READY & RESILIENT BARRINGTON

PREPARING TODAY FOR A SAFER, HEALTHIER TOMORROW

Ready & Resilient Barrington

Climate Action Plan • Barrington, Rhode Island

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Letter from the Town Manager

BARRINGTON
RHODE ISLAND

Here in Barrington, we are getting ready to meet the challenges of climate change head-on.

Ready & Resilient Barrington is our plan to reduce our contribution to climate change and build resilience to its impacts.

Dear Neighbors,

As you may know, in 2021 Barrington Town Council took a significant step in adopting the Resilient Future Resolution, which emphasized the urgent necessity for action in the face of climate-related challenges. The *Ready & Resilient Barrington* plan presented in the following pages lays out how our community can meet these challenges head-on.

Ready & Resilient Barrington calls for us to rapidly reduce our carbon footprint and build our resilience to the impacts of climate change. It is essential that we prepare today for a safer and healthier tomorrow—not just for ourselves but also for the generations that will follow.

Taking the action that is required will involve close collaboration among community members, local businesses, and Town government to develop more sustainable practices and promote environmental stewardship. Through this effort, we will not only cut back on our climate pollution but also increase our capacity to adapt to climate change and its projected impacts.

Community participation has and will be crucial to this effort. Over 600 responses to online surveys, over 100 attendees at a public gathering, and numerous other community meetings helped shape the *Ready & Resilient Barrington* plan. A Climate Action Advisory Group composed of Barrington residents, Town staff, and community partners provided detailed input into the review of data and the formation of the goals, strategies, and actions outlined here.

We invite all residents to join us in this crucial effort. Whether through community meetings, volunteer opportunities, or simply incorporating greener practices in your daily life, your involvement will make an essential difference.

Together, we can build a more resilient future for Barrington that honors our environment and protects our community.

Sincerely,

Phil Hervey, Town Manager

Climate Action & Accomplishments to Date

Ready & Resilient Barrington builds upon our community's existing commitment to advancing climate action and resilience. For more than ten years, Barrington has sought to lead by example through the implementation of the following plans, policies, and projects.

2011

Strategic Energy Plan is adopted to promote energy efficiency and carbon emissions reductions.

2014

Stormwater management projects are completed at Town Beach and Latham Park to improve resilience against coastal flooding.

2015

Solarize Barrington is launched, resulting in a sharp increase in solar installation permits.

2016

Barrington earns **"Tree City USA"** designation from the Arbor Day Foundation.

2017

Street light LED conversion project yields 55% in annual energy savings.

2020

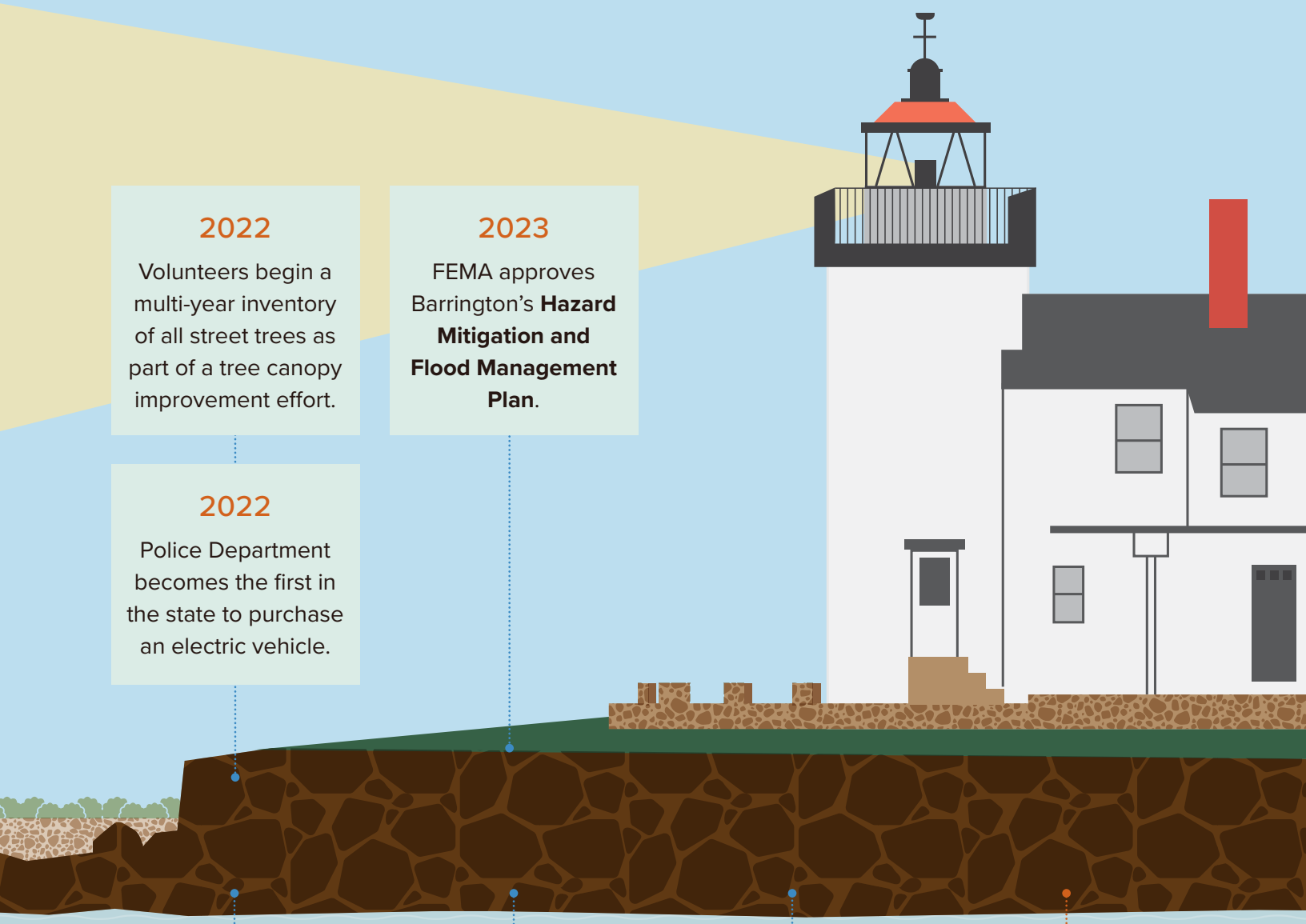
Bay Spring Resilience Plan is created.

2021

Resilient Future Resolution is adopted by Town Council as a commitment to acting on climate change.

2021

Barrington Middle School is awarded a **Green Ribbon** from U.S. Department of Education for its energy efficiency and learning environment.



2022

Volunteers begin a multi-year inventory of all street trees as part of a tree canopy improvement effort.

2023

FEMA approves Barrington's **Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan**.

2022

Police Department becomes the first in the state to purchase an electric vehicle.

2022

Complete Streets Plan is approved, advancing safer multimodal travel throughout Barrington.

2023

Barrington launches **Community Electricity Program**, increasing renewable electricity supply options for residents and businesses.

2024

Town and partners complete coastal resilience improvements at **Walker Farm** including the state's first floodable park, improved recreational function, and restored native habitats.

2024

Ready & Resilient Barrington Climate Action Plan is launched.

Climate Change in Barrington

Barrington is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. We are seeing heavier storms and precipitation, increased flooding and erosion, and rising temperatures and sea levels. Heatwaves are increasing heat-related illnesses while extreme rainfall is causing coastal and inland flooding, damaging homes, businesses, and critical infrastructure. These climate hazards are only projected to worsen and intensify in the future, bringing significant financial and social consequences.

By 2080, Rhode Island's climate could feel like the current climate of Mississippi.[1]

EXTREME HEAT

IMPACTS:

- Heat-related illness and death
- Higher energy demand
- Increased risk of vector-borne diseases, such as Lyme disease
- Strain on electricity grid

5.6 days
Average number of days per year with a maximum temperature above 90°F between 1961-1990.[2]

26 days
Projected average number of days per year with a maximum temperature above 90°F by 2050.[3]

INTENSE STORMS & FLOODING

IMPACTS:

- Property damage
- Power outages
- Downed trees
- Costs to taxpayers
- Pollution from stormwater runoff
- Inaccessible roadways

71%
Increase in heavy precipitation events in the Northeast U.S. between 1958 and 2012.[4]

75 days
Projected average number of days per year with high tide flooding in Newport, Rhode Island by 2050, compared with 4 days observed in 1960.[5]

SEA LEVEL RISE

IMPACTS:

- Long-term flood risks to critical facilities, infrastructure, homes, and businesses
- Erosion and shoreline damage
- Loss of beaches and coastal ecosystems

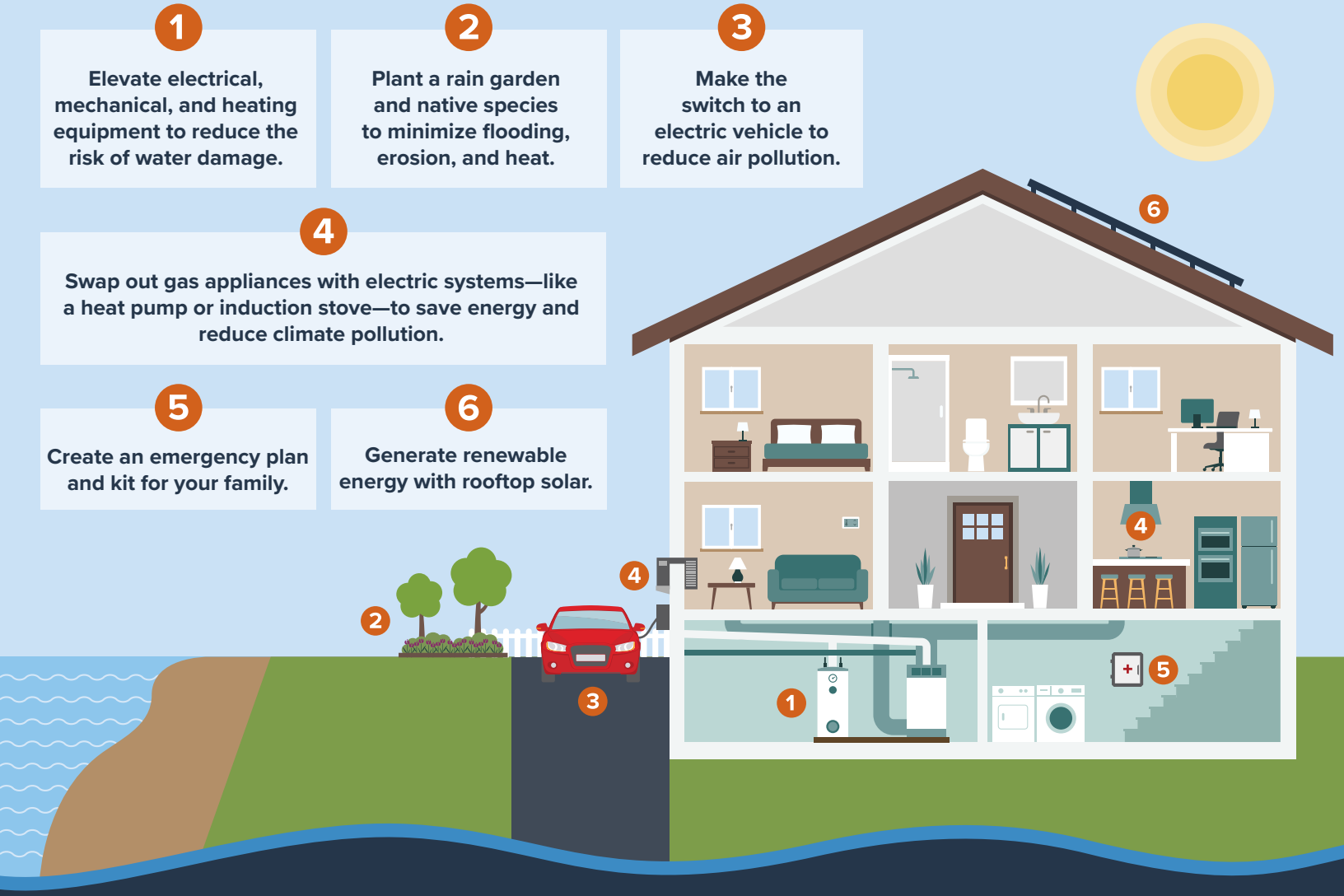
10 inches
Projected increase in Rhode Island's sea levels by 2050.[6]

3.5 feet
Projected increase in Rhode Island's sea levels by 2100.[7]

How You Can Be Ready & Resilient

According to a 2024 economic study, for every $1 spent on climate resilience and preparedness, communities have been shown to save $13 in damages, cleanup costs, and economic impact.[8] In Barrington, it will pay to take proactive steps to prepare our community for climate change. As the Town invests in climate resilience through *Ready & Resilient Barrington*, community members can take action at home.

1. **Elevate electrical, mechanical, and heating equipment to reduce the risk of water damage.**
2. **Plant a rain garden and native species to minimize flooding, erosion, and heat.**
3. **Make the switch to an electric vehicle to reduce air pollution.**
4. **Swap out gas appliances with electric systems—like a heat pump or induction stove—to save energy and reduce climate pollution.**
5. **Create an emergency plan and kit for your family.**
6. **Generate renewable energy with rooftop solar.**



A Future Where Everyone Can Thrive

In Barrington and around the world, the impacts of climate change are not evenly distributed. Climate hazards disproportionately affect marginalized and vulnerable people—including low-income communities, BIPOC communities, older adults, children, and persons with disabilities—who often lack resources or cannot afford to prepare for and recover from climate-related disasters.

Preparing for these impacts is vital to ensure the health and safety of everyone in our community. The *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan* aims to be a practical, responsible, and equitable response to manage these threats. Equity considerations were identified by the Climate Action Advisory Group as they developed the plan's goals, strategies, and actions, and created Implementation Blueprints.

Creating a Ready & Resilient Barrington

Here in Barrington, we are getting ready to meet the challenges of climate change head-on. In 2021, our Town Council adopted the Resilient Future Resolution, acknowledging the need for urgent action. Today, we are taking the next step towards that ambitious goal with *Ready & Resilient Barrington*, the first climate action plan to be developed by a Town in the State of Rhode Island.

With this plan, Barrington is committing to the following overarching goals:

Achieve net zero greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 2050, in alignment with the State of Rhode Island's 2021 Act on Climate law.

Support the State's transition to 100% renewable energy by 2033, in alignment with the General Assembly's 100% Renewable Energy Standard.

Prepare the Barrington community to adapt to the impacts of climate change that we are already seeing and feeling and will continue to experience in the future.

We need everyone in our community working together to make these goals a reality. It is our shared responsibility to prepare today for a safer, healthier tomorrow—not just for us, but for future generations as well. If everyone lends a hand, we can build a better future for Barrington, one that is resilient and enduring.

Five guiding principles were selected to represent Barrington's aspirations for the development and implementation of the *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan*.

CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION

Decreasing Barrington's GHG emissions, the primary type of pollution causing climate change.

COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

Increasing the capacity of community members to prepare for, respond, and adapt to climate change impacts.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

Adapting and protecting natural systems to thrive in the face of climate impacts.

INCLUSION AND ENGAGEMENT

Addressing challenges that affect underrepresented communities and prioritizing opportunities that are beneficial.

INTEGRITY, TRANSPARENCY, AND GOVERNANCE

Communicating openly and clearly with Town stakeholders about plans, resource allocation, and progress, and promoting ongoing collaboration between Town departments.

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan* is strategically designed around five key focus areas to address the Town's sustainability and resilience goals comprehensively. Each focus area is aligned with specific elements of the Town's Comprehensive Plan to ensure an integrated approach to climate action.

Ready & Resilient Focus Areas

	ALIGNMENT WITH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN
 **COMMUNITY HEALTH & RESILIENCE**	Natural Hazards Element
 **ENERGY & BUILDINGS**	Housing & Neighborhoods Element Energy Element
 **INFRASTRUCTURE, TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE**	Economic Development (Business) Element Circulation (Transportation) Element Community Services & Facilities Element Land Use Element
 **NATURAL RESOURCES**	Natural & Cultural Resources Element Outdoor Recreation Element
 **OPERATIONS & WASTE**	Community Services & Facilities Element

While the Comprehensive Plan outlines the Town's strategic and aspirational direction for making capital improvements over the next 20 years, the *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan* identifies specific climate actions for the Town and community to undertake over the next 5-10 years.

Implementing the actions in this plan will lay the necessary groundwork to rapidly and aggressively reduce GHG emissions between now and 2050 and prepare community members for the future impacts of climate change. Given how quickly technology is evolving and our climate is changing, Barrington will continuously evaluate the actions in the plan and adjust them as needed. The Town will produce yearly progress reports and update the plan every five years.

Pathways to Reducing Emissions

To tackle the challenge of climate change head-on, Barrington must reduce the GHG emissions causing our atmosphere to warm. These emissions are created by everyday activities such as burning fossil fuels, like oil and natural gas, to power our cars and homes and sending waste to decompose in landfills. In order to create an actionable and data-driven plan, we conducted a community-wide GHG inventory to identify the sources of these emissions in Barrington and our greatest opportunities to reduce them. This inventory provided the foundation for many of the high-impact strategies and actions in the *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan*.

In 2023, Barrington generated 134,524 metric tons of GHG emissions, measured as metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MTCO_2e$). Energy used to power buildings (heating, cooling, lighting, etc.) accounts for more than half of our emissions (52%). The second largest source of GHG emissions is the transportation sector (40%), primarily from gasoline-powered passenger vehicles. Solid waste sent to the landfill accounts for most of the remaining emissions (8%), with small contributions from composted organic waste and wastewater treatment processes.[9]

Barrington's 2023 Community GHG Emissions by Sector[10]

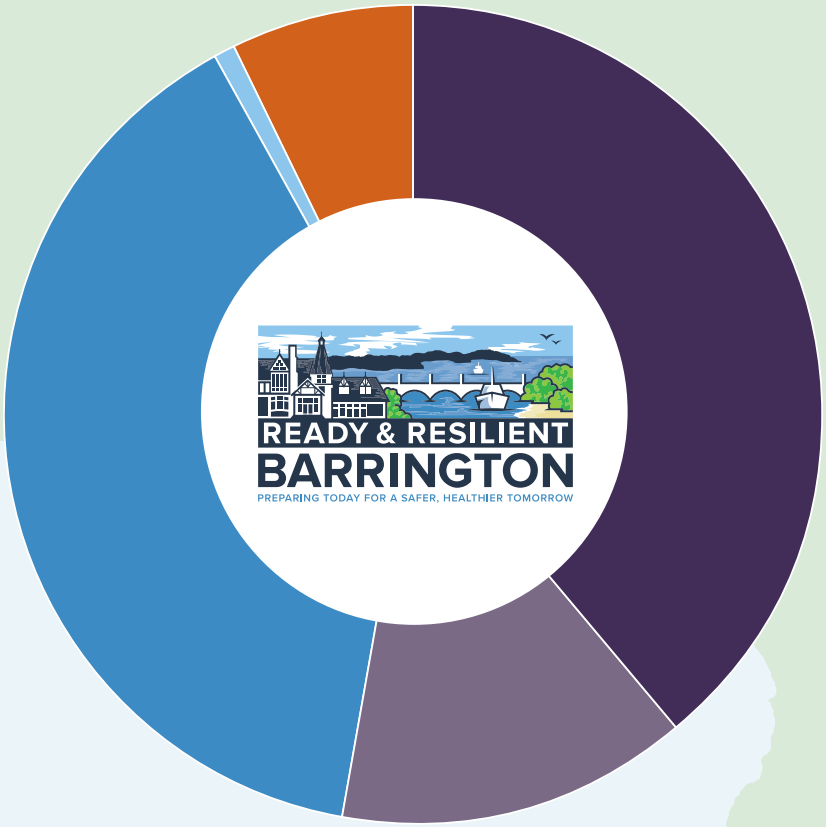
39% (52,062 $MTCO_2e$)
BUILDINGS (FOSSIL FUELS)

14% (18,654 $MTCO_2e$)
BUILDINGS (ELECTRICITY)

39% (53,073 $MTCO_2e$)
TRANSPORTATION (FOSSIL FUELS)

<1% (93 $MTCO_2e$)
TRANSPORTATION (ELECTRICITY)

8% (10,642 $MTCO_2e$)
SOLID WASTE & WASTEWATER

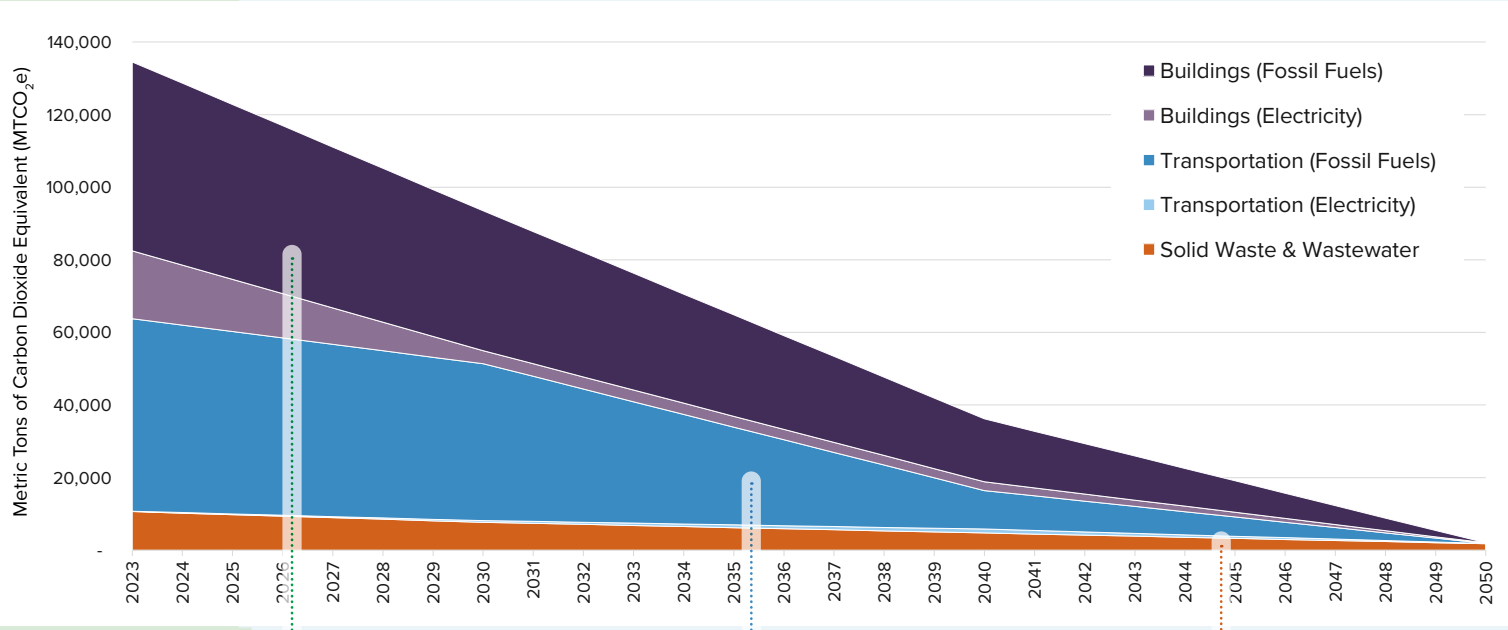


TOTAL
134,524 $MTCO_2e$

We can rapidly and aggressively reduce GHG emissions in Barrington by transforming our energy, transportation, and infrastructure systems to be as clean and efficient as possible. The strategies outlined in this *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan* are designed to put Barrington on a path to achieving net zero emissions by 2050, as aligned with the State's reduction targets.

Barrington's Pathways Analysis[11] models these opportunities; the wedges in the graph below illustrate the reductions in GHG emissions that can be realized in Barrington over time as high-impact strategies and actions are implemented. To achieve these reductions, an overarching strategy to purchase 100% of our electricity from renewable energy resources will also be required. This will ensure we maximize GHG reductions as we electrify our buildings and vehicles.

Pathways to Zero



ELECTRIFY BUILDINGS & PURSUE EFFICIENCY

To rapidly reduce emissions, we must eliminate the direct use of fossil fuels for heating, cooking, and other uses in both new and existing buildings. All electrification efforts should be accompanied by high efficiency retrofits, such as insulation upgrades or installing smart lighting and appliances, to minimize the demand for new renewable energy.

ELECTRIFY TRANSPORTATION

To tackle emissions from the transportation sector, we will need to transition all passenger and commercial vehicles to EVs. Vehicle electrification must be accompanied by expanded EV charging infrastructure and increased transit use and alternative transportation modes to minimize future electricity demands.

REDUCE & DIVERT SOLID WASTE

Between now and 2050, we need to steadily increase diversion rates to ultimately reach 90%, the threshold for "zero waste." This means composting organic waste (e.g., food waste), reducing our use of plastics and other non-recyclable materials, and preventing as much waste as possible from being landfilled by reducing overall consumption.

Community Priorities & Perspectives

Ready & Resilient Barrington is a joint effort across Town departments, stakeholder organizations, and residents. Engaging community members in the planning process was critical to developing a plan that reflects the community's diverse priorities, concerns, and needs.

Climate Action Advisory Group

38 Members

38 Representatives from Town departments and local and regional organizations came together to shape the plan's goals, strategies, and actions and develop Implementation Blueprints.

Climate Action Quick Polls

The Town conducted four "quick poll" surveys during the planning process to identify community barriers to action and opportunities for impact that helped shape the final plan.

In total, these polls collected nearly **650 responses** from Barrington residents.

240
responses on the **Climate Priorities and Concerns** Quick Poll

151
responses on the **Flooding & Stormwater Management** Quick Poll

133
responses on the **Transportation** Quick Poll

117
responses on the **Buildings and Energy** Quick Poll

"All public buildings should be running on renewables."

"Flooding will only become worse as climate changes and sea levels rise. We need to be prepared for worse events than we experience now."

Community Events and Focus Groups

Through a series of community events and targeted focus groups, the project team heard directly from residents about the issues that matter most to them.

Open House with Barrington Kindergartners

52 Participants

Town staff and the Conservation Commission heard from Barrington kindergartners and their parents about the importance of trees while sharing the Town's role in preserving and protecting our tree canopy.

CompPlanPalooza

100+ Participants

The Town hosted presentations, activities, and surveying stations to engage residents around its current planning projects, including the Comprehensive Plan and *Ready & Resilient Barrington*.

Barrington Arts Festival and Community Fair

20+ Participants

Town staff hosted a table to inform attendees about *Ready & Resilient Barrington* and encourage residents to respond to the four quick polls.

Coastal Homeowner Focus Group

8 Participants

Peck Center Activity

7 Participants

High School Focus Groups

44 Participants

Town staff led three focus groups with high school students where they articulated their hopes, fears, and vision for a safe and healthy future in Barrington.

When asked to identity their greatest climate concern, 36% of the students said "coastal flooding/storm surge" and 23% said "less biodiversity of plants and animals."

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Emergency preparedness, management, and communications
- ☑ Public health and safety
- ☑ Access to resources and services

Community Health and Resilience

Vision: Barrington is prepared for climate impacts through effective emergency preparedness programs and accessible resources.

BY THE NUMBERS

Climate impacts like severe flooding, intense storms, and extreme heat all present serious threats to the Barrington community. The Town seeks to build resilience to these impacts through enhancing emergency preparedness, communications and education, and improving the local network of emergency resources and services for community members. Building climate resilience ensures that the Barrington community's health and wellbeing is safeguarded for years to come.

19.6 miles
of coastline in Barrington.[15]

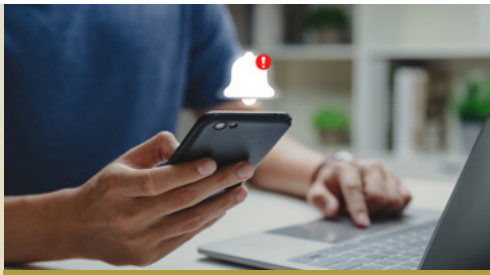
1,894
of 6,380[16] primary structures in Barrington are projected to be damaged in a 100-year storm (a storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year).[17]

$6,234,000
in property damages occurred in Bristol County due to flooding between 1996–2018.[18]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Barrington to track and measure progress toward its goals for Community Health & Resilience.

PERFORMANCE METRIC	BASELINE YEAR	2030 TARGET	2040 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Number of heat-related emergency room visits (Rhode Island)	58 (2022)[12]	Monitor and reduce		
Number of underground oil storage tanks in the floodplain	~1,200 home oil tanks (2024)[13] ~30 commercial size (2024)[14]	Monitor and reduce		
Percent of residents reporting good connections with neighbors	New metric	Monitor and increase		



TAKE ACTION

Sign up for local emergency and community alerts through CodeRED.

GET ALERTS

Action Table

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Community Health & Resilience.

GOAL 1	**Barrington residents and businesses are resilient in the face of climate change.**
STRATEGY 1.1	**Ensure residents and businesses have the resources they need to be safe, resilient, and prepared for climate impacts.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Conduct an outreach campaign targeting residents and businesses to improve understanding of flood risks, including flood insurance and prevention and mitigation measures.
ACTION 1.1.B	Create a suite of climate action and resilience toolkits that provide Barrington residents with guidance and resources to prepare for extreme weather events and long-term climate stressors.
ACTION 1.1.C	Host climate preparedness workshops and trainings targeting local business owners.
ACTION 1.1.D	Implement pilot neighborhood scale resilience hub at the Bay Spring Community Center.

GOAL 2	**Emergency services are equipped to respond to climate hazards and community members can access resources and support to recover quickly.**
STRATEGY 2.1	**Strengthen community preparedness and response capabilities.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Enhance climate change emergency preparedness and response training for Town staff and responders, focusing on coordination and communication during emergencies.
ACTION 2.1.B	Establish a database of volunteers to assist during emergencies or for other civic needs.
ACTION 2.1.C	Pilot a block party grant program to enhance local connections and social resilience at the neighborhood level.
ACTION 2.1.D	Identify a location within a Town-owned building that can serve as a tactical response center during and after climate events.

Win-Win Actions: Reducing Pollution & Health Risks

Some actions can both enhance climate resilience while simultaneously reducing GHG emissions. For example, pairing battery energy storage with solar projects provides resilience in the face of disruptions to the electric grid. Likewise, as homes move to electric heating, prioritizing the removal of oil storage tanks within floodplains will reduce the risks of substantial oil leakage during storm events. Educating residents and businesses about these opportunities can be incorporated into actions like 1.1.A above.

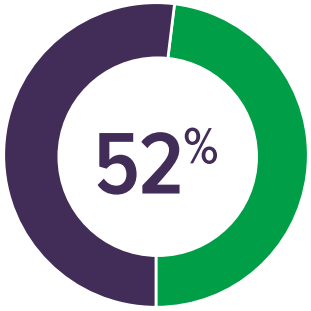
WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Electrification
- ☑ Energy efficiency
- ☑ Renewable energy transition
- ☑ Energy resilience

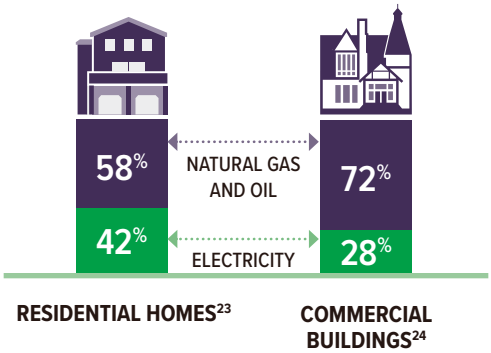
Energy and Buildings

Vision: Barrington runs on 100% renewable energy and encourages high performing, energy efficient buildings.

BY THE NUMBERS



Energy use in residential and commercial buildings is responsible for more than half of Barrington's GHG emissions.[22]



Electrifying homes, businesses, schools, and municipal buildings—meaning switching from fossil fuels like oil and natural gas to electricity—is Barrington's biggest opportunity to reduce emissions.

To make the switch, community members can take advantage of incentives for electric systems like heat pumps through state and federal programs and purchase renewable energy from the grid.

$209,933

worth of rebates were issued by Clean Heat Rhode Island for heat pump installations in Barrington between September 2023 and June 2024 alone.[25]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Barrington to track and measure progress toward its goals for Energy & Buildings.

PERFORMANCE METRIC	BASELINE YEAR	2030 TARGET	2040 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Share of residential buildings electrified	<1% (2024)[19]	20%	60%	100%
Share of commercial buildings electrified	<1% (2024)[20]	20%	60%	100%
Installed rooftop solar capacity (MW)	New metric	16.8 (25% of potential)	33.7 (50% of potential)	67.3[21] (100% of potential)

TAKE ACTION

Enroll in the Barrington Community Electricity program and opt-in for 100% renewable energy.

ENROLL TODAY

Action Table

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Energy & Buildings.

GOAL 1	**Buildings in Barrington are energy efficient and minimize climate pollution.**
STRATEGY 1.1	**Electrify and retrofit existing buildings.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Establish a local energy coaching program where trained coaches can engage directly with homeowners, renters, and businesses on electrification and efficiency upgrades.
ACTION 1.1.B	Determine processes for property tax abatements to address increased value associated with the installation of renewable energy and other energy improvements.
ACTION 1.1.C	Prioritize implementation of cost-saving efficiency and electrification projects in municipal facilities and commit to all-electric building systems for all other end-of-life replacements.
ACTION 1.1.D	Identify qualifying homes and support fossil fuel to electric conversion via the Spencer Trust's Home Repair Program.

GOAL 2	**Barrington's energy supply is resilient and sourced from renewables.**
STRATEGY 2.1	**Expand renewable energy capacity across the community.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Develop a renewable energy project screening and prioritization process to ensure potential projects at the landfill, parking lots, and other available sites are vetted for maximizing townwide benefits.
ACTION 2.1.B	Collaborate with the Green Energy Consumers Alliance to create resources for community members to identify vetted installers for solar panels, battery storage and other high-efficiency energy systems.
ACTION 2.1.C	Increase enrollment in Barrington Community Electricity Program 100% renewable option through ongoing promotion and education.
STRATEGY 2.2	**Increase energy productivity across the community.**
ACTION 2.2.A	Pursue energy storage and advanced metering systems for enhancing resilience and minimize peak energy costs.
ACTION 2.2.B	Identify candidate sites and assess the feasibility of microgrid and network geothermal systems.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WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Transition to zero emission vehicles
- ☑ Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- ☑ Public transportation
- ☑ Low-carbon mobility (e.g., walking, biking)
- ☑ Resilient infrastructure
- ☑ Sustainable land use

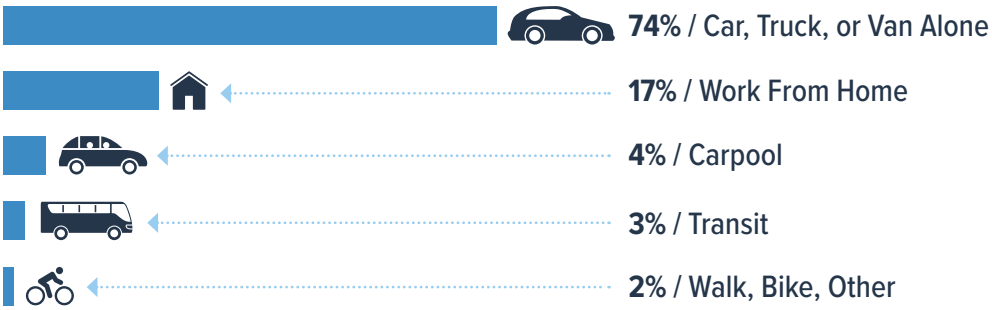
Infrastructure, Transportation, and Land Use

Vision: Barrington accelerates the transition to zero emission vehicles, supports low-carbon mobility options, and promotes resilient infrastructure.

BY THE NUMBERS

Transportation accounts for close to half of Barrington's GHG emissions (40%), most of which are generated from personal gas-powered vehicles. By transitioning to electric and hybrid vehicles and expanding access to walking, biking, and transit, Barrington can simultaneously reduce emissions, improve local air quality, and create more connected, active neighborhoods.

Commuting in Barrington[27]



Transforming how we get around can also save us money.

$142,795

potential lifetime savings if the Town transitions its vehicle fleet to EVs.[28]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Barrington to track and measure progress toward its goals for Infrastructure, Transportation, & Land Use.

PERFORMANCE METRIC	BASELINE YEAR	2030 TARGET	2040 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Share of passenger vehicles electrified	New metric	20%	80%	100%
Share of commercial vehicles electrified	New metric	10%	45%	80%
Number of public EV charging ports	8 (2024)[26]	94	237	380
Share of critical infrastructure upgraded	New metric	10%	20%	50%

TAKE ACTION

The State offers rebates to residents, small businesses, and nonprofits who purchase electric vehicles. See if you qualify.

DRIVE AN EV

Action Table

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Infrastructure, Transportation, and Land Use.

GOAL 1	**Barrington encourages and supports zero emission vehicles.**
STRATEGY 1.1	**Accelerate the transition to zero emission vehicles.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Adopt zero emission vehicle purchasing criteria for the Town's fleet.
ACTION 1.1.B	Partner with the Green Energy Consumers Alliance to host educational and ride-and-drive events to encourage community members to purchase an electric or hybrid vehicle as their next vehicle.
ACTION 1.1.C	Identify priority locations and install additional charging stations for EVs in public parking areas.

GOAL 2	**Barrington residents have more options to travel for work, school, and errands.**
STRATEGY 2.1	**Reduce solo car trips through increased use of transit and active mobility options.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Implement the Complete Streets Implementation Plan and Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan.
ACTION 2.1.B	Expand the Senior Center Bus to include predictable schedules and/or fixed routes that connect people with the Route 60 RIPTA Bus and shopping and community destinations.

GOAL 3	**Infrastructure in Barrington is safe, resilient, and well-maintained.**
STRATEGY 3.1	**Ensure infrastructure is resilient in the face of climate hazards.**
ACTION 3.1.A	Support the implementation and communication of the results from the Route 114 Resilience Plan.
ACTION 3.1.B	Establish a Coastal Resilience Overlay District to promote resilience in neighborhoods prone to coastal flooding or projected to be in the future.
ACTION 3.1.C	Conduct regular assessments of critical infrastructure and facilities to identify vulnerabilities and prioritize upgrades or retrofits to enhance resilience, as recommended in the Hazard Mitigation and Flood Management Plan.

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WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Conservation of natural resources and coastline
- ☑ Enhanced trees and biodiversity
- ☑ Sustainable landscaping
- ☑ Stormwater management and infrastructure

Natural Resources

Vision: Barrington protects natural resources, promotes resilient landscapes, and effectively manages stormwater.

BY THE NUMBERS

Our trees and natural spaces clean the air, provide shade and cooler temperatures, filter and manage stormwater, and provide vital habitats for pollinators and local wildlife. Barrington enjoys abundant natural resources, with 91% of residents living within a 10-minute walk to a park.[29] Protecting and enhancing these resources will preserve the natural beauty of our community while also mitigating climate impacts like extreme heat and flooding.

95
Barrington's Tree Equity Score, indicating an even distribution of trees across the community.[32]

300 acres
of protected land owned and managed by the Barrington Land Conservation Trust.[33]

955 acres
of wetlands in Barrington.[34]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Barrington to track and measure progress toward its goals for Natural Resources.

PERFORMANCE METRIC	BASELINE YEAR	2030 TARGET	2040 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Average tree canopy coverage	51% (2024)[30]	Monitor and increase		
Share of land covered by impervious surfaces	10% (2024)[31]	Monitor and minimize		

TAKE ACTION

Join the Barrington Pollinator Pathway and support native plants and pollinators from your own backyard.

SUPPORT POLLINATORS

Action Table

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Natural Resources.

GOAL 1	**Barrington preserves and protects open spaces.**
STRATEGY 1.1	**Prioritize the acquisition and preservation of open spaces.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Work with the Barrington Land Conservation Trust (BLCT) and other stakeholders to identify parcels of land with high ecological, recreational, or flood mitigation value and secure funding for their acquisition and preservation.
ACTION 1.1.B	Review and revise the Zoning Ordinance to align with Barrington's updated Comprehensive Plan, prioritizing the protection of floodplains and other key natural areas from new construction.

GOAL 2	**Barrington's urban forest and landscapes are managed sustainably.**
STRATEGY 2.1	**Enhance and protect Barrington's tree canopy.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Revise Barrington Tree Ordinance to include measures that prevent clearcutting and create a mechanism for informing residents of the value of trees prior to cutting.
ACTION 2.1.B	Use the findings of Barrington's Tree Inventory to identify opportunities for improved tree management, such as planting climate-resilient tree species, managing debris after extreme weather events, and a tree replacement plan.
ACTION 2.1.C	Partner with BLCT to identify funding for tree planting projects and community-based planting opportunities.
STRATEGY 2.2	**Promote sustainable landscapes that enhance biodiversity.**
ACTION 2.2.A	Launch an education and outreach campaign to promote resilient landscaping practices among residents, such as native plants and minimizing monoculture lawns.

GOAL 3	**Barrington manages stormwater effectively with green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.**
STRATEGY 3.1	**Reduce stormwater runoff and pollution by implementing green infrastructure across the community.**
ACTION 3.1.A	Conduct an inventory of all existing green and gray stormwater infrastructure on Town-owned property.
ACTION 3.1.B	Create a set of criteria for identifying priority green infrastructure projects and nature-based solutions to reduce flood risk on Town-owned property.
ACTION 3.1.C	Update ordinances and regulations to include stormwater management requirements in building permits to prevent stormwater runoff on residential properties.
ACTION 3.1.D	Provide resources to residential property owners about green infrastructure practices such as rain gardens, rainwater capture, and permeable pavement.

Photo Credit: John Bellm

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Integrating sustainability throughout municipal operations
- Tracking and sharing progress on *Ready & Resilient Barrington*
- Reducing consumption
- Recycling and composting infrastructure
- Responsible waste management

Operations and Waste

Vision: Barrington integrates climate action across municipal operations while reducing resource waste and consumption community wide.

BY THE NUMBERS

To measure progress on this plan, the Town will need to implement mechanisms for tracking key metrics and communicate the results to the community. Behind buildings and transportation, landfill waste is the third-largest source of GHG emissions in Barrington. Although a relatively small source (8%), waste is a highly visible part of our everyday lives and an indicator of the impact we are having on our environment and our climate. Reducing our consumption of goods and materials, increasing how much food waste we compost, and keeping recycling free of contamination are a few ways to keep as much waste as possible from the landfill.

1,934 pounds
of waste landfilled per household in Barrington in 2023, compared to the State average of 1,857 lbs.[36]

5%
decrease in the residential diversion rate (the share of waste diverted from landfills), from 51% in 2019 to 48% in 2023.[37]

23%
increase in rejected recycling loads due to contamination from 2020 to 2023, up to 42 pounds per household.[38]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Barrington to track and measure progress toward its goals for Operations & Waste.

PERFORMANCE METRIC	BASELINE YEAR	2030 TARGET	2040 TARGET	2050 TARGET
Residential waste diversion rate	48% (2023)[35]	55%	60%	90%
Rejected (i.e., contaminated) recycling rate	42 lbs./ household	20 lbs./ household	0 lbs./ household	0 lbs./ household
Commercial waste diversion rate	New metric	30%	60%	90%
Share of households composting	New metric	30%	60%	90%

TAKE ACTION

Reduce food waste by participating in the curbside Bootstrap Compost program or a similar program.

COMPOST AT HOME

Action Table

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Operations & Waste.

GOAL 1	**The Town of Barrington integrates sustainability data and principles throughout its operations and regularly communicates progress with the community.**
STRATEGY 1.1	**Establish frameworks and tools to integrate climate action into Barrington's operations and report on progress to the community.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Design and implement a plan for how the Town will track and communicate progress on Ready & Resilient Barrington's actions, metrics, and targets to the community.
ACTION 1.1.B	Develop a Sustainability Framework tool to guide decision making processes across Town projects, processes, and budgeting.
ACTION 1.1.C	Design and implement a public engagement campaign to make climate actions that are taken by community members "visible" by sharing their stories and publicly recognizing their efforts.

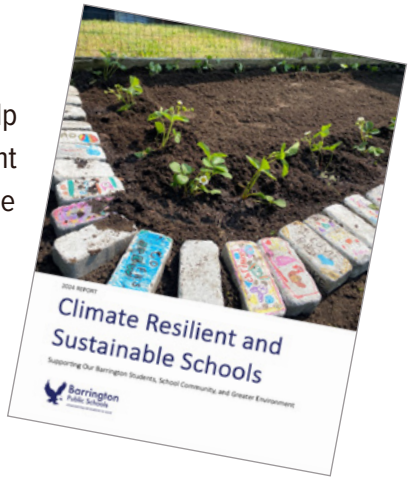
GOAL 2	**Barrington's solid waste is reduced and managed responsibly.**
STRATEGY 2.1	**Reduce and divert waste across the community.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Create a green business program that recognizes and incentivizes businesses and organizations to reduce waste.
ACTION 2.1.B	Create and launch a public education campaign to increase the number of residents who participate in pick-up, at-home, or drop-off composting options.
ACTION 2.1.C	Pursue funding to conduct a municipal curbside composting pilot program.
STRATEGY 2.2	**Reduce and divert waste within Town operations.**
ACTION 2.2.A	Implement a comprehensive recycling program for Town operations, including the installation of recycling dumpsters and communications materials.

Monitoring Progress and Building Momentum

Per Operations & Waste Action 1.1.A, tracking our progress will require developing new mechanisms to monitor how quickly we implement actions as well as the outcomes they produce. In some cases, this can be achieved by adjusting our existing systems. For example, Barrington's digital permitting system provides a valuable record of solar installations, which could be leveraged to track every action taken to improve properties. In addition to implementing effective tracking mechanisms, clear communication of these results to a broad audience is critical for building momentum and ensuring we can recalibrate our efforts as needed to stay on course.

Working with Our Public Schools on Climate Action

Barrington Public Schools has invested in sustainable and resilient initiatives that help reduce the District's environmental impact on the Town of Barrington. This investment is detailed in the Climate Resilient and Sustainable Schools Report, which outlines the District's environmentally-friendly policies, sustainable practices, and collaborative community partnerships. As part of this effort, Barrington Public Schools has already implemented these key initiatives:



1.

All schools have implemented recycling programs to keep school supply materials out of landfills.

2.

Elementary and secondary level schools have developed, or are developing, robust composting programs to offset food waste generated by staff and students.

3.

A School Bus No Idling Policy outlines school bus idling standards and applies to the operation of every school bus in the District.

4.

As of 2016, all equipment and appliances purchased for use in schools are ENERGY STAR® rated.

5.

The District signed onto a net metering project, joining the Town of Bristol and the Town of Barrington in a long-term purchase agreement with Rhode Island's largest rooftop solar project in East Greenwich.

6.

Multiple schools support student-led "Green Teams" that work to reduce waste, improve school-based sustainability practices, and empower students to engage in environmentally friendly habits and activities.

Climate Action Advisory Group Recommendations for Future Collaboration

Looking ahead, the Town of Barrington aspires to collaborate closely with Barrington Public Schools on joint projects to advance climate action and create a more resilient future for everyone. The Climate Action Advisory Group identified some potential opportunities for future collaboration including:

Pursuing energy efficiency and electrification projects across all schools.

Implementing and maintaining rainwater collection systems and rain gardens at all Barrington schools while incorporating student engagement and education.

Exploring a pilot program to implement EV school buses.

Implementing a cell phone lot at Barrington High School to minimize congestion and idling during school pick-up and drop-off times.

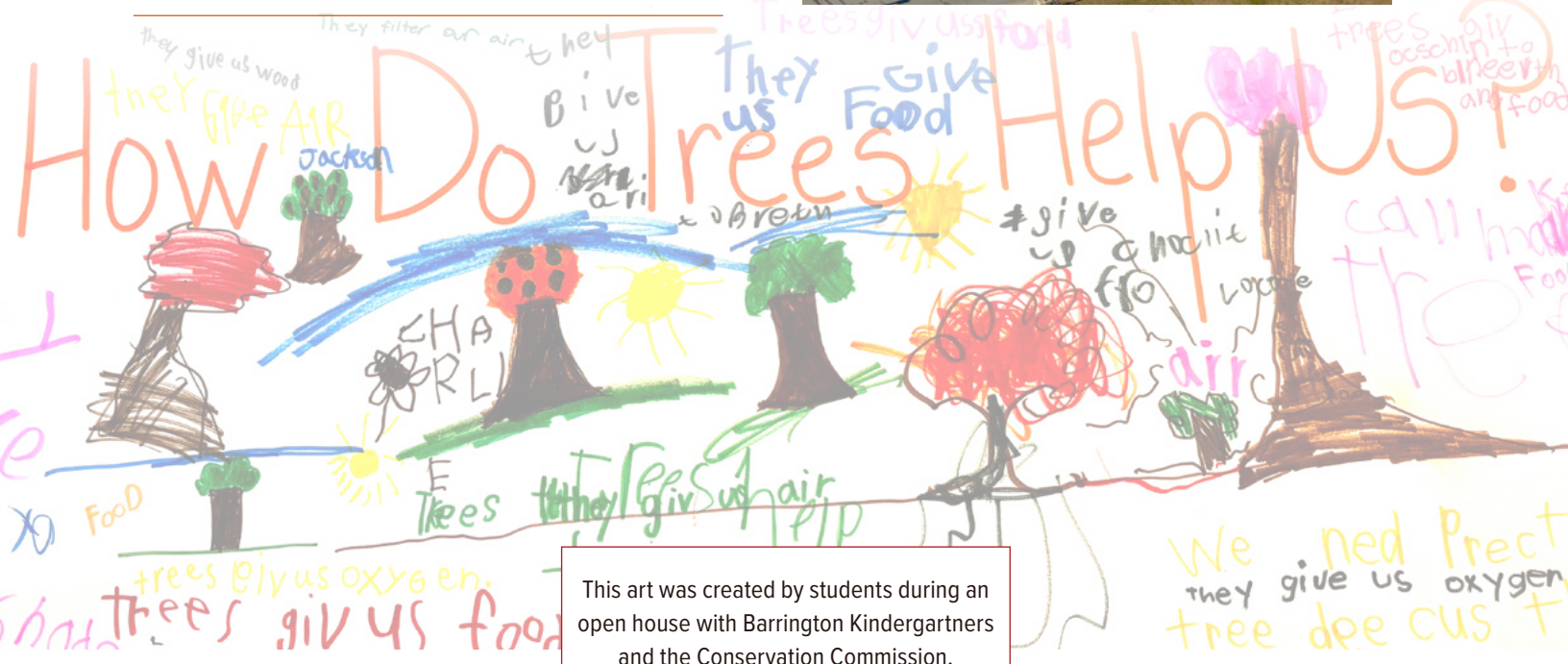
Incorporating Schools into the Sustainability Framework that the Town will develop to guide decision making processes across projects, processes, and budgeting.

Pursuing opportunities to deploy renewable energy infrastructure on school properties.

Expanding composting efforts at Barrington High School and Barrington Middle School, including educational signage and training for students and staff.

Implementing dry floodproofing measures at Barrington High School to minimize flood damage, as recommended by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.


Photo Credit: Homes.com



This art was created by students during an open house with Barrington Kindergartners and the Conservation Commission.

Photo Credit: John Bellm

The Cost of Inaction

What could be the consequences to Barrington should we not heed the call to rapidly reduce our carbon footprint and build our resilience to the impacts of climate change?

Climate change is posing serious physical and financial risks to our residents, property, and infrastructure. More than $1.1 billion worth of property in Barrington is at risk of damage during a 100-year storm (a storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year), the odds of which are increasing due to climate change and will be increasingly exacerbated by sea level rise.[39]

For every $1 spent on climate resilience and preparedness, communities have been shown to save $13 in damages, cleanup costs, and economic impact.[40] Federal legislation, such as the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022, has made historic levels of funding available to advance climate action. For example, through the new federal Solar Production Tax Credit, Barrington could receive approximately $25,000 per year for a 1 megawatt array, in addition to value of the energy generated. Alternatively, the Investment Tax Credit option could cover up to 30% of the project cost up front, potentially bringing in $300-$500 thousand for a similar size system. However, these incentives and tax credits have expiration dates that will come quickly. For every year that a potential renewable energy project is delayed, we may lose the opportunity to recoup costs.

There are exciting—but fleeting—opportunities for homeowners as well. In addition to the rebates that exist through programs like Clean Heat RI[41] the State Office of Energy Resources recently announced rebates[42] which, combined with tax credits, amount to more than $5,200 for homeowners to pursue electrification and energy efficiency. These benefits will begin to expire in 2031. Achieving our GHG reduction targets will require an average of 230 homes per year to transition to high efficiency electric heating. If we maintain that pace, our community has the opportunity to tap over $7.3 million in federal assistance.

$1.1 billion

worth of property in Barrington is at risk of damage during a 100-year storm (a storm that has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year).

over $5,200

of rebates and tax credits can help homeowners pursue electrification and energy efficiency.

230 homes

per year will need to transition to high efficiency electric heating in order to achieve our GHG reduction targets.

Meeting the Moment

The *Ready & Resilient Barrington Plan* sets our community on a path to preparing for climate impacts while positioning us to take advantage of considerable financial and technical support. With goals for where we want to be in the future and actions identified for how to get there, we are ready to do our part to create a safer, healthier tomorrow for current and future generations. We hope you will join us on Barrington's journey to becoming *Ready & Resilient.*

Endnotes

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Photo Credit: John Bellm

READY & RESILIENT
BARRINGTON
PREPARING TODAY FOR A SAFER, HEALTHIER TOMORROW

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