Process-Based Educational Materials

Acknowledgements

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01 Process-Based Educational Materials

The following engagement materials are designed for continued community education on scenario impacts and flood resilience implementation on the regional and municipal scale.

In Figure 1, you can see our timeline for developing these materials; for further information about this process, please visit our website for the Four-Town Flood Action Playbook.
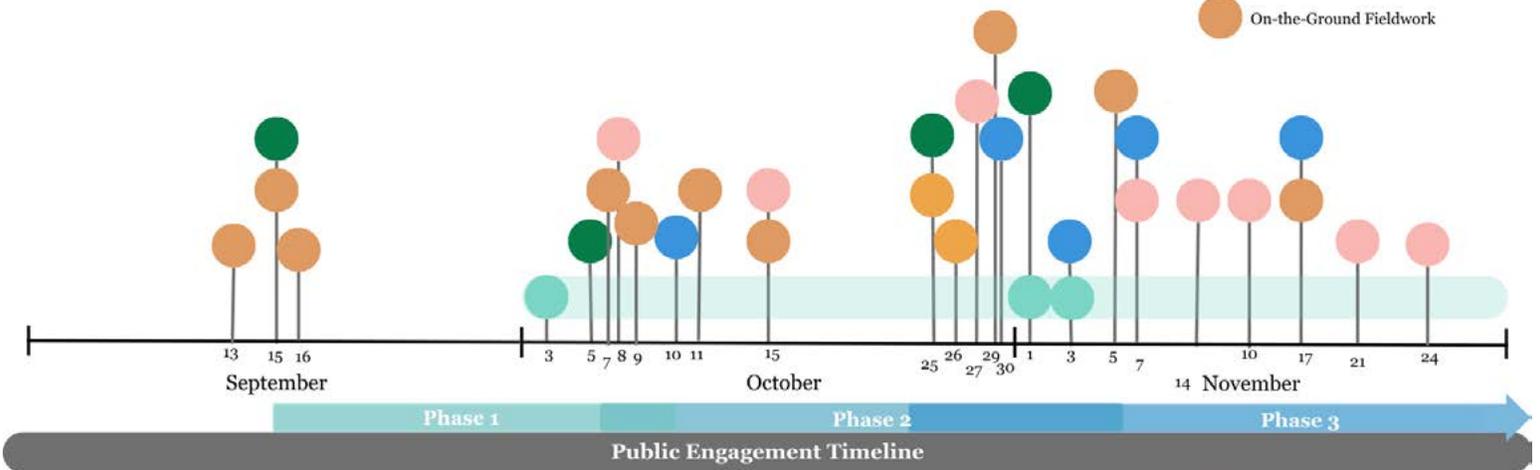
02 Ready or Not:
The Climate Challenge

Ready or Not: The Climate Challenge is a strategic board game that allows participants to discover the complexity of local governance and resilience planning through a fun, self-guided activity. The game is a multi-player (2-8 participants) tool that helps residents learn while forging closer bonds with their neighbors and sparking meaningful conversations about their shared community.

This game was designed to help participants explore the impact of climate change on their community and larger region. By having players make their own choices regarding development patterns, funding allocation, shared services (and more) on a gameboard, they discover how their choices can influence a town's long-term resilience. The game incorporates random events (based on the driving forces we identified in the scenario planning process) to simulate future uncertainty, ensuring that the game is challenging and infinitely replayable. Each round, players' towns are subject to the uncertainty of random events like flooding, infrastructure damage, or a market crash that impact their town in unexpected ways. Players must ensure that their town can continue to provide the required resources despite a varied and unpredictable future.

A key element of this game is the incorporation of money and trade-offs. The use of Beartown Bucks helps players understand the financial dimensions of building strong communities. Decisions made every round carry costs and benefits, and encourage players to think about local challenges and regional opportunities. These structures help illustrate how regional collaboration can strengthen resilience and how future uncertainty can be mitigated through proactive decision-making.

VERSION 1.5
Springfield Honors Academy
Amherst, MA
October 10, 2025

VERSION 1.5
Introduction to Community Engagement
Amherst, MA
October 30, 2025

VERSION 2.0
Studio Workshop
Amherst, MA
November 3, 2025

VERSION 2.0
Test Groups
Amherst, MA
November 7 - 9, 2025

VERSION 2.0
Wilmington Works
Wilmington, VT
November 17, 2025

Ready or Not: The Climate Challenge

This game was refined through extensive testing with a diverse range of participants including high school students, undergraduate students, Amherst town council members, and community members from Wilmington. Facilitating the game with these groups revealed how different audiences engage with the game and helped us create a final product that is accessible, engaging, and fun for all levels of experience in planning and climate resilience. By simulating potential scenarios, this game encourages meaningful discussion and reveals actionable insights.

The maps used in our game are loosely based off of the region we've been working in all semester. If you take a look at the game board, you may recognize the curves of the Deerfield River. While a few of our game scenarios are pretty whimsical, our game is based on real strengths and fears we heard from community members through public engagement activities like the asset and risk mapping activity described in the next section.

The final version of our game (available on our website, deerfieldvalleyrise.com, for download or as a printed product from WRC) is ready to be shared with other communities to be used as a fun tool to foster thoughtful, collaborative planning in the face of climate uncertainty!

03
Risk & Asset Mapping

An understanding of community concerns and priorities is an essential part of the process of designing tools and resources with high impact and longevity. To begin this, we brought a risk and asset mapping exercise to various community events in the fall of 2025.

In this activity, we asked community members to place stickers or push-pins on a town map by identifying community assets and risks. *Community assets* are any place that is culturally important to the community's social or physical landscape. Examples of assets are local businesses, natural resources, public services, meeting spaces, physical infrastructure, and so on. *Risks* are places that are at a high flood risk or are in need of general improvement. Examples of risks include places adjacent to water bodies that flood often or recently closed businesses that have left the community lacking an asset, like a grocery store or a gathering space.

Our mapping activities then gave us a broad picture of the four towns' vulnerabilities and strengths. As seen in Figure 1, the community identified a total of 45 risk areas and 53 assets, with some variation between the towns: Dover (9 risks, 13 assets), Wilmington (17 risks, 23 assets), Whitingham (12 risks, 7 assets), and Readsboro (7 risks, 10 assets). These insights came from events like Dover Day, Harvestcraft Fair, and a meeting with the Wilmington Planning Commission, where we primarily heard from residents, families, business owners, and other local representatives. Residents and families pointed out the places where they spend most of their time, like schools, playgrounds, neighborhoods, and workplaces, while business owners highlighted locations where flooding has directly affected their operations. These inputs helped us refine the key drivers in our project, revise our initial scenarios, and sharpen the overall direction of our deliverable by grounding it in community-identified risks and assets.

Figure 1

Total Risk Areas	45
Dover Risks	9
Readsboro Risks	7
Whitingham Risks	12
Wilmington Risks	17

Total Community Assets	53
Dover Assets	13
Readsboro Assets	10
Whitingham Assets	7
Wilmington Assets	23

We digitized the risk and asset data and the map can be viewed on our website: deerfieldvalleyrise.com.
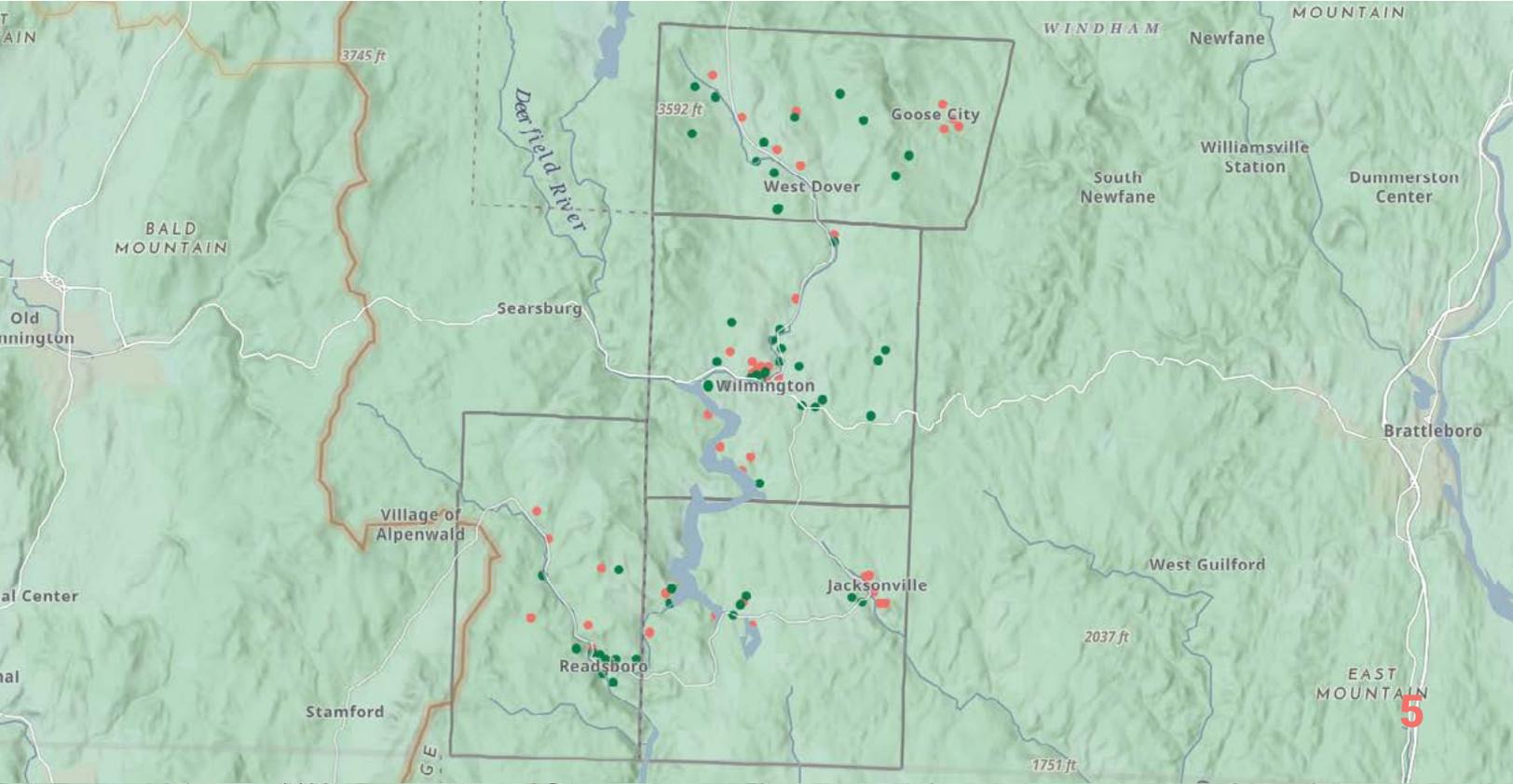
Thank you for reading!

To explore our other deliverables, visit our website:

🌐 deerfieldvalleyrise.com

DEERFIELD RIVER VALLEY

RISE

RESILIENCE IN SHIFTING ENVIRONMENTS