

XII

Develop and implement goals and projects by working with community groups, building coalitions, engaging the public, and considering the regional context.

No matter how a community decides to tackle the challenges discussed here, long-term strength and resilience must build on a shared community vision. Caring deeply about where we live means the stakes are high – and highly personal – as we make choices about how to use our land, develop our economies, and interact with our environment. Meaningful collaboration between stakeholders (town residents, property owners, renters, business owners, energy committees, conservation commissions, historic preservation groups, and more) is key for a successful planning and implementation.

TIPS FOR ACCURATE SCORING:
 Answer from your own experience
 Check with your RPC about neighboring towns' plans
 Talk with your town administrator, clerk, planner, and/or zoning administrator

A. Does your town have a website or use social media, a printed newsletter, or mailing list to notify residents about projects, events, transit options, public meetings, and community events?

- Yes, we have a website, newsletter, or other outreach tool (e.g., listserve, Front Porch Forum) that is widely distributed and regularly updated for this kind of outreach..... 3
- Yes, but outreach is not consistent or widely distributed..... 2
- No, we do not have a website or other methods of outreach 1

B. How active is your community in planning, including updating the town plan?

- There are rarely vacancies on boards, and multiple applications create competition for vacancies. There is good attendance at public meetings, and support for town initiatives..... 3
- There are few vacancies on boards, but it often takes effort to fill openings. Attendance is good at high-visibility meetings, but not for ongoing or general planning sessions..... 2
- Board positions go vacant for months. Meetings are sparsely attended... 1

C. Does your town’s planning process engage and consider adjacent towns and the regional context?

- Yes, we engage neighboring towns in our planning process and actively consider the region in our decisions 3
- We consider the regional context, but we don’t engage neighboring towns 2
- We notify neighboring towns and review the plan’s compatibility with neighboring towns 1

D. How successful is the town at implementing the town plan’s recommendations?

- Very successful: the town plan guides most projects and investments, and the town’s regulations align with and implement town plan policies 3
- Moderately successful: the town plan is used for some projects, and the regulations are somewhat consistent with the town plan policies..... 2
- Not successful: the town engages in planning, but then the plan sits on the shelf..... 1





“At its most basic level resilience is about building relationships, getting people talking, connecting and creating something bigger than an individual might be able to do on his or her own. A resilient community is an empowered and collaborative network of people that organically adapts to the needs of its parts through the strength of the whole.”

- *Joshua Schwartz, Mad River Planning District Director*

E. Are citizens active in planning, development, energy and resource protection through community organizations?

- Yes. At least two of these groups are active in town: a community development organization, a downtown organization, a historical society, a land trust, a conservation commission, an energy committee 3
- At least one of the above groups is active in town 2
- None of these groups is active in town..... 1

F. Do residents involved in town leadership and committees reflect the gender, age, income, ethnic, racial and other diversity of your community, and does the town’s leadership create a respectful environment where all people feel comfortable participating?

- Yes. Our leadership reflects much of the diversity of our community and our town culture is inclusive..... 3
- Somewhat. There is some diversity in town leadership and diverse viewpoints are recognized..... 2
- There is room for improvement. Membership of local groups does not reflect the diversity in our community, and we do not often hear diverse viewpoints 1

Score: _____

Scoring	Suggested Steps for Building Resilience
15-18 Resilient Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage public engagement and build resilience with events and celebrations. • Involve people in decision-making creatively, through approaches like design charettes and other public engagement
10-14 In Transition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support municipal board members by budgeting for and providing educational opportunities to make their jobs easier.
6-9 Needs Your Attention!	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a newsletter, email list, webpage, etc. to engage and inform residents. • Form a community group (energy committee, conservation commission, historic preservation group, land trust, etc.) to identify and work on town needs and projects. • Form a cultural competency committee to examine opportunities for improving diversity and inclusiveness.