

About the Project

The Town of Pictou is in the process of developing a municipal coastal policy framework, with funding support from the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities. Pictou’s waterfront is at the heart of our town, and the Town has been working on keeping it strong for generations to come.

Why are we doing this?

Coastal regulations can help protect the people, properties, infrastructure, and community assets that matter deeply to the community. While much of the Town’s coastline is already developed, coastal erosion, sea-level rise, and increasing storm intensity continue to pose risks to infrastructure, ecosystems, and community safety.

What is the policy approach?

While there is technical data to back the regulations as well as different regulatory options, there is no single pre-determined regulatory approach. We want to explore the different ways of managing coastal development and understand what residents think could work for their neighbourhoods. This could include low levels of intervention in some areas and more protective measures in others.

What are we doing?

Flood mapping and draft regulatory options will be made available to the public, and the Town looks forward to engaging with the community on these options. The final recommended policy and regulatory framework could take a number of different approaches depending on community priorities and risk tolerances. For example, regulations related to sea level rise depend on risk tolerance.

Get Involved!

Pop-Up Booth

HarvFest on the Harbour
Pictou Waterfront Vendor Village
Saturday October 24th
2:00 – 6:00 pm

Public Meeting

CN Station
71 Front Street
Thursday November 5th
6:00 – 8:00 pm

Online Engagement

Visit the project website to learn more!
www.townofpictou.ca/coastal-policy-project



Minimum Planning Requirements

The Province of Nova Scotia sets the minimum planning requirements for municipal governments to implement in the Municipal Government Act.

In Floodway Fringe areas (up to 1-in-100 year flood line)
Development is permitted except for hospitals, senior citizen homes, long term care facilities, warehousing or production of hazardous materials. Off-site fill is limited to that required for floodproofing.

The Town must meet these requirements, but **can also choose to exceed these requirements based on community input**. For example, in Floodways (up to 1-in-20 year flood line), the Town can borrow from additional provincial guidance on certain watersheds and permit only roads, open space uses, utility corridors, parking lots and temporary uses. Off-site fill can also be prohibited.

Coastal Hazards

Scientific projections indicate that climate change and coastal hazards will pose greater threats between now and 2100.

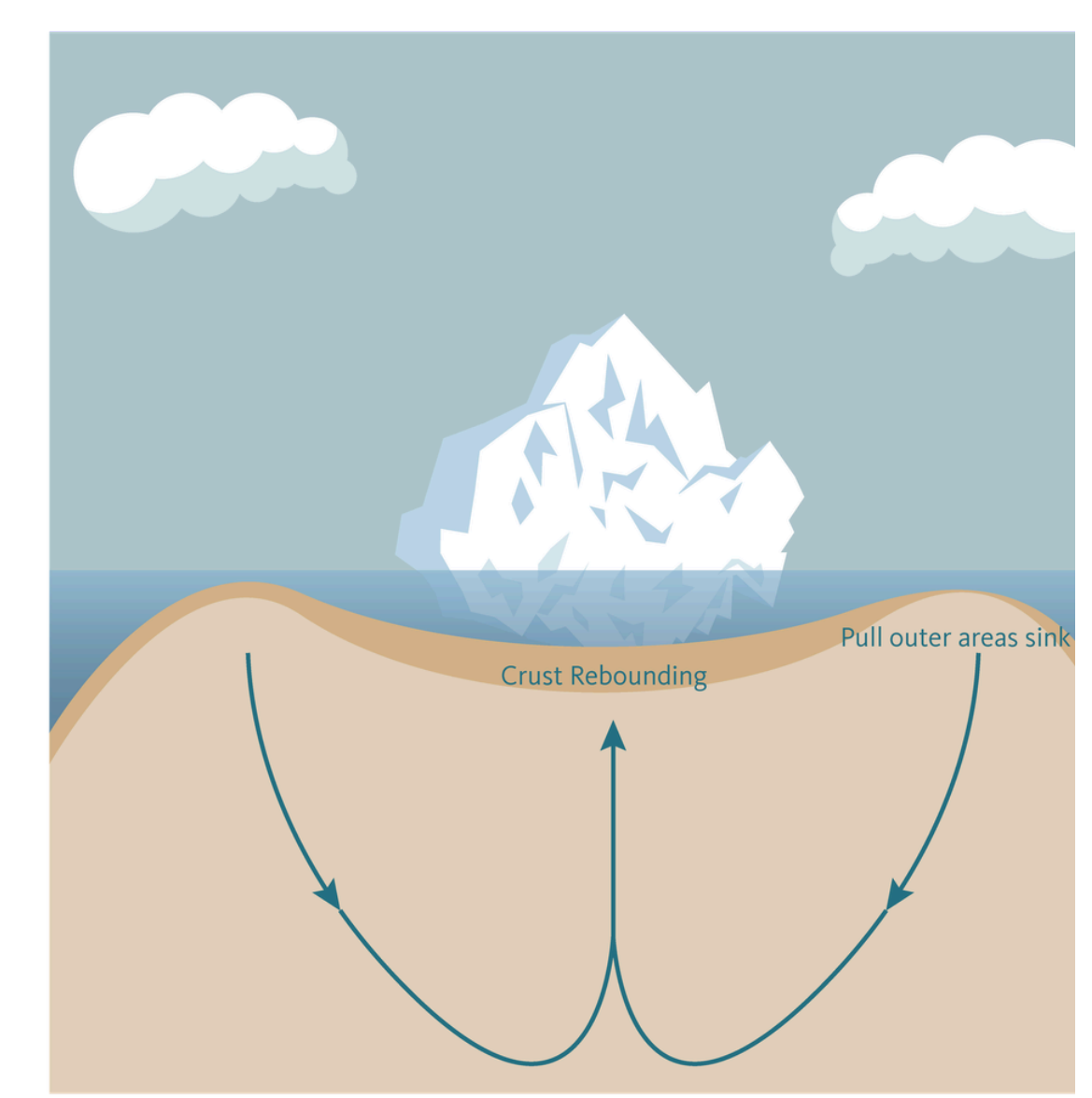
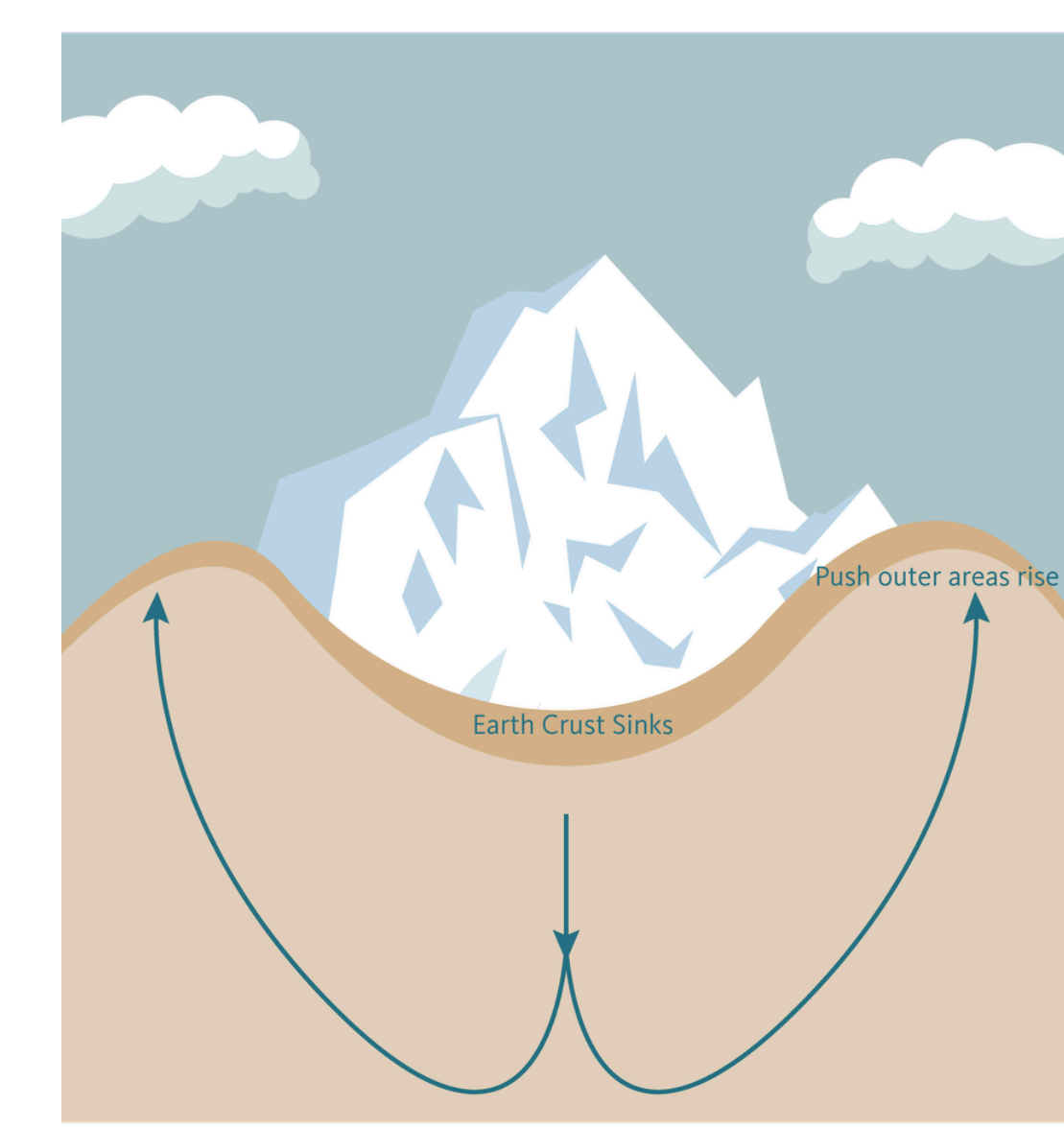
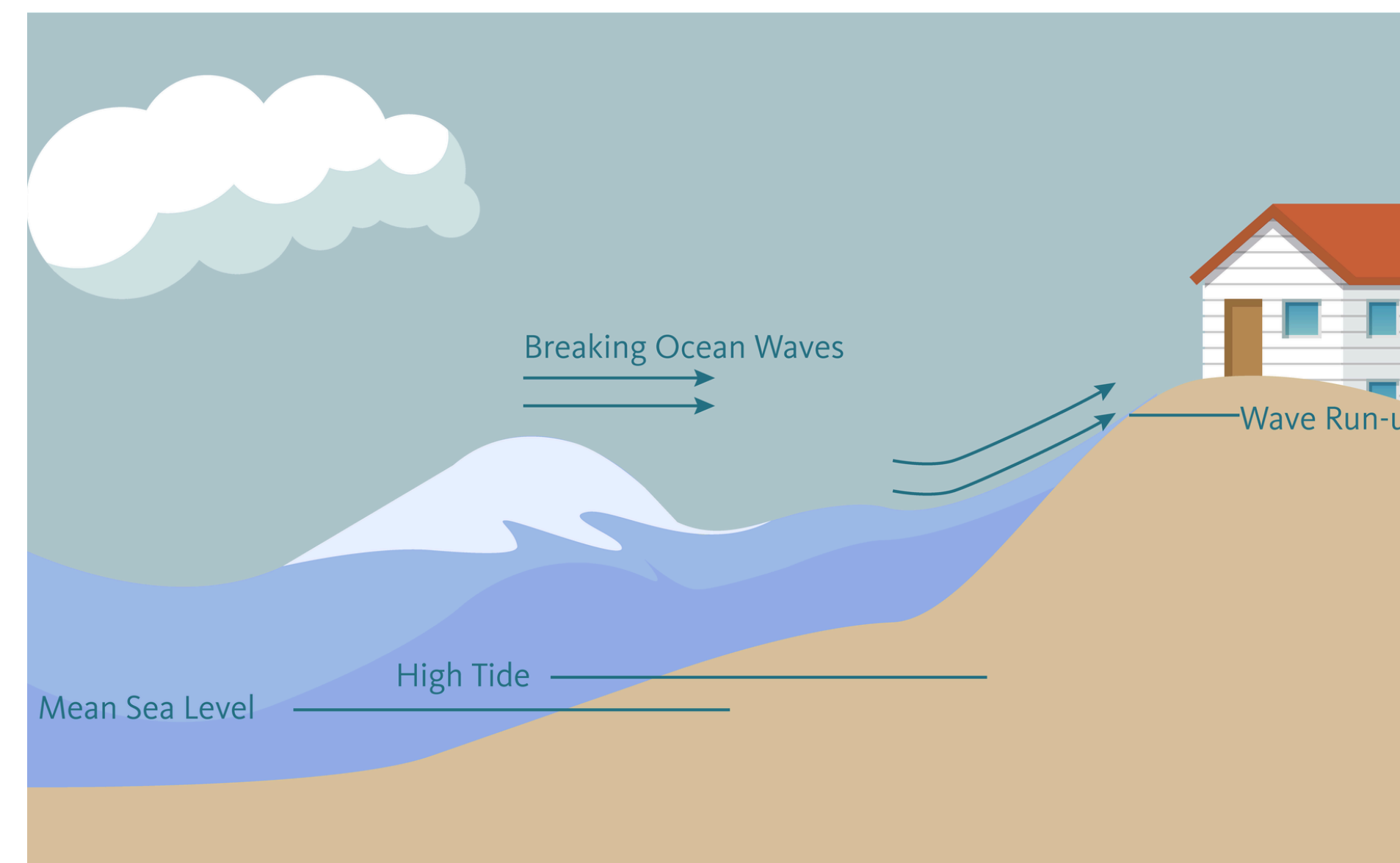
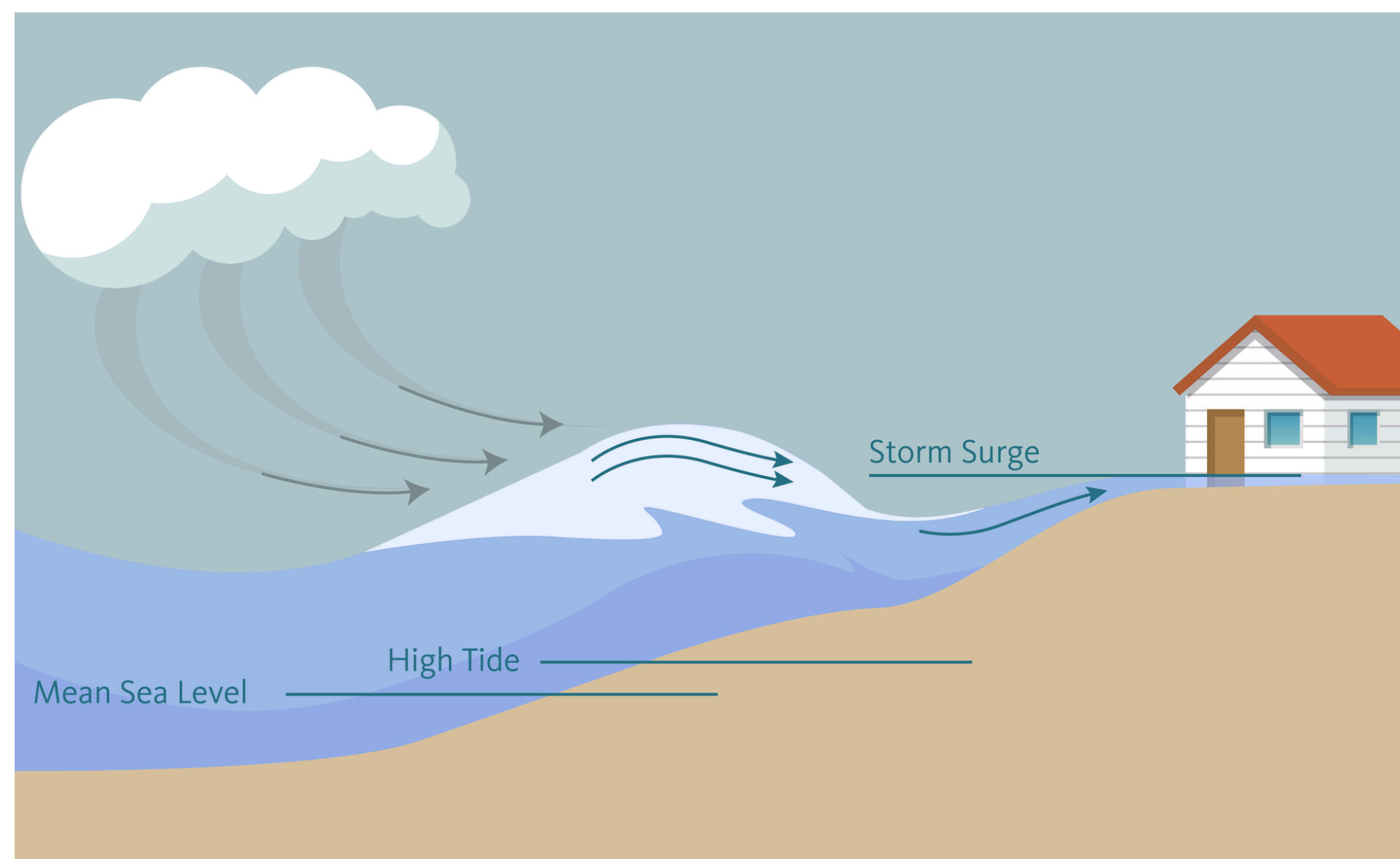
Some common hazards include:

- **Erosion:** The gradual or sudden loss of shoreline caused by waves, storm surges, river or rain runoff, and human activities.
- **Sea Level Rise:** Rising ocean levels caused by warming seawater and melting glaciers and polar ice caps.
- **Storm Surge:** An abnormally high water level caused by strong, high winds and low atmospheric pressure.

Protecting Communities

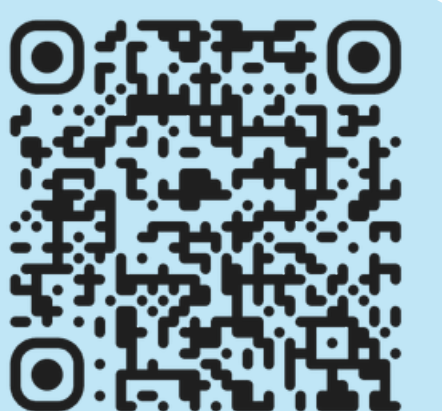
Coastal planning helps communities prepare for the natural challenges associated with living along the coast. It helps guide decisions about development, land use, community operations, and human activity to reduce risks to:

- **Health & safety:** protecting where people live, work, and play from harm or hazards.
- **The environment:** preventing contamination, loss of natural habitats, or disruption of natural processes.
- **Local economies:** helps to prevent the need to replace or repair infrastructure.



Online Engagement

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We want to hear from you!

Is there anything that you feel is important for us to know about and consider as the Town develops coastal planning regulations?

