





GOAL 2

Complete:	Action has been completed.	
In Progress:	Action implementation is underway.	
Awaiting Resources:	Action may be implemented when staff time, funding, or other resources are available.	

Quick Win: Short-term actions that have the potential to maintain implementation momentum.

High Impact: Actions that have the potential to get us the furthest toward the Town's goals

 Action aligns with the Yarmouth Comprehensive Plan (2024)

Goal 2: Plan for future land use that reduces emissions and is resilient to climate change impacts.

Strategy 2.1: Strengthen policies and enforcement to promote sustainable, resilient, and accessible land use practices in coordination with Comprehensive Plan implementation.

Action 2.1.1: Amend zoning ordinances to reduce emissions by allowing for more dense, mixed-use areas close to transit and economic centers, and prioritizing adaptive reuse of existing buildings.



The Comprehensive Plan, completed in 2024, includes strategies to encourage dense, walkable neighborhoods. First introduction of MDR and zoning reform recommendations to the Planning Board in April 2025.

Action 2.1.2: Establish criteria in subdivision, site plan, and Character-based Development Code to incorporate current climate data and manage adherence to land protection and stewardship goals.



The Planning and Sustainability Departments contracted with GPCOG to provide recommendations to integrate climate hazards and adaptation best practices into zoning and land use ordinances. In 2025, staff will review recommendations and collaborate with stakeholders to consider policy proposals.

Strategy 2.2: Increase tree canopy.

Action 2.2.1: Assess current tree canopy cover and ensure resources for increasing cover by planting and maintaining climate- resilient species.







Tree Advisory Committee and YCS staff continue reforestation efforts, including a project at YES. Tree Stewardship Working Group may recommend creation of a canopy assessment and targets.

Action 2.2.2: Establish zoning ordinance and/or incentives that serve to protect mature trees and reduce lot clearing.



Tree Stewardship Working Group is presenting a Resolution for Town Council consideration before moving into assessment or ordinance development.

Strategy 2.3: Support restoration of riverine and coastal ecosystems.

Action 2.3.1: Restore the ecological function of the Royal River by removing all barriers, taking into consideration the river restoration feasibility study by the Army Corps of Engineers.		In early 2025, the Town Council voted to approve a resolution committing to the restoration of the Royal River, including dam removal. Next steps include pursuing funding for relevant work.
Action 2.3.2: Review the Royal River Corridor Plan (2009) and expand and update the Plan with a focus on climate resilience.		Awaiting Resources
Action 2.3.3: Promote guidance for protection/restoration of erodable bluffs, steep slopes, and shorelines using nature-based-solutions (regrading, tree-planting, retreat) for both private and town-owned lands.		Sustainability Department creating a toolkit to educate homeowners on bluff erosion and solutions. The toolkit will be made available to the public in Summer 2025.
Action 2.3.4: Amend zoning to increase shoreline setbacks for freshwater and saltwater areas while encouraging low-impact development, in consultation with DEP as applicable.		The Planning and Engineering Departments will incorporate required Low Impact Development (LID) measures in accordance with upcoming Maine DEP requirements for the Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) general permit.