

# Community Resilience Partnership

Program Contact: Brian Ambrette  
brian.ambrette@maine.gov

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## 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>	Mount Vernon
<b>Self-Evaluation responses provided by:</b> Please include contact info	Anna Libby, Select board member, <a href="mailto:anna@mtvernonme.org">anna@mtvernonme.org</a>
<b>Date:</b>	November, 2023
<b>Was this evaluation discussed during a community workshop?</b> Include the date of the workshop.	<i>This evaluation will be discussed at the community workshop 18 November.</i>

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>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Strong volunteerism and community resources such as library, community center, the town beach, fire and rescues, etc.</li> <li>- Mt Vernon has many resourceful community groups that get a lot of good work done.</li> </ul>
<b>What are two areas that could be improved in the short-term?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Increase capacity for local governance, for example with a town manager.</li> <li>- Explore shared resources / capacities between towns.</li> </ul>
<b>What is important for your community to address in the long-term?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Housing</li> <li>- Roads</li> <li>- Impact of weather events on downtown</li> </ul>
<b>What specific 3 to 5 actions are priorities for your community?</b>	See List of Community Actions

Minimizing Risk and Exposure to Hazards	
<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: The regional emergency plan for northern Kennebec County was signed July 2022. Key hazards include: - Flooding - Winter storms - Wildfires
<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: Yes, some tracking over time, but could be done more regularly.
<b>3) Has your community assessed the impacts or consequences of each type of hazard for the community?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
For example, flooding on Main Street impedes emergency services or affects local businesses.	Explanation: While the regional emergency plan touches on this and the community has a sense of what this is, there is no written assessment of the impact on the community.
<b>4) Is your community taking steps to reduce exposure to multiple risk types?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
Your local or county hazard mitigation plan probably contains this information.	Explanation: No. Not much mitigation. There is a regional mutual aid agreement for wildfires, and other emergency responses, but not proactive for other hazards such as flooding. Usually good cooperation between community groups when crisis hits.
<b>6) Is your community preparing for low-probability-but-high-consequence events?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
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: Generally no. Some work has been done on a warming / cooling station for emergencies - for example a new generator and new heat-pumps have been acquired for the community center.
<b>7) Has your community assessed the consequences of multiple events or different types of hazards occurring in geographic or temporal proximity?</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>
Examples could include back-to-back flooding events or a power outage during a heat wave.	Explanation: No.
<b>8) Is your community assessing emerging risks (e.g. drought, wildfire) and identifying blind spots?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Yes</b> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>No</b>

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: To some extent yes: Increased information available and awareness on tick-borne illnesses at school and town publications. Regular testing of lakes / algae bloom is also conducted.
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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: Yes, the <a href="#">Comprehensive Plan</a> contains this information. The <a href="#">Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy of the Kennebec Valley Region</a> also contains relevant information.
<b>10) Is your community proactively addressing vulnerabilities associated with these underlying characteristics?</b>	<input checked="" 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: Yes, some of them. The Aging in Place Committee and other community groups are actively addressing issues (such as affordable housing) identified in the Comprehensive Plan.
<b>10) Does your community have financial resources in reserve to cope with or absorb shocks?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, a rainy-day fund.	Explanation: Yes, the Town has a Contingency Fund of - \$45,000. Various town committees also often have some reserve funds.
<b>12) Is your community building flexible human capacity that can be drawn on in emergencies?</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
For example, community emergency response teams (CERT) or mutual aid agreements with neighboring communities.	Explanation: Yes, the town has a volunteer emergency manager and mutual aid groups (with Vienna, Readfield, Fayette, Belgrade, Rome) for fire and rescue.

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 type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Examples might include a comprehensive plan chapter that describes how the community is planning for climate change impacts, or a capital	Explanation: There is no mention of climate change impact in the comprehensive plan. However, individual committees do plan for climate impact in individual

improvement plan that requires construction projects to consider future conditions like sea level rise, extreme rain, or drought.	projects. While there is no capital improvement plan, there is some town discussion on infrastructure that needs to be replaced.
<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: No. The town is set up for short term emergency response based on local volunteers and community action, but will not sustain new capacity due to no budget / no tax base.
<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: There is a flood ordinance, but no other written policy to ensure that damaged infrastructure is replaced with more resilient solutions.
<b>16) Does the community stress test to ensure plausible risks are manageable?</b>	<input checked="" 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: Yes, Fire and Rescue carry out emergency stress tests and the budget committee conducts financial health analysis.
<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?	Explanation: Yes, the town make important decisions even if information is incomplete through regular local government processes.