SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH
RESILIENT. RESPONSIBLE. READY.

SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH

CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Prepared by Kim Lundgren Associates, Inc.

OCTOBER 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Letter from the Town Manager

Dear Fellow Scarborough Community Members,

From Maine's largest salt marsh and the beaches of our coast to the farms, forests, and neighborhoods that make up our community, Scarborough is a place defined by our connection to the natural world. That connection is what makes the changing climate personal for us. We are already feeling its effects: rising sea levels and flooding along our coast, stronger storms that strain our roads and infrastructure, and warmer temperatures that affect the health of our residents and the habitats we share with wildlife.

Scarborough is a place defined by our connection to the natural world and is also what makes the changing climate personal for us.

I am proud to present *Sustaining Scarborough*: Resilient. Responsible. Ready., our Town's first Climate Action Plan. This plan builds on work already underway, including our 30x30 initiative to conserve 30 percent of Scarborough by 2030, our electric vehicle charging ordinance to expand access to clean transportation, and the coastal flood Vulnerability Assessment that helps us understand what is truly at stake. *Sustaining Scarborough* brings these efforts together into one comprehensive roadmap for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, preparing our infrastructure and neighborhoods for a changing climate, and protecting the quality of life that makes this Town special.

None of this would have been possible without the residents, businesses, municipal staff, and volunteers who contributed their time, ideas, and local knowledge throughout this process. Your voices shaped every goal and strategy in this plan, and that shared investment is exactly what will carry it forward. I want to particularly thank Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager, and the Climate Action Advisory Group who led this effort alongside our other staff and community partners.

Scarborough has always been a place where people look out for one another and for the land, water, and wildlife we share. *Sustaining Scarborough* asks us to carry that same spirit into the work ahead, so that our neighborhoods stay safe, our marsh and coastline stay healthy, and future generations can enjoy the Scarborough we know and love. I am committed to working with our Town Council, staff, and all of you to put this plan into action, and I hope you will join me.

Sincerely,

Thomas Hall
Town Manager
Town of Scarborough, Maine

Letter from the Sustainability Manager

Dear Scarborough Community,

Our Town knows firsthand what rising temperatures, flooding, and increasingly intense storms can do to our neighbors, homes, businesses, and infrastructure. Over the past several years, Scarborough has taken real steps to respond, from completing a coastal flood Vulnerability Assessment to adopting an electric vehicle charging ordinance and pursuing our 30x30 land conservation goal. I am glad to share the next step in that work: *Sustaining Scarborough*, our Town's first Climate Action Plan.

Every goal in this plan is grounded in local data and shaped by the priorities residents shared with us throughout the process.

Developing this plan has been a genuinely community-driven effort. Over the past year, a Climate Action Advisory Group worked alongside technical consultants, Town boards and committees, and residents to develop practical, achievable goals and strategies to guide Scarborough's climate action efforts.

Sustaining Scarborough is organized around the actions we believe will make the greatest difference: reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our buildings and transportation; strengthening our infrastructure and natural resources against flooding and storm damage; and preparing our neighborhoods to respond and recover when climate impacts occur. Every goal in this plan is grounded in local data and shaped by the priorities the community shared with us throughout the process.

A plan is only as strong as the action that follows it. My colleagues and I are committed to leading implementation in the years ahead and to keeping this process transparent and accountable, with clear measures of progress along the way. I want to thank everyone who contributed their time, expertise, and local knowledge to *Sustaining Scarborough*. This plan reflects our community, and its success will depend on all of us continuing to work together, resilient, responsible, and ready, for the future of our Town.

Sincerely,

Jami Fitch
Sustainability Manager
Town of Scarborough, Maine

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The *Sustaining Scarborough* plan would not be possible without the time, effort, and dedication of Town leadership, staff, and community partners. This planning process was funded, in part, by the State of Maine's Community Resilience Partnership.

Town Staff

Jami Fitch, Sustainability Manager

Allison Carrier, Communications & Engagement Manager

Angela Blanchette, Town Engineer

Autumn Speer, Planning Director

Chip Schrader, Director of Scarborough Public Library

Daryen Granata, Harbor Master

Doug Howard, Public Works Director

Helen Harmon, Development Review Planner

Jill Deering, Community Services Operations & Marketing Specialist

Karen Martin, Economic Development Director

Liam Gallagher, Assistant Town Manager

Nick Cliche, Community Services Director

Rich Kendelan, Fire Chief

Elsa Rowe, Scarborough Public Library Community Engagement Manager

Mark Holmquist, Police Chief

Steve Kramer, Recreation Manager

Todd Jepson, Scarborough Public Schools Facilities Director

Community Partners

Abel Plaud, Conservation Commission

Alyson Bristol, Resident Representative

Cathleen Miller, Conservation Commission

Corinne Michaud-LeBlanc, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries & Wildlife

Craig Robinson, Transportation Committee

Farrah Donahue, Student Representative

Geoff Gezik, Sustainability Committee

George Mageles, Resident Representative

Gretchen Anderson, Greater Portland Council of Governments

Jay Chace, Central Maine Power

Jennifer Rowland, Piper Shores

Jim Hartley, Pine Tree Seafood

Larry Cain, Town Council

Leila Schueler, Resident Representative

Lucy Lacasse, Resident Representative

Lynn Sparling, Resident Representative

Mike Tramblay, Greater Portland Metro

Paul Beaver, Greencare Landscape Management

Portia Hirschman, Transportation Committee

Rick Meinking, Planning Board

Sandy Butterfield, Resident Representative

Steffi Cox, Project GRACE

Stephen Zamierowski, Parks & Conservation Land Board

Steve Berg, Alpha Management

Therese Lamperty, Scarborough Land Trust

Thom Moore, Resident Representative

Consultant Team

SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH: WHAT IT WILL TAKE

What makes the Scarborough community unique is our connection to the natural world around us. From the marshes and beaches to the forests, farms, and neighborhoods, each part of our town has its own character, but we are all bound by the same love for this place and the same responsibility to protect it.

As Scarborough looks to the future, the impacts of a changing climate are becoming harder to ignore. Rising seas and flooding threaten our landscapes and coastline, stronger storms strain our infrastructure, and warmer temperatures affect our health.

Sustaining Scarborough is our call to action. This is our first Climate Action Plan, and it builds on work already underway, from our 30x30 initiative to conserve 30% of our town by 2030, to our electric vehicle charging ordinance expanding access to clean transportation, to the Vulnerability Assessment that helped us understand what's at stake.

Now, with a clear and comprehensive roadmap, we can turn planning into action. Scarborough is committing to three things in this plan: cut our greenhouse gas emissions to net zero by 2050, conserve 30% of our Town by 2030, and prepare every neighborhood for the climate impacts we are already seeing.

Resilient. Responsible. Ready. is how the plan is organized. Resilient looks at what the changing climate is already doing in Scarborough. Responsible examines our own contribution to it, and what we have done so far. Ready lays out the actions we will take next, and what each of us can do.

By coming together across our community, we can protect what we love and ensure Scarborough remains a vibrant, resilient place for generations to come.

SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH

RESILIENT. RESPONSIBLE. READY.

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Three guiding principles were selected to shape the planning process and establish priorities for implementing the *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan:

SUSTAINABLE STEWARDSHIP

Model environmental stewardship by managing the Town's resources wisely to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and other negative contributions to climate change.

Protecting resources today for a stronger tomorrow.

BOLD & TRANSPARENT GOVERNANCE

Lead with purpose through proactive, transparent decision-making that safeguards Scarborough's future in a fiscally sustainable way to minimize the long-term impacts and costs for taxpayers.

Lead openly, plan wisely.

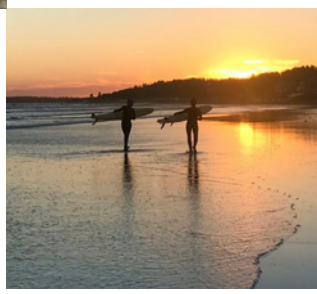
INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATION & PREPAREDNESS

Engage residents of all social, cultural, and economic backgrounds in planning for and protecting Scarborough's future. Prioritize the needs of vulnerable populations and ensure recommendations do not create additional burdens.

Everyone plays a part.

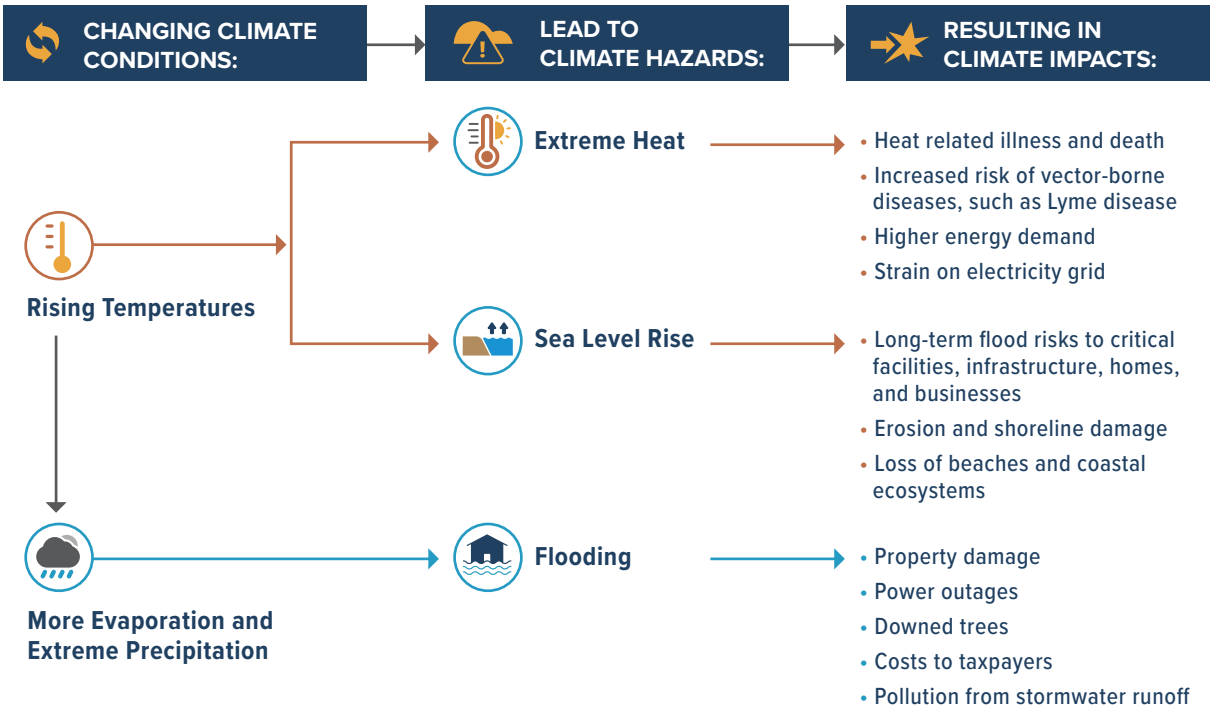
S SCARBOROUGH

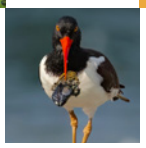
R
RESILIENT



CHANGING CLIMATE TRENDS AND VULNERABILITIES

Increasing GHG emissions yields two major changes in the conditions of our climate: rising temperatures and more extreme precipitation events. Although Scarborough experiences a variety of hazards, there are three main hazards currently linked to these changes in the climate that are already affecting the Town: extreme heat, sea level rise, and flooding. In turn, these hazards can negatively impact our economy, public health, infrastructure, and quality of life.





A Threat Multiplier

These hazards associated with the impacts of climate change do not arrive one at a time, and that is what makes them so destructive. A heavy rain landing on a high tide floods roads that neither one would flood alone. Wet springs followed by dry spells leave the marsh grass brittle and easier to burn. As hazards like these arrive closer together, Scarborough has less time to repair between them.

According to a *Sustaining Scarborough* quick poll, over 70% of residents are very or extremely concerned about the impacts of climate change.

Flooding at Higgins Beach during January 2024 storm

Climate Change in Scarborough

Like many coastal towns, we are already seeing the impacts of a changing climate, and the risks grow each year. The waterline creeps closer than it used to, sandy beaches spend more time underwater, high tides and heavy rains flood roads and neighborhoods more often. Storms feel stronger, winds sound louder, and the shoreline feels less steady.

But it's not just the beaches and the coastline. Longer, warmer summers extend pollen and tick season. High temperatures exacerbate existing medical conditions and make it difficult to enjoy Scarborough's natural beauty. Dry spells leave marsh grass brittle, making it easier for fires to start and spread. A lack of rain strains water supplies and lowers crop yields.

Each year, weather becomes a little less predictable and Scarborough experiences quick shifts between cold and warm temperatures. These changes impact daily life, from outdoor jobs and employee commutes, to school closures and access to the recreational amenities Scarborough is known for.

Projected Climate Conditions in Scarborough[1]

Each year, the impacts of climate change become more noticeable, and projected climate conditions show that it will only worsen over time.

Climate Indicator	Yesterday (1990s)	Today (2025)	Tomorrow (2055)
Days 90° F+	2	8	16
Hottest Summer Temperature	87.9° F	90.6° F	93.1° F
Summer Days with Extreme Fire Danger	1.5	2	2.5

By the 2050s, we should expect:

100°+

9 of 10 years to have at least 1 day over 100° F, ranging up to 3.

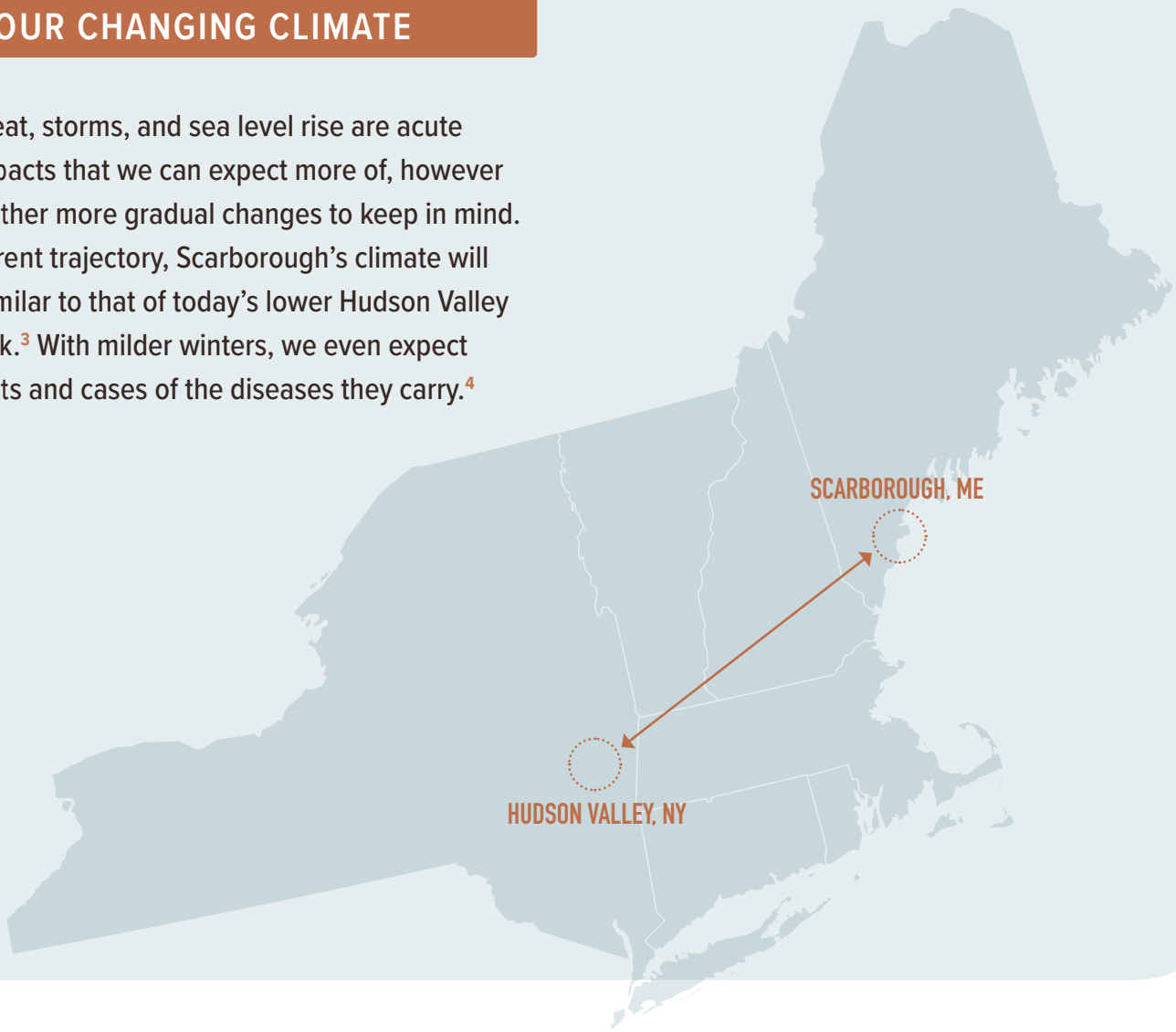
105°+

At least 1 day over 105° F every 5 years, but it could be as frequent as 8 in 10 years.

By the 2070s, we should expect at least 2 days every year to exceed 100° F; and the majority of years will have days over 105° F.

OUR CHANGING CLIMATE

Extreme heat, storms, and sea level rise are acute climate impacts that we can expect more of, however there are other more gradual changes to keep in mind. On our current trajectory, Scarborough's climate will be most similar to that of today's lower Hudson Valley of New York.[3] With milder winters, we even expect more insects and cases of the diseases they carry.[4]



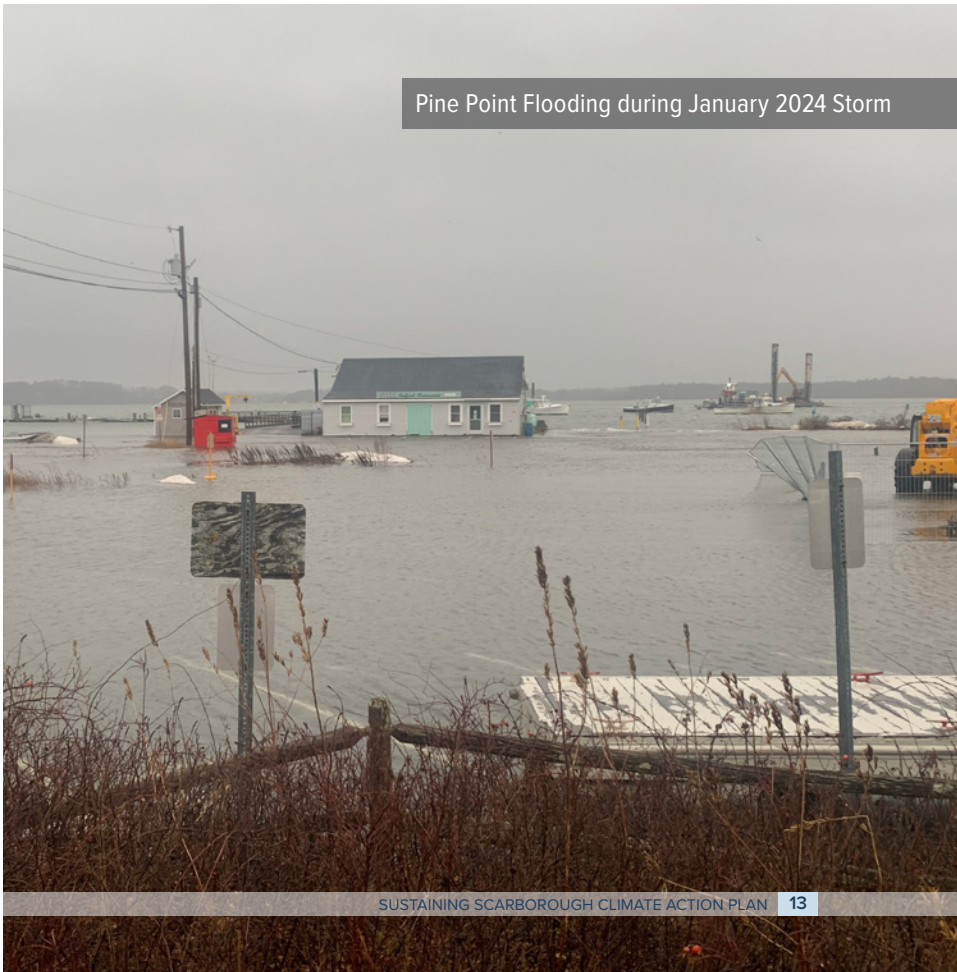
Sea Level Rise and Flood Risk

According to Scarborough's Flood Vulnerability Assessment, by 2050, 1,209 parcels and 588 buildings could be impacted by flooding due to sea level rise.[2]

BY 2050, FLOODING IN SCARBOROUGH WILL IMPACT:

1,209 PARCELS

588 BUILDINGS

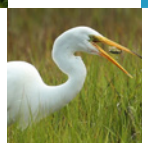


Pine Point Flooding during January 2024 Storm

OUR SHARE OF THE PROBLEM: WHERE OUR EMISSIONS COME FROM

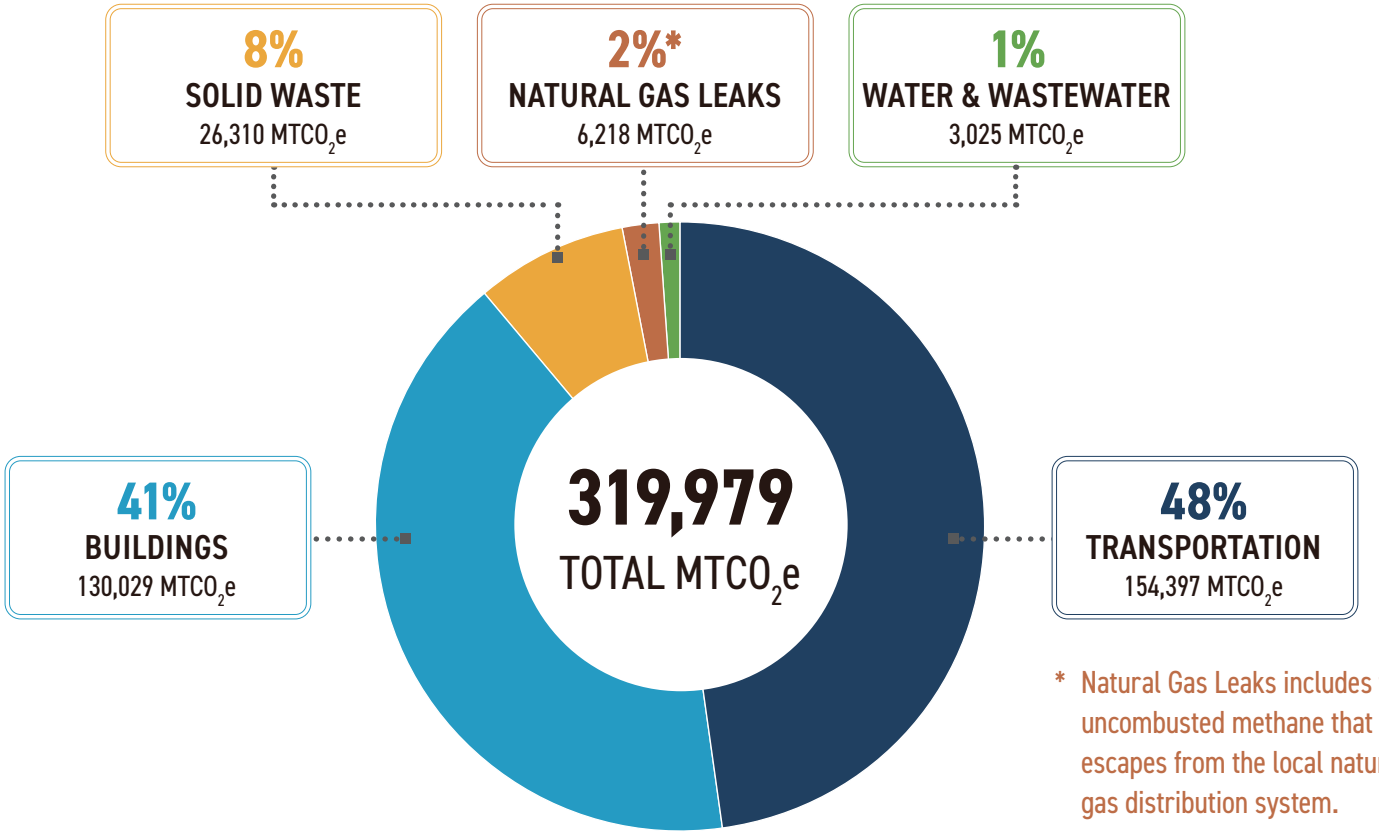
To tackle the challenge of climate change head-on, Scarborough must do its part to reduce the pollution causing our climate to warm and destabilize. Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are released into the atmosphere when fossil fuels like oil and gas are burned to create energy and when waste is incinerated. To create an actionable and data-driven plan, Scarborough conducted a community-wide GHG inventory to identify the sources of these emissions in Scarborough and the greatest opportunities to reduce them. The Town also examined emissions from municipal operations. This inventory provided the foundation for many of the high-impact strategies and actions in the *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan.

In 2024, Scarborough generated 319,979 metric tons of GHG emissions, measured as metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent ($MTCO_2e$). The largest single source of GHGs is attributable to transportation (48%), primarily from private gasoline-powered vehicle trips. Energy used in residential and commercial buildings for lighting, heating, cooling, and powering appliances and devices accounts for the next largest share (41%). Solid waste accounts for most of the remaining emissions (8%) which is primarily from incineration of waste collected in Town.



RESPONSIBLE

2024 GHG Emissions by Sector



* Natural Gas Leaks includes the uncombusted methane that escapes from the local natural gas distribution system.

UNDERSTANDING $MTCO_2e$

Emissions in this plan are reported in $MTCO_2e$: metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent, the standard worldwide unit for tracking greenhouse gases.

Why "equivalent"?

Different gases warm the planet differently, for example:

CH_4 **Methane,** the main component of natural gas, traps about 28 times more heat than carbon dioxide over 100 years;

N_2O **Nitrous oxide,** largely from fertilizer and industry, traps nearly 300 times more.

To compare them fairly, each gas is converted into the amount of carbon dioxide that would cause the same warming.

What does one $MTCO_2e$ look like?

Roughly the climate pollution from:

Driving an average gas car **2,500 miles,**

or powering a typical home for about **6 weeks.**

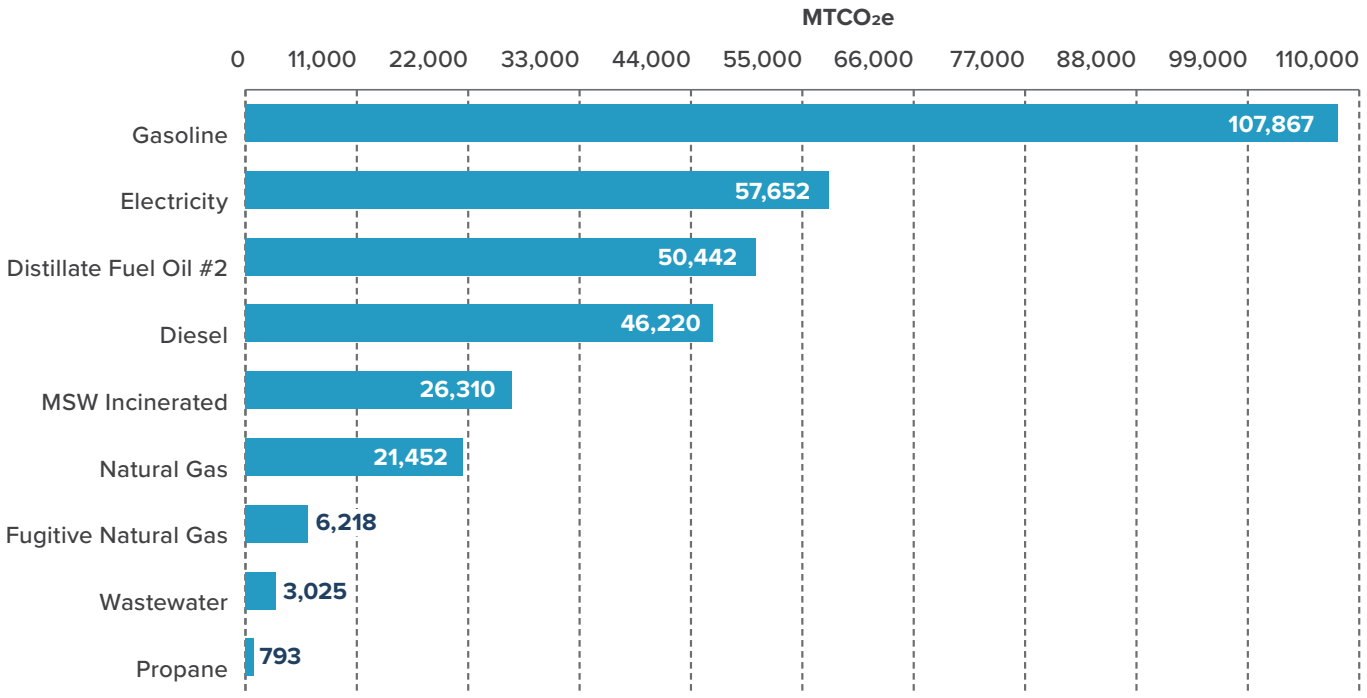
This common unit allows us to add together many different sources of emissions using a standard unit of measure.

When we break down where our emissions actually come from in Scarborough, one thing stands out: transportation is our largest source. Looking more closely at our emissions by source, the picture becomes even clearer, and we see that gasoline is the primary driver behind those numbers.

In practical terms, this means passenger vehicles, like the kind most residents drive daily, represent the single largest source of emissions in our community.

The reassuring side of this finding is that it points to real opportunity. Choices such as switching to an electric vehicle, carpooling, or using public transit can make a meaningful difference. Passenger vehicles are our greatest emissions challenge, and they are also our greatest opportunity for progress.

2024 GHG Emissions by Source

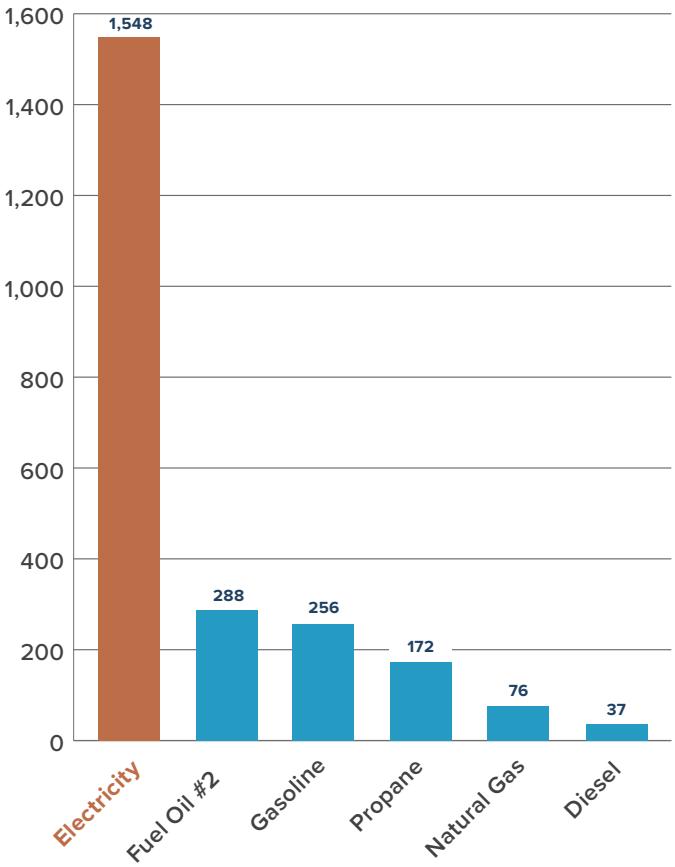


Municipal Operations

When calculated based on the regional electricity grid, GHGs from municipal operations total 2,377 $MTCO_2e$, 65% of which comes from electricity used by the Town. However, the Town of Scarborough purchases renewable credits covering its electricity demand. Using a "market based" approach and removing the emissions from electricity, operations emissions fall to 829 $MTCO_2e$ from fossil fuel use within buildings and vehicles.

Renewable energy credits are a crucial way to support new clean energy development. Ensuring future credits are generated from projects in New England will increase the Town's impact and ability to claim the market-based total.

2024 Municipal GHG Emissions by Source



PATHWAYS TO ZERO

Scarborough can rapidly reduce GHG emissions by transforming buildings, transportation, waste management, and industrial systems to be as clean and efficient as possible. The strategies outlined in the *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan were designed to put Scarborough on a path to complete its share of the goals in the State's Climate Plan, "Maine Won't Wait" and achieve net zero GHG emissions by 2050.

TRANSITION TO ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION

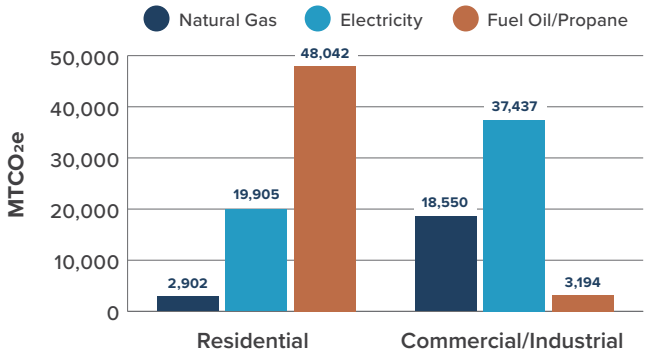
Emissions from transportation account for almost half of Scarborough's total GHG emissions. To tackle emissions, we will need to transition to electric vehicles as quickly as possible. It is no secret that Scarborough is a car dependent community for transportation. We have some of the highest vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per capita in the region.[5] Much traffic is a result of the high number of people who commute to Scarborough for work each day. More live-work opportunities and diverse options for getting around in town will reduce the challenge to electrify every vehicle.

ELECTRIFY BUILDINGS

To rapidly reduce emissions from the buildings sector, 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 to minimize the demand for new renewable energy. Within the building sector, residential fuel oil use is the single largest source of GHG emissions. These homes are the most cost-effective places to prioritize due to higher emissions rates and energy cost for fuel oil.

Reducing reliance on natural gas in commercial buildings represents a critical opportunity to reduce emissions across Scarborough.

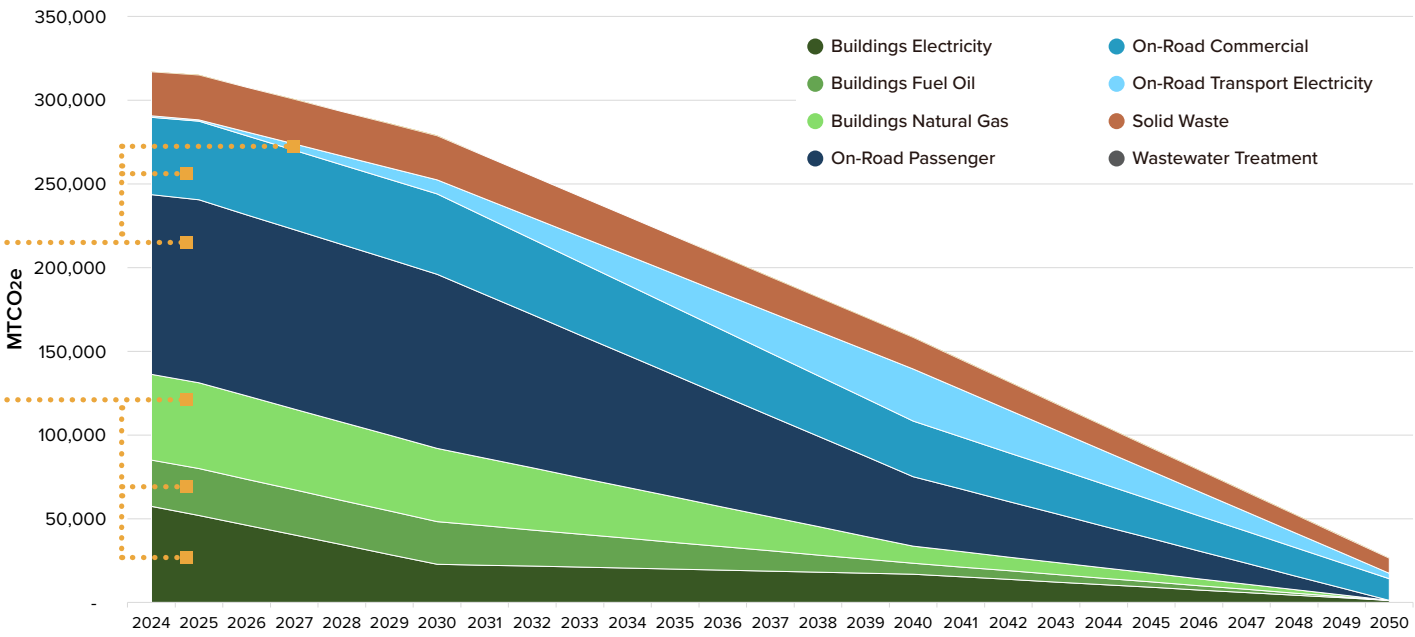
2024 Building GHG Emissions by Energy Source



As shown in the graph above, non-utility energy from predominantly fuel oil in residential homes is the largest source of GHG emissions from buildings in Scarborough. This is both the largest opportunity for GHG emissions reductions as well as cost savings for homeowners.

Scarborough's Pathways Analysis models these opportunities; the wedges in the graph below illustrate the reductions in GHG emissions that can be realized in Scarborough over time as high-impact strategies and actions are implemented. Not all sources of emissions are reduced under this scenario. For example, while we expect passenger vehicles to feasibly transition to zero emissions, it is likely that some fossil fuel powered commercial vehicles will still be in operation by mid-century. Likewise eliminating all waste may be difficult, but over time with periodic updates to this plan, near zero emissions is possible and net zero can be achieved with carbon offsets.

Scarborough's Pathway to Net Zero Emissions by 2050



A key factor underlying these outcomes is the transition of our electricity supply to renewable sources. In the 2030's, we may see an increase in the share of emissions from electricity as that becomes a bigger portion of our total energy supply. However, everything we electrify gets cleaner as renewables become the source of our electricity eventually eliminating the biggest sources of emissions.

TURNING THE TIDE ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Sustaining Scarborough is the Town of Scarborough's first comprehensive Climate Action Plan, but it is certainly not the first time that the Town has taken steps to advance climate action and resilience. For more than 16 years, Scarborough has sought to lead by example through the following policies, projects, and programs.

APRIL 2010

Sustainability Committee is formed to identify actions the community can undertake to reduce energy consumption and increase sustainability.

OCTOBER 2016

Scarborough hires its first Sustainability Coordinator to support sustainability and resilience programs.

NOVEMBER 2017

Town adopts Comprehensive Energy and Sustainability Plan.

OCTOBER 2021

Commercial solar ordinance is adopted to allow large-scale solar arrays to be developed in Scarborough.

MARCH 2022

Scarborough joins Maine's Community Resilience Partnership to access resources and help identify and address local priorities.

OCTOBER 2026

The *Sustaining Scarborough* Climate Action Plan is launched.

OCTOBER 2025

Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment is completed to understand how sea level rise and storm surge impact Scarborough today and in the future.

JULY 2025

Scarborough establishes a Sustainability Reserve Account to help fund efficiency and sustainability efforts.

APRIL 2025

Conservation Open Space Plan is completed to serve as a road map to achieve 30x30 goal.

JUNE 2023

Town adopts 30x30 resolution to conserve at least 30% of Scarborough by 2030.

JANUARY 2023

Electric vehicle (EV) charging ordinance is adopted to require developers to plan for installation of EV chargers.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES & PERSPECTIVES

I'M HAPPY TO LEARN...

that the Town of Scarborough is working on a plan to assist residents with preparing for climate events, and working to help the town have more climate resilience in the future."

SCARBOROUGH RESIDENT RESPONSE IN QUICK POLL SURVEYS

NEARLY 85%

of surveyed residents think it is important for the Town of Scarborough to take action to address climate change.

Climate Action Advisory Group

44 members

To shape the development of the *Sustaining Scarborough* plan, the Climate Action Advisory Group met three times throughout the planning process. The Advisory Group was made up of Town staff, community partners, and residents. Meetings with the Advisory Group supported the identification of climate action barriers and opportunities; shaped the plan's goals, strategies, and actions; and developed a roadmap for implementation of priority actions.

Sustaining Scarborough Quick Polls

During the planning process, the Town conducted three "quick poll" surveys to identify community barriers to action and opportunities for impact that helped shape the final plan. In total, these polls collected nearly 600 responses from Scarborough residents.

199 RESPONSES
ON THE HOME & BUSINESS ENERGY USE QUICK POLL

127 RESPONSES
ON THE EXTREME WEATHER & PREPAREDNESS QUICK POLL

265 RESPONSES
ON THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE QUICK POLL

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Concert in the Park Series

55+ residents engaged

Throughout the summer, the *Sustaining Scarborough* team joined the Scarborough Community Chamber of Commerce's annual Summer Concert Series to connect with the community. Each week, the team engaged concert-goers with information about *Sustaining Scarborough* and climate action, while also learning how residents are already putting sustainability into practice in their own lives.

Junk in the Trunk

70+ participants

In partnership with the Scarborough Public Library, the *Sustaining Scarborough* team attended two Junk in the Trunk events, giving residents the chance to swap unwanted items across multiple yard-sale-style tables. Residents had the opportunity to learn more about the Sustaining Scarborough Plan while browsing for their next treasured find.

Kid's Clothing Swap & Adult and Teen Clothing Swap

100+ participants

The *Sustaining Scarborough* team partnered with Scarborough Public Library to offer three clothing swap events where residents of all ages could swap gently used clothing. By giving unwanted belongings to a new home through events like this and Junk in the Trunk, residents helped to divert waste from the landfill.

Scarborough Summerfest

70+ community interactions

The *Sustaining Scarborough* team brought the climate action message to the community by joining this year's Summerfest festivities. Alongside food trucks, live music, kids' activities, and a fireworks display, the team connected directly with attendees by sharing information about Sustaining Scarborough and inviting residents to get involved in the town's sustainability efforts.

READY. RESILIENT. RESPONSIBLE.

R
READY

SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH FOCUS AREAS

From driving our cars to powering our devices, nearly every daily activity has an impact on our environment. Tackling these emissions while building the resilience of our community requires us to think broadly, addressing how Scarborough functions across every area of daily life. This is why the *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan is organized around five focus areas, each targeting a different piece of how our community lives, works, and grows.

Every action within the Plan was carefully crafted to reflect Scarborough's guiding principles and vision. While not all actions carry equal weight in reducing emissions, each action is necessary to comprehensively reduce our impact on the changing climate while adapting to the changes we are already seeing. Actions tied to renewable energy and the electrification of homes, businesses, and vehicles will have the greatest impact on emissions reductions and are essential to reaching Scarborough's net zero target by 2050. Other actions play a supporting role, creating the enabling conditions and building the capacity needed for a more resilient, connected, and healthy community.

Together, these goals, strategies, and actions form a single, comprehensive roadmap where every piece works in concert to secure Scarborough's sustainable future.

READY

SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH

RESILIENT. RESPONSIBLE. READY.

The *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan is strategically designed around five key focus areas to address the Town's climate action goals.

FOCUS AREAS

CLEAN ENERGY & EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

Scarborough's buildings run on clean energy sources and are designed to promote energy efficiency.

SMART LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

Scarborough grows in a balanced way with safe, reliable transportation options.

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Scarborough embraces responsible waste disposal and efficient Town operations that minimize environmental impacts.

THRIVING NATURAL & COASTAL RESOURCES

Scarborough's forests, natural areas, waterways, and coastline are resilient to the impacts of climate change.

RESILIENT & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Scarborough understands climate risks and ensures the entire community is ready to respond.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Electrification
- ☑ Energy Efficiency
- ☑ Renewable Energy
- ☑ Energy Resilience

CLEAN ENERGY & EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

Scarborough's buildings run on clean energy sources and are designed to promote energy efficiency.

BY THE NUMBERS

1,450 HOMES (19%)

of fossil heated homes have duct work and separate central air conditioning. These conditions make for easy retrofits and could cover all of the transitions needed by 2030. In the years ahead, emerging air-to-water heat pumps will provide more options to the remaining 81% of owners with hot water systems.[8]

TRACKING PROGRESS

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

METRIC (UNIT)	BASELINE	2030	2040	2050
Homes fully heated with high efficiency heat pumps	193 (2025)[6]	1,200	6,400	8,000
Residential solar PV capacity	4 MW (2025)[7]	8.8 MW	17 MW	25 MW
Residential battery capacity	~0	.4 MW	9 MW	17 MW

CLEAN ENERGY & EFFICIENT BUILDINGS

The *Sustaining Scarborough* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Clean Energy & Efficient Buildings.

Goal 1: Scarborough is primarily powered by renewable energy.	
STRATEGY 1.1	**Maximize Scarborough's renewable energy generation and storage capacity.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Expand and update the zoning ordinance to ensure clear permitting processes for energy storage projects and allow for larger standalone projects.
STRATEGY 1.2	**Champion innovative renewable energy solutions locally and statewide.**
ACTION 1.2.A	Collaborate with Greater Portland Council of Governments (GPCOG) and Central Maine Power to advocate for regional efforts to expand electric transmission capacity.
ACTION 1.2.B	Identify funding and install solar arrays on municipal building rooftops and publicly-owned parking lots.
ACTION 1.2.C	Work with GPCOG to develop model Community Choice Aggregation program designs with criteria for supply options and partnerships.
Goal 2: Scarborough's buildings are energy efficient and minimize greenhouse gas emissions.	
STRATEGY 2.1	**Support community-wide electrification.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Establish incentives to encourage new development to achieve performance levels of the Maine Stretch Code.
ACTION 2.1.B	Partner with community organizations like Project GRACE to expand access to free or reduced cost home energy audits and tactical weatherization.
ACTION 2.1.C	Launch a community "Energy Coach" program and train volunteers to help residents understand energy performance, identify available reduction and efficiency opportunities, and become proactive with equipment transitions.
ACTION 2.1.D	Incentivize oil transition in all residential and commercial buildings, prioritizing properties most vulnerable to sea level rise.
STRATEGY 2.2	**Optimize municipal facility energy performance.**
ACTION 2.2.A	Incorporate life-cycle costs into decision making for energy-related projects at municipal facilities.
ACTION 2.2.B	Establish energy performance targets for new and renovated municipal facilities.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every action in this section has a household version. See what you can do, what it costs, and what help is available at SustainingScarborough.org

COMMUNITY CHOICE AGGREGATION

Community Choice Aggregation programs allows local governments to select an alternative supplier of electricity for its constituents, while the existing utility still handles the wires and delivery. This gives communities more say over where their power comes from, more renewable energy options, and often lower prices by using the combined buying power to negotiate better deals.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Zero emission vehicles
- ☑ Electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure
- ☑ Public transportation
- ☑ Low-carbon mobility (e.g., walking, biking)
- ☑ Resilient infrastructure
- ☑ Land use

SMART LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

Scarborough grows in a balanced way with safe, reliable transportation options.

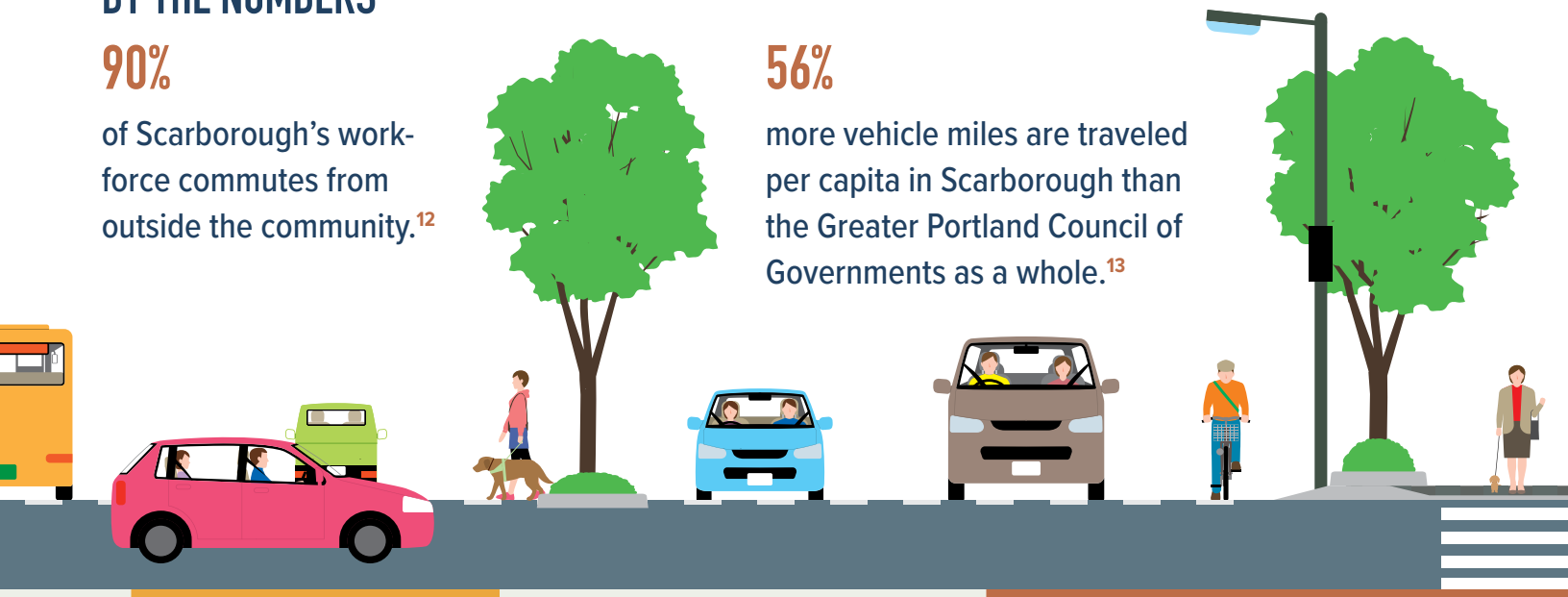
BY THE NUMBERS

90%

of Scarborough's work-force commutes from outside the community.[12]

56%

more vehicle miles are traveled per capita in Scarborough than the Greater Portland Council of Governments as a whole.[13]



TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Scarborough to track and measure progress toward its goals for Smart Land Use & Transportation.

METRIC (UNIT)	BASELINE	2030	2040	2050
VMT per capita	14,075 (2025)[9]	13,500	12,500	11,500
Public EV chargers	54 (2026)[10]	75	400	570
EV share of passenger vehicles	3.25% (2025)[11]	12%	70%	100%

WHAT IS VEHICLE MILES TRAVELED?

Vehicle miles traveled (VMT) is the total number of miles driven by vehicles over a specific time. This metric helps us understand the opportunity to reduce GHGs with EVs, but also the amount of clean energy we need to get the transition right. By striving to reach the GPCOG area average (2050 target), we can make sure there's enough renewable energy for everything.

SMART LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION

The *Sustaining Scarborough* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Smart Land Use & Transportation.

Goal 1: Scarborough residents regularly choose active transportation and transit options for local trips.	
STRATEGY 1.1	**Improve multimodal transportation.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Identify a community-supported redesign of Route 1 and advocate to include safe bike and pedestrian infrastructure.
ACTION 1.1.B	Coordinate with school system to promote Safe Routes to School including installing bike/ped infrastructure around new schools, expanding bus routes, and updating snow clearing policies for sidewalks.
ACTION 1.1.C	Develop a Trails and Sidewalk Master Plan in order to increase opportunities for active transportation.
STRATEGY 1.2	**Support expansion of regional transit into Scarborough.**
ACTION 1.2.A	Launch a public education campaign to promote ridership in the Metro Transit pilot program.
ACTION 1.2.B	Evaluate ridership throughout the METRO Transit pilot and determine long-term service options.
ACTION 1.2.C	Leverage existing parking lots within key last-mile destinations to create opportunities for micromobility hubs or park-and-rides.
Goal 2: Scarborough is an EV-ready and friendly community.	
STRATEGY 2.1	**Model EV adoption.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Expand EV-ready ordinance to include municipal facilities beyond schools.
ACTION 2.1.B	Adopt a zero-emission vehicle and equipment policy to guide the transition of the municipal fleet.
STRATEGY 2.2	**Accelerate electric vehicle adoption among residents and businesses through EV promotion and expanded EV infrastructure.**
ACTION 2.2.A	Launch a clean transportation education campaign targeting businesses and developers in Scarborough to encourage EV charging infrastructure and fleet electrification.
ACTION 2.2.B	Implement an EV education campaign to promote EV adoption.
ACTION 2.2.C	Use in-lieu fees in the Sustainability Reserve Account to expand public EV charging at key destinations like beaches and recreation facilities.
Goal 3: Scarborough continues to develop strategically with climate hazards in mind.	
STRATEGY 3.1	**Adopt climate-resilient land use policies.**
ACTION 3.1.A	Incentivize new development to occur in identified high-density growth areas.
ACTION 3.1.B	Explore creating a Coastal Overlay Zone as recommended in the Vulnerability Assessment.
ACTION 3.1.C	Amend zoning ordinance to include Design Flood Elevation based on newly adopted sea level rise projections.
ACTION 3.1.D	Amend zoning ordinance to prohibit the development of data centers in Town.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every action in this section has a household version. See what you can do, what it costs, and what help is available at SustainingScarborough.org

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Governance
- ☑ Procurement policies
- ☑ Community and municipal waste

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS & WASTE MANAGEMENT

Scarborough embraces responsible waste disposal and efficient Town operations that minimize environmental impacts.

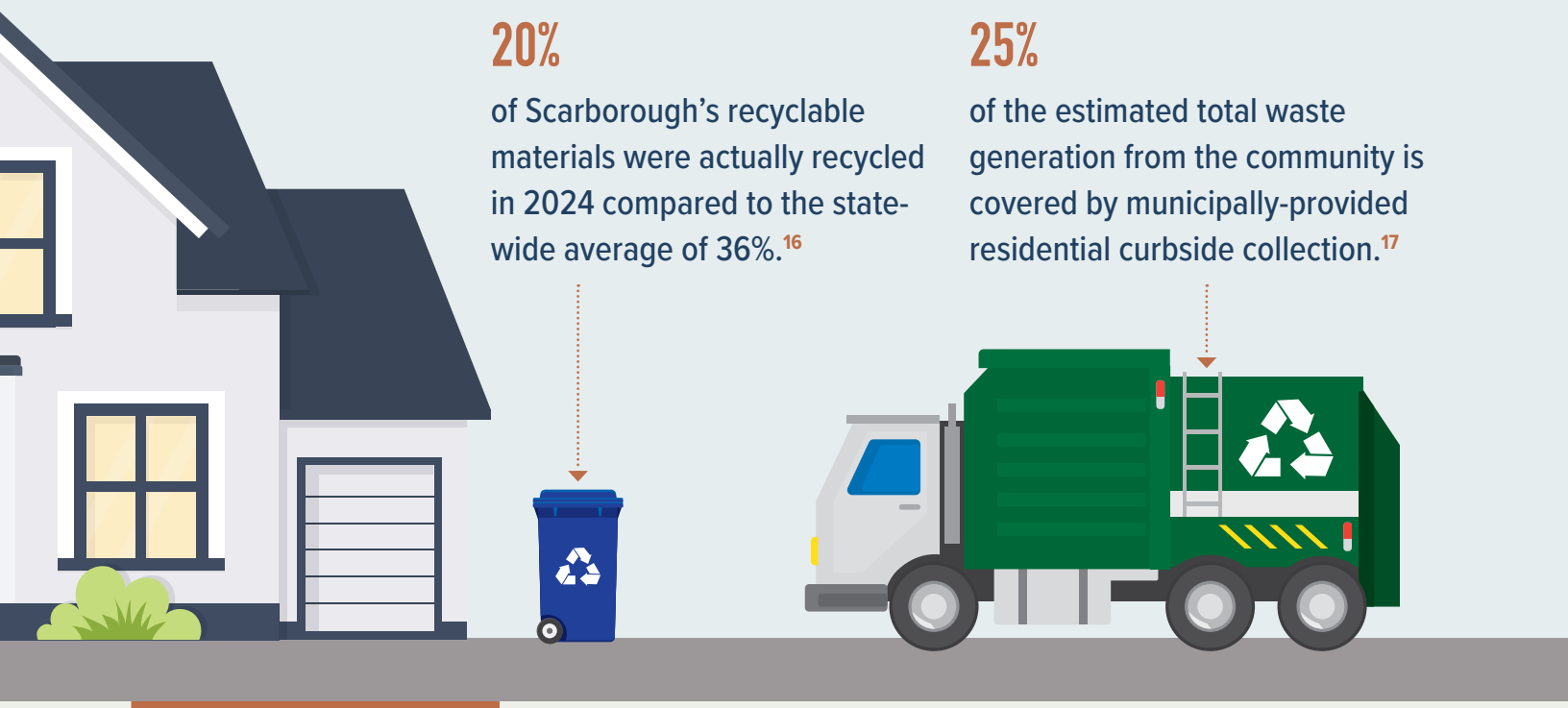
BY THE NUMBERS

20%

of Scarborough's recyclable materials were actually recycled in 2024 compared to the state-wide average of 36%.[16]

25%

of the estimated total waste generation from the community is covered by municipally-provided residential curbside collection.[17]



TRACKING PROGRESS

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

METRIC (UNIT)	BASELINE	2030	2040	2050
Residential Compost Diversion	18 tons (2024)[14]	100 tons	500 tons	1,500 tons
Residential Recycling Rate	20% (2024)[15]	25%	40%	50%

SUSTAINABLE OPERATIONS & WASTE MANAGEMENT

The *Sustaining Scarborough* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Sustainable Operations & Waste Management.

Goal 1: Scarborough 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 Scarborough's operations and report on progress to the community.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Develop a Sustainability Framework tool to guide decision making processes across Town projects, processes, and budgeting.
ACTION 1.1.B	Track and report progress on plan implementation through an online *Sustaining Scarborough* dashboard and other channels.
Goal 2: Scarborough's solid waste is reduced and managed responsibly.	
STRATEGY 2.1	**Reduce and divert waste across the community.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Launch a public education campaign to increase the number of residents and businesses who compost.
ACTION 2.1.B	Reduce litter and increase compliance with Scarborough's carry-in/carry-out trash policy at local beaches through a short-term rental education program.
ACTION 2.1.C	Prepare to participate in the State's Extended Producer Responsibility Program for Packaging when fully operational in 2027.
ACTION 2.1.D	Build semi-regular bulk item pick up into resident collection rate to improve waste diversion.
STRATEGY 2.2	**Reduce and divert waste within Town operations.**
ACTION 2.2.A	Adopt municipal sustainable purchasing criteria.
ACTION 2.2.B	Create and manage a zero-waste program to educate Town staff and reduce overall waste production.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

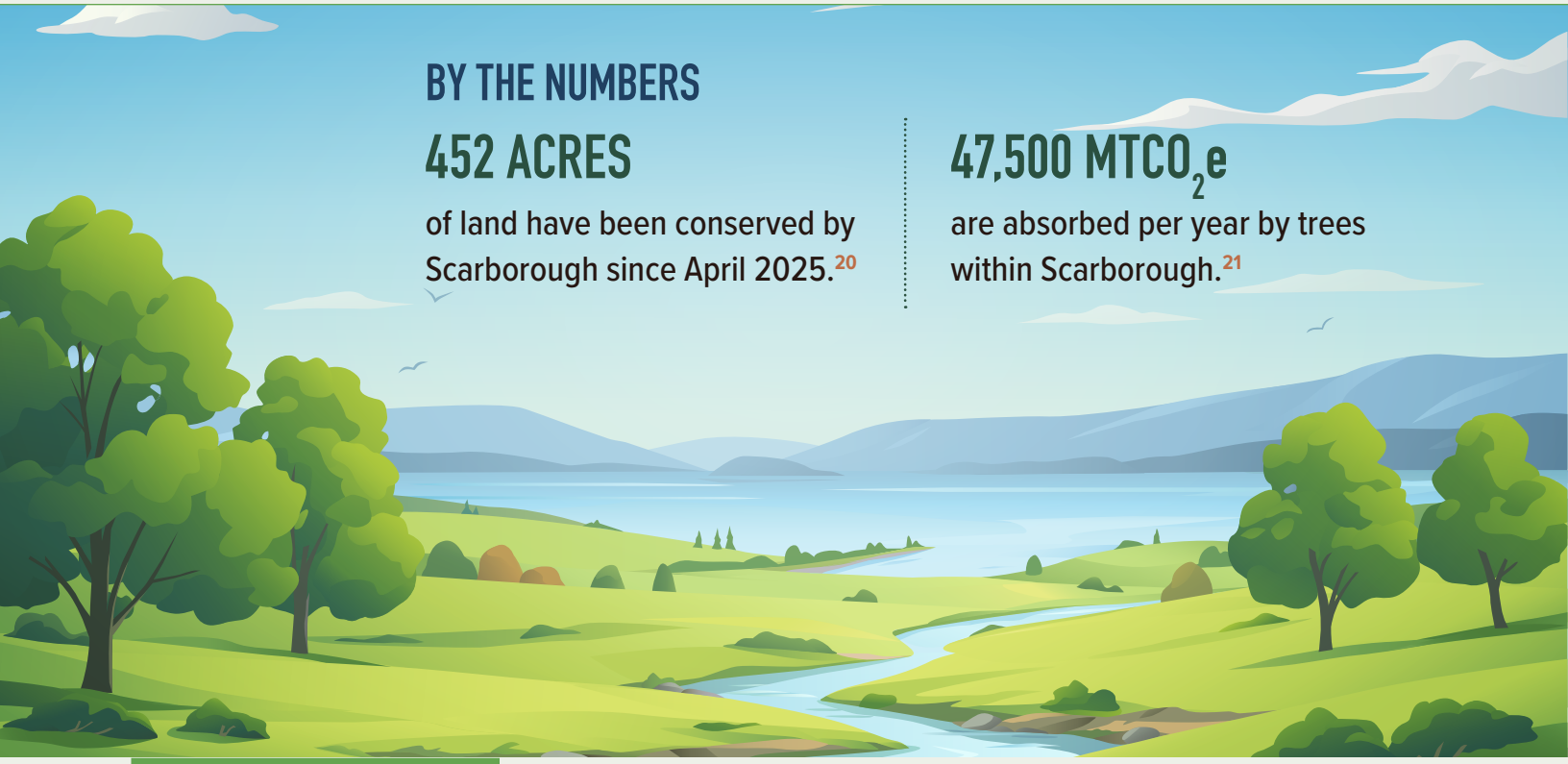
Every action in this section has a household version. See what you can do, what it costs, and what help is available at SustainingScarborough.org

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Waterways and coastlines
- ☑ Trees and biodiversity
- ☑ Landscaping
- ☑ Stormwater management and infrastructure

THRIVING NATURAL & COASTAL RESOURCES

Scarborough's forests, natural areas, waterways, and coastline are resilient to the impacts of climate change.



BY THE NUMBERS

452 ACRES

of land have been conserved by Scarborough since April 2025.[20]

47,500 $MTCO_2e$

are absorbed per year by trees within Scarborough.[21]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Scarborough to track and measure progress toward its goals for Thriving Natural & Coastal Resources.

METRIC (UNIT)	BASELINE	2030	2040	2050
Area of protected open space	25% (2026)[18]	30%	32%	35%
Percent tree cover	61% (2023)[19]	Maintain or Increase		

THRIVING NATURAL & COASTAL RESOURCES

The *Sustaining Scarborough* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Thriving Natural & Coastal Resources.

Goal 1: Scarborough conserves and sustainably manages natural resources.	
STRATEGY 1.1	**Enhance and protect Scarborough's tree canopy.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Conduct a tree inventory and create a management plan for Town-owned trees that prioritizes native and climate-adaptive species and equitable distribution across the community.
ACTION 1.1.B	Acquire and maintain Tree City USA designation.
STRATEGY 1.2	**Enhance and protect Scarborough's waterways.**
ACTION 1.2.A	Propose town-wide ordinance that restricts the use of harmful pesticides and lawn chemicals.
ACTION 1.2.B	Continue to develop and implement locally supported watershed-based management plans.
Goal 2: Community members maintain resilient ecosystems and landscapes.	
STRATEGY 2.1	**Encourage residents and businesses to protect natural and coastal resources.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Educate residents and property owners on sustainable landscaping practices, invasive species removal, and green infrastructure.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every action in this section has a household version. See what you can do, what it costs, and what help is available at SustainingScarborough.org

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ☑ Emergency response
- ☑ Public health and safety
- ☑ Flood risk

RESILIENT & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Scarborough understands climate risks and ensures the entire community is ready to respond.

BY THE NUMBERS

3X the number of survey respondents rate themselves as "very prepared" for extreme weather events (36%) vs those that feel the Town is "very prepared" for the effects of climate change (12%).[23]

88 drainage infrastructure assets (1% of total) are exposed to 2050 "king tide" level inundation.[22]

TRACKING PROGRESS

The following metrics will help Scarborough to track and measure progress toward its goals for Resilient & Healthy Community.

METRIC (UNIT)	BASELINE	2030	2040	2050
Number of residents with Emergency Response Training	New Metric	1%	5%	5%
Flood risk properties with appropriate risk reduction measures applied	New Metric	10%	50%	100%

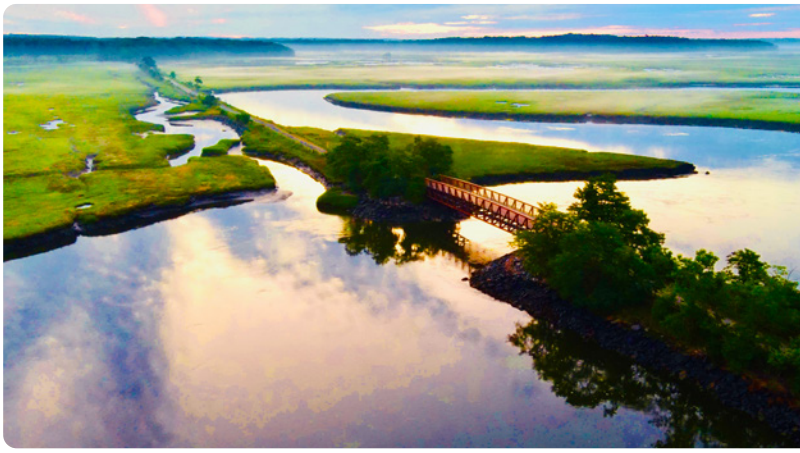
RESILIENT & HEALTHY COMMUNITY

The *Sustaining Scarborough* planning process identified the following goals, strategies, and actions for Resilient & Healthy Community.

Goal 1: Scarborough residents are prepared and protected from climate impacts.	
STRATEGY 1.1	**Boost community-wide emergency preparedness education.**
ACTION 1.1.A	Increase community preparedness workshop offerings, including CERT training, to target different age groups, neighborhoods, and abilities.
ACTION 1.1.B	Develop a community outreach campaign to increase awareness of climate hazards and strengthen emergency preparedness.
ACTION 1.1.C	Engage youth by integrating emergency preparedness into school curriculum, creating service learning opportunities at cooling/warming shelters.
ACTION 1.1.D	Explore community partnerships to increase awareness of extreme heat risks, including public health, tick-borne diseases, and wildfire risk.
ACTION 1.1.E	Develop a Crisis/Emergency Communications Plan.
Goal 2: Scarborough's infrastructure is climate-ready and flood-resilient.	
STRATEGY 2.1	**Ready infrastructure for anticipated sea level rise and increasing extreme weather events.**
ACTION 2.1.A	Adopt official Sea Level Rise projections for planning purposes.
ACTION 2.1.B	Develop a Climate Vulnerability Response Framework to guide decision making on how best to protect existing municipal assets.
ACTION 2.1.C	Implement recommendations from the Coastal Flood Vulnerability Assessment and Adaptation Strategies Report.
ACTION 2.1.D	Invest in nature-based solutions such as living shorelines to prevent coastal erosion.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

Every action in this section has a household version. See what you can do, what it costs, and what help is available at SustainingScarborough.org



IMPLEMENTING SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH

Implementing the actions in the *Sustaining Scarborough* 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.

Based on current Town priorities and feedback from the Advisory Group, the five actions below have been selected as priority actions and implementation blueprints have been developed for each. Each blueprint assigns a champion and defines the necessary steps that will need to be taken in order to implement the action.

ENERGY & BUILDINGS 2.1.C.

Launch a community "Energy Coach" program and train volunteers to help residents understand energy performance, identify available reduction and efficiency opportunities, and become proactive with equipment transitions.

ENERGY & BUILDINGS 2.2.A.

Incorporate life-cycle costs into decision making for energy-related projects at municipal facilities.

LAND USE & TRANSPORTATION 2.1.B.

Adopt a zero-emission vehicle and equipment policy to guide the transition of the municipal fleet.

OPERATIONS & WASTE 2.1.A.

Launch a public education campaign and partner with existing vendors who offer compost pick-up options to increase the number of residents and businesses who compost.

RESILIENT & HEALTHY COMMUNITY 2.1.B.

Develop a Climate Vulnerability Response Framework to guide decision making on how best to protect existing municipal assets.

Given how quickly technology is evolving and our climate is changing, Scarborough will continuously evaluate the actions in the plan and adjust them as needed. The Town will track progress and report it online through the Sustaining Scarborough Dashboard. Plan updates will occur as needed to align with the Town's goals.

CALL TO ACTION

The *Sustaining Scarborough* Plan is a commitment to ourselves and our neighbors to protect what makes this town special.

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 keep our neighborhoods safe, our air and water clean, and to make sure future generations can enjoy the quality of life Scarborough is known for.

Successfully implementing this plan will require participation and support from all community members. Everyone has something valuable to contribute, whether that involves starting a backyard compost pile, installing solar panels or a heat pump, or switching to an EV. See what you can do, what it costs, and what help is available at SustainingScarborough.org.

We hope you will join us on Scarborough's journey to becoming more resilient, responsible, and ready.

ENDNOTES

1 Future Climate Dashboard, Climate Toolbox, MACAv2-METDATA CMIP5 (UC Merced). Projections using RCP 4.5 scenario (Accessed April 2026)

2 GEI Consultants, Inc. Scarborough Flood Vulnerability Assessment (Accessed July 2026). https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/69b7ac686fe447f6b824e9d7b6180368

3 What Will Climate Feel Like in 60 Years? Web Tool, Matt Fitzpatrick, University of Maryland Center for Environmental Science – Appalachian Lab (Accessed April 2026).

4 National Center for Emerging and Zoonotic Infectious Diseases, CDC. Geographic Distribution of Tickborne Disease Cases. 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/ticks/data-research/facts-stats/geographic-distribution-of-tickborne-disease-cases.html

5 Greater Portland Regional Council of Governments. On-Road Transportation Emissions Dashboard. 2025. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/db2b7c8c5aaf43a08fc89458fad6fcb5/page/ORT-Emissions-Dashboard

6 Scarborough Assessors Database, 2025

7 Lawrence Berkeley National Labs. Tracking the Sun, Public Data File. 2024. https://emp.lbl.gov/tracking-the-sun

8 Scarborough Assessors Database, 2025

9 Greater Portland Regional Council of Governments. On-Road Transportation Emissions Dashboard. 2025. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/db2b7c8c5aaf43a08fc89458fad6fcb5/page/ORT-Emissions-Dashboard

10 US Department of Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center. 2026. https://afdc.energy.gov/stations#/find/nearest

11 Atlas Public Policy, Recharge Maine Dashboard. 2025. https://atlaspolicy.com/rechargemaine/

12 US Census, Longitudinal Employer-Household Dynamics Survey. Data for 2023, All Private Primate Jobs. https://onthemap.ces.census.gov/

13 GPCOG. On-Road Transportation Dashboard, data for 2023. https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/db2b7c8c5aaf43a08fc89458fad6fcb5/page/ORT-Emissions-Dashboard

14 Town of Scarborough, Waste Collection Records. 2024.

15 Town of Scarborough, Waste Collection Records. 2024.

16 Town of Scarborough, Waste Collection Records. 2024. AND Ecomaine. More Recycling, More Waste: Insights from Maine's Latest Waste Generation and Disposal Capacity Report. 2026. https://www.ecomaine.org/about-ecomaine/news/2026/02/more-recycling-more-waste/

17 Town of Scarborough, Waste Collection Records. 2024.

18 Town of Scarborough, Open Space Dashboard. 2026. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e7a31c8908a7417eba1ee767e9898045

19 ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability - USA. LEARN Tool. https://icleiusa.org/LEARN/

20 Town of Scarborough, Open Space Dashboard. 2026. https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/e7a31c8908a7417eba1ee767e9898045

21 ICLEI, Local Governments for Sustainability - USA. LEARN Tool. Average rate 2011-2023. https://icleiusa.org/LEARN/

22 Source: GEI Engineering. Scarborough Flood Vulnerability Assessment. 2025. Table 2-10.

23 Source: "Sustaining Scarborough Quick Poll, Summer 2026. Response count: 110.

SUSTAINING SCARBOROUGH

RESILIENT. RESPONSIBLE. READY.

Follow our progress!

www.SustainingScarborough.org