

CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

Worksheet for New England APWA
Fall 2024



Climate Ready Community (noun):

A community that is able to prepare for and recover from the effects of climate change, while continuing to thrive.

A key to innovating climate ready communities is to **operationalize** climate action and resilience principles through a Climate Ready Framework.

- ✓ List (or identify) core values and climate priorities (i.e., GHG reductions) for your government, department, agency, or community.
- ✓ Define your values. Be specific.
- ✓ Build a framework of positive, neutral, and negative contributions using the specific definitions of your values.
- ✓ Design and/or evaluate programs, projects, or policies with the framework.

COMMON VALUES OF CLIMATE READY COMMUNITIES

- ✓ Equity
- ✓ Fiscal Responsibility
- ✓ Inclusivity
- ✓ Innovation
- ✓ Resilience
- ✓ Stewardship
- ✓ Teamwork
- ✓ Transparency

Your additional community values ...

Your additional community values ...

Instructions: Select 1-3 values from above that most align with your agency, department, or community values. Then try to define in detail how those values can be reflected in your work.

Transparency = Clearly demonstrating how resources are allocated for a project.



CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK



Instructions: Now, take your value definitions from the other side of this sheet and build each into a framework that provides a positive, neutral, and negative contribution to either design or screen programs, projects, and policies.

EXCERPT FROM A SAMPLE CLIMATE READY COMMUNITY FRAMEWORK

Priority Area	Theme	Positive Contribution (+)	Neutral Contribution (0)	Negative Contribution (-)
Climate Ready Operations	Transparency	Details on how resources are allocated for the project are publicly available in an obvious location and accessible format.	Details on how resources are allocated for the project are publicly available, but not in obvious location or accessible format.	Details on how resources are allocated for the project are not publicly available.
	GHG Reduction	The project directly reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from buildings, transportation, waste, and/or other sectors.	The project will neither reduce nor generate new greenhouse gas emissions OR greenhouse gas emissions reductions are indirect or non-quantifiable.	The project will likely increase greenhouse gas emissions.
	Innovation	The project actively removes barriers to and/or promotes the use of renewable energy or non-fossil fuel based resources.	The project does not remove or create barriers to, and does not promote, the use of renewable energy or non-fossil fuel based resources.	The project creates barriers to, and limits the promotion of, the use of renewable energy or non-fossil fuel based resources.
	Stewardship	The project promotes the ongoing preservation of the community's natural resources, including urban forests, waterways, wetlands, groundwater, and open spaces.	The project neither preserves nor degrades the community's natural resources.	The project is likely to degrade the community's natural resources.
	Resilient Infrastructure	The project will reduce exposure of local government assets to climate hazards.	The project will yield no change in the exposure of local government assets to climate hazards.	The project may increase exposure of local government assets to climate hazards.

APPLYING THE FRAMEWORK

A framework like this can be used to design or assess any project, program, or policy to ensure it aligns with your climate and resilience priorities and your values. Examples:

- Green infrastructure project
- Complete Streets program
- Green fleets policy
- New school/building construction
- Community Solar program
- Sustainable procurement policy

Using the Framework can help you green light a project or consider what modifications could be made to better align the project with the community's core values.



We partner with cities, towns, and counties to implement ambitious and equitable climate solutions.

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