



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT *READY & RESILIENT BARRINGTON***

### **What are the primary goals of *Ready & Resilient Barrington*?**

- 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.

### **How will the town measure its progress toward these goals?**

To measure progress on this plan, the Town will be tracking a set of 16 metrics measuring community resilience, energy use, critical infrastructure, transportation, land use, waste, and other indicators. The Town will produce yearly progress reports and update the plan every five years.

### **What specific actions will Barrington take to reduce greenhouse gas emissions according to this plan?**

The large majority of Barrington's emissions are created by everyday activities such as burning fossil fuels to power our cars and heat our homes, as well as sending waste to decompose in landfills. *Ready & Resilient Barrington* has an overarching strategy to purchase 100% of our electricity from renewable energy resources, paired with a vigorous community-wide effort to electrify our buildings and vehicles, and to compost our food waste.

### **How will the town fund these initiatives?**

In Barrington, climate resilience is already woven into the Town's Capital Improvement Program. At the same time, reducing carbon pollution and building resilience to climate change at the pace required will necessitate the Town deepening its financial commitments to enact key aspects of this plan. While building capacity is critical, the Town is at the same working to minimize costs, from engaging with its Boards and Commissions on implementing the plan to establishing a URI graduate student resilience internship supported by the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program.

### **How will the town engage the community in the implementation of the plan?**

Extensive community engagement took place in the development of *Ready and Resilient Barrington*, including online surveys, public meetings, and the work of a dedicated Climate Action Advisory Group composed largely of Barrington residents. As we begin the long road of implementation, we will continue to check in with our community to ensure we are on the right track.

### **What are the potential economic benefits of implementing *Ready & Resilient Barrington*?**

According to an economic study by Allstate, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, for every \$1 spent on climate resilience and preparedness, communities have been shown to save \$13 in damages, cleanup costs, and economic impact.

But the cost of not implementing *Ready & Resilient Barrington* could be staggering. 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.

### **What are the biggest challenges the Town faces in implementing *Ready & Resilient Barrington*?**

While climate change is of course a global crisis, there are aspects of this crisis that Barrington can control, and in these areas we must take action. The nature of climate crisis requires that all sectors—from Town government to the schools to businesses to homeowners—take concerted, long-term action to ensure that Barrington maintains its high quality of life for generations to come. In implementing *Ready & Resilient Barrington*, we are starting with “low-hanging fruit”—Actions that require lower investment of time and resources but that can quickly make a meaningful difference, such as an outreach campaign in the new year to improve the public’s understanding of flood risks. Over time, as we grow our collective efforts and build momentum, it will become more feasible to take on the biggest challenges.

### **How will the town adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as sea-level rise and extreme weather events?**

The greatest challenge climate change poses to Barrington is flooding: both coastal and inland flooding. The Town is advancing a long-term, multi-pronged strategy to address this that includes promoting storm preparedness, improving emergency services, protecting critical infrastructure, and managing stormwater more effectively with green infrastructure and nature-based solutions.

### **How will the town ensure that *Ready & Resilient Barrington* is equitable and addresses the needs of all residents?**

Inclusion and engagement are cornerstones of responsible climate action. In the development of *Ready & Resilient Barrington*, we held engagement events with members of our community who are historically underrepresented in decision-making, such as seniors and youth. This plan acknowledges the challenges that affect underrepresented communities and prioritizes opportunities that are beneficial to these groups.

### **What is the timeline for implementing *Ready & Resilient Barrington*?**

Implementing the Actions within this plan will lay the necessary groundwork to rapidly and aggressively reduce greenhouse gas 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.