft policy recommendations first
- Then, they will go back, to the top to solicit feedback from the group, recommendation, by recommendation
- Grab a pen and paper! This is a lot of information and we are always restricted by time - we suggest you take notes on items you want to give feedback on and share when we get into discussion.
- As always, please raise your hands and be concise on your feedback. Use the chat as needed.
- We will share out after meeting for further comment

**Subgroup: Integrating resilience
and emergency management
response/recovery planning**

Draft policy recommendations





Integrating Resilience and Emergency Management, Response, and Recovery Planning

Subgroup presentation to the Maine Climate Council
Community Resilience Working Group



February 29, 2024



Natural Hazard Planning

- Requires cooperation between federal, state, county, local, and nongovernmental partners.
- Top-down approach vs. bottom-up approach
- Combination of both approaches is most likely to lead to success.



Image: Prescribed Fire Training Exchange hosted by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) in Maine in 2022.

Accessed from: <https://www.maine.gov/ifw/blogs/mdifw-blog/fired-about-conservation>

Equity Considerations

- Frontline, underserved, disadvantaged communities most strongly impacted but less able to recover
- Equity of investment, communications, assistance, etc.
 - Access to planning process and resources
- Environmental justice
- Respect for place, knowledge, history, etc.

Agencies and Groups Involved

- Federal
 - Congress
 - FEMA
 - Land management agencies
- State
 - Planning, funding, technical assistance agencies
 - Provides direct response, often to major, complex, or remote incidents
- County:
 - Emergency Management Agencies (EMAs)
 - Law enforcement
- Local:
 - Town governments and planners
 - Local fire, police, EMS
- Nongovernmental:
 - Private companies
 - Charities and nonprofits
 - Informal networks

Key Barriers

- Lack of capacity at all levels, especially local
- Communication
 - Language, ability, trust, access to technology, cultural, etc.
 - Better cooperation between agencies and governments is needed
- Lack of awareness
- Climate change, uncertainty



Image: future high water sign, Belfast, ME.

Accessed from:

<https://www.bangordailynews.com/2021/10/10/midcoast/new-flood-markers-emphasize-the-dangers-sea-level-rise-poses-to-belfast/>

Key Questions when Framing Discussion

- How can we raise awareness of the need for natural hazard planning?
- How can we better communicate?
- How can we ensure that plans account for current community needs and known hazards while planning for predicted hazards?
- How can the state better support county and local governments, and at-risk communities, in this process?

Overview

Created recommended actions for the following:

- **Existing Recommendation 1:** Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts
- **Proposed Recommendation 2:** Enhance the ability of the State of Maine to facilitate timely and effective natural hazard assessment, planning, mitigation, and response
- **Existing Recommendation 3:** Emphasize Resilience Through Land-Use Planning and Legal Tools
- **Existing Recommendation 4:** Strengthen Public-Health Monitoring, Education, and Prevention

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Existing Recommendation 1: Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

Proposed Action 1: Educate communities, including county and local governments, about the full range of natural hazards that may impact them.

Proposed Action 2: Create a list of natural hazards for communities to consider when creating Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) or similar plans.

Proposed Action 3: Improve usability of climate and natural hazard data for communities, make it readily available and accessible, and use it to help build support for climate action, emphasizing maps and visual storytelling.

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Existing Recommendation 1: Empower Local and Regional Community Resilience Efforts

Proposed Action 4: Work with formal and informal networks and trusted community partners to disseminate information on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery to those who may not be reached by traditional media.

Proposed Action 5: Create and maintain a public database of Maine Climate Corps positions, fellowships, and other opportunities for communities to find assistance with climate and hazard mitigation planning.

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Proposed Recommendation 2: Enhance the ability of the State of Maine to facilitate timely and effective natural hazard assessment, planning, mitigation, and response.

Proposed Action 1: Ensure that state agencies have adequate staff and resources to maximize external funding opportunities and provide technical assistance. Maximize cooperation between and within state agencies to share data and resources.

Proposed Action 2: Enhance opportunities for hazard mitigation and/or response training for state employees. Increase opportunities for qualified state employees to assist with natural disaster response and recovery.

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Proposed Recommendation 2: Enhance the ability of the State of Maine to facilitate timely and effective natural hazard assessment, planning, mitigation, and response.

Proposed Action 3: Provide and promote opportunities for volunteers to assist with natural hazard mitigation, disaster recovery, and damage assessment.

Proposed Action 4: Collaborate with Volunteer Maine to evaluate opportunities for funding or otherwise facilitating volunteer management and leadership training for emergency managers and to support recruitment of volunteers.

Proposed Action 5: Provide resources and technical assistance for regions to engage in asset mapping to build relationships across sectors and reduce communication barriers.

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Existing Recommendation 3: Emphasize Resilience Through Land-Use Planning and Legal Tools

Proposed Action 1: Maintain current hazard mitigation plans (HMPs) and other applicable natural hazard risk assessments. HMPs and similar plans should rank projects by the number of potential co-benefits, including to frontline and disadvantaged communities.

Proposed Action 2: Require that communities consider natural hazards when creating or updating Comprehensive Plans.

Proposed Action 3: Require that assessment of natural hazards within HMPs be based on available quantitative and/or geospatial data in addition to the feedback and experience of community leaders and first responders.

Strategy F: Build Healthy and Resilient Communities

Existing Recommendation 4: Strengthen Public-Health Monitoring, Education, and Prevention

Proposed Action 1: Create a list of public health hazards for communities to consider when creating Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs) or similar plans.

Proposed Action 2: Assess air quality exposures and health outcomes in low income and rural communities, including impacts of wildfire smoke impacts to those without forced air heating and cooling.

Proposed Action 3: Maintain and expand opportunities for financial, technical, and workforce assistance for urban forestry in underserved and disadvantaged communities exposed to extreme heat.

**Subgroup: Getting out of
harm's way**
Draft policy recommendations



“Getting Out of Harm’s Way”

Policy Concepts for the CRWG’s Consideration

Sub-Working Group:

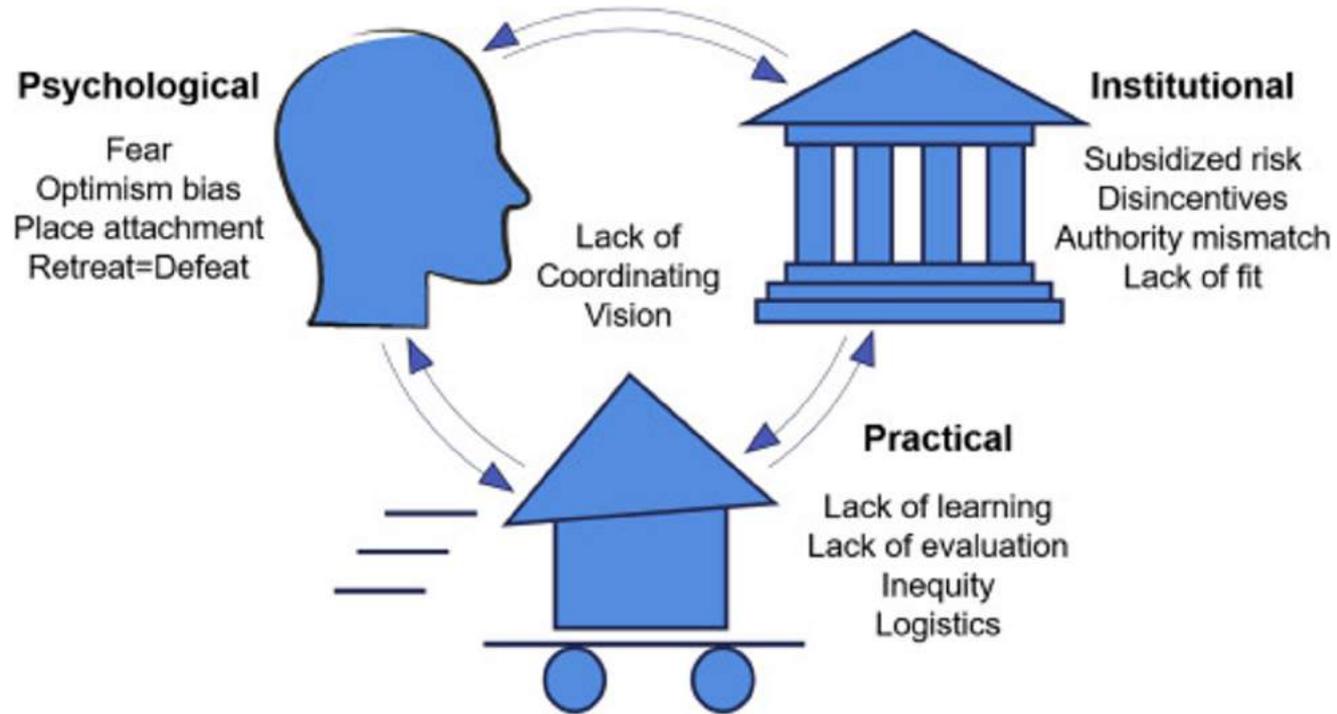
Andrew Dorr (Town of Damariscotta); Jessica Brunacini (Maine Sea Grant / Casco Bay Estuary Partnership); Jessie Perkins (Bethel Area Chamber of Commerce); Judy East (Bureau of Resource Information and Land Use Planning); Kathleen Leyden (Maine Coastal Program); Pete Slovinsky (Maine Geological Survey); Stephanie Welch (Island Institute)

First, some acknowledgements



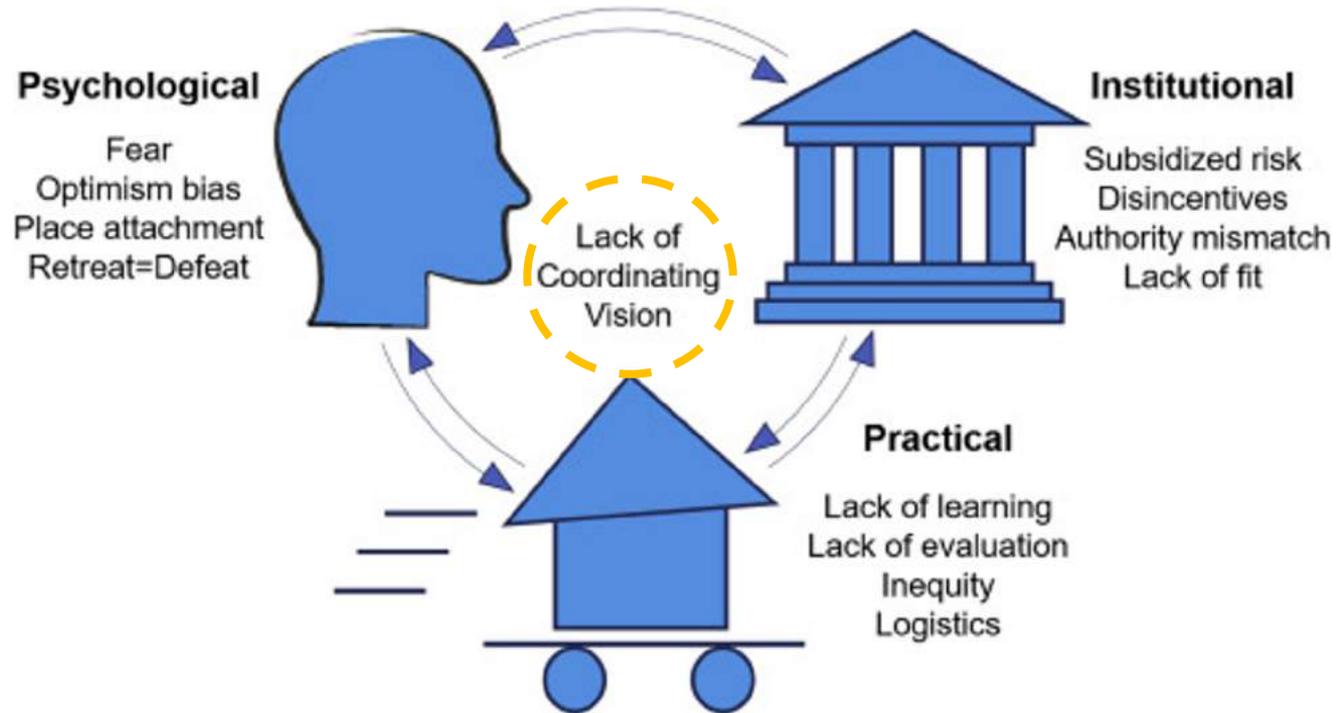
Image credit:
Mark Wiley, Appledore Aerial Imaging

Barriers to “Getting Out of Harm’s Way”



Source: A.R. Siders, 2019

Barriers to “Getting Out of Harm’s Way”



Policy Concept #1: Develop or strengthen policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms to support coordinated actions across the full spectrum of resilience strategies (Avoid, Protect, Accommodate/Adapt, and Remove/Relocate)



Strategy	Protect	Accommodate / Adapt	Avoid	Remove / Relocate
<i>Approach</i>	E.g., Improved permitting for Nature-Based Solutions	E.g., Increase Floodplain Management Ordinance to BFE+3	E.g., Establish Transfer of Development Rights program	E.g., Explore a statewide voluntary buyout program



Coordinating Incremental and Transformative Resilience Strategies

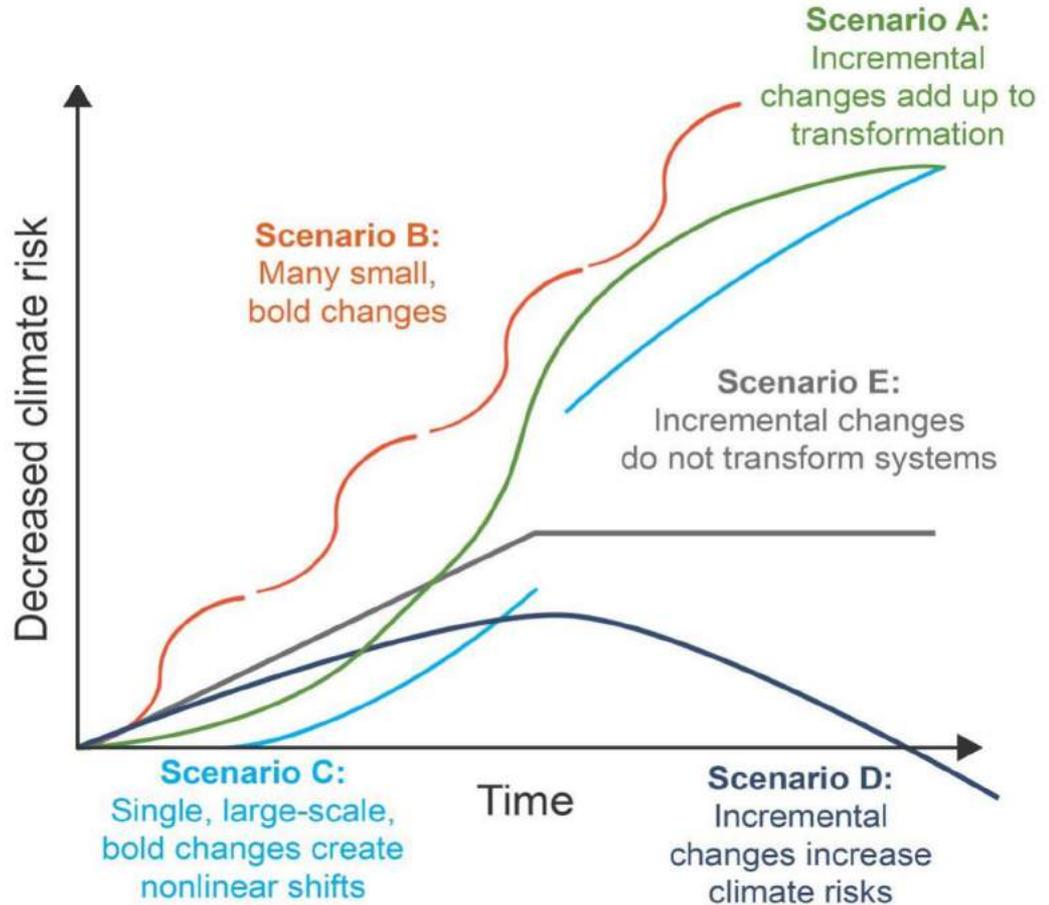


Figure 31.3, NCA 5 (Wasley et al. 2023)

Policy Concept #2: Conduct a feasibility study to explore potential funding mechanisms for, as well as social, economic, and cultural implications of, a state-level buyout and acquisition program

Voluntary Buyouts: A challenging policy conversation

A choice between two disagreeable solutions

Social and psychological attachment to place

History of forced relocation of people and communities in the United States

Loss of cultural heritage

Upfront costs and funding mechanisms

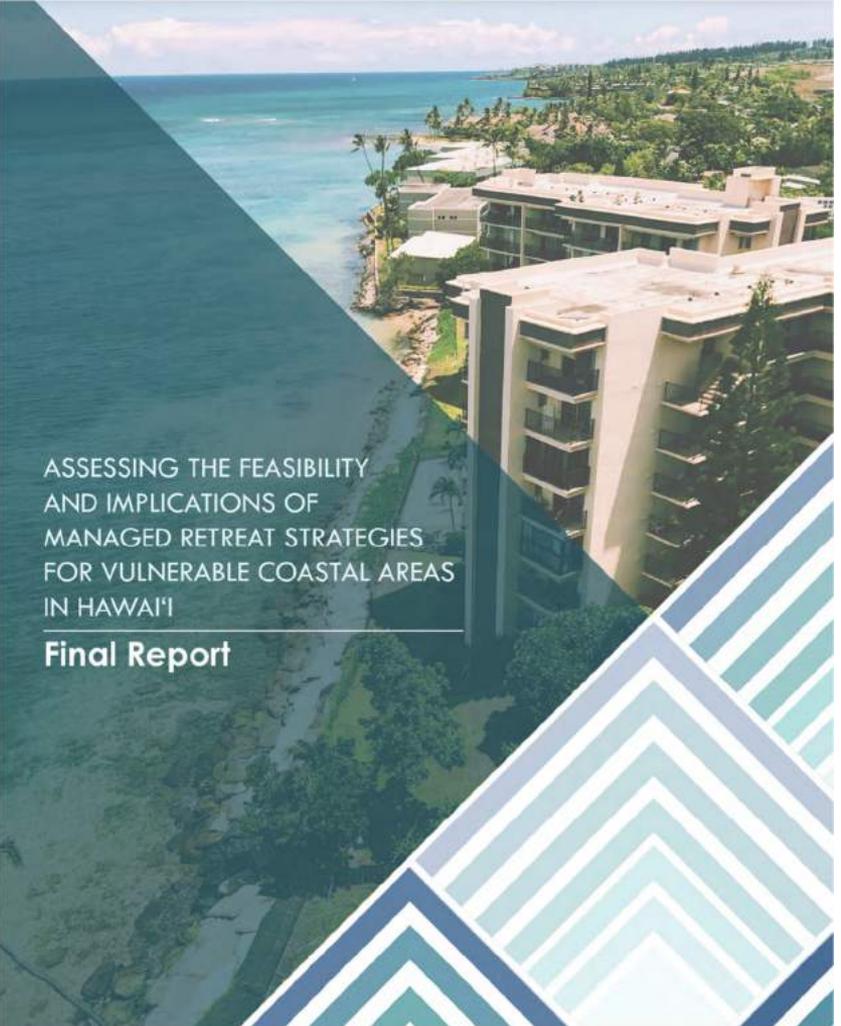
Issues of equity

And more...

Feasibility Studies Enable Informed Decision-Making

Example: Hawai'i Assessment

- Comprehensive review and synthesis of relevant research
- Scenario Profiles
- Symposium
- Final Report



ASSESSING THE FEASIBILITY
AND IMPLICATIONS OF
MANAGED RETREAT STRATEGIES
FOR VULNERABLE COASTAL AREAS
IN HAWAII

Final Report

February 2019

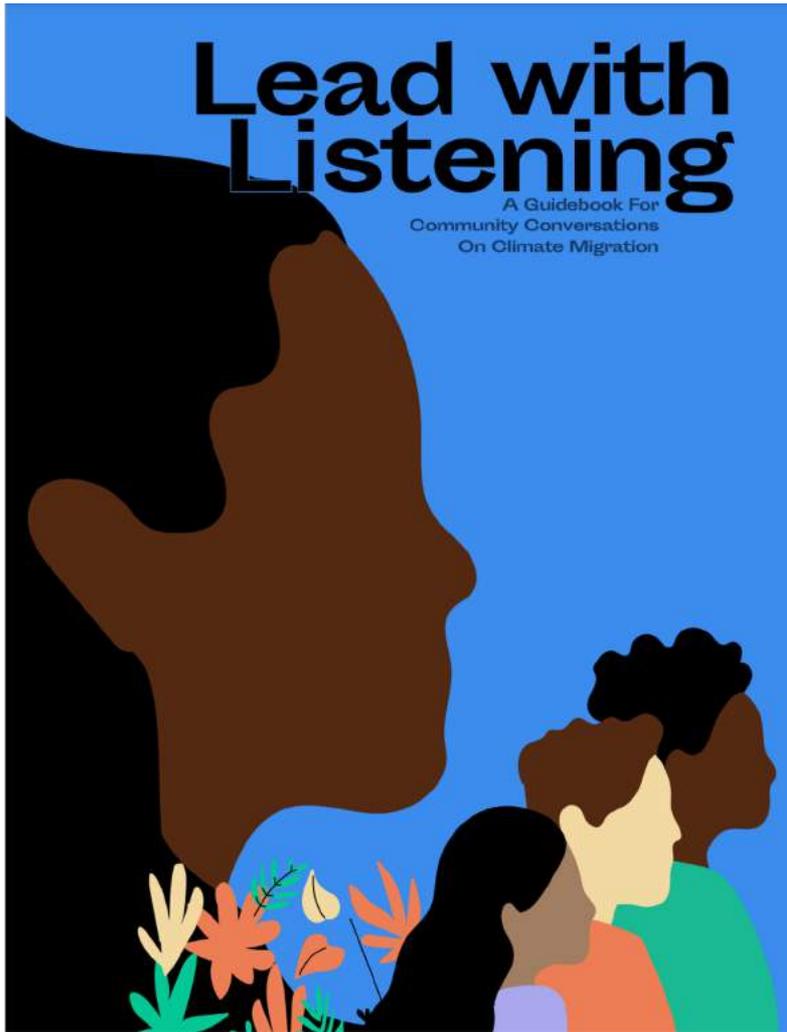


Policy Concept #3: Develop a framework and identify funding to support facilitated community conversations for collaborative learning, dialogue, deliberation, and long-term planning around removal / relocation strategies



Lead with Listening

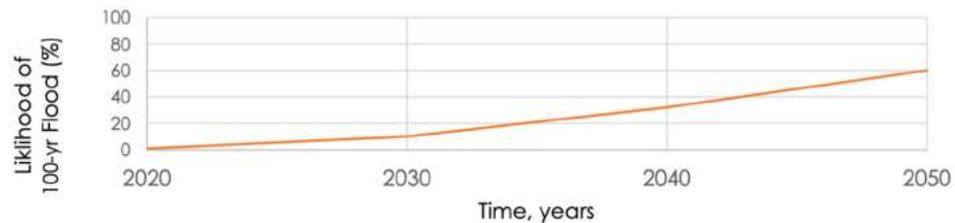
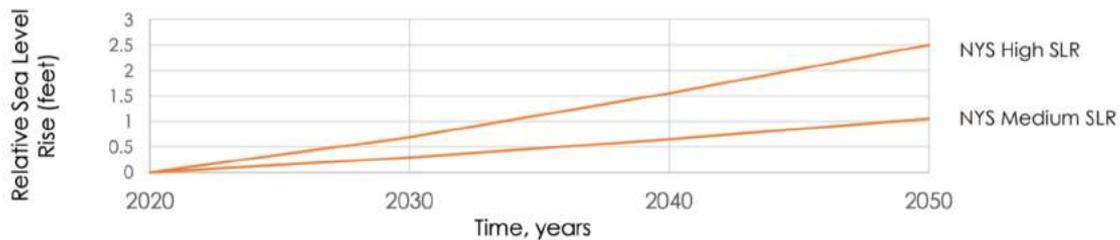
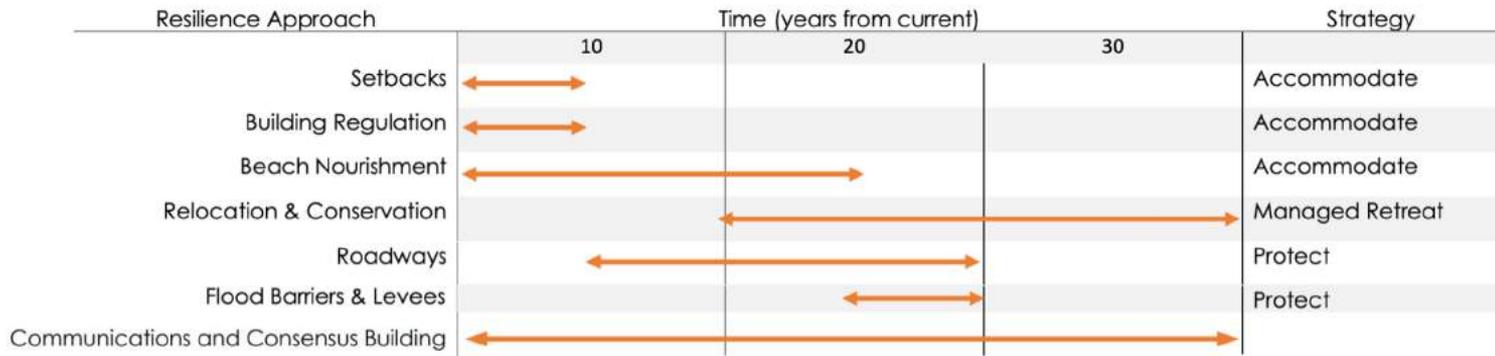
A Guidebook For
Community Conversations
On Climate Migration



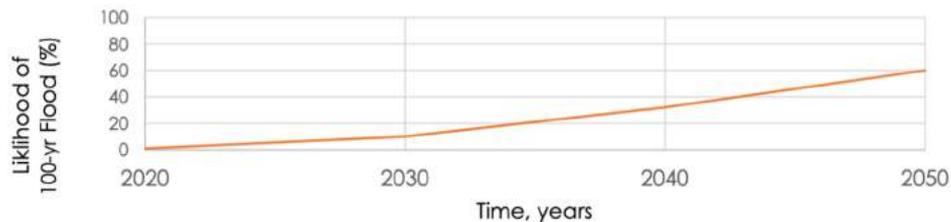
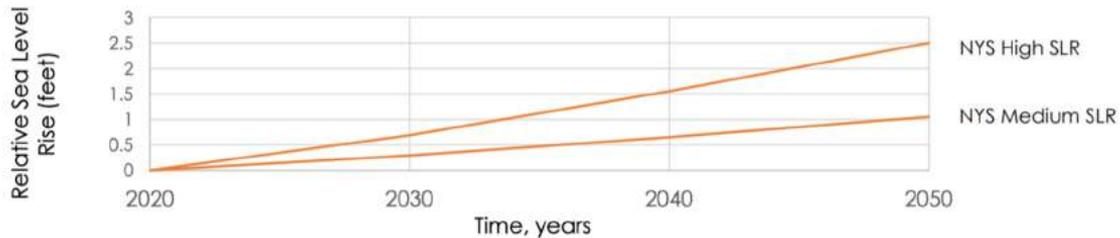
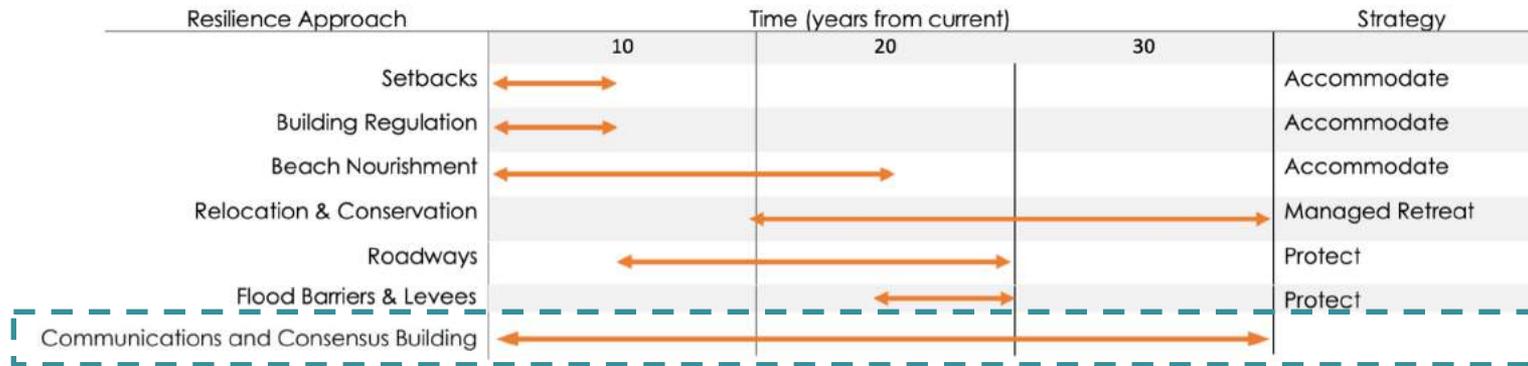
What might a framework look like?

- Review of existing resources
- Adapt existing resources to suit the Maine context
- Conduct research / evaluation on a range of approaches to identify best practices
- Create guidance materials
- Support training / capacity building for community leaders, practitioners, facilitators
- Provide funding to implement community conversation processes

Town of East Hampton, NY Resilience Timeline



Town of East Hampton, NY Resilience Timeline



Discussion questions:

What can we clarify?

What do we need to add?

Where did we miss the mark?

Policy Concept #1: Develop or strengthen policies, regulations, and funding mechanisms to support coordinated actions across the full spectrum of resilience strategies (Avoid, Protect, Accommodate/Adapt, and Remove/Relocate)

Policy Concept #2: Conduct a feasibility study to explore potential funding mechanisms for, as well as social, economic, and cultural implications of, a state-level buyout and acquisition program

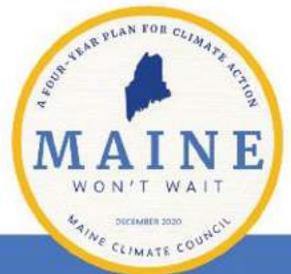
Policy Concept #3: Develop a framework and identify funding to support facilitated community conversations for collaborative learning, dialogue, deliberation, and long-term planning around removal / relocation strategies

**Goals and metrics to track
Maine's adaptation
progress**
Draft policy recommendations



Overview: Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

1. Support local and regional assessments of vulnerability to existing and emerging hazards (natural, technological, and adversarial).
Hazards include, but are not exclusive to, extreme flooding (storm, inland, and SLR), extreme temperatures, drought/wildfire, drinking water supply and infrastructure, Power outages (wind and ice storms), variable snowpack and lake/river ice.
2. Integrate resilient design standards in new infrastructure projects (standards, funding/grant review, permitting).
3. Modernize state and local floodplain management.
4. Incorporate determinants of health in climate preparedness & response strategies.
5. Develop and implement enduring, consistent and responsive communications strategies to support community conversations on resilience.
6. Invest in decisions to support communities' adaptation and resilience.



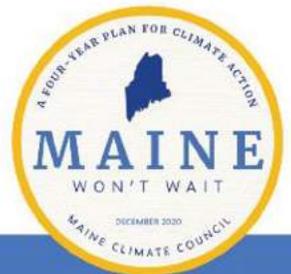
Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

Goal: Support local and regional assessments of vulnerability to existing and emerging hazards (natural, technological, and adversarial).

Hazards include, but are not exclusive to, extreme flooding (storm, inland, and SLR), extreme temperatures, drought/wildfire, drinking water supply and infrastructure, Power outages (wind and ice storms), variable snowpack and lake/river ice.

Metrics:

- Completion of 16 county hazard mitigation plans. This process includes hazard identification risk analysis and vulnerability assessment
- Local comprehensive plan/climate action plan includes/references county hazard mitigation plan, emergency response plans, Threat and Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment (THIRA), and adds locally defined resilience needs missing from county level plans

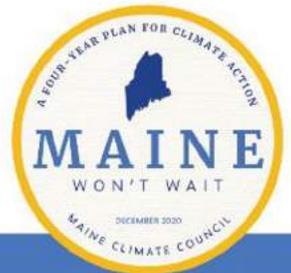


Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

Goal: Integrate resilient design standards in new infrastructure projects (standards, funding/grant review, permitting).

Metric

- Projects that incorporate projections for future flood risk, extreme precipitation or SLR
- *Need support from design experts*



Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

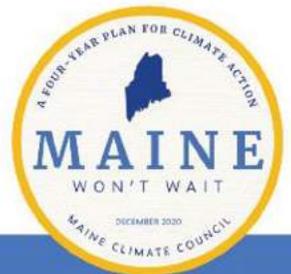
Goal: Modernize state and local floodplain management.

Actions:

- Support the modernization of data systems and mapping through submission of needs to the federal government (FEMA, ACE, others)
- Support municipal implementation of resilient floodplain practices through...
- Develop nature-based approaches to reducing coastal and riverine flood risk

Metric:

- Multiply hazard mitigation personnel to support technical assistance in floodplain programs and Maine Geological Survey



Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

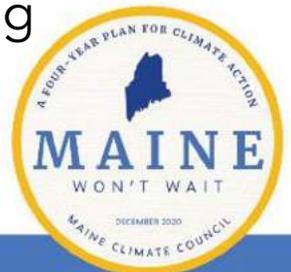
Goal: Incorporate determinants of health in climate preparedness & response strategies.

Actions:

- Develop a psychological resilience (community and individual) plan
- Working Group recommendations identify related determinants of health that may impact implementation, and corresponding strategies

Metrics:

- Hazard warning systems and emergency response actions issued in multiple languages; in paper and digital formats, and via trusted networks among varying communities.
- Number and percentage of people from priority populations and/or communities who participate in state-led climate, energy, and resilience planning or decision-making processes



Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

Goal: Develop and implement enduring, consistent and responsive communications strategies to support community conversations on resilience.

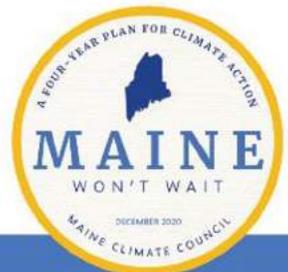
Actions

- Address climate-driven trauma and resilience in climate communications*
- Develop and provide free psychological climate resilience resources for community members, municipal officials, businesses, healthcare systems, schools, and other entities.*
- Include community leaders (e.g., elected and civic officials, healthcare providers)

Metrics

- Number of partner organizations conducting climate outreach to disadvantaged communities, by geography
- Creation and deployment of communication materials to identified groups, including templates for health clinics, libraries, town websites, etc., which have climate-related information/resources.

*From Equity Subcommittee



Goals and metrics to track Maine's adaptation progress

Goal: Invest in decisions to support communities adaptation and resilience.

Actions

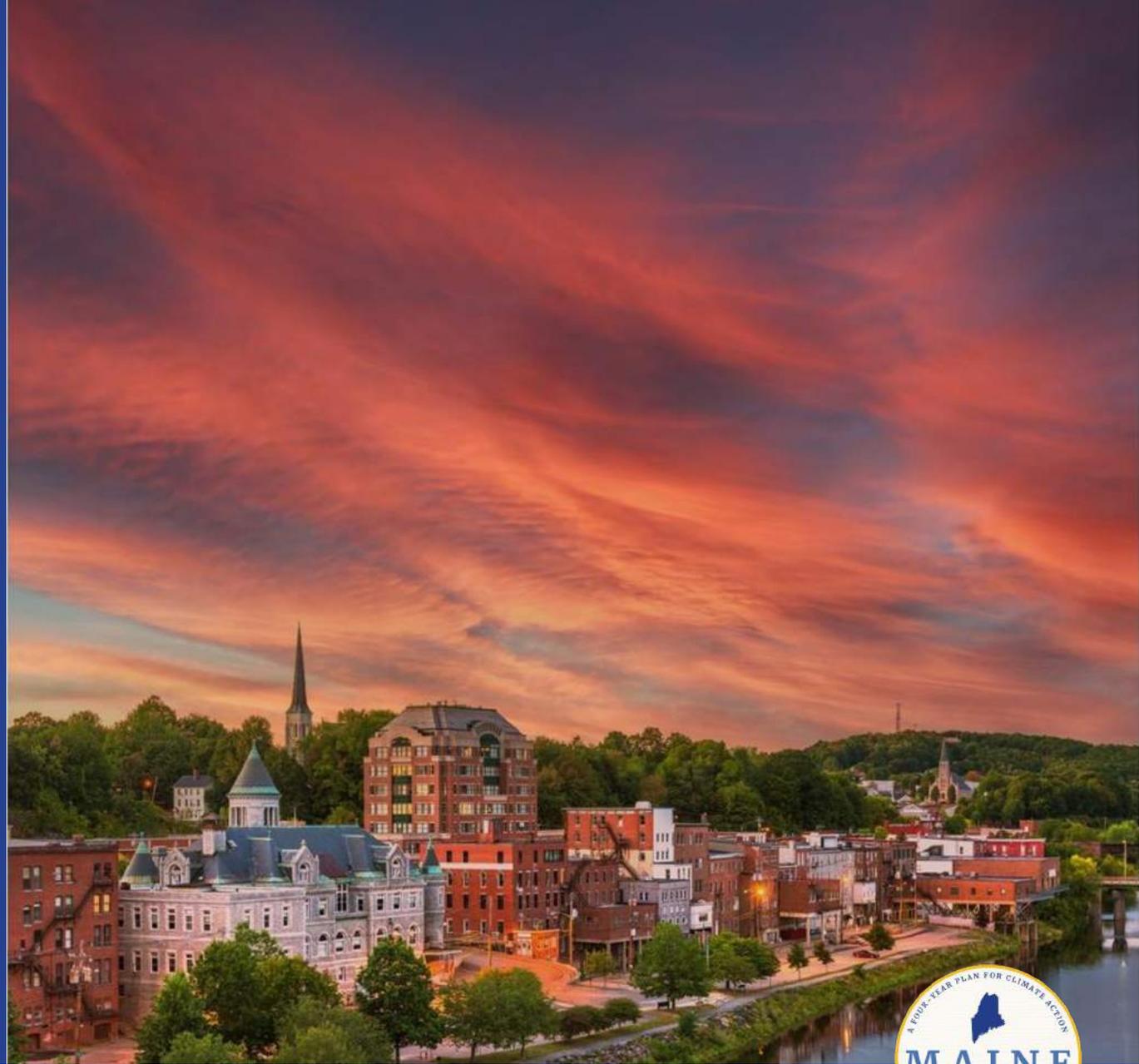
- Economic analysis of adaptation strategies (harden, accommodate, relocate)
- Supporting community conversations
- Analysis of feasibility, capitalization, and equity implications of a buyout program.
- Capitalization of infrastructure adaptation funding (design and construction)

Metrics

- Number of projects (or just projects) that include economic analysis of full range of adaptation options prior to investment of public funds
- Projects/plans that include funding for inclusive, facilitated community conversations prior to decisions on implementation
- Maine-specific voluntary buyout program with sustainable funding and equitable application of funding criteria
- Sustainable funding sources for infrastructure adaptation



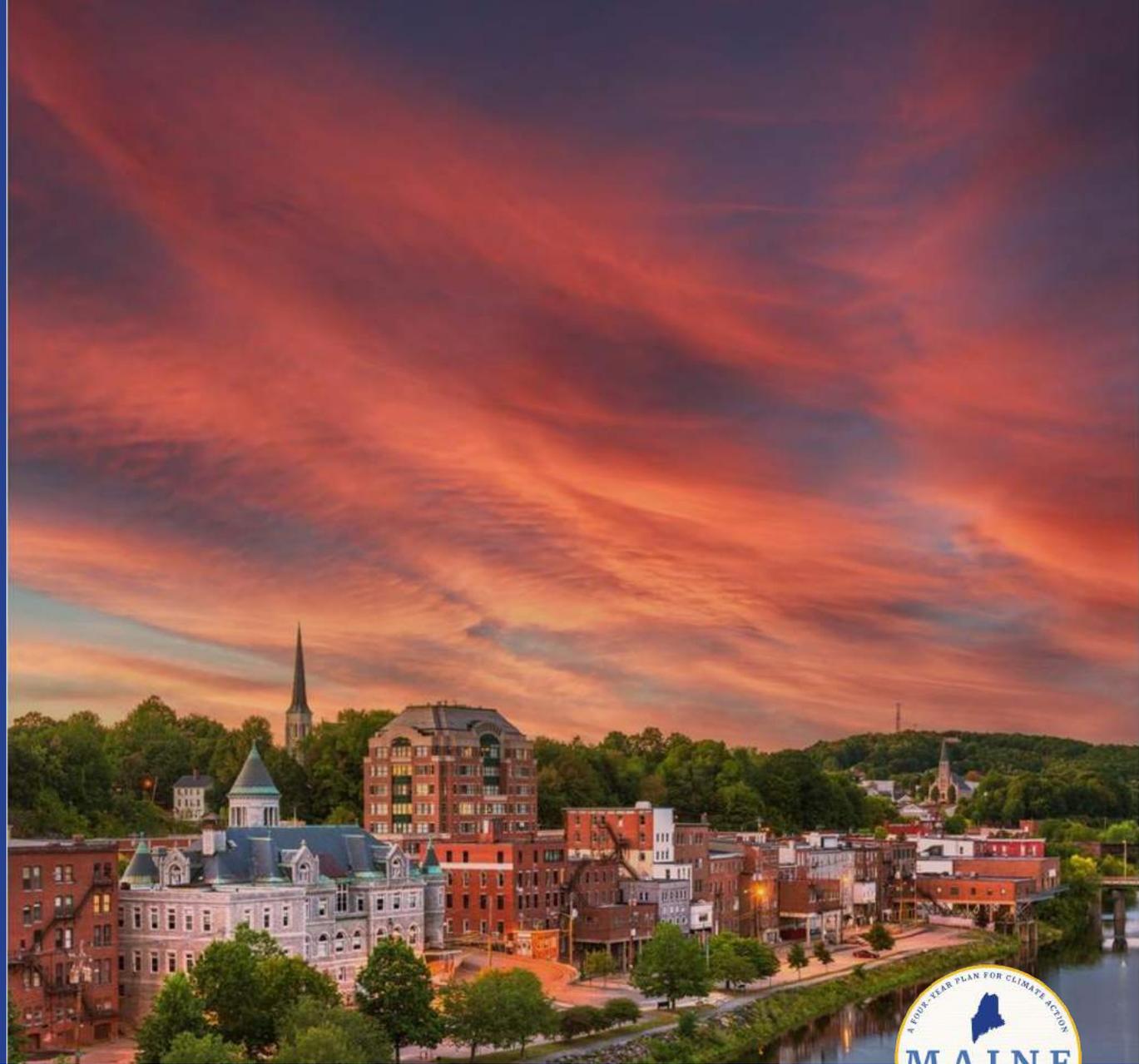
Discussion



February 29, 2024



Next Steps and Adjournment



February 29, 2024



DATE	ACTION
March 15	<i>Recommendations Draft Part 1:</i> strategies / deliverable template sent to WG for feedback on 1) Goals and metrics 2) Integrating resilience and emergency management response/recovery planning 3) Getting out of harm's way
March 22, 9am - 12pm Virtual	Working Group Meeting – Funding & TA Assistance, Psychological resilience
April 19	<i>Draft Recommendations Part 2:</i> strategies / deliverable template sent to WG for feedback on 1) Psychological resilience 2) Resilience funding 3) Technical assistance
April 26, 9am – 12pm IN PERSON / Hybrid- Marquart 118	Working Group Meeting – Discuss all recommendations
May 10	<i>Draft Recommendations</i> – ALL strategies for feedback
May 23, 9am – 12pm – NEW Virtual	Working Group Meeting - Finalize all recommendations
June 5	Send strategies to GOPIF

Next steps

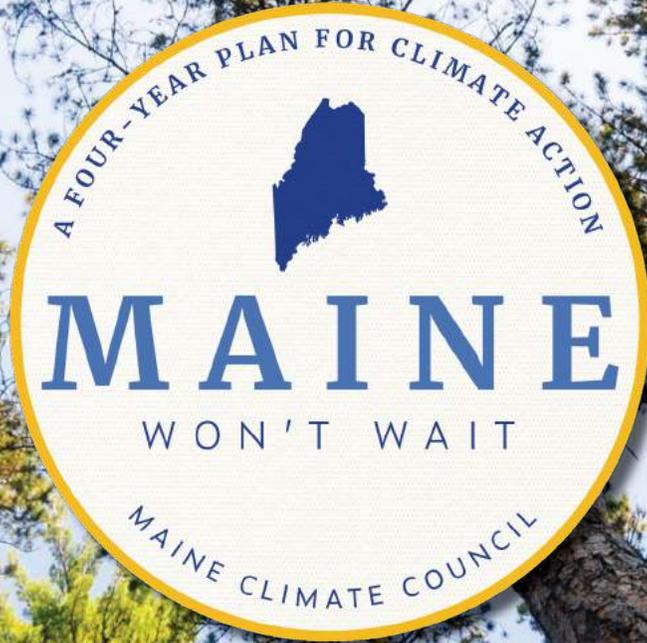
Members

- Share any other comments to the subworking groups and cochairs by next Friday, March 8

Subworking groups

- Update recommendations based on feedback
- Add to deliverable template
- Share back with co-chairs & Melanie by March 13

Next steps



A FOUR-YEAR PLAN FOR CLIMATE ACTION



MAINE

WON'T WAIT

MAINE CLIMATE COUNCIL