

Environmental Sustainability & Climate Change Impacts: Summary of Community Input

The following report is a compilation of the data related to Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts collected during the Community Vision Process through the Community Vision Survey and Community Conversations.

Community Survey Results

The Community Survey asked respondents to rank, in order of priority, the issues that the Town or community organizations should work to address over the next 1-10 years. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Change Impacts ranked fourth and fifth in the results of the survey. In the table below, you can see the frequency with which each issue was ranked in each place. Environmental Sustainability was ranked as a top 5 priority by 50% of respondents and Climate Change Impacts was ranked in the top 5 priorities by 39% of respondents. For a more detailed report on the entire results of the Survey, see the Survey and Community Conversations Findings Report.

Frequency of Ranked Priorities

Priorities	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Fifth	Total	Weighted
Access to Housing	137	40	52	41	30	300	1113
Workforce Development	38	61	72	48	38	257	784
Economic Diversification	40	62	64	43	26	235	752
Environmental Sustainability	37	41	36	27	51	192	562
Climate Change Impacts	28	29	26	37	32	152	440
Human Infrastructure	9	28	31	27	45	140	349
Transportation	13	25	29	24	44	135	344
Land Conservation	21	18	20	28	22	109	315
Access to Waterfront	13	31	8	27	30	109	297
Broadband	20	22	18	28	15	103	313
Freshwater Resources	14	20	19	24	24	101	279
Built Infrastructure	4	5	3	20	11	43	100
NA	2	5	7	11	17	42	90
Other Priorities	11	0	2	2	2	0	67

The Weighted column represents a score for each priority based on the number of times it was ranked in each place. For example, each time an issue was ranked in first place, it receives 5 points. Second place rankings are 4 points, third place are 3 points, and so on. This allows us to base priority rankings not only on the frequency with which they were ranked as a top 5 issue, but also based on where in the rankings they fell, providing a clearer picture of the importance of each priority.

Community Survey Comments

Survey respondents were given space to write in additional concerns and challenges that they felt the North Haven community should commit to working on. Many respondents chose to elaborate on issues they had already ranked using this space. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged in these comments relating to the environment, environmental sustainability, and climate change.

Summary of Environment, Resilience, and Climate Change Themes

- ❖ *There are concerns over access to and sustainability of freshwater resources on the island.*
- ❖ *Lack of green infrastructure on the island (community gardens and local food sources, sustainable energy and heating, bike infrastructure).*
- ❖ *Better stewardship of natural resources and environmental education.*
- ❖ *Climate change impacts, such as sea level rise, should be incorporated into any planning or development.*

Community Conversation Results

In addition to the Community Survey, community members had the opportunity to participate in facilitated small-group community conversations and share their thoughts via email, phone calls, and one-on-one conversations. Below is a summary of the themes that emerged during these discussions.

Summary of Environment, Resilience, and Climate Change Themes

- ❖ *The viability of the year-round community is inherently tied to the sustainability of living on the island.*
- ❖ *Awareness around the limitations of natural resources is essential.*
- ❖ *What is the capacity of our freshwater?*
- ❖ *There are opportunities to make the community more resilient, especially related to food sources.*
- ❖ *Sea level rise is a threat we should plan for.*
- ❖ *Climate change planning should be incorporated into all future planning.*