

Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future  
 Community Resilience Partnership  
 Quarterly Report & Final Case Study Template

Grant Recipient:	Town of Arrowsic
Grant Type:	Community Action Grant
Grant Round:	1
Funding Award:	\$35,000
Reporting Period:	10/01 - 12/30/2024
Submitted by:	Jody Jones, jodyinarrowsic@gmail.com
Date Submitted:	November 13, 2024

Funds Spent This Quarter	Funds Spent to Date	Funds Remaining
\$4,140.42	\$35,000	\$0

**Quarterly Task Updates**

In the following narratives for each task, provide an update of progress during the recent quarter on activities and outcomes. Discuss briefly whether the task is on track, ahead of, or behind your expected pace of progress? To what factors do you attribute this pace? Are there opportunities to capitalize on this success or adjust your plans to compensate for the pace?

Task 1 Narrative:	<p><i>Establish or recognize an official committee of stakeholders (H1)</i></p> <p>The <b>Arrowsic Climate Resilience Committee (ACRC)</b> completed tasks from this grant as an ad-hoc committee of the Conservation Commission and was dissolved.</p> <p>The <b>Arrowsic Resilience Committee (ARC)</b> was formed in its place as an ad-hoc committee of the Select Board. Its role is to help implement the Climate Action Plan (CAP). Four members have been appointed by the select board.</p>
Task 1 Percent Complete:	100%

Task 2 Narrative:	<p><i>Conduct a community vulnerability assessment that identifies climate risks and vulnerable populations and includes a review of existing plans and policies. Adopt a climate resilience plan that describes high priority strategies for reducing risk and vulnerabilities (F1)</i></p> <p>(see prior reports)</p>
Task 2 Percent Complete:	100%

<p>Task 3 Narrative:</p> <p>Task 3 was adjusted as described and approved by Ashley Krulick</p>	<p><i>Create a climate change education, outreach, and engagement program, focusing on mitigation and adaptation for residents and businesses.” (H2)</i></p> <p>A key element of continuing outreach and education programs is to make resources and workshops available as widely as possible including using zoom and hybrid meetings.</p> <p>Previously, hybrid meetings in Arrowsic were dependent on personal computers and lacked key functionality (screen sharing with attendees, ability to hear what is being said or who is saying it etc). Thanks to this grant, we have purchased the equipment necessary to allow for inclusivity, transparency and screen-sharing abilities; all with much better sound. Installation will be paid for by the town.</p>
<p>Task 3 Percent Complete:</p>	<p><b>100%</b></p>

**General Narrative**

Overview of any conditions not reported in Task narratives, including:

- new opportunities or challenges that have been identified
- new or unexpected partners, or barriers to partnerships
- important lessons to take away from this reporting period

Residents have a better understanding of the specific challenges Arrowsic faces due to climate change. There is an atmosphere of collaboration, and also appreciation for the work that has been done over many years to preserve land and shorelines, including how conserved/protected land has value for mitigating impacts of climate change (e.g. ecosystem services).

Through the development of the CAP, the Arrowsic Fire Department has received a lot of appreciative feedback and attention for the work they do. Bringing their work into the light and understanding the needs they have was an extremely important outcome of the whole process.

**If this is a quarterly report** and there is still work remaining under this grant, stop here and delete the following pages.

**If this is a final report** and all deliverables have been completed, please complete the following pages in addition to the sections above.

## Final Report & Case Study

After completing the quarterly update above, fill out this section only when you have completed the scope of work and have no remaining expenses for the grant. This final report is due no later than 30 days after the end of the grant period. See the award notification letter for due dates. If you are not submitting a final report at this time, you may delete the following pages.

Aim for 100-300 words for each response. These responses may be used in publicly accessible materials to share project details, outcomes, lessons, and best practices.

1. Describe the final product(s) or result(s) of the project.

- Climate Action Plan - approved unanimously at town meeting in 2024
- Citizens Climate Resilience Handbook - printed and distributed to every household and available to download online.
- Creation of the Arrowsic Resilience Committee - for the purpose of facilitating implementation of the Climate Action Plan (among other tasks).
- Upgraded technology for hybrid meetings that will facilitate public access to educational programs, workshops and implementation of resilience work in town.
- Results:
  - We have a roadmap of actions and priorities that will help us adapt to the changes ahead.
  - Created stronger connections between committees and residents by working together
  - Broad support for taking action, even in our small part of the world

2. As specifically as possible, how has this project advanced the community's priorities for energy efficiency, clean energy, and/or community resilience?

- Arrowsic recently [applied to the EEPRC](#) to assist with energy audits of our 2 municipal buildings.
- We collected baseline data of our energy consumption and know where we need to gather additional information.
- The Climate Action Plan advanced resilience in the following ways:
  - clearly identified Arrowsic's vulnerabilities due to climate change and actions we can take for addressing them.
  - prioritized potential actions based on community input.
  - defined which committees or groups would be responsible for pursuing actions.
  - created a road map for taking action
  - created greater awareness and support for becoming more resilient

3. How were community members engaged in the project? What lasting benefit will there be because of their participation?

## **CAP Public Input**

### Creating first draft

- Requested meetings with all standing committees and municipal officials to hear what they wanted included in the CAP.
- The 11 members of the [ACRC](#) provided extensive input to incorporate unique aspects of Arrowsic's social and natural features.
- Monthly committee meetings were held with the consultant to incorporate input.

### First draft

- Broke down the island into "neighborhoods" and assigned volunteers to go door-to-door inviting residents to a workshop and/or inserting flyers at each door (80% households covered).
- Made draft available on town website and promoted request for input in town-wide emails.
- Held a professionally facilitated workshop with 45 attendees to: go over the draft CAP, ask for what was missing, and conduct a prioritization exercise to determine what issues in the CAP were most important to residents.

### Second draft (implementation plan with prioritizing actions and who would be responsible)

- Requests for input:
  - sent a letter to every household (included in property tax bill) requesting comments on the plan with QR code link to the plan
  - used the town email list to request comments on draft CAP (downloadable on the town website).
- Met with the Arrowsic Fire Department and received extensive and valuable input.
- Emailed a comment-enabled PDF to each committee chair for input from their members. Allowed 6 weeks to share feedback, and sent reminders.
- Over 250 comments on the CAP were provided by 7 town committees or departments.

Final CAP: At the town meeting to vote on the CAP, there was a show of hands of people who had been involved in creating the plan. The vast majority of attendees raised their hands, contributing to the unanimous vote to accept the CAP.

### **Lasting Benefits**

- Committee chairs have stronger connections to other committees and understand ways they can collaborate.
- Neighbors understand even more how connections to each other can help us survive serious climatic events.
- Heightened awareness of our individual role in addressing climate change. Residents shared changes they made due to this work.
  - Requests for information on how to start a compost.
  - One resident told us he decided to finally add solar panels and cleared trees around his home for fire safety.
  - Several made changes in purchasing habits.
- Broader appreciation for the Arrowsic Fire Department's role in resilience.

4. If you were starting this project over again, what lessons would you apply?

Although the ACRC developed and agreed to a set of Ground Rules at the first meeting, one lesson learned was we should have *explicitly* included expectations for collaboration and the need for the committee to sign off on all products. This might have helped prevent the issue we had with the direct supervisor in charge of developing the handbook (with assistance from a Bowdoin college student), refusing to incorporate input from the committee and others.

The costs of not including the entire committee include: a student's time, effort and product were not used in the way she and the committee anticipated, redundancy of the workload and hard feelings from the supervisor.

5. What future needs has this project surfaced or what future projects will this project enable?

**Future needs this project is helping enable us to address:**

- Roads: MIAF grant received to work on flooding of 2 town roads. We would not have been "plugged in" or had the organizational structure to apply. We received \$50,000.
- Emergency Response: The new ARC assisted the Arrowsic Fire Department with the technical aspects of applying for 2 grants to help our volunteer firefighters protect us from climate vulnerabilities (total requested of \$78,000).
- Water supply: A better understanding of Arrowsic's fresh water supply and where the biggest threats are.
- Marsh migration: We have advocated that MDOT's plan to raise Route 127 should incorporate marsh migration using the [CoastWise approach](#), and retain or expand the breakdown lane as a bike lane. We'd like advice on how best to ensure it will be part of their future plan.

6. Will the community seek funding to continue any aspects of this project? If yes, what sources of funding are being considered?

- CRP Community Action Grant for help implementing the CAP
- Emergency Response: Private foundations (e.g. [Stephen & Tabitha King Foundation](#))
- [Firehouse Subs](#))
- MDOT Funding for future culvert and road work.
- Marsh migration/retreat from sea level rise: Arrowsic residents came together during the last year to purchase property along the Back River as our first public water access. The location is adjacent to a low, tidal road crossing contributing to failing infrastructure and flooding. The house, garage and septic tank were removed, allowing the site to return to a more natural state. Grants from [Lands for Maine's Future](#) and [Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund](#) added a total of \$72,500 to town water access funds and project donor funds to make this possible. The road will continue to be an issue. A MAIF grant to Arrowsic will be developing potential options to make this site more resilient. Once a solution is decided, we will be seeking funds

to address the issue, including possibly discontinuing the road and allowing restored flow to the marsh.

7. What aspects of the Community Resilience Partnership made your experience with this project easier? What aspects of the Partnership made it more difficult?

Easier:

- Support from our regional coordinator - Gabe McPhail! Her help was probably the single most valuable resource the partnership provided.
- Flexibility in moving funds between "Tasks" to make our work more robust.
- The reporting schedule and grant timeline helped keep the committee and consultant on track to finish tasks on time and prevented the process from being bogged down.
- Reminders for quarterly progress reports deadlines.
- Support from Midcoast Council of Governments to conduct Arrowsic's greenhouse gas inventory.

More difficult

- Can't think of anything.

8. Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience with the grant project?

Just a great big THANK YOU.

9. If available, please separately attach a photo or two that illustrates the project's final outcome or a significant milestone, event, or community meeting along the way. Please provide a caption below for each photo so we may use them in Partnership materials.

Two significant milestones (see attached cover photos):

1. Arrowsic Climate Action Plan (cover): Passed unanimously at Town meeting in July 2024
2. Citizens Handbook on Climate Resilience (cover): Distributed to every household in town.

10. Please provide a final account of the project’s expenditures compared to the budget proposed in the grant application. “Other Funds” may include local funds, in-kind match, other grants, or Efficiency Maine incentives.

	<b>Proposed grant funds</b>	<b>Grant funds expended</b>	<b>Other funds expended</b>	<b>Total funds expended</b>
Task 1:	<b>\$2,000</b>	0	0	Reallocated to task 3b
Task 2:	<b>\$22,700</b>	\$20,864.37	0	\$20,864.37
Task 3a:	<b>\$10,300</b>	\$9,995.21	0	\$9,995.21
Task 3b: (Hybrid meeting tech)**		\$4,140.42	\$1,989.58?	\$6,130
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$35,000</b>	\$35,000		
<b>*Difference between proposed and actual expenditures:</b>				

**\*Any unspent or unused grant funds must be returned to the State of Maine.** Please make a check payable to “Treasurer State of Maine” for the unspent amount with “Community Resilience Partnership: return of funds” in the memo, and mail it to:

\*\* The Town of Arrowsic Broadband Authority contribution made up the difference of around \$69.00 in purchasing the needed equipment.

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