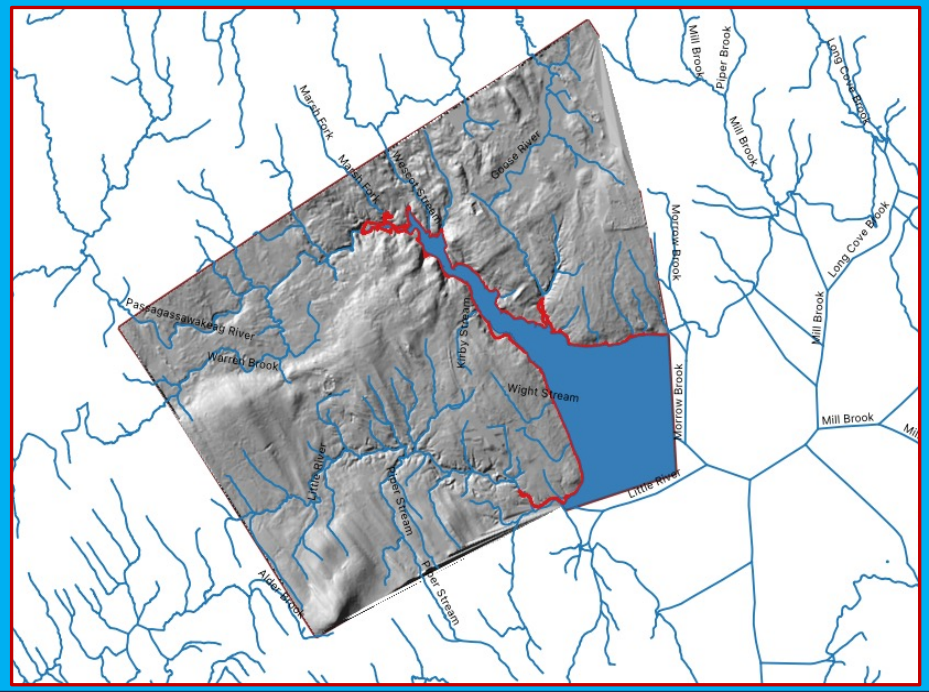
City of Belfast Climate Action Plan

Submitted June 4, 2023



August 8, 2023

Climate Crisis Committee

CITY OF BELFAST Maine

All of Belfast Climate Dialogues

Mission Goals for this CAP

1. Belfast will achieve carbon-neutrality by 2030, and a carbon-zero status by 2045, in accordance with “Maine Won’t Wait” State targets.
2. During this period, Belfast will make changes in its physical infrastructure and its governance to meet the challenges of the climate crisis while reducing the costs of inaction
3. Belfast will make these changes in ways that will increase economic activity and jobs.
4. Belfast will make these changes while maintaining its sense of community and supporting **all** of its citizens.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Top City Priorities

- Wastewater Treatment/Sewer System
- Stormwater System
- Roads
- Marine Facilities and Access
- Emergency Services and Facilities
- Communication Systems
- Public Shelters
- Food Security

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Recommended City Policy: Assess vulnerabilities in existing critical infrastructure, and plan to manage such systems for resilience to climate change.

Wastewater Treatment/Sewer System

Recommended City Policy: Prioritize WWTP for protection against flooding.

Stormwater System

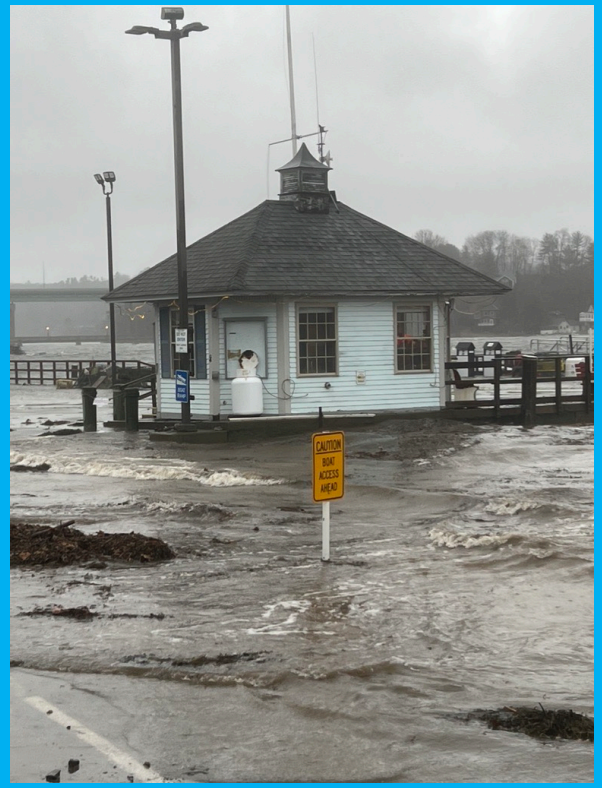
Recommended City Policy: Map, assess, manage stormwater system for resilience to climate change, considering not simply disposal but conservation and storage for beneficial use.

Roads

Recommended City Policy:
Plan for resilience of road system to flooding.
Collaborate with other towns to work together with MDOT on maintenance, advance planning for critical roads.

Marine Facilities and Access

Recommended City Policy: Replace breakwater to protect City Landing. Plan further to protect entire harbor from storms.



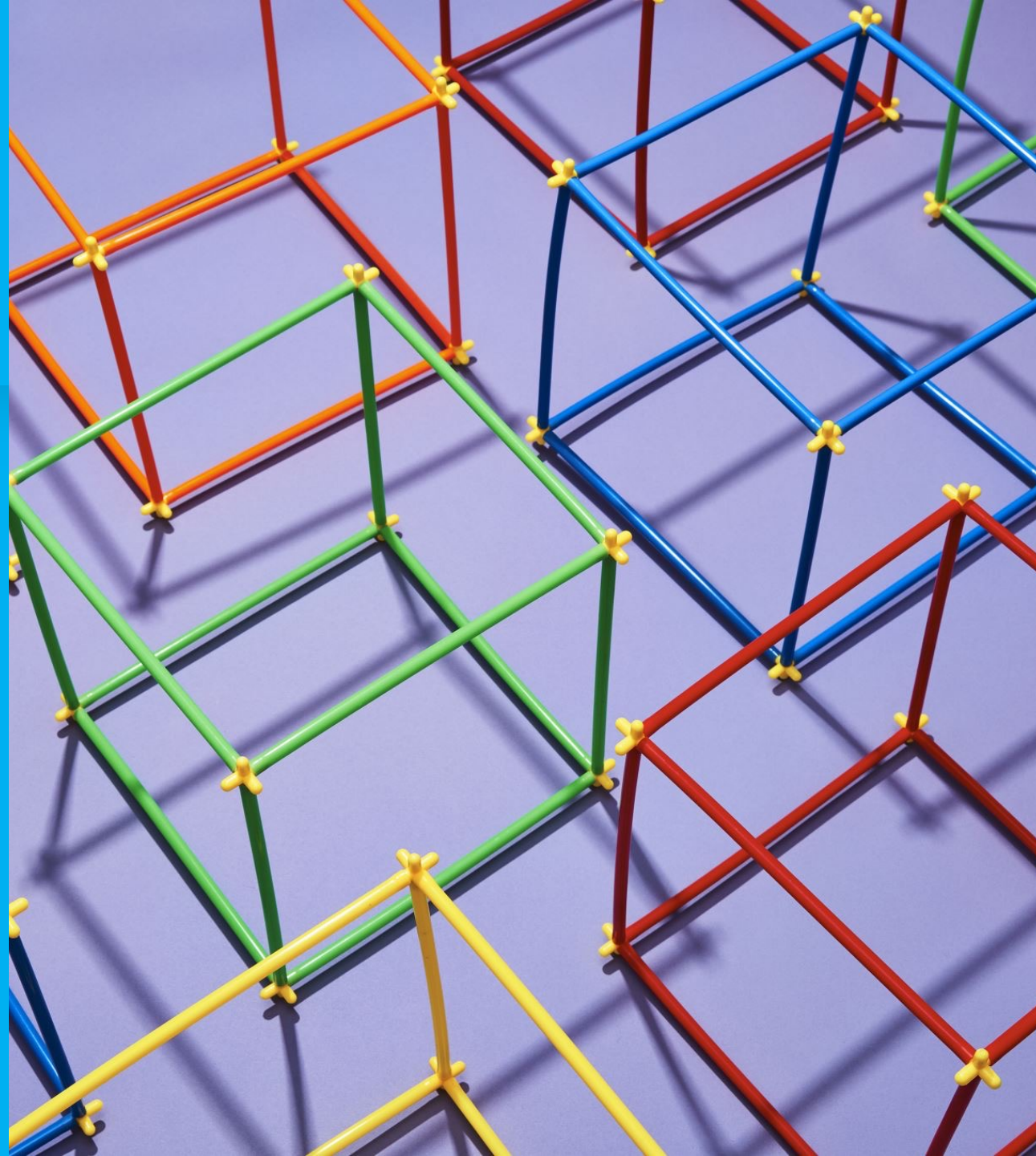
Emergency Services and Facilities

Recommended City Policy: With WCEMA, establish clear emergency warning systems accessible to all Belfast residents.

Communication Systems

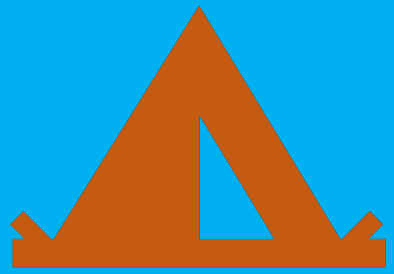
Recommended City Policy:

With WCEMA, establish clear emergency warning systems accessible to all Belfast residents.



Public Shelters

Recommended City Policy: With WCEMA, establish one or more public emergency shelters.



Food Security

Recommended City Policy: With WCEMA, review and assess local food distribution system, make plan to address shortages.

TRANSPORTATION

Recommended City Policy: Maximize availability of public transportation; make City more walkable and bikeable.

BUILDINGS and HOMES

Recommended City Policy: Update energy efficiencies and continue transition to heat pumps for heating/cooling.

ELECTRIC POWER

Recommended City Policy: Participate in PUC planning so as to increase local electric capacity.

NATURAL RESOURCES

Recommended City Policy: Adopt federal and state land conservation goal of “30% by 2030.”

Land, Soils and Farms

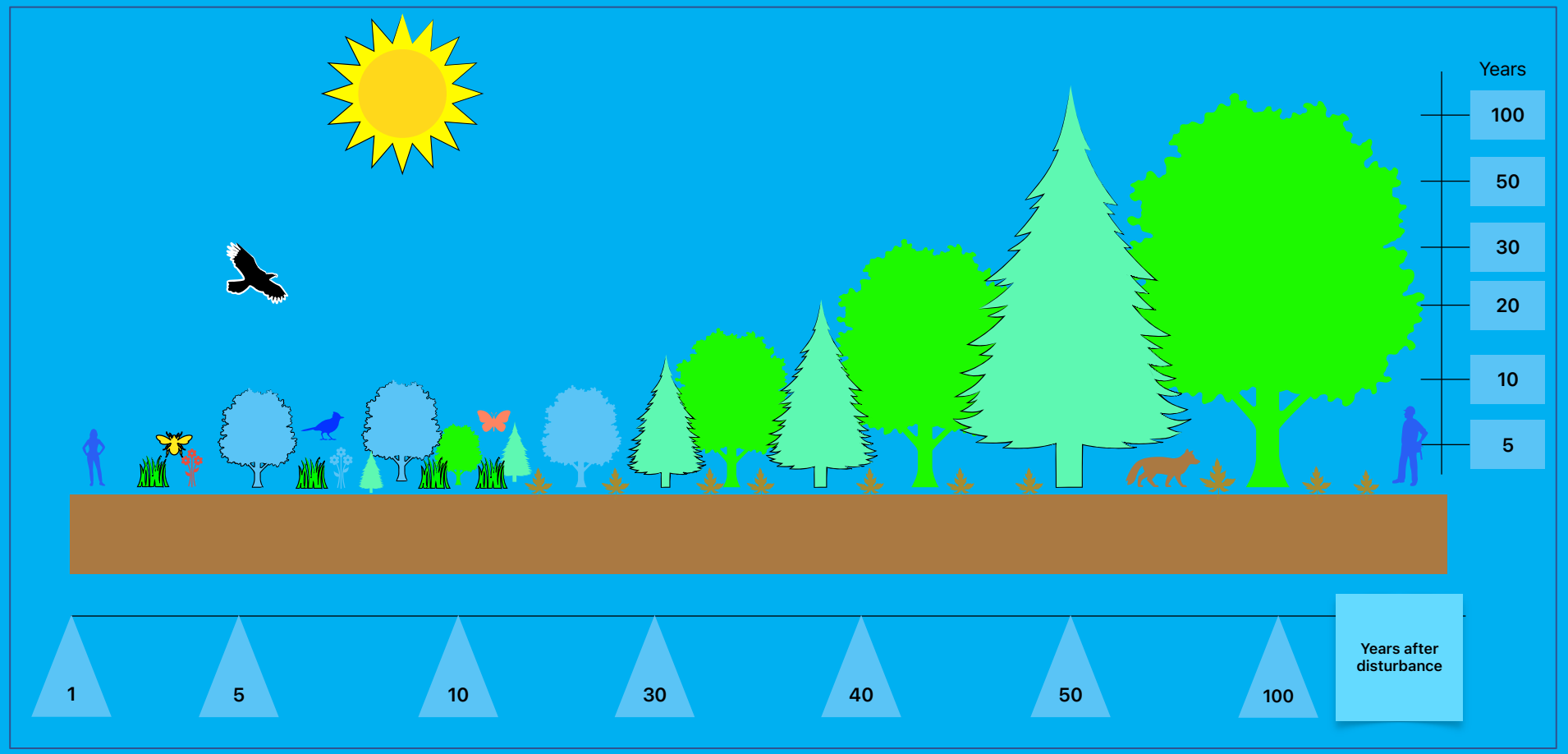
Recommended City Policy: Adopt federal and state land conservation goal of “30% by 2030.”

Shoreline

Recommended City Policy: Replace breakwater to protect City Landing. Plan further to protect entire harbor from storms.

Forests

Recommended City Policy: Manage forested public land for habitat, sequestration, resilience.

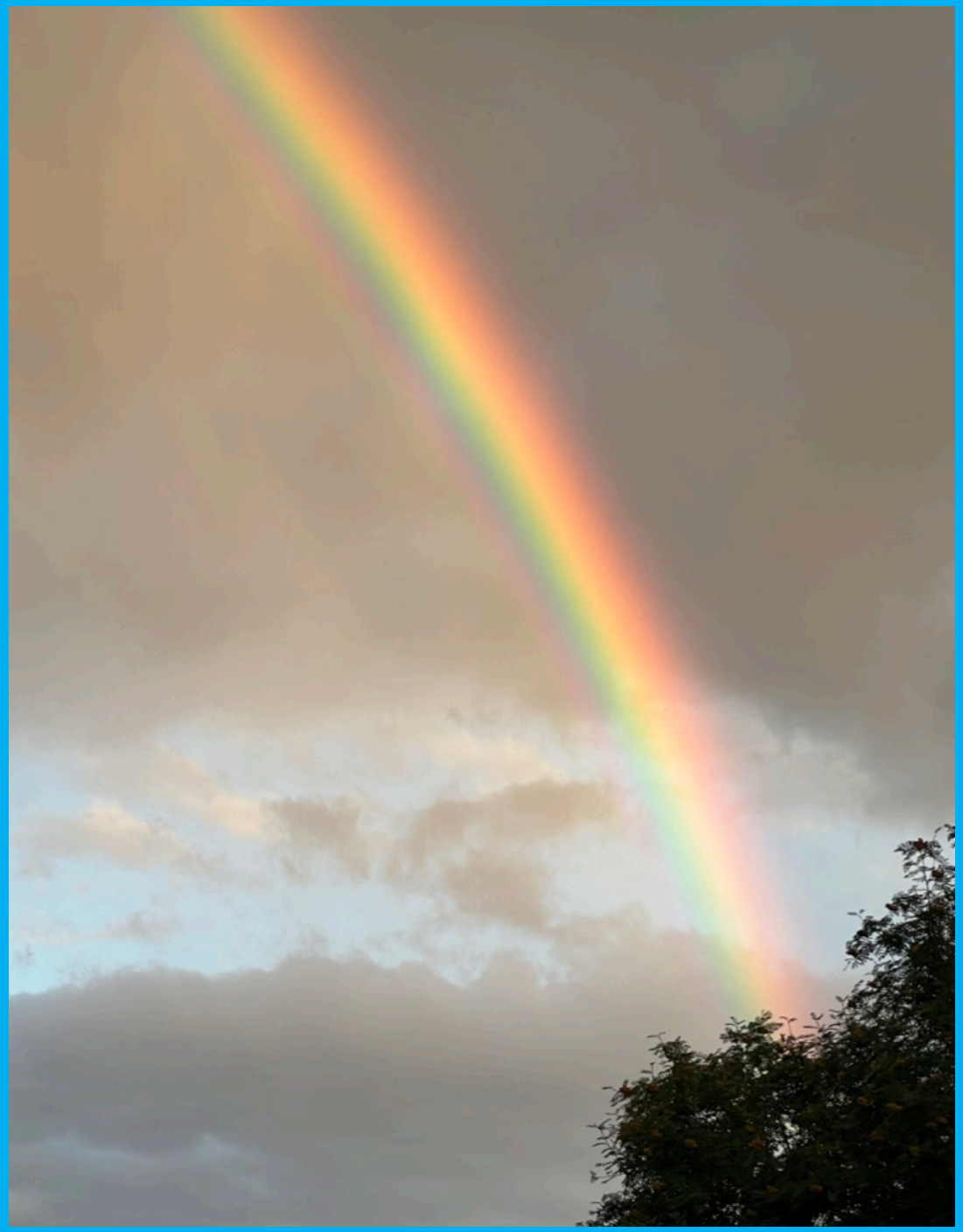


PUBLIC HEALTH

Recommended City Policy: Strengthen capacity of Public Health Office to educate community on climate-related disease, air and water quality alerts, heat and cold emergencies.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Recommended City Policy: Engage community in implementing CAP recommendations.

NEXT GENERATION

Recommended City Policy: By any means, engage students in climate-change planning, actions.