

CAP Cohort
Cohort-wide meeting 9.7.23

Notetaker: Marissa

Key Takeaways:

- Coordinate regional strategies that will appear in each CAP, does not have to match exactly but should still coordinate. This will be helpful for implementation of regional actions going forward

Action Items:

- Kendra will share Kittery's updated strategy list with Karina to put in Google Drive to reference action items and regional strategies
- CAPs will specify regional strategies, making sure to clarify that regional action would be in tandem with local action

Cohort Attendees:

- Kendra Amaral (K)
- Maggie Bartenhagen (KB)
- Pam Morgan (KP)
- Steve Reiter (B)
- Meaghan Daly (B)
- Chris Osterrieder (KB)

Strategy Updates

- Kittery
 - Strategies status:
 - In process of refining strategies; down to 29 strategies
 - Sept 23rd open house to get public input on strategies, will use strategy posters
 - Challenge:
 - Initial review of full strategy list
 - Going well:
 - The review process helped the current list of actions be more concrete and specific
- Biddeford
 - Strategies status:
 - Chose 47 strategies using weighted prioritization
 - Presented strategy list to city council on Aug 8th and it was well received
 - Expecting completion of draft CAP for review by Oct 4th; final reading Oct 17th
 - Going well:
 - Community outreach and feedback (tabling at events, Open House at MacArthur Library, focus groups)
 - Have mayor's support and majority of council

- Challenges:
 - Budgetary constraints
 - Tight timeline for CAP
- Question raised: is the community voting on the CAP? Not directly; resolution will be voted on by city council
- Kennebunkport
 - Strategies status:
 - Currently whittling down, hoping to end with about 15 strategies
 - 3 strategy categories: building resiliency, reducing emissions, and enabling action
 - Will then be presenting to stakeholders; presenting to select board Oct 12
 - Going well:
 - Have gotten great feedback from community sounding boards and from youth
 - Challenges:
 - Reaching people beyond those who already deeply care about climate action
 - Communication with Town officials
- Kennebunk
 - Strategies status:
 - In beginning stages of whittling down strategy list
 - Trying to ensure that the strategies are feasible
 - Goal is to have an easily understandable system of strategy evaluation
 - Going well:
 - Continuously thinking forward to implementation to ensure this isn't just another plan on a shelf
 - Challenges:
 - Getting over the hump of initial stage of cutting down strategy list

Regional strategy discussion

- Regional strategies that Kittery has identified:
 - Assess impacts of groundwater rise on septic systems and wells
 - Evaluate and update evaluation routes based on flood risks
 - Encourage state to make Efficiency Maine funding more accessible for weatherization, heat pumps, etc.
 - Region-level cooperation with utilities to strengthen our grid
 - Encourage state to require flood risk disclosure on property transactions (must come from state level)
 - Encourage statewide pesticide and fertilizer regulations – wouldn't be feasible to enforce this at the local level
 - Public transportation
- Biddeford has kept the flagging of regional strategies that was in the original SMPDC list which will appear in the plan

- Kennebunkport will bring up consideration of regional strategies to the TF and remind them
- Even if it's not word-for-word, it would be helpful to have some coordination of the regional strategies that appear in each plan
- Question raised: when we say regional strategies, what do we mean? Cooperation amongst our four towns, or leveraging the state/statewide funding?
 - Karina mentioned communicating to GOPIF what our priorities are amongst our towns; having a concrete list to be able to communicate that
- Idea of having a section in the plan that specifies regional strategies
 - Be sure to clarify in the CAPs that the regional action would be in tandem with local action; don't want people to look at strategies labeled "regional" and think "we don't have to do anything about this"
- Regional cooperation could help lessen the financial burden