Climate Action Planning Committee Kickoff

CAP Progress and Next Steps
February 3, 2022
History of Climate Action in Falmouth

2007
Falmouth Town Council signed the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing to reduce carbon emissions.

2010
Falmouth developed and accepted its first climate action report, known as the Green Ribbon Report.

2018
Falmouth developed updated sustainability goals for municipal operations, schools, businesses, residents, and region.

2020
Portland/South Portland and the State published climate action plans.

Ongoing
- Energy efficiency upgrades
- Open space and natural resource conservation
- Renewable energy development
- Commitment to watershed health
- Waste and recycling innovation
Falmouth's Current Climate Action Goals

• 2% Average Annual Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction
• 70% renewable energy use
• 30% of consumed food grown locally

• Expanded EV infrastructure
• Falmouth Electrify Everything campaign
• Nature-based coastal resiliency measures
• Critical infrastructure updates
Maine's Climate Action Goals

• *One Climate Future* Goals:
  • 80% reduction in community-wide GHG emissions by 2050
  • 100% renewable energy for all municipal operations by 2040

• *Maine Won’t Wait* Goals:
  • 45% reduction by 2030
  • 80% reduction by 2050
Key Accomplishments in Falmouth

Building & Energy Use
- LED streetlights
- LED interior lights
- Municipal building energy audits and upgrades
- Solar panels installed on High School and Library
- 875 kW landfill solar array in development

Transportation
- Added 4 All-Electric Vehicles to the Municipal fleet – including hybrids + EVs in Police Fleet
- Installed EV infrastructure

Community Resilience
- Expanded Senior community programming
- Offer before and after-school care
- WindowDressers partner

Waste Reduction
- Food waste program
- Resident and Commercial Recycling Education

Environment
- Open space conservation - over 1800 acres of open space and 55 miles of trails
- Pesticide and Fertilizer use regulations and education
- Water quality management – Highland Lake and Town Wide
State Support and Funding for Municipal Climate Action Planning

- Community Resilience Partnership - $4.5M for municipal partnership program to promote climate action planning

- $25M each for drinking water safety and wastewater infrastructure to leverage ARP funds

- $100 million for investment in Maine's transportation infrastructure and $40 million for conservation of Maine's land and water.

- $20M for State Infrastructure Adaptation Fund
Falmouth Climate Action Plan Overview

Goals:

- Collect data to define scope of greenhouse gas emissions and current and future impacts of climate hazards
- Set targets that align with municipal priorities
- Identify actions and implementation plans that achieve climate targets
- Engage community to support climate action
- Integrate climate considerations into municipal processes

Process: Partnering with GPCOG to provide analysis and guidance in the process

Timeline: ~12 months
**Climate Action Planning**

**GPCOG's Process**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Preparation and Data Collection</th>
<th>Create advisory committee or team</th>
<th>Plan community engagement</th>
<th>Identify data sources and conduct data collection</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Vulnerability Assessment, Emissions Inventory</td>
<td>Vulnerability assessment Workshop</td>
<td>Generate vulnerability and emissions reports</td>
<td>Publicize reports; hold Town Meeting for public comment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Climate Action Planning through Public Engagement</td>
<td>Hold priority-setting Workshop</td>
<td>Develop climate actions based on priorities identified</td>
<td>Publish climate action plan</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Implementation and Tracking Progress</td>
<td>Implement plan and establish tracking approach</td>
<td>Track and report on progress annually</td>
<td>Publicize reports; hold Town Meeting for public comment</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Greenhouse Gas Inventory Plans and Progress

Goals:
• Catalogue emissions from community sources (transportation, energy, waste)
• Highlight largest greenhouse gas sources
• Use data to guide emissions reductions targets

Current status:
• GHG Emissions data collected on ClearPath
• Undergoing quality check
**Vulnerability Assessment Plans and Progress**

**Goals:**
- Assess most vulnerable populations, infrastructure, and ecosystems in the Town
- Guides climate action planning, prioritizes which assets to address first

**Current Status:**
- Held interviews with Department Heads to determine most vulnerable assets to prioritize moving forward
- Currently compiling Department, Town data, and state agency projections to determine vulnerable assets
- Vulnerability Workshop planned for March
  - Goal of workshop is to get input on priority areas of risk and start to discuss solutions
Community Engagement Planning and Progress

Goals:
• Encourage public input in CAP process
• Awareness campaign, informational and educational talks
• Public meetings for sharing information and soliciting limited feedback
• Public facing data platform or website

Current Status:
• Created a Community Engagement Plan to guide strategies for public participation.
• Began Climate Talk Series in partnership with the library to inform public – held 2 events so far
• Created community concerns survey to accompany all public events
• Launched website to compile vulnerability data, CAP landmarks, advertise public events
Role of the Climate Action Planning Committee

- First Town in the region to have a formal community committee
- Ensure community engagement to guide creation of CAP targets and actions
- Identify vulnerable populations and develop strategies that encourage their participation in public events
- Collaborate with stakeholders to help hold Climate lectures, Workshops, and other town events
- Establish a new vision for climate action and prioritize targets
- Pursue opportunities to enable development through community resilience grants
Community Engagement

• Participate in planning of Climate Lecture Series events
• Identify community members and stakeholders interested in working with or joining CAPC
Next Steps
Vulnerability Assessment Workshop

- Review community surveys
- Show impacts and hazards
- Present Vulnerable Asset Findings
- Discuss community concerns and needs
- March timing
Community Climate Action: Community Resilience Grants

- Governor's Office of Policy Innovation and the Future (GOPIF) announced grants for climate action
- Provides funding support of up to $50,000 to community resilience project
- Requires public participation aspect, application due March 22nd
- Opportunity for CAPC to directly aid in the Climate Action Planning
- Community driven grant proposal encourages public participation
- Deliverable to show the Town we are taking action
Community Resilience Grant Priorities

• Funds to build EV Charging stations
• Funds to adopt ordinances and rebates to encourage electrical appliance installation
• Energy upgrades/audits for municipal buildings
• Implementation of Watershed Management Plan
• Funding for future Electrify Everything program
• ........
Committee Rules and Guidelines

• Must establish quorum of at least 4 members
• All communication is public record
• All discussion of 2+ members must make place at public meetings – no email discussion
• Elect Chair