

# PREPARING FOR CLIMATE CHANGE IN DOVER

## GAINING INSIGHTS AND CHARTING A COURSE

**“Meeting Notes,” from group discussions at Project Kick-off  
October 21, 2014 | 6:00-8:30pm – McConnell Center café**

*The project kick-off involved a climate change presentation and small group discussions around three themes: people, infrastructure, and natural resources. Participants brainstormed concerns about climate change impacts to the City of Dover, followed by possible actions to address those impacts. These discussions were recorded on large flipcharts and posted around the room at the end of the evening. Attendees used sticky dots to indicate the priority actions they wanted to explore moving ahead. The numbers in parentheses are the number of sticky dots or “votes” placed by participants on each item.*

### NATURAL RESOURCES

**Question 1 – Given the trends in increased frequency of storms, inland and coastal flooding, and sea-level rise, how might these impacts affect NATURAL RESOURCES in Dover?**

- Flooding or SLR impacting vegetation that is currently protecting shorelines
- Pressure on waste water treatment plant
- Increased polluted run off
  - Impacts to GB ecosystem (eelgrass & oysters)
- Impacting breeding areas and habitat
- Impacts to current and potential ecotourism
  - Economic impacts
- Increased marine debris from runoff
- Changes to land flora & fauna
- Increased vulnerability of plants and animals (people are animals) to disease
- Changes to crops/agriculture → price of flood
- Impacts of shoreline adaptation → bigger seawall, etc.
- Changes in invasive species
- Larger salinity fluctuations in the bay
- Drought --? Fires – NH not used to these fire hazards
- Loss of salt marshes and impacts to wetlands (pollution)
- Drinking water, wells
- Keeps getting worse unless we do something
- Ocean acidification → fisheries impacts
- Marine animal population shifts

**Question 2 – What actions could Dover take to address these issues?**

- Changes in zoning (7)
  - Buffer zones, enforcing & increasing wetland buffers
  - Impervious surfaces
  - Storm water regs.
- Rain gardens, rain barrels & other ways to control storm water (creative solutions) (3)
- Biomimicry/engineering → biologically based design, “soft” infrastructure (3)
- Reducing parking spaces, promoting public transit, other mitigation actions (2)
- More conservation land → less development (1)

- Enable dense infill development (Develop where things are already developed) (1)
- Raising public awareness
- Use most recent data to make decisions
- Plant more resilient plants, specifically street trees, that can survive future conditions
- Actions to support wildlife, e.g. plantings to benefit wildlife (more native plants & diversity), culverts, connectivity, large habitat areas
- Continue to build baseline data for water quality, wildlife, etc.
  - Make accessible
- Wetland restoration

## INFRASTRUCTURE

**Question 1 – Given the trends in increased frequency of storms, inland and coastal flooding, and sea-level rise, how might these impacts affect INFRASTRUCTURE in Dover?**

- Water & electricity & sewer
  - Utilities demand prices/lost
  - Treatment plant
  - Most on city water
- Transportation
  - Roads & culverts & storm water management specifically
  - Bridges
  - Dams
- Retail Services
  - Food – warehousing
  - Supplies
  - Impact on business → restrict growth
  - Business – manufacturing employment
- Schools
- Facilities to house people & pets (shelters)
- Historical buildings
- Fire, police, Health & emergency services – connected to roads, communication access, internet, phone
- Communications
  - Staff to respond if there the staff resources to respond (mutual aid – citizen response corps)
- Emergency evacuation plan – Routes?
- Access to transportation fuel

**Question 2 – What actions could Dover take to address these issues?**

- Education (6)
  - Climate
  - Individual/city preparedness
  - Emergency housing
  - Develop shelter plan – access needs
- Harden emergency systems, power, energy (3)
- Renewable/energy program (2)
  - Look for good examples from away
- Change new construction to reflect latest data planning & zoning boards (1)
- Transportation – Diversity of options (1)
  - Bikes (2)
  - Other
  - Business continuity plan
- Neighborhood network, neighbors watching/helping neighbors (1)
- Evaluate sewer system – pipes, power impacts
  - I&I – water in/out of system
- Asset Management Plan – need to do one
- Incentives for property owners – storm water, power
- Regional planning participation
- City Fleet improvements – energy

- Protect buffer areas
- Access to cash for emergency preparedness
- Emergency Plan, Dover Download – mobile ready?
- Utilities underground option
- Open land plan – with this filter

## PEOPLE

**Question 1 – Given the trends in increased frequency of storms, inland and coastal flooding, and sea-level rise, how might these impacts affect PEOPLE in Dover?**

- Transformation challenges
- Low income: air conditioning/energy costs
- Air quality, asthma
- Increased community cooperation
  - Prospect St
  - Silver St
  - River
- Flooding/storm surge/SLR
- Dover Point, Downtown/River
- Waterfront development
- Nice housing in high risk areas
- People move away/won't buy
- Lower property value
- Destruction
- Rebuild costs
- Loss of income/character
- Public housing distance to amenities (1.5 miles)
- Lack of information
- Loss of business opportunities
- Less habitable/arable land
- Budget conflicts
- Taxpayer pressure, higher taxes
- Stress on staff/longer hours
- Pollution increase/public health
- Mental health
  - Increased conflict
  - Decreased quality of life
  - Decreased happiness
  - Increased crime
- Hospital overload, worker stress
- Stress on elderly
- Depend on electricity
- Insurance & energy costs up
- Communication about power outage/service disruption
- Access to medication
- Behavior change through experience
- Development challenges/impacts on neighbors
- Tourism
  - Tourist focused businesses loss of income
  - Leaf peepers
  - River tourism change

**Question 2 – What actions could Dover take to address these issues?**

- Public education – Schools, senior citizens, immigrants, boards (planning) (4)
- City goal to “Lead by example” (4)
- Energy efficiency – existing building (2)
  - Winter windows closed!
- Zoning Regulations (2)
  - Anticipate climate change through regulations
  - Less building in wetlands
- School board/curriculum – active/outdoor learning (1)
- Emergency plan review (1)
  - Clean water
  - Health focus, hospitals
- Encourage outside experiences (1)
- Encourage public support for action → political (1)
- Pet care in emergency (1)
  - Shelter needs

- Need for more police enforcement/planning & fire dept (1)
  - Flood protection downtown
    - Consider downstream impacts upstream
  - Public housing back up power
  - Awareness low cost cooling
  - Transportation options for low income & everyone
  - Training
    - Emergency response
    - Residents
  - Communication networks
  - Disease control, who?
  - Building codes
    - Raised above Base Flood Elevation
  - Reduce greenhouse gases in homes
  - Stormwater – alternatives to impervious cover
- Tree-lined streets – green roofs, white roofs?
  - Address board coordination gap – community wide/education
  - Knowledge of most vulnerable locations
    - Phone tree, prioritize
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  - Renewable/capacity public buildings
  - CPACE
  - Community gardens dispersed
  - Greenhouses
  - Address food access & education, explore models
  - Building code energy efficiency above state regulation
  - Make better connections among groups
  - How to deal with barriers like science deniers