

North Yarmouth Priority Climate Action Area

Modernize Maine's Buildings- LED lighting in Town-owned buildings

Description: Upgrade municipal buildings to modern energy efficient systems by replacing old lighting with LED lighting.

Benefit: Equipment upgrades, and efficiency improvements, would reduce overall emissions and can result in lower energy costs, saving the town money.

Equity: Municipal buildings are often a large source of emissions for the town. Taking steps to improve energy efficiency will allow everyone in the community to benefit from reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and cost savings.

North Yarmouth Priority Climate Action Area

Protect the Environment- Eliminate invasive species and promote tree plantings

Description: Create a plan to promote native species planting, limit introduction of invasive species within the town ecosystems, and plant more trees. This may include setting targets, drafting plans and policies, and conducting outreach and engagement.

Benefit: Eliminating invasive species, and promoting the use of native species, improves the health and resilience of the ecosystem. Increasing the number of trees, or green space, benefits residents' health by improving air quality and reducing the impact of heatwaves on elderly and vulnerable populations.

Equity: Historically, the most vulnerable neighborhoods within a community have the least tree cover and are often overburdened by environmental pollution. Creating an equitable plan to increase native species and trees can improve the resilience of these communities and lessen the impact of climate hazards.

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Create Sidewalks

Description: Improve walkability and pedestrian safety in the town by installing more sidewalks

Benefit: Improving pedestrian infrastructure would encourage active transportation. Active transportation reduces greenhouse gas emissions and improves the health of residents. Reducing automobile usage would reduce total vehicle miles traveled (VMT), and help decrease emissions from transportation (the largest contributor to Maine's emissions).

Equity: While more sidewalks will benefit everyone in the community, it will specifically improve resilience for those who are more likely to rely on active transportation—low-income residents and people without vehicles.