2026-2030

NEW LONDON ENERGY & CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLAN

New London MINNESOTA

THE CITY ON THE POND

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you to the Planning Advisory Committee for contributing their time and insight to the development of this Energy and Climate Resilience Plan. Special thanks are also extended to the City Council for their leadership and support throughout the planning process, and to the community members who shared their perspectives through the survey, ensuring this plan reflects local priorities and values.

The content of this plan was developed through a series of meetings hosted by Mid-Minnesota Development Commission (MMDC), the regional development organization that serves McLeod, Meeker, Kandiyohi, and Renville Counties. To learn more about this planning process, see Appendix 2: Energy and Climate Resilience Planning Process.

New London Energy and Climate Resilience Planning Advisory Committee	
Jen Dahl	City Administrator
Craig Edwards	New London Resident
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COMMERCE DEPARTMENT

McKNIGHT FOUNDATION

MMDC
MID-MINNESOTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

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LETTER FROM THE CITY MAYOR JOHN DAHL

Dear Residents and Business Owners of New London,

As your mayor, I am proud to share our City's Climate Resilience Plan, a roadmap for building a safer, healthier, and more sustainable New London. This plan reflects our commitment to reducing energy use, preparing for extreme weather, promoting clean energy, and supporting cost savings for all residents and businesses.

Over the next five years, the City will focus on improving sustainability across municipal operations and implementing a comprehensive climate resilience plan to guide our response to extreme weather and other climate-related hazards. The plan is designed to be flexible, allowing it to evolve as new technologies and opportunities emerge, ensuring that New London remains at the forefront of sustainable practices.

We are also taking steps to support cleaner transportation, expand public green spaces, and encourage environmentally responsible development throughout the city. These efforts will help protect our environment, enhance community health, and make New London stronger and more resilient.

The plan also highlights ways residents and businesses can take action, from lowering energy use and reducing costs to preparing for climate hazards. I encourage every resident and business to review the Climate Resilience Plan and consider how you can contribute. By taking part, we can continue building a safer, greener, and more resilient New London. Thank you for your continued commitment to our community.

Sincerely,
John Dahl
Mayor of New London, MN

LETTER FROM THE ENERGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE

To Our Neighbors,

The City of New London's Climate Action Plan is a roadmap for building a community that is safer, better prepared, and equipped to meet future challenges. It focuses on three key priorities: preparing for severe weather, reducing the risk of flooding, and managing energy costs to benefit residents, businesses, and the City as a whole.

As weather patterns become increasingly unpredictable, planning ahead is essential. This plan strengthens the City's ability to respond to extreme events, ensuring that residents have timely access to information, resources, and support when they need it most. By improving systems and procedures across the City, New London is taking proactive steps to protect lives, property, and the natural spaces that make our community unique.

Flooding is another challenge the City is addressing. Through investments in green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and permeable surfaces, we can reduce water impacts on streets, homes, and businesses while improving water quality and preserving our natural spaces.

Energy efficiency is also a major focus. The City is committed to using energy wisely, improving efficiency in public facilities, and supporting residents and businesses in finding practical ways to lower costs. Smarter energy use not only reduces monthly bills but also frees resources to support other community priorities.

We are grateful to City Staff, City Council, and community members whose contributions helped shape this plan. Together, we can put it into action, creating a New London that is resilient, prepared, and focused on the well-being of every resident.

Sincerely,
City of New London Planning Advisory Committee

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The New London Energy and Climate Resilience Plan provides a roadmap to reduce energy use, prepare for climate impacts, and build a stronger, more sustainable community. Developed through a series of meetings with the Planning Advisory Committee and input from residents, businesses, and community partners, this plan reflects New London's shared vision for a resilient future.

The plan identifies three key stakeholder sectors – **City**, **Residential**, and **Businesses & Organizations** – and outlines strategies tailored to each. Together, these actions will save energy, lower costs, and protect New London's natural and built environments while supporting community well-being.

Focus Areas

Natural Systems – Protect wetlands, forests, and other ecosystems that reduce flooding, improve water quality, and sequester carbon.

Community Preparedness – Increase awareness of climate risks and provide training and resources to help residents and businesses prepare and respond.

Infrastructure Adaptation – Upgrade municipal systems, roads, and public spaces to withstand extreme weather, while promoting sustainable new development.

Vulnerable Populations – Ensure that all residents, especially those most at risk, are supported through targeted resilience strategies.

Research and Monitoring – Track climate impacts and measure progress to ensure accountability and continuous improvement.

Anticipated Outcomes

By implementing this plan, New London will:

- **Reduce energy use** in City operations and households, lowering long-term costs.
- **Expand renewable energy** adoption and infrastructure, including EV charging stations.
- **Strengthen resilience** to flooding, extreme weather, and other climate hazards.
- **Protect natural resources** that safeguard the community and preserve local character.
- **Build community capacity** by engaging residents, businesses, and organizations in energy and climate action.

This 5-year plan is designed as a living document. Progress will be tracked annually, with strategies refined over time as new data, technologies, and opportunities emerge. Through collective action, New London can save money, protect the environment, and create a safe, resilient community for all.

Get Involved

Visit www.newlondonmn.net to learn more.

BUILDING ON TRADITION

INTRODUCTION

Situated along the Middle Fork of the Crow River in Minnesota's lake country, New London is a community deeply rooted in its natural surroundings. Established in 1860 around Louis Larson's flour mill, the city quickly became a thriving hub and was Kandiyohi County's first established town. From fur trading and milling to diverse local industries, New London's story is one of adaptability, resilience, and innovation. Today, the river, lakes, and millpond remain beloved landmarks, reminders of a community shaped by both history and progress. Building on this tradition, the Energy and Climate Resilience Plan charts a path toward a sustainable and thriving future.

A Planning Advisory Committee, made up of community representatives, partnered with the City to guide this plan's development. Their work brought together the perspectives of residents, businesses, and organizations, ensuring the strategies reflect both local priorities and long-term vision. This collaborative process highlighted the power of working together and underscored the community's commitment to shaping its own future. More than a policy document, the plan is a roadmap for action. One that honors New London's past while charting a resilient, sustainable path forward.

Looking ahead, New London is embracing opportunities to conserve resources, strengthen infrastructure, and protect the natural beauty that defines the community. The Energy and Climate Resilience Plan provide the framework to guide these efforts, ensuring today's choices benefit future generations. Just as early settlers harnessed the power of the river to build a thriving town, today's residents are harnessing collaboration and innovation to create a stronger, more resilient New London for tomorrow.

UNDERSTANDING TODAY, PLANNING FOR TOMORROW

TAKING A CLOSER LOOK

This section presents a detailed overview of New London's demographics, community input, energy usage, and climate conditions. Understanding these elements provides a solid foundation for informed decisions and helps shape targeted strategies to lower energy use, boost climate resilience, and keep our natural environment safe for future generations.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

Population

As of 2023, the New London community had 1,156 residents living in 487 households, and a total of 536 housing units. With regard to housing tenure, 12.1% of New London's residents moved into their current housing unit in 2021 or later. This compares to 9.7% statewide.

The median household income was $66,830 in New London, with 60.8% of those ages 16 and older participating in the workforce. Educational attainment was relatively high, with 36.9% of adults holding a bachelor's degree or higher. Health coverage was also strong, with only 6.4% of residents lacking medical insurance.

91.9% of residents identified as "White alone" (i.e., not Hispanic or Latino or of two or more races). 5.8% of resident identified as Hispanic or Latino and 7.3% indicated they were of two or more races.

NEW LONDON DEMOGRAPHIC SNAPSHOT

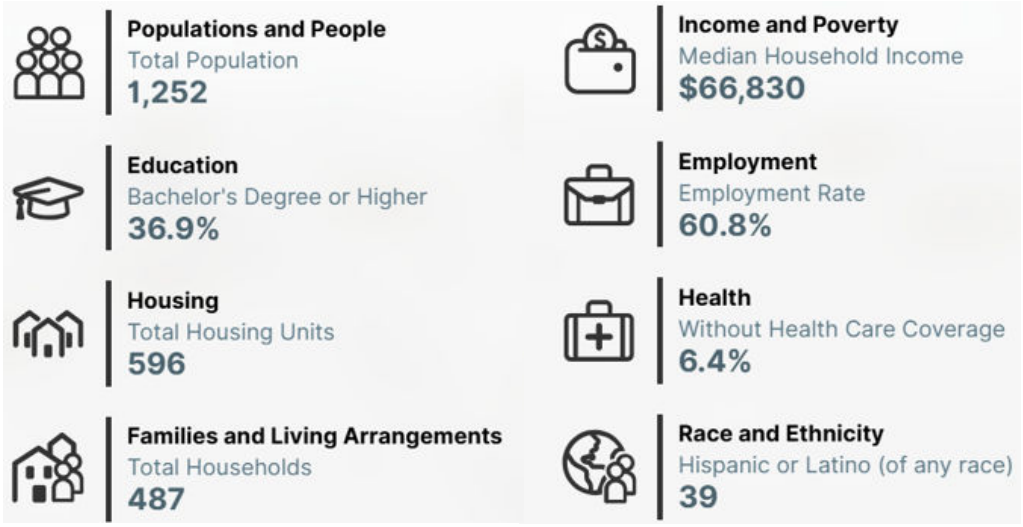

Figure 1: U.S. Census Bureau. Overview of New London's

CLIMATE

Climate Change

Climate change refers to the shift in regional or global climate patterns over time, including changes in temperature, precipitation, and weather events. These changes can occur due to a combination of natural processes, such as large-scale wildfires or shifts in ocean currents, as well as human activities that alter the composition of the atmosphere. Recognizing these patterns can help people and communities prepare for potential environmental and social impacts, including planning for more severe or frequent weather events.

Carbon Dioxide Emissions

Minnesota ranks 20th in the nation for total consumption per capita, with most of its demand coming from industry, followed by transportation, homes, and businesses. The state still relies heavily on petroleum, natural gas, and coal. Petroleum is used mostly for cars and trucks, while natural gas is the main source of home heating. Coal use has declined in recent years but remains part of the energy mix. On the positive side, Minnesota has made progress in clean energy, approximately 40 percent of its electricity now comes from renewable sources, especially wind power, and nuclear energy provides another 21 percent.

In 2023, Minnesota released 80.8 million metric tons of carbon dioxide, mostly from burning fossil fuels. These emissions are fueling climate change, which is already affecting the state. Summers are getting hotter, with longer and more dangerous heat waves that put stress on people, crops, and the power grid. At the same time, warmer air is causing heavier rains, which increases the risk of flash floods and river flooding across the state.

Although the State of Minnesota has committed to reaching 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2040, its continued use of oil, gas, and coal is still driving emissions. Those emissions are directly linked to the climate changes the state is experiencing, more extreme heat and more severe flooding that threaten both communities and the economy.

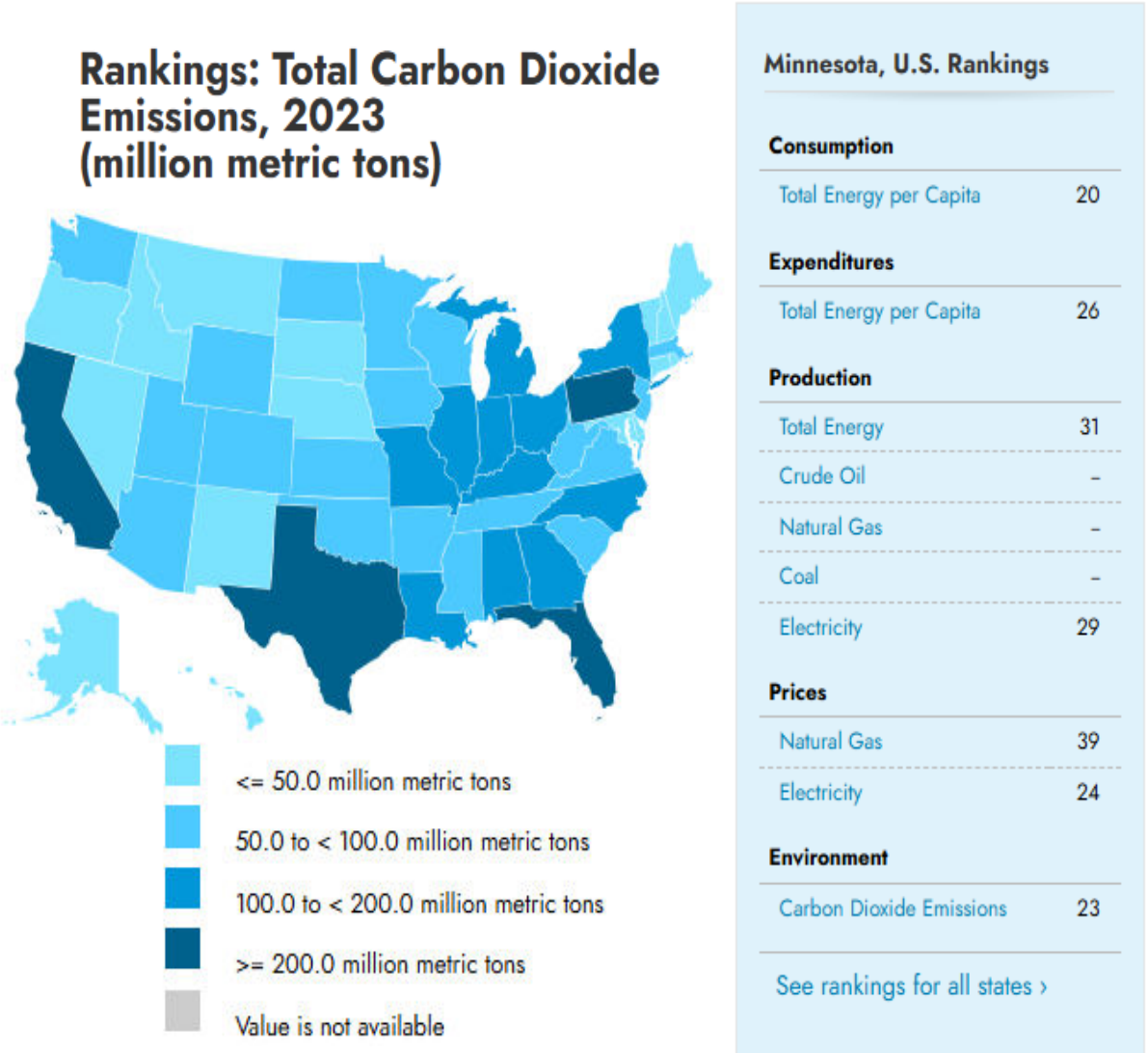

Figure 2: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Minnesota State Energy Profile.

Extreme Heat

Minnesota is experiencing steadily rising temperatures, with projections showing a significant increase in the number of days above 90°F in the coming decades. These hotter conditions are not limited to daytime highs, warmer nights also contribute by reducing opportunities for cooling, placing added stress on people, ecosystems, and infrastructure. Increasing humidity, measured by higher dew point temperatures, compounds these challenges by trapping heat and making hot periods last longer and feel more intense.

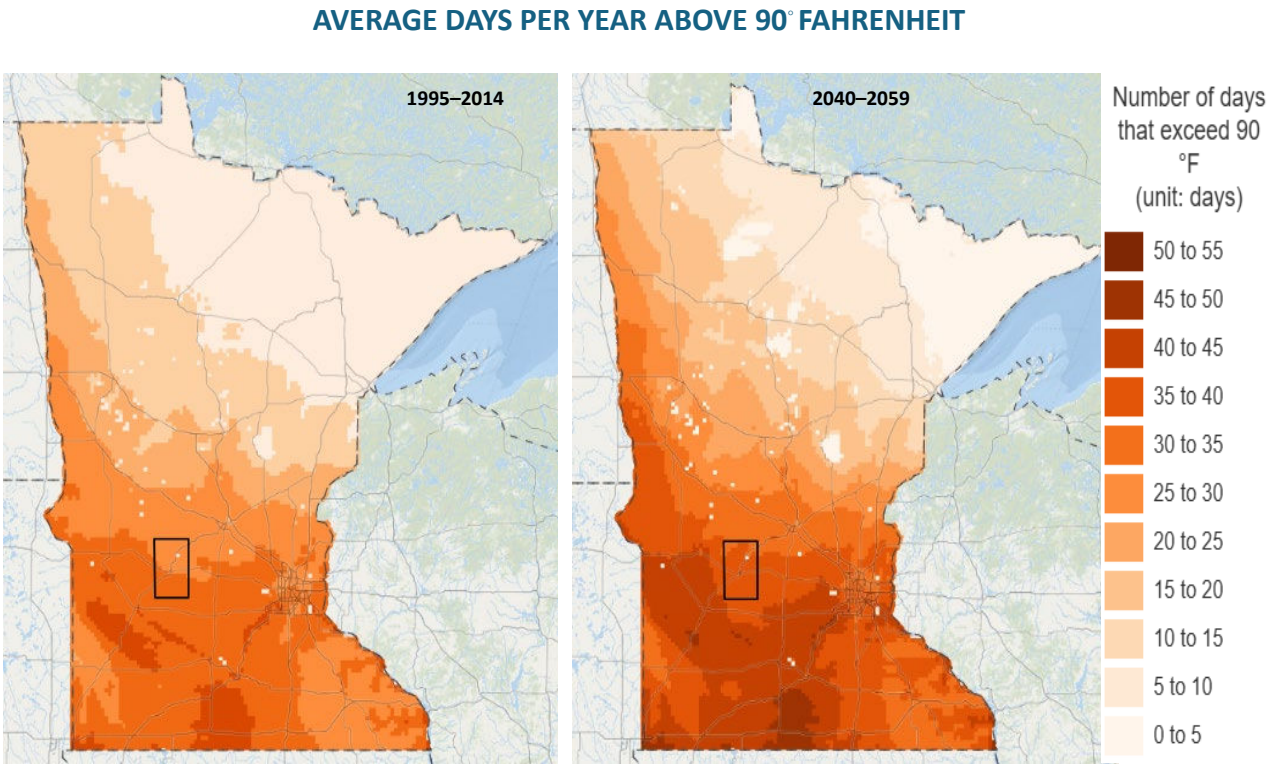

Figure 3: University of Minnesota Climate Adaption Office. Kandiyohi County is projected to see 36.4 days above 90°F by mid-century (2040–2059), up from a historical average of 19.7 days (1995–2014).

Extreme heat has wide-ranging impacts on communities. Environmentally, prolonged heat waves increase strain on water resources, stress crops and livestock, and degrade water quality in lakes and rivers. Higher temperatures can lead to algal blooms, affect fish populations, and alter recreation opportunities that are central to Minnesota's culture and economy. Heat can also damage roads, buckling pavement and softening asphalt, and strain power systems as demand for cooling rises. These combined effects reduce the reliability of essential infrastructure and raise costs for communities and residents.

At the same time, extreme heat is a growing public health concern. High temperatures increase the risk of heat exhaustion and heat stroke, while also worsening chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, asthma, and diabetes. Vulnerable populations including older adults, young children, pregnant individuals, outdoor workers, and those with pre-existing conditions are most at risk during prolonged heat events.

Preparing for extreme heat requires both individual and community action. Residents can protect themselves by staying hydrated, using air conditioning or cooling spaces, limiting outdoor activity during peak heat, and paying attention to weather advisories. On a community scale, strategies include improving energy efficiency, investing in infrastructure that can withstand higher temperatures, conserving water, and mapping areas of higher vulnerability to ensure residents have support during heat emergencies.

By addressing extreme heat as both an environmental and public health challenge, New London can safeguard natural resources, strengthen infrastructure, and protect its most vulnerable residents. Careful planning will not only reduce risks but also enhance overall community resilience in the face of increasingly frequent and severe heat events. According to the recent New London Community Survey, 85% of New London residents reported that their homes remained at comfortable temperatures during the past summer, highlighting both the effectiveness of existing measures and the importance of continued preparedness.

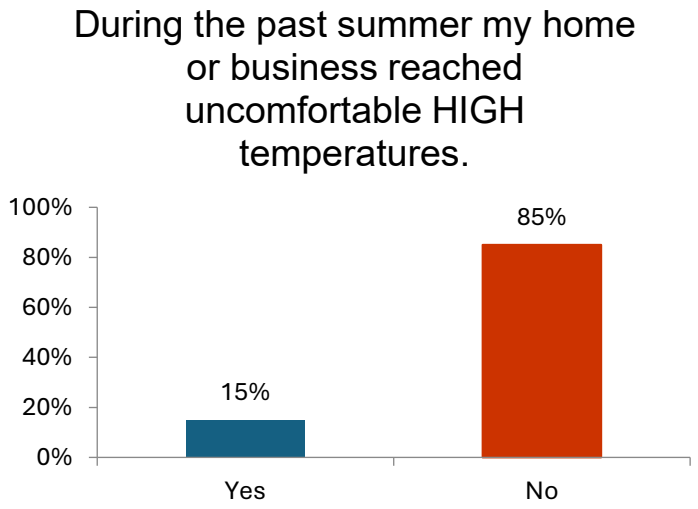

Figure 4: Appendix 3: New London Community Survey

Flooding

Minnesota's climate is shifting toward warmer and wetter conditions, creating new challenges for flood risk. Heavier downpours are becoming more common, producing large volumes of runoff in a short time. While spring snowmelt once drove most flooding, intense rainfall is now a leading cause of flash floods across both urban and rural areas. These floods often carry pollutants from streets, lawns, and developed areas, sending sediment, nutrients, and contaminants into rivers, lakes, and other public waters.

Records show increasing annual precipitation and more frequent extreme rainfall, with rivers and streams reaching higher crests more often. Stormwater systems and infrastructure built for past conditions are strained, leading to street flooding, sewer backups, and damage to homes and transportation networks. Development and paved surfaces further reduce natural absorption, adding to local flood hazards and increasing the transport of pollutants during storm events.

The impacts extend beyond physical damage. Vulnerable households face greater risks to health and safety, while more properties fall into high-risk insurance categories. Together, these changes underscore that Minnesota's flooding is no longer just a springtime concern. With warming temperatures and shifting rainfall patterns, communities will need proactive planning, upgraded infrastructure, and targeted support to remain resilient against more frequent, polluted, and costly floods.

NEW LONDON FLOOD HAZARD

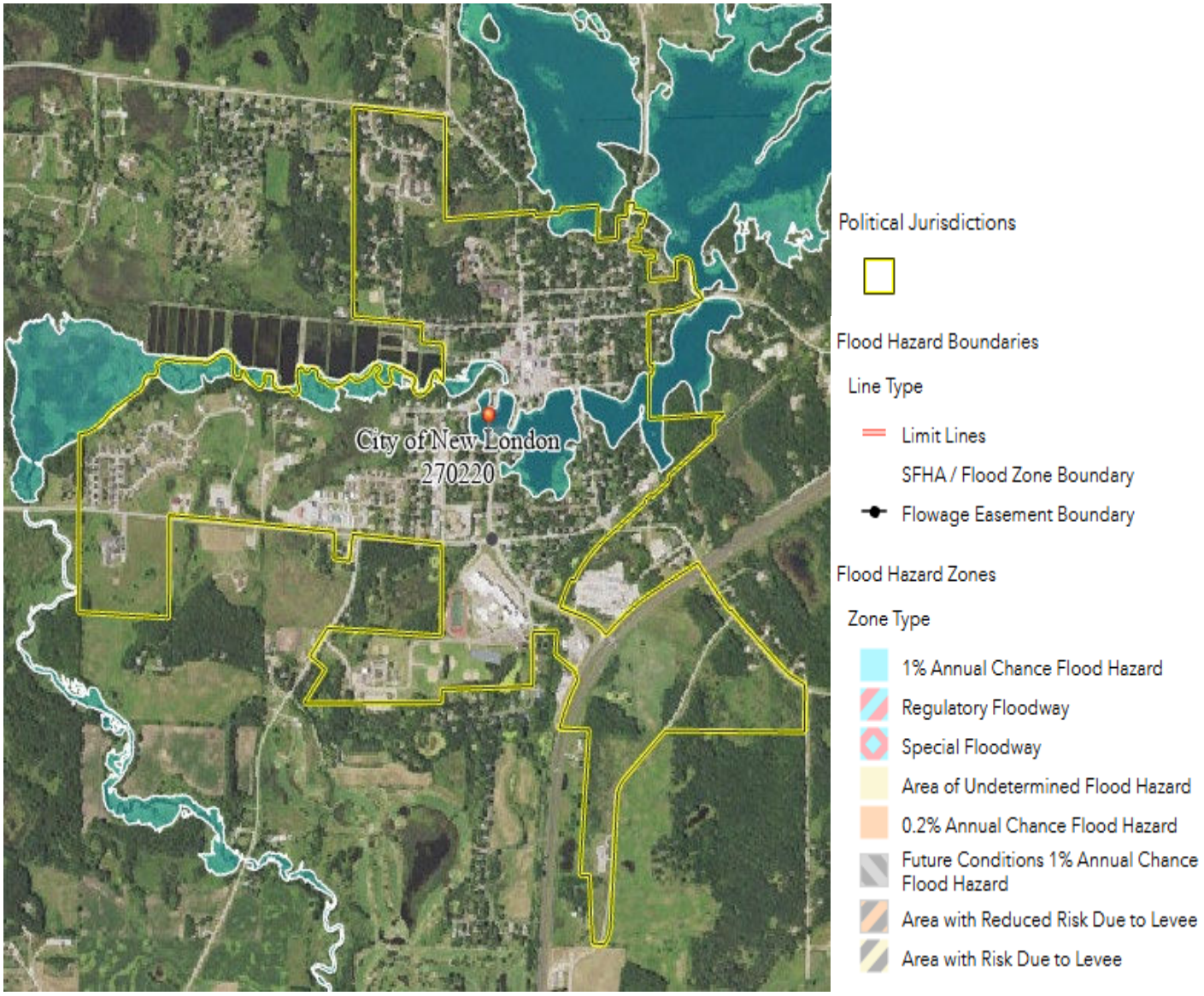

Figure 5: FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer Viewer.

Most of New London lies outside high-risk flood zones, yet localized flooding remains a growing concern. The community's location along lakes and rivers means that even moderate storm events can overwhelm stormwater systems, carry pollutants into public waters, and create nuisance flooding in streets, neighborhoods, and near critical infrastructure. Development and paved surfaces further limit natural absorption, sending more runoff into storm drains and waterways.

New London has installed a Stormceptor system to capture pollution and debris from stormwater before it reaches public waters. Addressing these localized risks requires a combination of upgraded infrastructure and nature-based solutions. Rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements help slow and absorb runoff while improving water quality. Modernized storm sewers and culverts ensure the stormwater systems can handle the heavier downpours now common in Minnesota. By integrating green infrastructure with enhanced stormwater capacity, New London can safeguard residents, reduce property damage, and strengthen community resilience against polluted runoff and shifting rainfall patterns.

Severe Weather Preparedness

New London is taking a proactive approach to severe weather through its Energy and Climate Resilience Plan. The city recognizes that thunderstorms, tornadoes, high winds, and hail can pose significant risks to infrastructure, critical facilities, and overall community operations. These events, which can develop quickly and with little warning, have the potential to disrupt power, transportation, and essential services, as well as damage homes, businesses, and public spaces.

TYPES OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE THAT REDUCE LOCALIZED FLOODING

Figure 6: Source: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Photos (from right to left): 1) Rain garden, 2) Pervious pavers, 3) Cistern

Through this plan, New London is preparing to better anticipate and manage these risks by integrating resilience measures into city operations and infrastructure improvements. This includes evaluating vulnerabilities, updating emergency response protocols, and identifying strategies to reduce damage during severe weather events. Residents are also encouraged to sign up for Smart 911 notifications to receive early warnings about severe weather, road closures, and other imminent threats via phone, text, or email, helping to safeguard families and reduce risk. By combining proactive city planning with individual preparedness, New London strengthens overall resilience, protects critical infrastructure, and helps ensure the community remains safe and functional during severe weather events.

ENERGY

Solar Power

Solar is becoming an increasingly important resource in Minnesota, and rural communities are uniquely positioned to benefit. With plentiful open land and strong solar potential, these areas can harness solar power to reduce energy costs, limit dependence on fossil fuels, and keep more financial resources within the local economy. Solar development also provides reliable, renewable power, helping rural regions, that often face higher utility costs and limited energy infrastructure, build greater resilience. Tools like the Minnesota Solar Suitability Analysis support these efforts by helping communities identify optimal sites for solar projects and make informed decisions about expanding clean energy.

New London is adding solar energy by installing panels on public buildings, supported by a state grant for renewable energy projects. The solar installations will lower electricity costs for key facilities such as city hall, the fire hall, and the senior center, allowing the city to redirect those funds toward other community programs and services. Visible solar projects on public buildings can also encourage local businesses and residents to consider renewable energy. During the recent Energy and Climate Resilience Community Survey, over 80% of residents expressed support for the installation of solar panels by homeowners, businesses, and local organizations, reflecting strong community enthusiasm for renewable energy and reinforcing New London's commitment to a sustainable future.

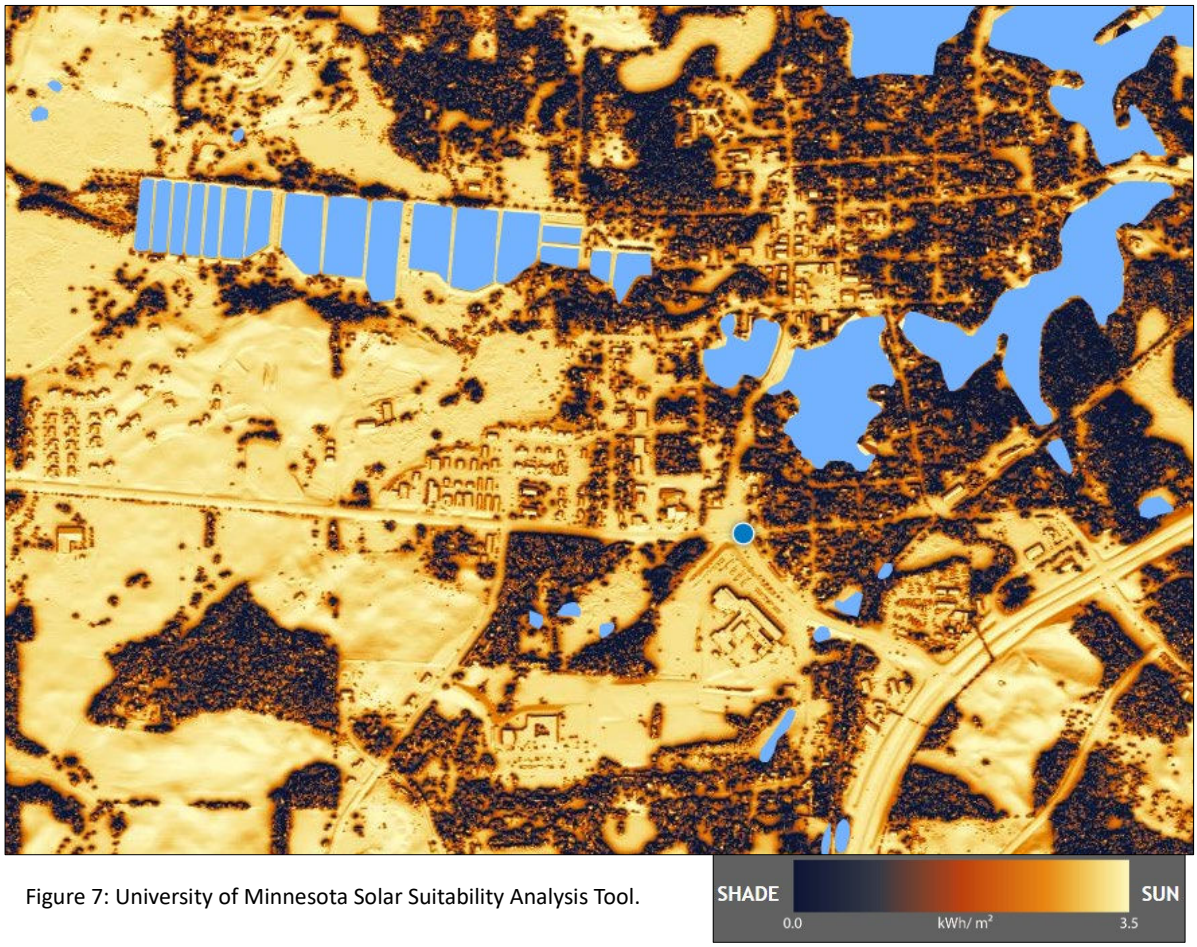

Figure 7: University of Minnesota Solar Suitability Analysis Tool.

Behavioral and Technology-Based Energy Efficiency

Behavioral and technology-based energy efficiency combines improvements in equipment and infrastructure with changes in daily practices to reduce overall energy use. Technological upgrades, such as smart thermostats, LED light bulbs, heat pumps, or efficient appliances, cut consumption directly, while behavioral strategies encourage people to adjust habits through feedback, comparisons, and simple actions that save energy. Together, these approaches provide cost-effective savings, improve reliability, and support long-term sustainability.

In New London, this approach is being applied through practical steps to lower energy use in public buildings. The city has installed LED lighting to replace older fixtures and adding motion-sensor switches to ensure lights are only on when needed. These measures reduce electricity costs and demonstrate visible leadership in energy conservation. By combining technological upgrades with thoughtful energy management, New London is setting an example of continued economical practices.

ENERGY SMART, CLIMATE READY, ECONOMICALLY RESILIENT

TURNING PLANS INTO ACTION

The following section outlines the implementation work plan, including sectors, purpose, goals, and actions to help New London achieve its objectives. The Planning Advisory Committee identified three key sectors for goal and action development: City, Residential, and Businesses & Organizations. By developing targeted strategies within each sector, the community can reduce energy use, strengthen climate resilience, and promote sustainability. These efforts help lower costs, protect natural resources, and enhance overall community wellbeing.

STRATEGIES OVERVIEW

City

1. Reduce municipal energy use by 10% by the end of year 5.
2. Develop a climate resilience emergency plan to guide the city's response to extreme weather and climate related hazards
3. Install an electric vehicle charging station that will be accessible to the public and operational by the end of year 5.
4. Prioritize green infrastructures and other stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate flooding, reduce run-off and improve water quality.
5. Add public green spaces and connect them to business districts via a non-motorized trail network.
6. Update ordinances to support sustainable, low-impact development and renewable energy use.

Residential

7. Design and implement a campaign to increase residential awareness about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, cost-savings and benefits.
8. Encourage residents to schedule home energy audits.
9. Empower residents to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related hazards.
10. Develop a residential stormwater program to promote the installation of green infrastructure and other stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

Businesses & Organizations

11. Develop a strategy to boost business awareness of energy efficiency and renewable technologies, focusing on cost and operational benefits.

SECTOR: CITY

The City sector's goals focus on reducing energy use, improving climate resilience, and enhancing environmental quality. Key initiatives include cutting municipal energy consumption by 10%, developing an emergency plan for extreme weather, installing public EV charging stations, prioritizing green infrastructure for stormwater management, and expanding public green spaces connected by trails. These actions aim to lower costs, reduce emissions, protect natural resources, and promote community health and sustainability.

Goal 1: Reduce municipal energy use by 10% by the end of year 5.

Reducing municipal energy use by 10% in five years lowers costs, cuts emissions, and demonstrates the City's leadership in sustainability through smart systems, solar installations, and program participation.

Actions:
1.1 Install solar panels on city-owned properties, including city hall, the fire station, and senior center.
1.2 Investigate the adoption of smart building systems like occupancy sensors and building controls.
1.3 The City will consider joining Minnesota GreenStep Cities, SolSmart, or similar programs to reduce energy use.

Goal 2: Develop a climate resilience emergency plan to guide the city's response to extreme weather and climate-related hazards.

Developing a climate resilience emergency plan is important to protect residents, reduce risks from extreme weather, and ensure the City is prepared to respond effectively. It also helps secure funding and strengthens long-term community safety and resilience.

Actions:
2.1 Outline clear procedures for sheltering, evacuation and outreach.
2.2 Pursue funding to support plan development and implementation.
2.3 Explore the use of solar power and battery storage at emergency shelter facilities.

Goal 3: Install an electric vehicle (EV) charging station that will be accessible to the public and operational by the end of year 5.

Installing a public EV charging station supports cleaner transportation, reduces emissions, and encourages EV adoption. It also positions the City to benefit from grant funding and increased visitor traffic.

Actions:
3.1 Evaluate and select sites for electric vehicle charging stations.
3.2 Identify funding sources and apply for grants to purchase and install EV charging stations.

Goal 4: Prioritize green infrastructures and other stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate flooding, reduce run-off and improve water quality.

Prioritizing green infrastructure and stormwater best management practices is important to reduce flooding, improve water quality, and protect the environment. It helps the City manage stormwater more effectively while ensuring long-term system performance through proper planning, maintenance, and updated regulations.

Actions:
4.1 Consult with Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District or other qualified organizations for the planning, design and construction of stormwater BMPs.
4.2 Conduct routine inspections to evaluate and maintain performance of stormwater BMPs.
4.3 Review ordinances for the addition of stormwater BMPs.

Goal 5: Add public green spaces and connect them to business districts via a non-motorized trail network.

Creating public green spaces and connecting them to business districts with non-motorized trails is important to enhance community health, support local businesses, and improve environmental quality. These efforts provide recreational opportunities, reduce urban heat, manage stormwater, and promote sustainable, accessible transportation options.

Actions:
5.1 Continue to implement the City of New London Park Master Plan.
5.2 Identify and pursue funding for trail planning and construction.
5.3 Support tree planting in business districts to enhance cooling and mitigate stormwater.
5.4 Assess the potential for using solar energy to power trail lighting and signs.

Goal 6: Update ordinances to support sustainable, low-impact development and renewable energy use.

Updating local ordinances to support sustainable, low-impact development and renewable energy use enables communities to reduce barriers to clean energy adoption and promotes environmentally responsible growth. By modernizing codes, offering incentives, and incorporating green infrastructure practices, local governments can guide development toward energy efficiency and climate resilience. Involving stakeholders helps ensure the changes are practical, effective, and aligned with community needs.

Actions:
6.1 Review existing zoning, building, and land use ordinances to identify barriers to energy-efficient and climate-resilient development.
6.2 Incorporate standards or incentives for renewable energy systems, such as solar panels or geothermal, into local codes.
6.3 Encourage or require green infrastructure practices, such as permeable pavement, rain gardens, and native landscaping, in new developments.
6.4 Update design guidelines to promote energy-efficient building orientation, materials, and construction techniques.
6.5 Engage stakeholders in the ordinance review process to ensure practical, effective changes.

SECTOR: RESIDENTIAL

The Residential sector focuses on increasing awareness and adoption of energy efficiency, renewable technologies, and climate preparedness among homeowners. Key goals include launching educational campaigns and resources to reduce energy use and costs, encouraging home energy audits, empowering residents to prepare for climate hazards, and promoting residential stormwater management through green infrastructure. These efforts aim to lower utility bills, improve financial stability, protect lives and property, and foster active community involvement in sustainability and resilience.

Goal 7: Design and implement a campaign to increase residential awareness about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, cost-savings and benefits.

Increasing residential awareness of energy efficiency and renewable technologies is important because it helps homeowners reduce energy consumption and lower utility bills, resulting in direct cost savings. By providing resources, promoting incentives, and partnering with community organizations, the campaign can also prevent utility disconnections and improve financial stability for residents.

Actions:
7.1 Launch a webpage to provide residents with tools and resources for reducing home energy use and lowering energy bills.
7.2 Support clean energy adoption by promoting available incentives for renewable and energy-efficient technologies.
7.3 Partner with United Community Action, Citizens Utility Board, or a similar organization to help residents prevent utility disconnections, access financial assistance, and better understand their utility bills.

Goal 8: Encourage residents to schedule home energy audits.

Encouraging residents to schedule home energy audits helps identify ways to reduce energy use and lower utility bills. Promoting audits through city communication channels increases awareness and participation, leading to greater cost savings for households.

Actions:
8.1 Promote the benefits of residential energy audits through the city's communication channels, including the website, newsletters, and social media.

Goal 9: Empower residents to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related hazards.

Giving residents increased ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from climate-related hazards helps protect lives and property, reduces emergency response costs, and strengthens community resilience against extreme weather events.

Actions:
9.1 Urge residents to register for Kandiyohi County's Smart911 emergency alert system to receive notifications about severe weather and other imminent threats.
9.2 Develop a guide with localized information on how to prepare for heatwaves, floods, and other climate threats.
9.3 Evaluate community buildings for suitability as emergency shelters.

Goal 10: Develop a residential stormwater program to promote the installation of green infrastructure and other stormwater best management practices (BMPs).

A residential stormwater program promotes green infrastructure and best practices to reduce pollution, reduce localized flooding, and enhance groundwater recharge. By offering information, engagement opportunities, and funding resources, it encourages residents to actively participate in managing stormwater more effectively.

Actions:
10.1 Create a webpage to promote stormwater BMPs that reduce pollution, prevent flooding, and improve groundwater recharge.
10.2 Encourage residents to participate in a storm drain marking program.
10.3 Research and share funding opportunities for residential stormwater BMP projects.

SECTOR: BUSINESSES & ORGANIZATION

The business sector goals aim to increase awareness of energy efficiency and renewable technologies by highlighting their potential cost savings and operational benefits. Key actions include partnering with the Chamber of Commerce to survey businesses, hosting workshops and events, and collaborating with local organizations. These efforts help reduce operating costs, promote sustainability, and support a stronger local economy through informed adoption of clean energy solutions.

Goal 11: Develop a strategy to boost business awareness of energy efficiency and renewable technologies, focusing on cost and operational benefits.

Raising business awareness of energy efficiency and renewable technologies improves understanding so that business owners can reduce their operating costs, improve their business's sustainability, and strengthen the local economy. Partnerships, events, and targeted outreach activities encourage adoption by highlighting practical benefits and available resources.

Actions:

11.1 Partner with the New London Chamber of Commerce to survey local businesses on their awareness of and challenges with energy efficiency and renewable energy.

11.2 Co-host workshops and events to promote energy conservation and renewable technologies.

11.3 Connect with local arts organizations, energy professionals and artists for partnership opportunities.

MONITORING SUCCESS

This Energy and Climate Resilience Plan was designed to adapt over time, allowing for shifts in priorities based on data, available resources, and staff capacity.

Assign Clear Leads and Foster Collaboration

To achieve progress across all sectors, the City will assign responsibilities to staff and/or elected leadership for each goal area, while encouraging collaboration between departments and external partners. Working with groups such as local utilities, watershed districts, the Chamber of Commerce, and nonprofit organizations will help distribute the workload, build capacity, and expand the reach and impact of each initiative. Clear roles and strong partnerships help keep efforts organized and moving forward.

Engage and Educate the Community

Community outreach and education are vital to achieving the goals outlined in this plan. The City will leverage its communication channels, such as newsletters, social media, public meetings, and the city website, to share energy-saving resources, climate preparedness tips, and funding opportunities. Highlighting local success stories and providing hands-on engagement opportunities will encourage stronger community involvement. When residents and businesses are informed and engaged, they are more likely to take meaningful action and support the City's energy and climate resilience efforts.

Track Progress and Report Annually

Setting clear benchmarks for each goal will help track progress and highlight areas needing improvement. Regular progress reports will be shared with city leadership, residents, and stakeholders to maintain accountability, recognize successes, and guide future decisions. Ongoing monitoring and communication will foster transparency, build trust, and support effective long-term planning across the community.

Sector: City		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
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	2.3 Explore the use of solar power and batter storage at emergency shelter facilities.																				

Sector: City		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Goal 3: Install an electric vehicle (EV) charging station that will be accessible to the public and operational by the end of year 5.	3.1 Evaluate and select sites for electric vehicle charging stations.																				
	3.2 Identify funding sources and apply for grants to purchase and install EV charging stations.																				
Goal 4: Prioritize green infrastructures and other stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate flooding, reduce run-off and improve water quality.	4.1 Consult with Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District or other qualified organizations for the planning, design and construction of stormwater BMPs.																				
	4.2 Conduct routine inspections to evaluate and maintain performance of stormwater BMPs.																				
	4.3 Review ordinances for the addition of stormwater BMPs.																				
Goal 5: Add public green spaces and connect them to business districts via a non- motorized trail network.	5.1 Continue to implement the City of New London Park Master Plan.																				

Sector: City		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	5.2 Identify and pursue funding for trail planning and construction.																				
	5.3 Support tree planting in business districts to enhance cooling and mitigate stormwater.																				
	5.4 Assess the potential for using solar energy to power trail lighting and signs.																				
Goal 6: Update ordinances to support sustainable, low-impact development and renewable energy use.	6.1 Review existing zoning, building, and land use ordinances to identify barriers to energy-efficient and climate resilient development.																				
	6.2 Incorporate standards or incentives for renewable energy systems, such as solar panels or geothermal, into local codes.																				
	6.3 Encourage or require green infrastructure practices, such as permeable pavement, rain gardens, and native landscaping, in new developments.																				

Sector: City		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	6.4 Update design guidelines to promote energy efficient building orientation, materials, and construction techniques.																				
	6.5 Engage stakeholders in the ordinance review process to ensure practical, effective changes.																				

Sector: Residential		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Goal 7: Design and implement a campaign to increase residential awareness about energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies, cost-savings and benefits.	7.1 Launch a webpage to provide residents with tools and resources for reducing home energy use and lowering energy bills.																				
	7.2 Support clean energy adoption by promoting available incentives for renewable and energy efficient technologies.																				
	7.3 Partner with United Community Action, Citizen's Utility Board, or a similar organization to help residents prevent utility disconnections, access financial assistance, and better understand their utility bills.																				
Goal 8: Encourage residents to schedule home energy audits.	8.1 Promote the benefit of home energy audits through the city's communication channels including the website, newsletters, and social media.																				
Goal 9. Empower residents to prepare for, respond to and recover from climate-related hazards.	9.1 Urge residents to register for Kandiyohi County's Smart911 emergency alert system to receive notifications about sever weather and other imminent threats.																				
	9.2 Develop a guide with localized information on how to prepare for heatwaves, floods, and other climate threats.																				

Sector: Residential		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
	9.3 Evaluate community buildings for suitability as emergency shelters.																				
Goal 10: Develop a residential stormwater program to promote the installation of green infrastructure and other stormwater best management practices	10.1 Create a webpage to promote stormwater BMPs that reduce pollution, prevent flooding, and improve groundwater recharge.																				
	10.2 Encourage residents to participate in a storm drain marking program.																				
	10.3 Research and share funding opportunities for residential stormwater BMP projects.																				

Sector: Businesses & Organizations		2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Goal 11: Develop a strategy to boost business awareness of energy efficiency and renewable technologies, focusing on cost and operational benefits.	11.1 Partner with the New London Chamber of Commerce to survey local businesses on their awareness and challenges regarding energy efficiency and renewable energy.																				
	11.2 Co-host workshops and events to promote energy conservation and renewable technologies.																				
	11.3 Connect with local arts organizations, energy professionals and artists for partnership opportunities.																				

APPENDIX 2: ENERGY AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE PLANNING PROCESS

PLANNING ADVISORY COMMITTEE DEVELOPMENT

A Planning Advisory Committee was established through a recruitment process that brought together diverse community members. Their involvement was essential to the planning process, ensuring the City's Energy and Climate Resilience Plan reflected a wide range of perspectives and community priorities.

THREE SECTORS OF STAKEHOLDERS

The Planning Advisory Committee identified three stakeholder sectors—City, Residential, and Businesses/Organizations—to ensure the plan reflects diverse community perspectives. The committee used these sectors to develop targeted goals for each group, creating a plan that addresses community needs and supports long-term energy and climate resilience.

COMMUNITY SURVEY

A community survey captured residents' and businesses' experiences, priorities, and concerns regarding energy use, climate risks, and preparedness. Survey results shaped the plan's goals, activities, programs, and priorities, ensuring strategies reflected local perspectives and addressed New London's unique needs and opportunities.

GOAL AND ACTIVITY SETTING

The committee developed goals and activities based on stakeholder sectors and key focus areas, including protecting and restoring natural systems, sustainable land management, community education and training, resilient infrastructure, support for vulnerable populations, and research and monitoring. These priorities guided sector-specific actions to ensure coordinated, practical, and measurable progress.

SMART: Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant, Timebound – clear, trackable, realistic, aligned with objectives, and set within a reasonable timeframe.

PLAN DEVELOPMENT

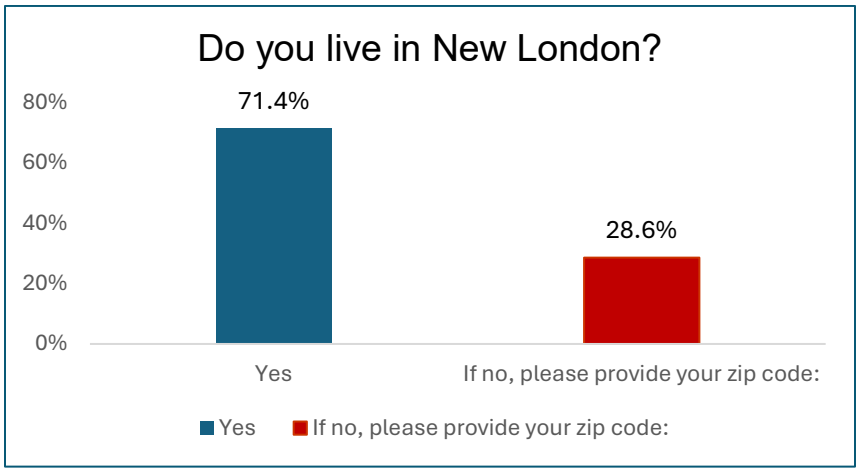
MMDC prepared the plan in collaboration with the City and the Planning Advisory Committee, incorporating stakeholder input and survey results. MMDC drafted the narrative with priorities, goals, and strategies, while the City and committee reviewed and provided feedback. The final plan outlines practical, measurable, and achievable strategies for long-term energy and climate resilience.

PLAN ADOPTION

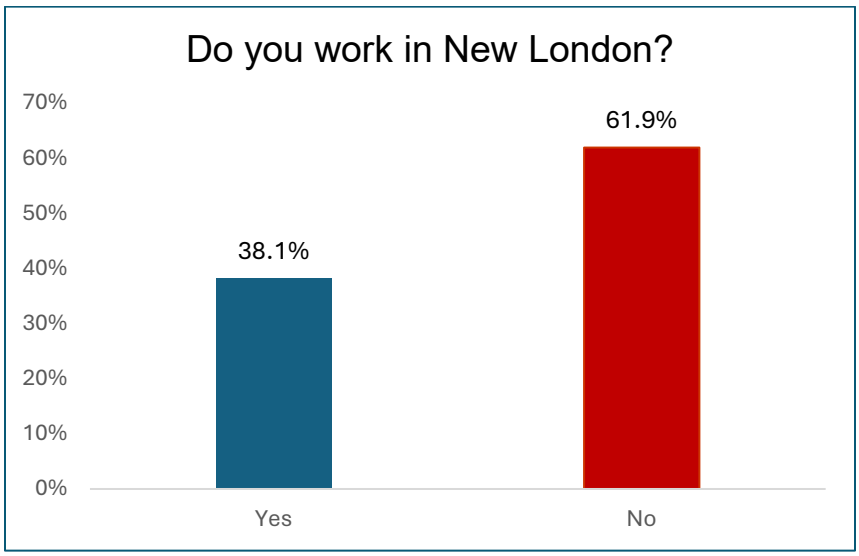
The City Council formally adopted the plan, affirming the community's commitment to energy efficiency, climate preparedness, and long-term resilience. Adoption ensures the plan guides future programs, investments, and initiatives to protect natural systems, support vulnerable populations, and promote sustainable development.

APPENDIX 3: COMMUNITY SURVEY

Q1.



Q2.



Q3. What do you like most about living or working in New London?

Aside from the high taxes and utility bills, it's quiet most of the time.
Currently, it's a mostly nonalcoholic/marijuana community.
Able to walk about
Small town vibes
I live in New London Twp and my business is just outside city lines. But I do like the outdoorsy feel of a "river-town" and bike trails.
Nature and the people
Great community!
Small town feel with a number of activities that are usually going on between New London, Spicer, Willmar area to keep entertainment alive.
Community
Lake access, very walkable town, safe, good schools.
Calm

Not much. Very judgmental people
Small town atmosphere, shops, and safe place to raise children.
Small community.
Location
The people are friendly, and we all pull together when needed
Many small businesses, strong arts community
The arts and vibe
I live outside of NL , but the wildlife
I love the community the most, nature second.

Q4. What three words would you use to describe New London?

Expensive, quaint, busy
Stable, non-independent/codependent/ cooperative government, residential.
On a river
Scenic, friendly and eclectic
Outdoorsy river town
Small, friendly, connected
Walkable, scenic, progressive
Friendly, smelly(in spring), eventful
Friendly small town on a pond. With great small businesses.
Cute, charming, safe
Small, cute, friendly
Snotty, judgmental and arrogant
Friendly, small town feel, and outside activities.
Small, expensive, safe
Unique, friendly,
Beautiful, safe and clean
Connected. Active. Opinionated.
Artsy fun friendly
Smelly, tourism, clique
Lovely vibrant town

Q5. What are the biggest challenges facing New London?

Taxes, taxes and taxes
Growth of illicit promotions within the city, lack of future spendings to control upcoming illicit activities, underutilizing promotion of recreational areas by not distancing illicit activities from recreational areas.
Lack of forward thinking, energy dependence, vibrant downtown
Funding for ongoing projects, mill pond smell and no room for downtown expansion
Your newspaper is ultra left wing liberal. Thus, your city espouses radical left wing ideology. Core values are thus not same as majority of twp.
Distance from services, inflation, financial resources for the city
Water/sewer bills are high.. A slight sense of community divide.. Can’t think of a third :)
Maintaining small businesses reducing costs for residences keeping local government well attuned to the needs of the residences
Tax rates and utilities cost.
Not very many places to eat after 2 pm. Intersection by the high school and deep freeze has heavy traffic.

Water bill, intersection at 40 & 9, intersection at 9 & 23

Their view to save the rest of us

Property taxes, no grocery store that's open late- example: (Kwik trip), not many family things to do indoors besides bowling. (such as community center w/ pool)

Cost of living is way too high. Property taxes, electricity, water sewer etc. are astronomical.

Access the youth have to drugs. The kids need to have something to do in the community.

Affordable housing, protecting the environment, financing improvements

Economic inequality. Lack of diversity. Unaffordable local economy.

Water quality places for businesses to expand HWY 23

Spring time it stinks, I find it's really "cliquey" if you're someone with a last name people don't recognize, you don't matter. Taxes suck, but that's everywhere

- small business disruption (e.g. Amazon) - keeping and developing industry and jobs - providing transportation for people without a car

Q6. What projects related to community resilience should New London focus on in the next five years? (e.g. solar, electric vehicle charging stations, energy efficiency, public transit, stormwater mitigation, community gardens, etc.)

Lowering taxes

Distancing illicit activities from public recreational areas.

Electric vehicle charging, community gardens , energy efficiency

Solar and stormwater mitigation

Developing your city parks. Better city walk lighting (safety) bike friendly community (you are on a state bike trail)

Creating trails, sidewalks, etc. For people to be outdoors and drive less, charging stations would be nice, reducing the cost of city water

Stormwater mitigation. Community gardens. More housing!

See if we get help to advocate for the grants for the bike path connecting trail to Sibley. Reduce water/sewage cost add a few quick electric vehicle chargers to in hotspots if possible. Check if people have access to parks within reasonable walking distance, would love to see something around the wetland/river dr area on one of the smaller awkward empty city lots, or a safe bike trail to the city... Which if the Sibley connection happened, it could work out maybe

Solar community gardens. A nice big park on the pond for kids.

Play grounds for kids, storm water mitigation, community gardens

Affordable water/sewer

Friendly

Spend our tax payer's money wisely! Think about what things attracts/ obtains families to communities and not be wasteful spenders on things. Why is our property taxes so high??

Reducing the cost of living

Solar, community gardens, activities for seniors, more activities like the rib fest

Solar, stormwater mitigation, and river/pond clean up

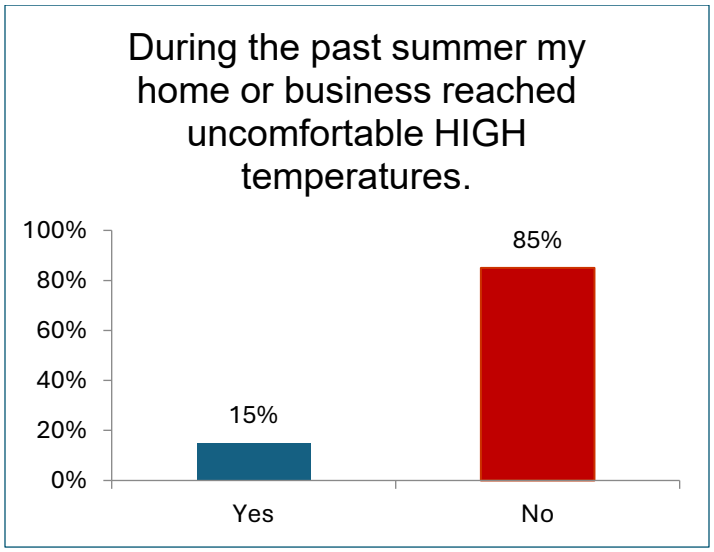
Community garden/ better direct access to local farms - support for the food co-op would help lower prices. Modernizing our parks. Modernizing, help make more efficient, our historic buildings and homes. More rental services through the library.

Community gardens green space e charging stations

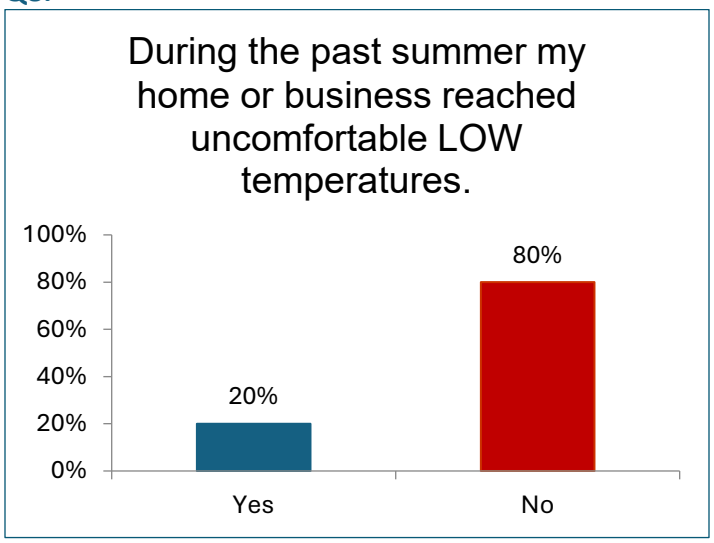
I'd say none of the above . Maybe a community garden. People more welcoming to horses being in the community. Maybe a dog park. Don't go "green" or whatever with promoting electric vehicles.

- solar - energy reliability - public transportation energy efficiency

Q7.



Q8.



Q9. The extreme weather event I am most concerned about is _____. (e.g. tornadoes, droughts, flooding, extreme heat or cold, wildfires, etc.)

Tornadoes
Wind
Cold
Tornado
Extreme cold.
Tornadoes
Tornadoes!
High winds
Flooding our water table is very high on our property
Flooding from severe storms.
Tornado
Nothing.
Droughts
Cold, tornadoes

Tornadoes

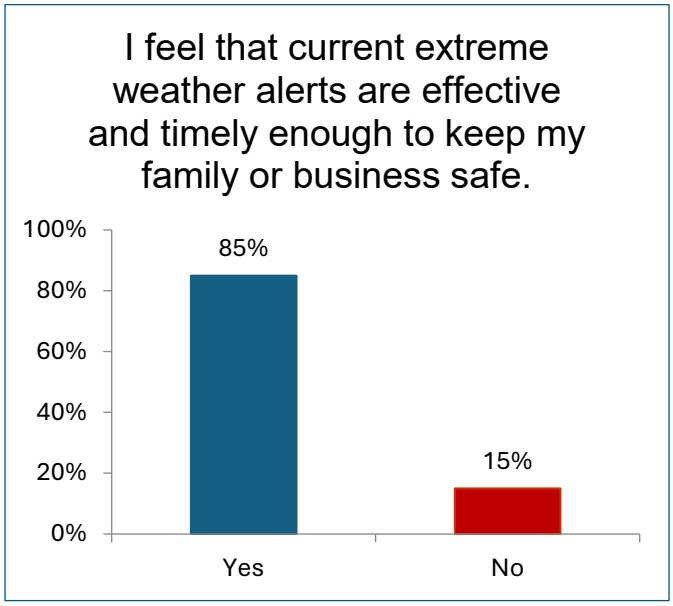
Extreme cold

Heat

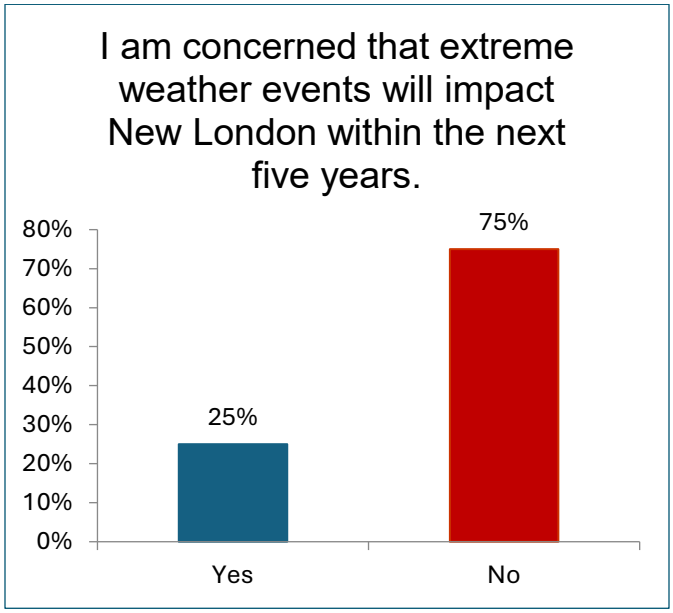
Severe weather, tornadoes. We constantly lose power. And have a big tower and lots of trees next to our house

Tornadoes

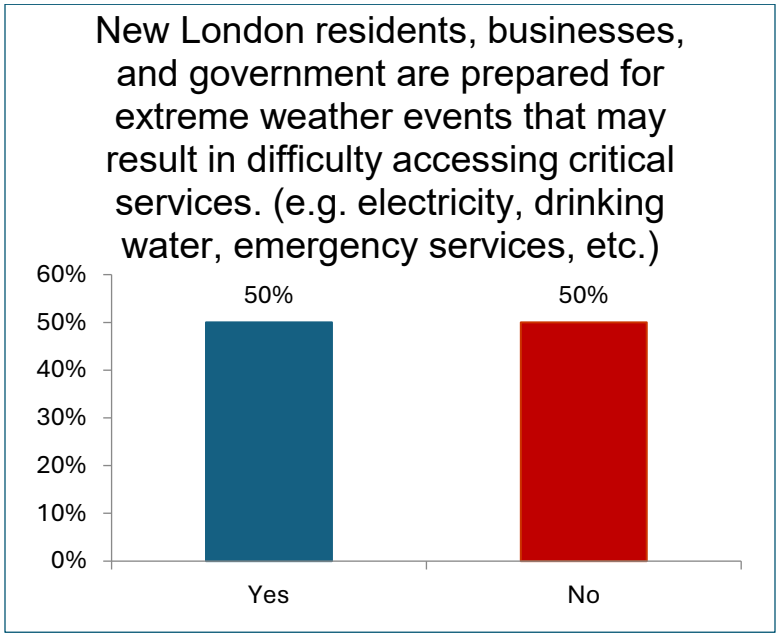
Q10.



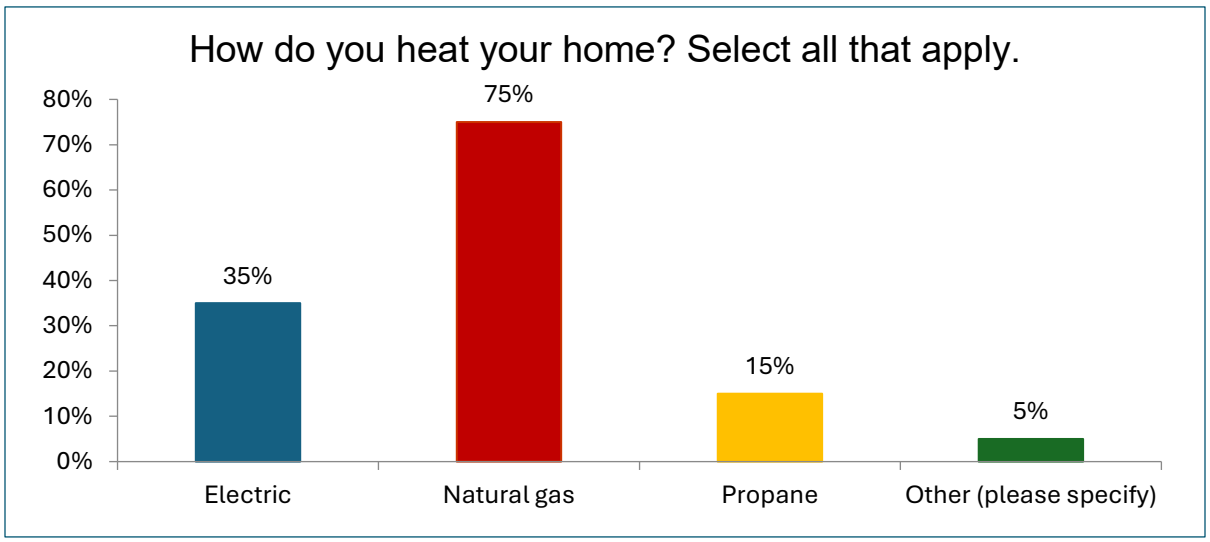
Q11.



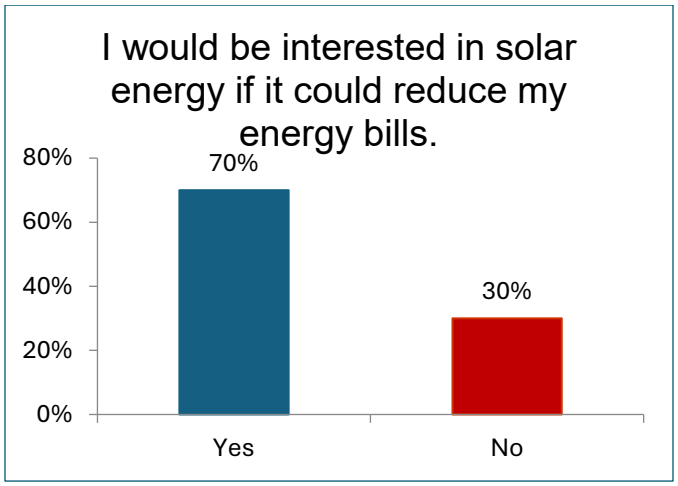
Q12.


New London residents, businesses, and government are prepared for extreme weather events that may result in difficulty accessing critical services. (e.g. electricity, drinking water, emergency services, etc.)
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
50%
50%
Yes
No

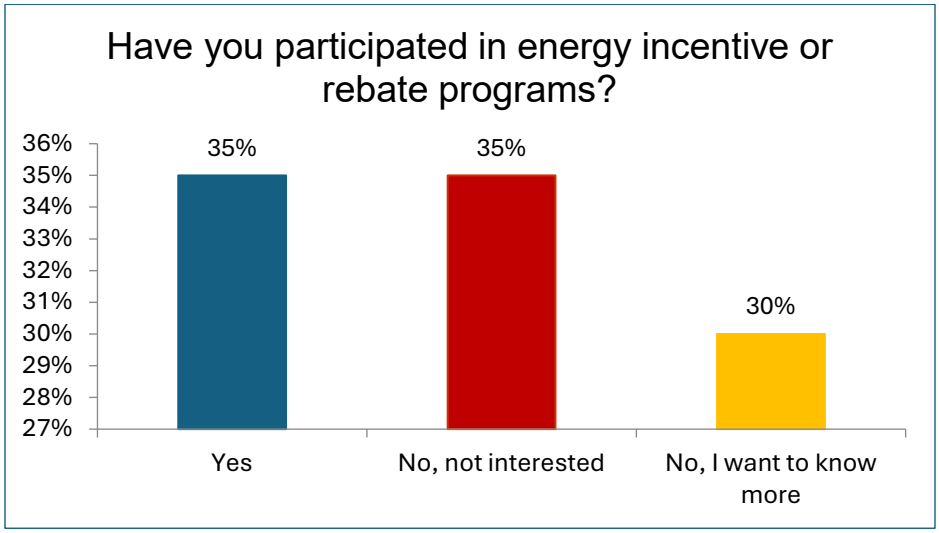
Q13.


How do you heat your home? Select all that apply.
80%
70%
60%
50%
40%
30%
20%
10%
0%
35%
75%
15%
5%
Electric
Natural gas
Propane
Other (please specify)

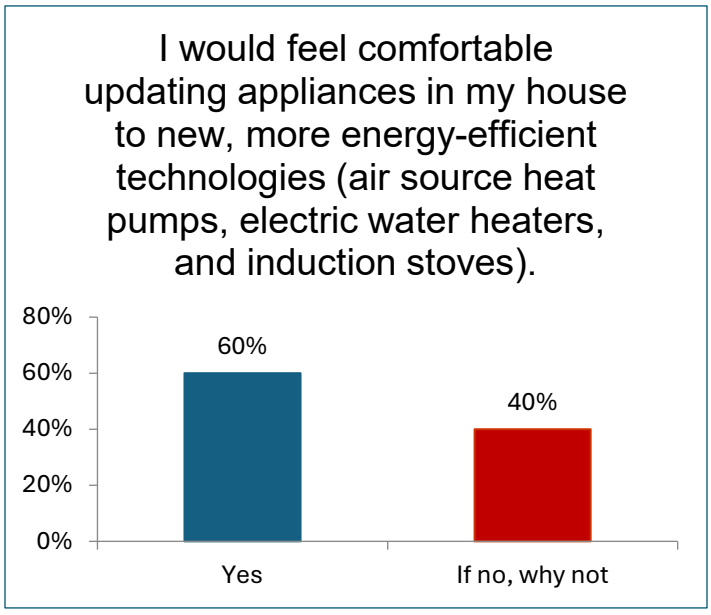
Q14.


I would be interested in solar energy if it could reduce my energy bills.
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
70%
30%
Yes
No

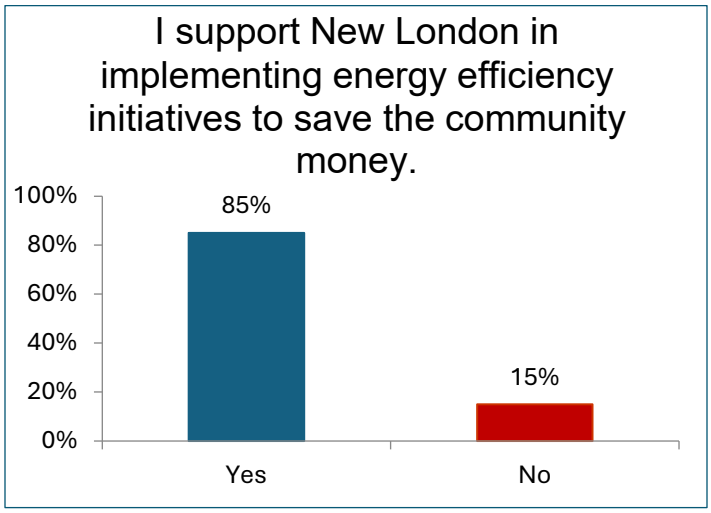
Q15.


Have you participated in energy incentive or rebate programs?
36%
35%
34%
33%
32%
31%
30%
29%
28%
27%
35%
35%
30%
Yes
No, not interested
No, I want to know more

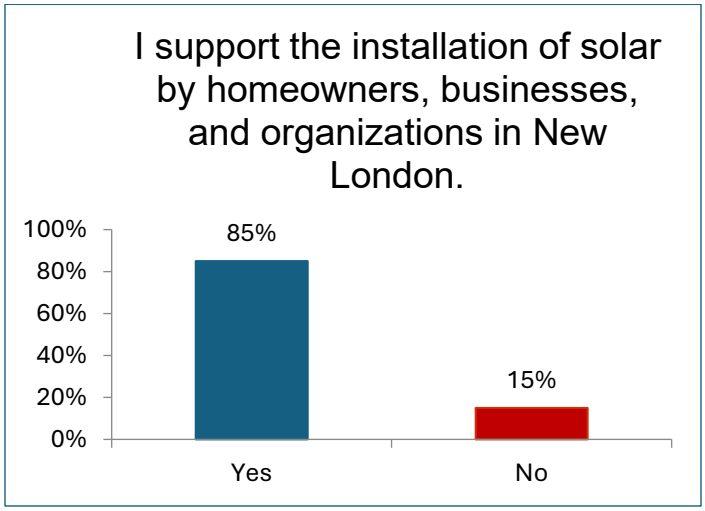
Q16.


I would feel comfortable updating appliances in my house to new, more energy-efficient technologies (air source heat pumps, electric water heaters, and induction stoves).
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
60%
40%
Yes
If no, why not

Q17.


I support New London in implementing energy efficiency initiatives to save the community money.
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
85%
15%
Yes
No

Q18.


I support the installation of solar by homeowners, businesses, and organizations in New London.
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
85%
15%
Yes
No

APPENDIX 4: GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Behavioral and Technology-Based Energy Efficiency – Combining technological upgrades (like LED lights, smart thermostats, or heat pumps) with changes in daily habits to reduce energy use and costs.

Best Management Practices (BMPs) – Strategies and practices designed to prevent or reduce pollution, particularly from stormwater runoff.

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Emissions – The release of CO_2 into the atmosphere from burning fossil fuels, contributing to climate change.

Community Preparedness – Activities, programs, and education that help residents and businesses prepare for and respond to climate hazards.

Community Survey – A tool used to gather input from residents and businesses to inform planning priorities and strategies.

Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Station – Infrastructure that allows electric vehicles to recharge their batteries.

Energy and Climate Resilience Plan – A city plan aimed at reducing energy use, preparing for climate impacts, and strengthening community resilience.

Energy Audits – Evaluations of buildings or facilities to identify ways to save energy and reduce costs.

Extreme Heat – Periods of unusually high temperatures that can harm human health, ecosystems, and infrastructure.

Extreme Weather – Severe events such as tornadoes, high winds, hail, or heavy storms that pose risks to people, property, and infrastructure.

Flooding – The overflow of water onto normally dry land, often worsened by heavy rainfall, snowmelt, or urban development.

Geothermal Energy – Renewable energy generated from heat stored within the Earth.

Green Infrastructure – Nature-based solutions, such as rain gardens, bioswales, and permeable pavements, that manage stormwater and improve environmental quality.

Infrastructure Adaptation – Upgrading public systems, roads, and facilities to withstand extreme weather and climate-related events.

Living Document – A plan designed to evolve over time as new data, technologies, and opportunities become available.

Low-Impact Development (LID) – Development practices that reduce environmental impacts through methods like green infrastructure and sustainable land use.

Natural Systems – Ecosystems such as wetlands, forests, and rivers that provide benefits like flood reduction, water quality improvement, and carbon sequestration.

Ordinances – Local laws or regulations, including zoning, building, and land use codes.

Permeable Pavement – Paving material that allows water to pass through, reducing runoff and flooding.

Planning Advisory Committee – A group of community representatives guiding the development of the Energy and Climate Resilience Plan.

Renewable Energy – Energy from sources that naturally replenish, such as solar, wind, or hydroelectric power.

Smart Building Systems – Technologies like occupancy sensors, automated controls, and energy monitoring that optimize energy use in buildings.

Smart911 – An emergency alert system that sends notifications about severe weather or other imminent hazards to residents via phone, text, or email.

Stakeholder Sectors – Groups targeted in the plan for tailored strategies: City, Residential, and Businesses & Organizations.

Solar Power – Electricity generated from sunlight using photovoltaic panels.

Stormwater – Rain or melted snow that flows over land or impervious surfaces into water bodies, sometimes carrying pollutants.

Vulnerable Populations – Residents who are more at-risk during climate or extreme weather events, such as older adults, children, outdoor workers, and people with health conditions.

APPENDIX 5: SOURCES

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New London MINNESOTA

THE CITY ON THE POND