


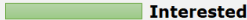









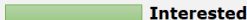


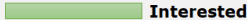

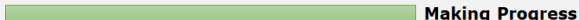
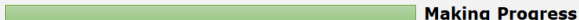


# TOWN OF OGUNQUIT

## 2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

As the “beautiful place by the sea,” Ogunquit prides itself on its stewardship of natural resources. Ogunquit formed its Sustainability Committee in 2020 to advise on sustainability, climate adaptation and resiliency issues. In 2019, Ogunquit joined a coalition of six towns in coastal York County to create the SMPDC Regional Sustainability and Resilience Program. The program aims to foster more sustainable and resilient communities in coastal York County by leveraging regional collaboration to enhance the effectiveness of local government action. To identify and direct sustainability and resilience efforts, the program is establishing a baseline of sustainability and resilience efforts and needs in individual communities and the Coastal York Country region. Ogunquit excels in promoting sustainable and environmentally friendly landscape approaches, passing a Pesticide Ordinance in 2015 and using integrated pest management and low-impact practices to manage municipal landscapes. Ogunquit is also the only town in the region that has adopted a Complete Streets Policy to ensure safe access for all road users.

Using the SMPDC Sustainability Progress Framework (SPF), Ogunquit was evaluated on many strategies within twelve sustainability and resilience categories. Strategies were grouped into 22 indicators, shown below. Ogunquit’s status on each progress indicator ranges from “Not Yet Considered” to “Excelling”. Explanations for each indicator and suggested next steps are detailed on the following pages.

CATEGORY	INDICATOR	STATUS
Climate	Establish a GHG emissions inventory, target, and plan	 Interested
	Climate change vulnerability assessment	 Getting Started
Coastal Hazards	Integrate coastal risk reduction measures in zoning and regulations	 Getting Started
	Incorporate future climatic conditions into land use requirements and municipal policies	 Interested
Economic Development	Promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses	 Interested
Energy	Reduce municipal fossil fuel consumption and implement municipal energy efficiency measures	 Getting Started
	Promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses	 Interested
	Support development of and access to renewable energy	 Getting Started
Land Ecosystems	Promote and practice environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches	 Excelling
Leadership	Participate as an active member of a national/regional sustainability and resilience network	 Interested
Mobility	Promote and facilitate transit systems as well as bicycle and pedestrian networks	 Getting started
	Adopt a complete streets policy	 Excelling
	Support the electrification of the transportation system, leading by example with the municipal fleet	Not Yet Considered
Municipal Operations	Formally adopt sustainability and resilience goals, policies, and strategies	 Getting started
	Establish local financing strategies for sustainability and resilience activities	 Interested
	Incorporate sustainability and resilience criteria in municipal expenditure policies	Not yet considered
Sustainable Communities	Connect residents to resources and services that support well being and enhance community resilience	 Making Progress
	Actively engage community members in local climate, sustainability, and resilience issues	 Interested
Sustainable Development	Facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability	 Interested
Waste & Recycling	Deliver sustainable and affordable waste management services	 Getting Started
Water	Include Low Impact Development in performance and design standards	 Making Progress
	Establish and enforce progressive watershed protection measures	 Making Progress

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**Climate:** Ogunquit has not yet begun measuring greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions for municipal or community-wide inventories. Ogunquit is beginning to assess the Town's vulnerability to climate change, participating in a regional project assessing impacts of coastal climate-related hazards.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Complete municipal and community-wide GHG inventories.
- Work with the Sustainability Committee to establish a GHG emissions reduction target for municipal and/or community-wide emissions.
- Assess non-coastal vulnerabilities to climate change.

**Coastal Hazards:** Known for its sandy beaches and quaint seaside village, Ogunquit has culturally and economically significant assets and areas that are already at-risk of coastal flooding and erosion. The Town is beginning efforts to evaluate and plan for coastal climate impacts, including participating in a grant-funded regional project assessing economic and social vulnerabilities associated with sea level rise and coastal flood events.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Assess social and economic impacts of sea level rise, storm surge, and coastal erosion on people, property and the natural environment.
- Continue and enhance efforts to incorporate climate resilience measures in repair activities and long-range planning for the Marginal Way and other coastal cultural assets.
- Amend the floodplain management ordinance to incorporate enhanced flood risk reduction measures such as increased freeboard height requirements.
- Include updated sea level rise projections, coastal erosion rates, and goals to address those hazards in the Town's Comprehensive Plan in order to enable policies and land use measures that protect people, property, and places.
- Consider establishing a coastal hazard overlay zoning district and accompanying development standards to direct development away from high-risk areas and ensure new and redevelopment in vulnerable areas are resilient.

**Economic Development:** Ogunquit has not yet taken specific actions to promote and support sustainability and resiliency actions for local businesses.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Engage the business community on climate change and resiliency issues, potentially as part of SMPDC's EDA grant-funded project on coastal economic resilience.
- Support the establishment of a regional business sustainability award or recognition program.

**Energy:** Ogunquit is interested in municipal energy efficiency measures, and the Town has begun exploring opportunities such as LED street lighting upgrades and the installation of occupancy sensors. Ogunquit has not yet undertaken any efforts to promote energy efficiency for residents and businesses. Ogunquit has worked to support the development of renewable energy, passing a Property Assessed Clean Energy ordinance, and permitting small wind energy systems and freestanding PV solar panel systems as an accessory use in most zoning districts. The town is also exploring opportunities to participate in the Maine Net Solar Energy Billing program for solar development.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Work through the Sustainability Committee to connect residents and businesses to energy efficiency resources and educate the community about renewable energy options.
- Conduct energy audits of municipal facilities to identify opportunities for energy conservation.
- Explore opportunities for procuring renewable electricity for municipal operations, including roof-top solar and community solar farms.
- Adopt a renewable energy ordinance prescribing the permitting, standards, and allowable use of renewable energy systems.

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**Land Ecosystems:** Ogunquit promotes and practices environmentally-friendly and sustainable landscape approaches through municipal operations and the work of the Conservation Commission and Marginal Way Committee. Ogunquit passed a Pesticide Use Ordinance in 2015 and uses integrated pest management and low-impact practices to manage municipal landscapes. A pollinator garden was planted as part of the Marginal Way Garden. Native landscaping is required in many cases throughout the Code of Ordinances when development disturbs vegetation.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Work through the Conservation Commission and Marginal Way Committee to continue to educate the community about the value of trees, native plants, and sustainable landscaping.
- Continue to educate and encourage the community to use integrated pest management to reduce impacts from fertilizers and pesticides.
- Strategically plant trees to act as a buffer to filter air and water, limit storm runoff, and stabilize soil.

**Leadership:** The Town has not yet participated as an active member of national and/or regional sustainability and resilience networks.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Participate in regional state, and/or national networks to plan for and achieve sustainability and resilience, such as ICLEI: Local Governments for Sustainability or the New England Municipal Sustainability Network.
- Partner with local universities and schools to identify opportunities for research on sustainability and resilience issues.
- Share information about municipal leadership in sustainability broadly in the community and externally.

**Mobility:** Ogunquit has a Bike and Pedestrian committee that works to identify gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle networks including crosswalk lighting, dangerous intersections, and bike parking. Ogunquit adopted a Complete Streets Policy in 2020. Ogunquit has not yet explored ways to support the electrification of the transportation system.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Explore opportunities for EV charging station installation at public sites and collaborate with businesses to develop EV infrastructure.
- Establish a fleet purchasing policy to prioritize electric vehicles.
- Work with local transportation providers to expand service and service areas and increase ridership.

**Municipal Operations:** In 2020, Ogunquit created the Sustainability Committee to advise the Select Board on sustainability, climate adaptation, and resiliency issues. Ogunquit does not yet have formal sustainability and resilience goals, policies, or strategies, nor does it have regular financing strategies in place for sustainability and resilience activities outside of committee budgets. Sustainability and resilience criteria are not incorporated into Ogunquit's municipal expenditure policies.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Ensure that sustainability and resilience are incorporated into the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Explore strategies such as PPAs, leases, and EPSCs to finance renewable energy systems and energy efficiency projects for municipal buildings.
- Budget and plan for long-term energy efficiency equipment upgrades.
- Integrate sustainability and resiliency into capital planning criteria.

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## 2020 Sustainability and Coastal Resilience Assessment

**Sustainable Communities:** Ogunquit has created a Covid-19 task force that is working to increase community resilience in response to the public health crisis. Ogunquit also began the Ogunquit Cares program that connects residents to vital community services that enhance wellbeing and community resilience. Ogunquit supports local food access through the Community Garden at Beach Plum Farm. The Sustainability Committee is exploring ways to engage the community on climate, sustainability, and resilience issues.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Take emergency management lessons from the Covid-19 pandemic to increase community preparedness and resilience.
- Host events educating the public about climate change and local impacts and how to reduce GHG emissions.
- Develop online materials for the community about sustainability initiatives and other allied organizations and government agencies.

**Sustainable Development:** Ogunquit is interested in ways to facilitate compact, mixed-use development that reduces environmental impacts and increases housing affordability. Preserving and acquiring green space/open space was identified as a priority in the FY21 budget committee workshop.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Consider revising and/or developing codes to allow mixed-use development, redevelop underutilized properties, and promote housing diversity and affordability.
- Explore incentives for green building in new construction and re-construction.

**Waste & Recycling:** Solid waste management efforts in Ogunquit were advised by the recycling committee, although this Committee appears to no longer be active. The Solid Waste Ordinance encourages, but does not require, recycling. Ogunquit currently does not offer curbside recycling or waste disposal. Ogunquit businesses and residents can get curbside composting from Mr. Fox compost in York.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Revitalize the Recycling Committee to advise the Select Board on ways to provide sustainable and affordable waste management services and educate residents and businesses on recycling, composting, and waste reduction.
- Explore a PAYT trash program, as well as recycling alternatives to increase recycling and decrease trash.
- Provide recycling and composting infrastructure at public places.
- Develop a mandatory recycling ordinance that applies to single and multifamily residences and businesses.

**Water:** Water quality is a priority issue for Ogunquit. The Town has undertaken watershed protection measures and implemented green infrastructure and low impact development (LID) projects to reduce water pollution from stormwater runoff through the Ogunquit River Watershed Restoration Project. Continuing to improve stormwater management and incorporating LID practices in land use regulations is an identified area of interest for the Town.

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Enhance the Town's existing land use regulations and policies by encouraging and/or requiring the use of low impact development (LID) and green infrastructure approaches for stormwater management for all development and redevelopment projects requiring site plan review.
- Amend the Town's pesticide to improve its efficacy and enforceability and adopt a fertilizer ordinance.
- Consider adopting a septic inspection and pump out ordinance to ensure septic systems, especially those in areas vulnerable to current and future flooding, function properly and to minimize potential detrimental impacts to water quality and the environment.