

# Sustainable Jamestown

## *Our Infrastructure*

The impacts of climate change are often perceived as distant, but the infrastructure being built today will still be in service when the island feels the effects of sea level rise and more frequent and intense storms. Low-lying areas are most vulnerable. Private properties, as well as roads, bridges, and other town facilities, can be inundated with rising water. Closer at hand is the issue of water quantity and water quality, and making sure Jamestown has safe and dependable access to clean water for drinking, harvesting, and recreation.

### Issues

- ★ **Water Supply System** – The island’s drinking water supply has limits and the Town is taking steps to ensure it meets current and future demands. Public engagement and cooperation are critical.
- ★ **Roads and Bridges** – The Town’s major roadways and bridges are vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge during severe storm events. Being proactive with improvements to accommodate impacts can help the town be prepared.
- ★ **Wastewater Disposal** – Sewer service is only available in the Village Center.
- ★ **Stormwater Management** – Stormwater management strategies have multiple benefits, including reducing runoff that may contain pollutants entering waterways, storing flood waters, and reducing erosion and sedimentation. Strategies that focus on “greener” approaches use natural systems that can also improve aesthetics and provide habitat for wildlife.

## Infrastructure Goals

IG1. Provide needed services that keep up with technology and meet sustainably goals.

IG2. Champion existing local plans around public services and infrastructure that support sustainability goals.

## Infrastructure Actions

IA1. Work with state and regional partners to monitor climate change data and evaluate the impact on public infrastructure and services. Determine appropriate actions to minimize those impacts.

IA2. Investigate ways to sustainability move towards residential buildout (the maximum number of homes allowed by current zoning), as calculated in the 2014 Jamestown Comprehensive Plan, with respect to water supply and use.

IA3. Work with RIRRC to identify long-term solutions for waste management in Jamestown, including ways to increase recycling of items that are not put in bins.

IA4. Develop an outreach campaign that educates residents about critical water supply issues on the island and the need for multi-user, comprehensive approaches to sustaining the local supply for the future. The campaign should highlight how users of the public water supply and those with private wells are hydrologically connected and the influence of each on the town's overall available water.

IA5. Develop ways to notify the public about water supply reservoir levels and what they mean for water usage.

IA6. Develop a local green and complete streets policy that requires the consideration of transit, walking, and biking on local roadways as well as stormwater best management practices.

## Making Progress

Sustainable Jamestown is more than a plan. It is a framework for making progress toward our shared goals of sustainability and resiliency. The Town will report on how much progress it makes in reaching goals to adapt local infrastructure to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Here are some ways we measure success:

- ★ Increase potential water supply sources.
- ★ Reduce the number of water restriction days in a year.
- ★ Adapt local roadways to mitigate the impacts of sea level rise and increased flooding.
- ★ Adapt water and wastewater treatment systems to mitigate the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise.