

Arrowsic Climate Action Plan Public Meeting Report

Date: September 26th 6 - 8 pm

Location: Arrowsic Fire Barn

Participants: 46, including ACRC members

Everyone was welcomed by the chair of the Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee co—chair, Jody Jones. She introduced the consultants from Viewshed, Judy Colby-George and Madeline Tripp. Judy then gave a brief introduction to the Climate Action Plan, the planning process so far, and how the feedback of this meeting will be used to prioritize the implementation of actions in the plan. Participants then broke out into five groups of 6-10 people for the interactive portion of the meeting.

Discussion Takeaways

After these discussions, each group shared the top three words they used during their discussions, as well as the main topic they discussed. The word cloud below represents the words that were reported, with larger words being mentioned more.



Participants shared that their conversations centered around topics like groundwater resources, infrastructure (communications and roads), and marshes. There were also discussions on how to support the most vulnerable in the community. Another topic of discussion was about how to

frame success, when so many actions/tasks seem overwhelming. It will be important to prioritize where capacity and resources are used and provide a clear implementation plan.

The following sections provide more detailed responses from the notes and individual packets collected from each participant.

Exercise 1 - Thinking about the Climate Action Plan

Groups were asked to discuss the following questions at their table and record their thoughts and ideas.

1. *How do you define Climate Action?*
2. *What is the significance of Climate Action for the community of Arrowsic?*

Defining Climate Action:

- Response to impending change—both prepare for climate change and stop emissions.
- Intentional, proactive actions in response to scientific based changes in climate
- Issues are often interconnected—restoring marshes results in better flood protection for infrastructure. Need to prioritize actions that will have the greatest impacts.
- Mitigation of the impacts to our lives and the environment.
- Building a more sustainable future.
- Prevention of further temperature increase through stopping emissions now.

Needs/Concerns:

- Timeline for actions
- Strengthen local communication.
- Collaboration with neighboring communities
- Keep scope of actions manageable
- Do not redo work that has already been done.
- Collective, community-wide thinking/discussion/action
- Burnout in volunteer base, small population, and changing demographics make capacity building even more important. How can the Town enlist help—contracting work out, securing funding, collaborating with regional projects.
- Lack of control over state/regional jurisdictions
- Data on groundwater is important.
- Make sure that appropriate committees are pulled into planning and implementation planning.
- Ensure that plant life can survive and thrive in changing climate.

Values and Ideas:

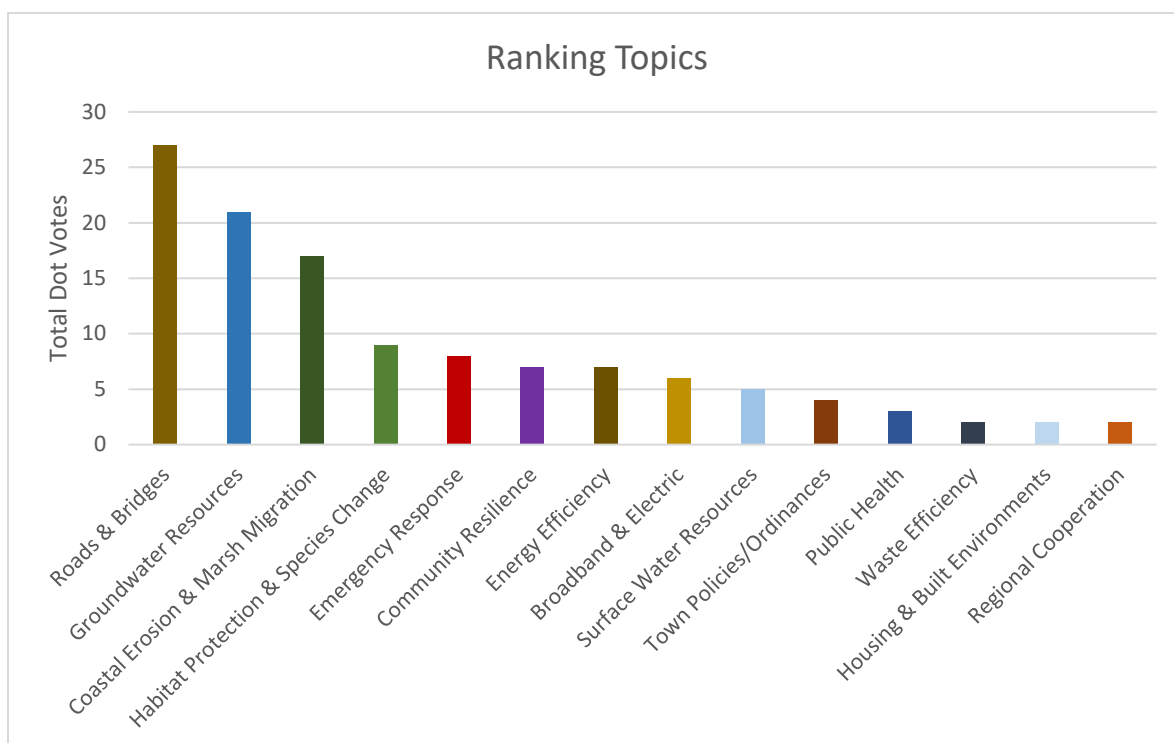
- Align with goals for state of Maine
- Individual action matters, but also collaborating with neighboring communities.
- Prioritizing safety, and then protecting people's net worth (property, wells, septic)

- Access for first responders
- Protecting marshes, wildlife, and ecosystem function
- Include consideration of vulnerable groups, such as those who will need help during a power outage.
- Consider microgrids and creating an electrical grid capable of islanding.
- Strengthen communication between neighbors, first responders, etc.
- Roads, especially to Midcoast Hospital
- What’s needed for human-created environment (rising tide and causeway)
- Need timeline for actions.
- Strengthen local communication.

Exercise 2 – Topic Prioritization

Groups were asked to spend some time discussing the broader topics/categories discussed in the Climate Action Plan and then vote on the ones they felt were most urgent or important, as well as any topics they felt were missing. Each participant was given three dots to distribute among the topics however they liked.

Roads & Bridges was the topic that received the most votes, followed by Groundwater Resources and Coastal Erosion and Marsh Migration. Many groups connected actions adapting to marsh migration to the resilience of transportation infrastructure. Several groups also highlighted the importance of maintaining roads to the ability of emergency services to respond/provide care. This underscores the urgency felt about the effect of sea level rise on roads, and how barriers to access undermine the community’s resilience during emergencies. Every topic received at least some votes, and many groups discussed the interconnectedness of each of these topics. See the following chart for the full results.



These rankings can be used to inform the organization and prioritization of each of the topics/issues that the plan addresses. Based on these results, the topics were reordered in the list below. Common themes were kept together (infrastructure, environmental resources, etc.) to preserve the progression of the sections. These results will also be used to prioritize the implementation table.

Infrastructure	Roads & Bridges
	Broadband & Electric
Water Resources	Groundwater Resources
	Surface Water Resources
Environmental Resources	Coastal Erosion & Marsh Migration
	Habitat Protection & Species Change
Response & Resilience	Emergency Response
	Community Resilience
	Public Health
Efficiency	Energy Efficiency
	Waste Efficiency
Housing & Built Environments	Housing & Built Environments
Governance	Regional Cooperation
	Town Policies/Ordinances

Exercise 3 – Prioritizing Actions

Finally, individuals were asked to select their top two actions from the recommendations in each section of the plan. Then, the groups came together to discuss their thoughts about the actions, as well as any additional actions or changes they wanted to suggest.

Below are the results tallied from the meeting packets that were collected at the end of the meeting, organized by section. These rankings will be used to create the implementation plan and to decide what actions are prioritized.

1 Surface Water Resources		Total	% of section votes
1.1	Prioritize conservation and management of significant freshwater habitat.	20	32.8%
1.2	Educate community members on best practices for limiting runoff, including maintaining healthy native plant buffers.	20	32.8%
1.3	Require new development to incorporate Low-Impact Development standards, limit the amount of impervious surfaces allowed.	13	21.3%
1.4	Restrict pesticide use on town owned property and roadways.	8	13.1%

2 Groundwater Resources		Total	% of section votes
2.1	Collaborate with regional efforts to understand impacts of saltwater intrusion.	23	39.7%
2.2	Update the existing 1989 Wellhead study. Capture location, depth, recharge rate, mineral levels (i.e. potassium), well history.	21	36.2%
2.3	Educate and encourage residents to adopt water conservation measures.	9	15.5%
2.4	Encourage homeowners to implement water recycling systems.	5	8.6%

3 Environmental Resources: Habitat Protection & Species Change		Total	% of section votes
3.1	Prioritize conservation of the most vulnerable habitat types in Arrowsic, such as riparian areas and land adjacent to salt marshes	22	37.9%
3.2	Adopt Stream Smart culvert requirements in new road projects and subdivisions.	15	25.9%
3.3	Understand Implications and work to reduce populations of potentially damaging species (e.g., woolly adelgid, green crabs)	8	13.8%
3.4	Conduct a natural resource inventory. Maintain data in a GIS format so it can be monitored, updated, and visualized over time.	7	12.1%
3.5	Encourage participation in existing citizen science projects to monitor species changes.	4	6.9%
3.6	Conduct more detailed soil studies to understand the impacts of climate change on the soil characteristics and plants they can support.	2	3.4%

4 Environmental Resources: Coastal Erosion & Marsh Migration		Total	% of section votes
4.1	Identify and conserve open land adjacent to priority wetlands.	28	52.8%
4.2	Consider adding a community science site to document change over time at priority wetlands.	19	35.8%
4.3	Study boat speeds around the island and impacts to the shoreline. Consider speed limit modifications.	6	11.3%

5 Waste Efficiency		Total	% of section votes
5.1	Create a resident education & outreach program.	22	48.9%
5.2	Invest in the Town's Composting Program.	14	31.1%
5.3	Create a Town Waste Efficiency Ordinance.	9	20.0%

6 Transportation & Infrastructure: Broadband & Electric		Total	% of section votes
6.1	Consider diversifying energy sources through community solar initiatives, especially projects that enable “islanding” during an outage.	28	54.9%
6.2	Petition Central Maine Power to reinforce lines in Arrowsic.	16	31.4%
6.3	Implement Broadband Plan for Town.	7	13.7%

7 Transportation & Infrastructure: Roads & Bridges		Total	% of section votes
7.1	Incorporate resilience to sea level rise into the Capital Improvement Plan, including installing culverts able to handle 3.9 ft of sea level rise by 2100, implementing stormwater management and/or raising road surfaces as a part of normal road improvements.	15	22.7%
7.2	Coordinate with Georgetown and Maine Department of Transportation on road improvement projects.	15	22.7%
7.3	Create an emergency response plan for flood scenarios and incorporate sea level rise and the Federal Emergency Management Act’s Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRM) into emergency planning.	13	19.7%
7.4	Adopt the Maine Coastal Program’s Coastwise Approach and Maine Audubon’s Stream Smart Crossing Guidelines as standard practice for culvert and bridge improvements. Identify vulnerable crossings and apply for DEP improvement funds.	11	16.7%
7.5	Encourage marsh restoration and resilience practices, both on Town lands (area near bridge) and on private properties.	11	16.7%
7.6	Educate private road owners about sea level rise impacts and Stream Smart culverts and other best practices for resilient road design.	1	1.5%
7.7	Create standards for new subdivisions roads that are candidates for Town adoption, which require incorporating sea level rise in the design process (including culvert design).	0	0.0%

8 Housing & Built Environments		Total	% of section votes
8.1	Develop shoreline erosion control standards for the Town. This could include native plantings or other natural stabilization measures.	16	30.2%
8.2	Map all private drives and incorporate this information into emergency services and planning.	14	26.4%
8.3	Adopt Low Impact Design standards for stormwater management, for both public and private infrastructure.	13	24.5%
8.4	Continue to participate in the National Flood Insurance Program	10	18.9%

9 Public Health		Total	% of section votes
9.1	Create a system for residents to report information about the spread of pests and disease in the community	11	22.0%
9.2	Coordinate with the AFD to ensure that vulnerable people are contacted during heat waves, power outages, or other emergencies.	23	46.0%
9.3	Understand various options for reducing populations of disease-carrying pests. Create programs to control the populations of these pests while balancing water quality standards.	16	32.0%

10 Community Resilience		Total	% of section votes
10.1	Develop a system to encourage neighbors to check in on neighbors during emergencies, and to provide aid to people who need it. This could include a phone tree or a “buddy program” to pair individuals in need with a check-in partner/neighbor.	25	43.9%
10.2	Maintain and strengthen channels of communication between committees. Consider implementing regular meetings or email updates between committee chairs.	15	26.3%
10.3	Incorporate chances for public input and workshops into community planning and projects at every possible step.	9	15.8%
10.4	Re-invigorate the Food Co-op.	6	10.5%
10.5	Have an annual upcycle/recycle party	2	3.5%

11 Governance: Regional Cooperation		Total	% of section votes
11.1	Consider regional renewable energy opportunities including solar, wind, and tidal.	23	40.4%
11.2	Coordinate with regional planning agencies and stay updated on ongoing projects, services, and collaborative programs.	14	24.6%
11.3	Consider regional transportation models including EV buses, ride sharing, commuting options.	11	19.3%
11.4	Consider inter-municipal cooperation.	7	12.3%
11.5	Attend regional training opportunities and report back to the appropriate committees.	2	3.5%

12 Governance: Town Policies/Ordinances		Total	% of section votes
12.1	Incorporate predicted climate change impacts for Arrowsic into all applicable plans the community creates in the future, including comprehensive plans, open space plans, etc.	24	49.0%
12.2	Evaluate budget and incorporate consideration of climate change impacts into the Town's financial values.	9	18.4%
12.3	Conduct an energy audit of Town buildings. Add foam insulation if needed	5	10.2%
12.4	Evaluate Town operations and develop operation policies that encourage water and energy conservation.	5	10.2%
12.5	Conduct a Town-wide greenhouse gas inventory.	4	8.2%
12.6	Adopt a purchasing standard for Town equipment, requiring new purchases to meet efficiency standards, such as Energy Star rated appliances.	2	4.1%

13 Energy Efficiency		Total	% of section votes
13.1	Provide information to residents about the savings available through Efficiency Maine credits for energy audits, insulation, and efficient appliance upgrades.	15	25.9%
13.2	Developing bike lanes/paths to encourage non-auto travel.	15	25.9%
13.3	Create guidance for weatherization of existing houses and structures and aid for weatherization for vulnerable households.	10	17.2%
13.4	Consider adopting the IECC 2021 "Stretch" building and energy efficiency code.	6	10.3%
13.5	Install EV charging locations at town hall/fire barn.	6	10.3%
13.6	Keep track of energy use in Town buildings to understand use and be able to compare impacts of future improvements.	4	6.9%
13.7	Conduct energy audits of Town buildings with an Efficiency Maine approved contractor. Prioritize efficiency improvements to lower energy consumption and operating costs.	2	3.4%

14 Emergency Response		Total	% of section votes
14.1	Conduct a confidential survey of vulnerable households (e.g., older adults, people with life-sustaining equipment that uses electricity, those with mobility difficulties, etc.) to inform emergency response.	16	26.7%
14.2	Identify priorities for investment and identify funding opportunities to support these projects.	13	21.7%
14.3	Develop a non-emergency communications plan to incorporate updates from the AFD into Town communications and generate community awareness of AFD's volunteer needs.	8	13.3%
14.4	Create a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT).	6	10.0%
14.5	Designate an emergency alert official to join the Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS).	6	10.0%
14.6	Create an Addressing Ordinance to set standard requirements for address signage for houses.	5	8.3%
14.7	Map private drives to make emergency response more efficient.	3	5.0%
14.8	Designate funding in the Town Budget for providing standardized/approved address stickers/ signs or create a program for residents to purchase signs from the town.	2	3.3%
14.9	Create an Addressing Committee.	1	1.7%