Acton Climate Resilience and Community Concerns

Summary of Community Input – MVP 2.0

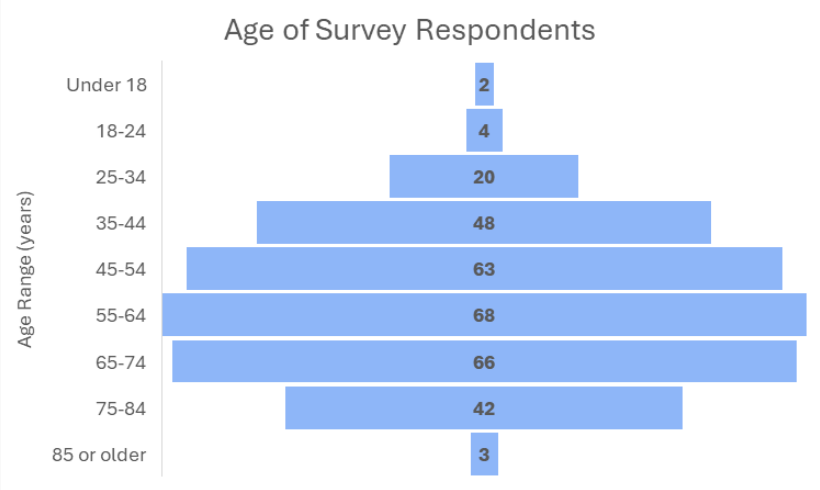
To better understand community concerns about climate change and resilience, we conducted this survey alongside a series of in-person community engagement events. These efforts allowed us to gather insights directly from Acton residents about their experiences with extreme weather, concerns about climate preparedness, and the community factors that may impact resilience. By combining survey data with feedback from discussions, workshops, and public meetings, we gained a comprehensive understanding of the community's priorities and identified key strategies to build community climate resilience.

Survey Open: September 2024-January 2025

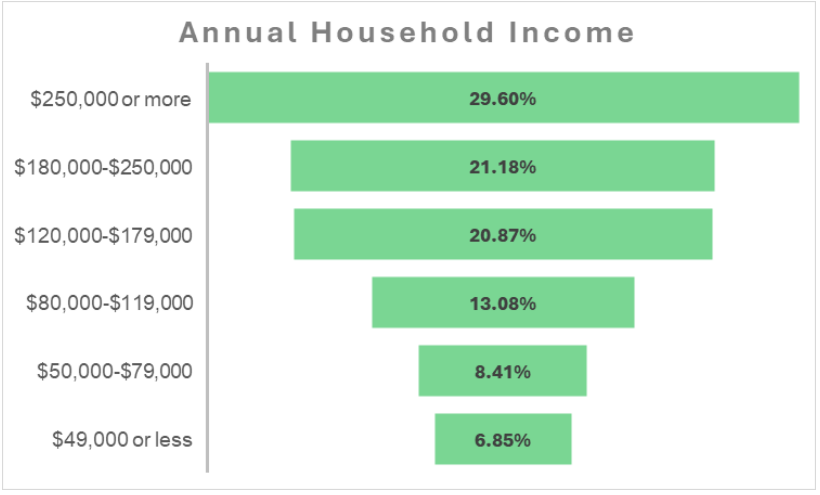
Total Survey Responses: 321

Demographic Information (Survey Responses):

Age	Count	Percentage
Under 18	2	0.6%
18-24	4	1.2%
25-34	20	6.2%
35-44	48	14.9%
45-54	63	19.6%
55-64	68	21.2%
65-74	66	20.6%
75-84	42	13.1%
85 or older	3	0.9%

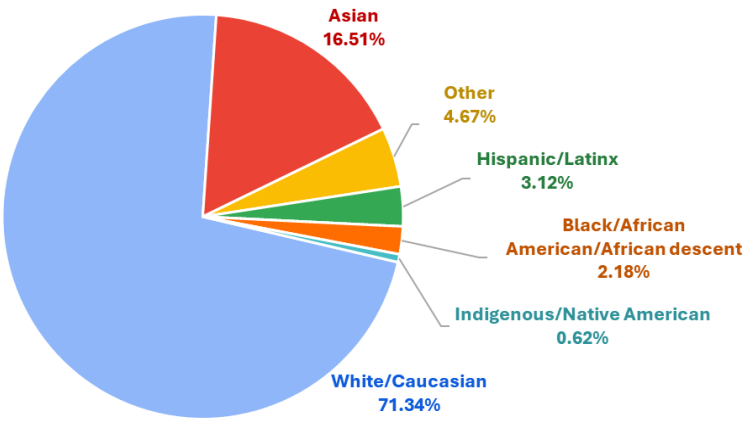


Income Bracket	Count	Percentage
$250,000 or more	95	29.60%
$180,000-$250,000	68	21.18%
$120,000-$179,000	67	20.87%
$80,000-$119,000	42	13.08%
$50,000-$79,000	27	8.41%
$49,000 or less	22	6.85%



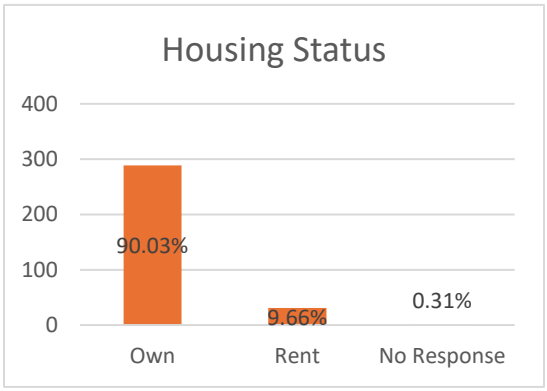
March 1, 2025

Racial/Ethnic Identity	Count	Percentage
White/Caucasian	229	71.34%
Asian	53	16.51%
Other	15	4.67%
Hispanic/Latinx	10	3.12%
Black/African American/ African descent	7	2.18%
Indigenous/Native American	2	0.62%



Housing

Status	Count	Percentage
Own	289	90.03%
Rent	31	9.66%
No Response	1	0.31%

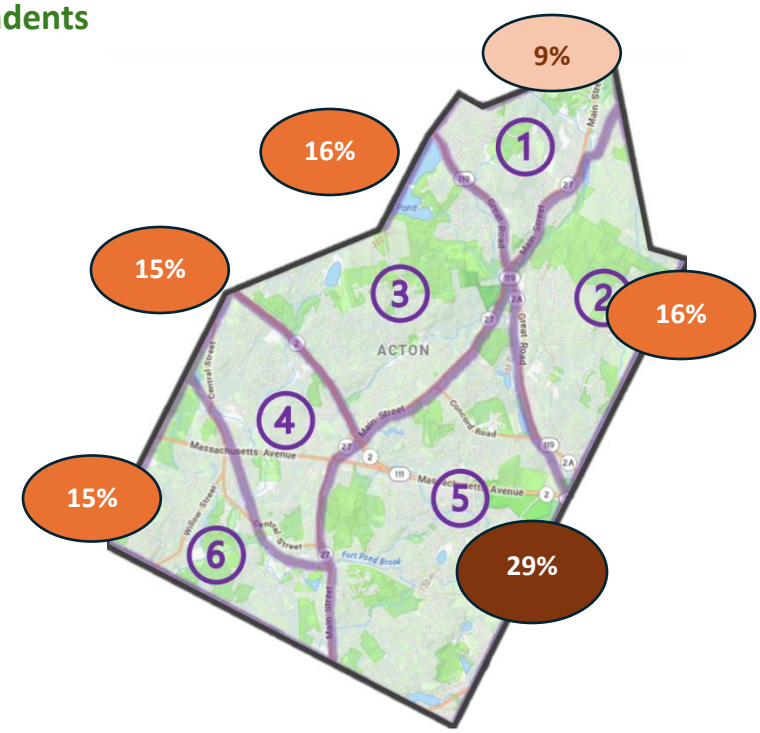


Housing Type	Count	Percentage
Single Family Residence	268	83.49%
Duplex or Single Family with In-law Suite	2	0.62%
Smaller Multifamily, Townhouse, Condo, Apartment (≤4 units)	26	8.10%
Larger Multifamily, Apartment Building or Complex (≥5 units)	23	7.17%
Other	2	0.62%

Living With	Count	Percentage
Live Alone	35	10.9%
Live with Partner	137	42.68%
Live with Roommate(s)	5	1.56%
Live With Partner *and/or* Children & Extended Family	9	2.8%
Live with Partner & Children <18y.o	88	27.42%
Live with Children < 18y.o	30	9.34%
Live with Extended Family	17	5.29%

Regional Distribution of Survey Respondents

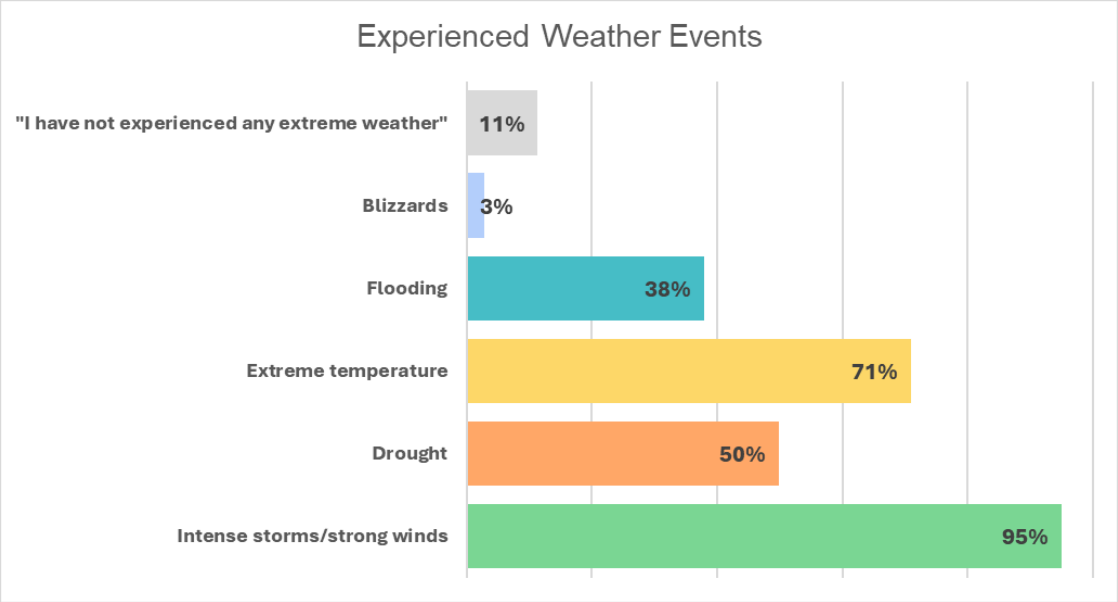
Region (see Map)	Count	Percentage
1	28	8.75%
2	52	16.25%
3	51	15.94%
4	48	15%
5	92	28.75%
6	49	15.31%



Years Lived in Acton	Count	Percentage
<1 year	15	4.7%
1-5 years	74	23.1%
6-10 years	67	20.9%
11-20 years	38	11.8%
Over 20 years	127	39.6%

Climate Concerns and Preparedness (Survey Responses):

Experience with Weather Events	Count
Intense storms/strong winds	305
Drought	160
Extreme temperature	228
Flooding	122
Blizzards	9
"I have not experienced any extreme weather"	36



Preparedness for Extreme Weather	Count	Percentage
Somewhat prepared	212	66.04%
Not too prepared	56	17.45%
Very prepared	40	12.46%
Not at all prepared	7	2.18%

Do you know where you would go during a weather-related emergency?

Yes: 141 (43.93%)

No: 179 (55.76%)

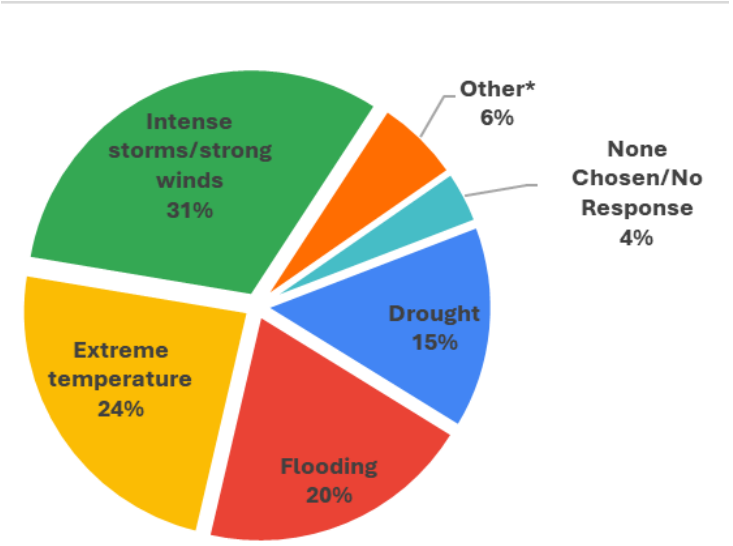
Do you know where a shelter is located in Acton?

Yes: 82 (25.62%)

No: 237 (74.06%)

Concerns About Climate-Related Events in the Next 5-10 Years

Climate Concern	Count
Drought	50
Flooding	68
Extreme temperature	82
Intense storms/strong winds	108
Other*	21
None Chosen/No Response	13



***Other Concerns include:**

Electric Grid Reliability *– Worries about power outages and infrastructure failure due to extreme weather.*

Insect Population Changes *– Notable shifts in insect behavior, such as more ticks, mosquitoes, etc.*

Wildfires *– Concerns about increased frequency and severity of wildfires.*

Cost of Living *– The financial burden of adapting to climate changes - higher insurance rates and energy costs.*

Ideological Concerns *– Skepticism about climate change narratives or frustration with climate policies.*

General Unpredictability *– Concerns about increasing weather instability and uncertainty.*

Community Climate Hazard Concerns:

Based on the survey responses, community liaison outreach and public engagement events, the following are the key concerns that residents of Acton have for the next 5-10 years regarding climate-related events:

1. **Extreme Temperatures:**

- **High temperatures** (especially during summer months) are a major concern, particularly due to the **increased reliance on air conditioning** and the strain it places on energy usage and health. Many worry about **heatwaves** becoming more frequent or intense, leading to safety concerns, increased energy bills, and decreased comfort.

- **Extreme cold** temperatures are also a concern for those relying on heat pumps, with some noting that these systems lose efficiency in very cold weather, making them vulnerable during severe winter cold snaps.

2. **Intense Storms and Strong Winds:**

   - **Intense storms** and **strong winds** are top concerns for most residents. These events can cause damage to homes, trees, and power lines, leading to **power outages**, **property damage**, and disruptions to daily life.
   - Many are particularly concerned about **flooding** caused by intense storms, noting that local infrastructure (e.g., roads, power lines, drainage systems) may not be prepared for the frequency or severity of future storms.
   - **Fallen trees**, **damaged homes**, and **increased repair costs** are common fears, with several respondents worried about large trees falling on homes or cars during severe windstorms.

3. **Flooding:**

   - **Flooding** is another major concern, particularly for residents living near rivers, streams, or wetlands. Many are concerned about **increased flooding frequency** due to heavy rainfall or storm surges, noting the **difficulties of mitigating flood risks** without disturbing the natural landscape.
   - **Basement flooding**, **water damage**, and **infrastructure failure** due to poor drainage systems are key issues, especially for homes near flood-prone areas.

4. **Drought:**

   - **Drought** is a significant worry, particularly regarding its impact on **water resources** (e.g., water restrictions) and **landscaping** (e.g., dead lawns, reduced water availability for gardening).
   - Many respondents are concerned about the **strain on local water supplies**, particularly during extended periods of dry weather. **Water conservation** and **efficiency in water usage** are seen as crucial to mitigating the impacts of drought.

5. **Other Concerns:**

   - **Increased storm intensity** and **more frequent extreme weather events** (e.g., drought, floods, heatwaves) are leading some residents to question the preparedness of local infrastructure and utilities.
   - Some are concerned about the **long-term sustainability** of the grid and water systems under the strain of increasingly extreme weather. For instance, one respondent voiced concerns about **over-reliance on heat pumps** and the potential for grid failures during rare but extreme weather events (e.g., sudden cold snaps).
   - **Health impacts** of climate change (e.g., increased heat, pest outbreaks like ticks and mosquitoes) are mentioned as additional worries.
   - **Adaptation** and **mitigation strategies** are also emphasized, with some residents looking to **diversify** their climate solutions (e.g., using heat pumps plus wood stoves, improving flood defenses, or increasing insulation) to prepare for future extremes.
   - **Economic concerns**, such as **rising costs** of utilities or home repairs due to storm and flood damage, are secondary concerns for some.

Summary of Key Climate Concerns:

- **Extreme Heat** (temperature)
- **Flooding** (due to heavy rainfall, storms, or rising water levels)
- **Intense Storms** & **Strong Winds** (causing tree damage, power outages, and flooding)
- **Drought** (affecting water resources and landscaping)
- **Winter Storms** (cold temperatures affecting heat pump efficiency)
- **Extreme Temperature Variability** (hot summers and cold winters)

Community Impacts from Climate Events

1. **Power Outages & Disruptions:**
   - Power outages frequently result from fallen trees, strong winds, and intense storms.
   - Power outages have led to extended periods of inconvenience, with some lasting for days. Residents report having to use generators, discard spoiled food, or manage without basic services (e.g., heating, cooling, refrigeration).
   - Loss of electricity has complicated daily life, including school transportation, communication, and access to essential services.
2. **Tree Damage & Property Loss:**
   - Many respondents have experienced **tree damage**—trees and branches falling onto homes, cars, fences, or blocking roads. Some have had significant structural damage, including crushed decks, roofs, or fences.
   - The need for **tree removal** or trimming has increased, and fallen trees have resulted in costly repairs for many households. Some respondents reported spending significant amounts on tree removal services.
3. **Flooding & Water Damage:**
   - Basement flooding is a common issue, especially during heavy rain or extreme storms.
   - Poor drainage and rising groundwater contribute to flooding concerns.
   - Many residents have invested in sump pumps and other mitigation efforts.
4. **Drought, Heat and Cold:**
   - **Drought** conditions have led to dead lawns, garden losses, and the need for water restrictions. Some residents reported high costs for reseeding lawns or dealing with dead plants.
   - Drought has also strained local water resources, with mandatory water restrictions occasionally affecting households' ability to maintain lawns and gardens.
   - **Heat** exacerbated by droughts has also led to higher electricity bills due to the use of air conditioning, with some families opting to relocate during the hottest months to avoid unbearable temperatures.
   - **Hot summers** and **extreme heat** are causing residents to rely more on air conditioning, driving up electricity costs and making it uncomfortable to stay outdoors.
   - **Cold temperatures** in the winter months have also raised concerns about frozen pipes and the need for additional heating.

5. **Storm Damage**
    - **Severe storms** have caused both **tree damage** and **structural damage**, including roof and fence destruction, and damage to outbuildings like sheds.
    - Some residents report entire **neighborhoods being isolated** due to fallen trees blocking access roads and streets. Others have had to deal with extended disruptions to work, school, and other activities due to road closures or power outages.
6. **Health & Safety Concerns:**
    - Extreme temperatures pose risks to vulnerable residents, especially the elderly and those with health conditions.
    - Some individuals with health conditions have expressed concerns about **extreme heat** making it unsafe for them to go outdoors, which has led to a reliance on air conditioning.
    - **Flooding** has also raised safety concerns, particularly for families with young children or elderly residents who have had difficulty navigating flooded areas.
    - The **dangerous aftermath** of storms—such as debris-filled streets, damaged homes, or downed power lines—has posed ongoing safety risks.
    - **Air quality** (particularly with fires this fall) are a concern.
7. **Financial Strain:**
    - Many respondents have faced **unplanned expenses** due to extreme weather, particularly for **tree removal**, **home repairs**, and **landscaping**.
    - Some families reported significant losses of **stored items** in basements, including **books** and **personal belongings**, during flooding events.
    - The financial strain of **replacing damaged property**, **paying for repairs**, and **increased energy bills** has been a burden for several households.
8. **Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts:**
    - Several households have **adapted** to these challenges by installing **solar panels**, **central air conditioning**, **HVAC systems**, and **sump pumps** to cope with temperature extremes and flooding.
    - Some have taken measures to **reduce water usage** or **improve home drainage** to better handle future storms or drought conditions, including the installation of larger gutters, rain gardens, or water management systems.
    - **Tree trimming** and **property maintenance** have become ongoing necessities to prevent damage from extreme weather events.

Community Priorities for Acton Residents

The survey responses highlight several key priorities for Acton residents, with a strong emphasis on **housing affordability**, **access to natural spaces**, and **transportation options**. Here is a synthesis of the main themes and their associated concerns:

1. **Housing Affordability and Quality**
    - **Primary Concern:** Many respondents view housing affordability and quality as a critical issue. Affordable housing options, particularly for working-class residents, were frequently mentioned. There are concerns about the cost of living, property taxes, and limited availability of homes for people with moderate incomes.

- **Additional Considerations:** Respondents emphasized the need for better housing that is sustainable, green, and environmentally conscious. Some also mentioned that the town should focus on **smart growth** and limit developments that could strain infrastructure.

2. **Transportation and Accessibility**
    - **Ease of Getting Around Without a Car:** A common priority is making it easier to navigate the town without relying on cars. This includes more **bike lanes**, **public transit options**, and **pedestrian-friendly infrastructure**.
    - **Improved Walkability:** Suggestions included making roads safer for pedestrians, especially around busy streets like Great Road.
    - **Transportation Alternatives:** Emphasis on expanding alternative transportation options, like **public transit** or **shuttle services**, was noted by several residents, with a call for better connectivity and reduced reliance on cars.
3. **Access to Natural Spaces**
    - **Clean and Welcoming Natural Areas:** Many residents stressed the importance of maintaining and expanding access to clean, welcoming natural spaces, such as parks, forests, and open areas. These spaces are seen as vital for health, recreation, and climate resilience.
    - **Environmental Stewardship:** There is a desire for **sustainable land management**, such as promoting native plants and reducing urban sprawl, to preserve natural habitats and increase green spaces.
4. **Access to Healthcare and Healthy Foods**
    - **Affordable and Trusted Healthcare:** A significant number of respondents highlighted the need for better access to affordable and reliable healthcare services.
    - **Healthy and Affordable Food:** Access to healthy food options at affordable prices was another priority, with some suggesting the creation of more **local food markets** or **community-supported agriculture** programs to make fresh food more accessible.
5. **Education and Employment**
    - **Access to Education and Good Jobs:** Many respondents want to see better access to education, both for children and adults, alongside efforts to create well-paying jobs in the community. There is a call for **job creation** that meets the needs of the town's residents.
    - **Affordable Housing for Workers:** Some pointed out that Acton needs more affordable housing options for people who work in or for the town, such as teachers, municipal workers, and service industry employees.
6. **Climate Resilience and Sustainability**
    - **Addressing Climate Change:** Several respondents focused on the need for climate resilience in the town's planning. This includes measures like **stormwater management**, **flood mitigation**, and **sustainable infrastructure** (e.g., using green building materials and energy-efficient technologies).
    - **Water Security and Management:** A few responses raised concerns about **water access** and suggested that it be considered a "town security" issue.
    - **Green Building and Sustainable Practices:** There was a call for **green architecture** and **sustainable landscaping**, with residents advocating for the use of eco-friendly practices in construction and home maintenance.
7. **Community Well-being and Social Support**
    - **Community Connection and Volunteering:** Residents expressed a desire for more **community engagement**, whether through volunteer opportunities, community events, or efforts to support vulnerable populations.

- **Addressing Aging Infrastructure:** Some respondents are concerned about Acton's aging infrastructure and its ability to withstand the stresses of climate change. They want proactive steps to address and modernize critical systems, such as water and electricity.
- **Public Health and Safety Programs:** Providing better emergency preparedness education and resources, as well as expanding **mental health services**, were mentioned as ways to improve the overall well-being of the community.

8. **Governance and Local Policy**
    - **Local Government Action:** Some residents called for changes to the town's governance, including a **more streamlined approach** to policy-making and a push for sustainable development through **zoning laws** and **environmental regulations**.
    - **Property Taxes and Spending:** Several responses voiced concerns about **high property taxes**, suggesting a review of the town's spending priorities and possibly lowering taxes to make Acton more affordable for residents.
9. **Infrastructure Improvements**
    - **Water and Sewer Systems:** Many respondents expressed interest in improving and expanding Acton's **sewer system** to accommodate growth and climate-related challenges.
    - **Fixing Road and Utility Infrastructure:** There were calls to **maintain and improve road conditions** and utilities, especially to handle extreme weather events and reduce the frequency of power outages.

Summary of Community Concerns:

- **Housing Affordability**: Addressing the high cost of housing and providing affordable housing options for working-class residents.
- **Sustainable Transportation**: Making it easier to navigate Acton without a car, through better bike lanes, public transit, and pedestrian infrastructure.
- **Natural Spaces**: Ensuring access to clean and welcoming natural areas and preserving the environment through sustainable practices.
- **Healthcare and Food Access**: Improving access to affordable healthcare and healthy food.
- **Climate Resilience**: Focusing on sustainable infrastructure, water management, and climate change adaptation.
- **Community Support**: Building stronger community connections, addressing aging infrastructure, and supporting social services.

The majority of residents are looking for improvements in housing, transportation, environmental sustainability, and community well-being to make Acton a more livable, equitable, and resilient town.

How Can the Town Help Residents Prepare for Extreme Weather Events?

1. **Improved Communication:**
    - **Better Use of Existing Platforms:** Many respondents highlighted the need for better communication, especially through underutilized platforms like social media, text alerts, and email systems. Suggestions include creating a central online hub for information, and ensuring that emergency shelters and plans are easy to access.

- **Frequent Updates and Alerts:** Residents suggested regular updates before extreme weather seasons or significant weather events, including specific details on shelter locations, emergency procedures, and preparedness checklists.
- **Print Materials:** Flyers, newsletters, and signage were recommended to make information accessible to a broader audience, including those who may not use digital platforms.

2. **Tree and Infrastructure Management:**

    - **Tree Pruning and Removal:** A major concern was the risk of trees falling on power lines during storms. Many respondents suggested more proactive tree care and tree removal, particularly near power lines and residential areas.

    - **Burying Power Lines:** Numerous residents advocated for the gradual burying of power lines, particularly in storm-prone areas, as a long-term strategy to reduce outages.

    - **Tree Maintenance on Public Property:** The town should continue trimming and maintaining trees on town property to prevent damage from falling branches during extreme weather.

3. **Emergency Shelters and Services:**

    - **Clear Shelter Information:** Many responses included calls for clearer, more widespread information about where to find emergency shelters during extreme weather events.
    - **Establish Shelters and Food Resources:** Establishing designated emergency shelters and ensuring that people are informed about their locations and services was a common suggestion.
    - **Vulnerable Population Support:** Some respondents suggested setting up volunteer systems to check on vulnerable individuals, such as the elderly or those living alone, during extreme weather events.

4. **Preparedness Education and Training:**

    - **Town Meetings and Educational Campaigns:** Residents recommended town meetings or workshops on emergency preparedness and climate resilience. Information on what to do during a power outage, storm, or flood would help residents feel more prepared.
    - **Local Training Programs:** Hosting local workshops and training sessions on disaster preparedness, with specific focus on preparing homes and neighborhoods, was also suggested.
    - **Educating the Public on Climate Change and Resilience:** Many respondents expressed a desire for more education on how climate change affects weather patterns and what specific actions the town is taking to reduce risks, such as improving stormwater management.

5. **Resilience Infrastructure:**

    - **Flood and Stormwater Mitigation:** Some suggested more work on flood mitigation, especially in areas near wetlands and stormwater-prone zones. Addressing flood risks near Fort Pond Brook, particularly around beaver dams, was mentioned by some as a key issue.
    - **Waste Management and Energy Solutions:** Respondents proposed more sustainable and forward-thinking approaches, such as turning waste into energy, implementing eco-friendly infrastructure, and encouraging native plantings for water conservation.

6. **Utilities and Emergency Resources:**

    - **Publicize Available Emergency Resources:** Information about available resources, like water supplies, generators, and utility support, should be made widely known.
    - **Access to Water and Generators:** Providing neighborhood-scale portable generators and ensuring access to fresh water in the event of power or water outages were also suggested.

7. **Local Community Engagement:**

    - **Create Volunteer Networks:** Many suggestions emphasized the need for volunteer groups to help with tree planting, invasive species removal, and general neighborhood resilience efforts.

- **Strengthening Community Collaboration:** Engaging residents in local efforts to mitigate extreme weather risks and increase climate resilience was mentioned frequently.

8. **Long-term Planning and Advocacy:**
    - **Work with Power Companies:** Some residents recommended working with utility companies to improve infrastructure, reduce power outages, and ensure the town is ready for extreme weather.
    - **Advocacy for State or Federal Support:** Some suggested lobbying for external support to improve utility reliability or implement large-scale infrastructure changes, like burying power lines or enhancing stormwater systems.

Summary of Needs from Town:

The most common themes from the suggestions are **better communication**, **tree and infrastructure management**, and **emergency preparedness education**. Residents are asking for more proactive measures to safeguard against extreme weather, improved public communication, and long-term infrastructure improvements, especially related to power lines, stormwater management, and flood prevention. The community also seeks more accessible resources and training to empower individuals and families to take personal action in preparing for emergencies.

How to Focus Resilience Priorities to Address Community Concerns

The responses reflect a wide range of concerns related to climate change, its impact on Acton, and possible solutions. Here are the key themes and areas of focus:

1. Flooding and Water Management

- **Flooding Risks:** Several respondents expressed concern about **flooding** due to increased frequency of extreme weather events, particularly in light of recent "100-year" and "500-year" flooding occurrences. The preservation of **wetlands** and **open spaces** (especially around waterways) is seen as essential to mitigate future flooding risks.
- **Water Supply and Quality:** There is a growing concern about **water availability** and **quality**, especially during droughts or extreme weather events. Respondents highlighted the need for better water management and conservation, suggesting that water resources should be considered a "town security" issue.
- **Invasive Species:** The impact of **invasive plant species** (like bittersweet) on trees and forests was also noted. These species weaken trees, leading to soil erosion and increased vulnerability to flooding.

2. Urban Planning and Development

- **Zoning and Housing:** There are concerns about the **scale and types of development** in Acton, particularly regarding large homes that contribute to higher insurance costs and limit space for affordable housing. Respondents suggested revisiting **zoning laws** to encourage more **affordable housing** and to better balance development with climate resilience.
- **Tree Planting and Conservation:** A suggestion to plant **more native trees** in public spaces was noted as a low-cost, slow but valuable long-term climate action. Many residents support the planting of trees like **sugar maples**, which provide shade and contribute to overall climate resilience.

3. Climate Resilience and Adaptation

- **Proactive Measures:** Several residents emphasized the urgency of being **proactive** in addressing climate change, recommending that the town implement a comprehensive, expedited **climate action plan**. This could include **nature-based solutions** such as preserving wetlands, promoting drought-resistant landscapes, and reducing impervious surfaces (paving).
- **Climate Change Reserve Corps:** There was a suggestion for a **Climate Change Reserve Corps**, which could focus on climate resilience and emergency preparedness. The town should also take steps to reduce reliance on fossil fuels by promoting **electric vehicles (EVs)** and encouraging **green building** principles.

4. Energy and Infrastructure

- **Electric Grid Resilience:** With more households relying on electricity for heating and cooling, there is a call for a **more robust power grid** that can withstand extreme weather events. Residents suggested ensuring that **backup systems** are in place, such as alternatives to fossil fuels for heating and cooling if the grid goes down.
- **Energy Efficiency:** Many residents noted that **better quality housing** would contribute to greater **energy efficiency**. If homes were more affordable, residents could potentially invest in **solar panels** and **heat pumps** to make their homes more climate-resilient.

5. Climate Change Education and Individual Action

- **Education and Clarity:** There is a need for clearer and more **direct information** on what individuals can do to mitigate climate change. For example, confusion around recycling practices and other climate actions was a common concern. Some residents expressed the need for more accessible and consistent guidance on reducing individual carbon footprints.

6. Local Climate-Related Issues

- **Increased Pest Populations:** One resident raised concerns about the **mosquito population** on trails during the summer, likely exacerbated by warmer temperatures and wetter conditions due to climate change.
- **Gas Leaks:** There was also mention of **gas leaks** in Acton, with calls for better action to address these leaks, including using data to push companies like National Grid to fix issues.

7. General Climate Concerns

- **Climate Change Urgency:** Several responses reflected a sense of urgency regarding the **rapid pace** of climate change, with a suggestion that Acton needs to act quickly and decisively before the impacts worsen. Some residents feel that town politics can sometimes cause delays in implementing critical climate actions.

8. Preservation of Green and Conservation Areas

- **Protecting Natural Resources:** Many respondents are deeply concerned about maintaining **green spaces** and **conservation areas** in Acton. These are seen as vital for climate resilience, water management, and biodiversity. The desire to avoid losing these areas to development is strong, and residents are asking the town to be mindful of these natural resources in planning decisions

Summary: Where to Focus Resilience Priorities:

- **Flooding and Water Management:** Need for improved water conservation and management, especially in flood-prone areas. Concerns about water quality and availability during extreme weather events.
- **Sustainable Urban Planning:** Calls for better zoning and affordable housing solutions. Advocacy for tree planting and preserving natural spaces to combat climate change.
- **Climate Resilience and Action:** Urgency for proactive climate action, including nature-based solutions, green building principles, and increased energy efficiency.
- **Energy and Infrastructure Improvements:** Need for a more resilient electric grid and alternative heating/cooling solutions. Promoting solar energy and electric vehicles.
- **Climate Education and Awareness:** Desire for clearer, more accessible information on individual actions to combat climate change, especially regarding recycling and sustainable practices.
- **Protecting Green Spaces:** Preservation of conservation lands and wetlands to mitigate flooding and enhance climate resilience.

Conclusion

The extreme weather events in Acton have had widespread and varied impacts on residents, from disruptions in daily life to significant property damage. While many have managed with adaptation strategies like backup power sources, others are facing growing financial and environmental strains from more frequent and intense weather events. There is a strong demand for improved communication, infrastructure resilience, and emergency preparedness measures to help residents better navigate these challenges. The community would like to see the town prioritize mitigation measures, such as tree maintenance and flood prevention, while also focusing on proactive strategies like better flood management, community education, and long-term climate resilience efforts. Many hope that these initiatives will build a more adaptable and prepared Acton for the future.