

# Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0

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Tool:  
**Local  
Resilience  
Assessment**

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## Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0

The *Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0* brings out **your** best ideas for building resilience where you live.

The *Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0* is a collection of online tools to learn about the local impacts of the climate and energy crisis, and what you can do about them.

The *Toolkit* is designed for use by individuals, community groups, teachers, and municipalities.

For free copies of all the tools in the *Community Resilience Toolkit 2.0*, see [rootedinresilience.org/toolkit](http://rootedinresilience.org/toolkit).

Rooted in Resilience's mission is to inspire and support you in building equitable, resilient communities.

Support this work and become a member of Rooted in Resilience!

## Local Resilience Assessment

### *What this Tool Does*

The Local Resilience Assessment Tool helps you:

- Explore what makes a place resilient
- Assess the resilience of your local systems
- Identify priority areas for improvement

### *Who Should Use this Tool*

- Individuals
- Schools and training centers
- Community organizations
- Municipal planners

### *How to Use this Tool*

The Local Resilience Assessment is a powerful tool for sparking discussion on the resilience of where you live.

*Groups:* First go over the definition of a resilient community, the concept of human rights, and the criteria for resilience, addressing any questions that come up.

Define the geographic area your group is assessing. This can be a region, city, town, or neighborhood. Keep it consistent.

Divide into small groups of no more than four people each. Assign each small group one of the systems to assess (food, water, etc.). Ask them to work together to rate the resilience of this local system.

When the group comes back together, ask about the discussions that arose, and go over the discussion questions. This is a great way to launch working groups on each topic!

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## What Makes A Community Resilient

Resilient communities make sure all residents can meet their basic needs, even during tough times and emergency situations. They ensure access to the human rights of food, housing, education, medical care, social services, and opportunities to work.<sup>1</sup>

Resilient communities use natural resources in a way that protects biodiversity, so there will be enough food and water for our children and grandchildren as well.

### Criteria for Resilience

Equity	Our community guarantees basic human rights for all regardless of race, gender, income, ability, and other factors.
Quality	Our basic goods and services are of good quality: healthy food, clean water, comprehensive health care, and convenient transportation.
Ecology	We use natural resources in ways that increase the earth's ability to keep producing them in the future.
Ownership	Our community controls key resources, for example publicly owned water rights.
Diversity	Our community values and protects biological and cultural diversity, and uses a diversity of systems to meet human needs.
Self-reliance	Our community provides and shares necessities in emergencies.

### Rating Resilience

This assessment is designed to spark discussions about how to build resilience in providing human rights in your community. There are no right or wrong answers. Rate on a scale of 0 to 4 to what extent you think the statements describe your region, city, or town:

4 = Almost always (close to 100%)

3 = Usually (about 75%)

2 = Sometimes (about 50%)

1 = Rarely (about 25%)

0 = Almost never (close to 0%)

In your assessments consider **all** residents in your area, including different ethnicities, languages, ages, incomes, physical abilities, and immigration status. No community will score perfectly. Then fill out the Research and Discussion Questions sheet.

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<sup>1</sup> *United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1948.

## Local Resilience Assessment

Food		0 - 4
Equity	All residents have enough healthy food to eat every day.	
Quality	Fresh, organic, culturally appropriate food is convenient and affordable.	
Ecology	Our food is produced in ways that support biodiversity and replenish its sources (e.g. healthier soil, diversified farms, healthy fish stocks).	
Ownership	The community sets local food policies according to our needs.	
Diversity	We supply food in several ways, so if one system fails others continue.	
Self-reliance	Our community can supply and share food in prolonged emergencies.	

Water		0 - 4
Equity	All residents have enough water to meet basic needs.	
Quality	Our drinking water is clean and safe.	
Ecology	We source public drinking water locally and conserve as much as possible. There's enough left over for groundwater and local streams.	
Ownership	The community owns our water rights publically.	
Diversity	We source water in several ways, so if one system fails the others keep functioning.	
Self-reliance	Our community can supply and share water in prolonged emergencies.	

Energy		0 - 4
Equity	All residents have enough energy to meet basic needs.	
Quality	Our energy supply is stable and consistent.	
Ecology	Our energy comes from local renewable resources, and we conserve as much as possible.	
Ownership	We have public control over where our energy comes from and how much it costs.	
Diversity	We supply energy in several ways, so if one system fails others continue.	

Self-reliance	Our community can supply and share energy in prolonged emergencies.	
<b>Transportation and Housing</b>		<b>0 - 4</b>
Equity	All residents can find quality affordable housing near jobs and schools.	
Quality	All residents can get where they need to via public transit or ride shares.	
Ecology	Our transportation is powered by local renewable energy.	
Ownership	We set local housing and transportation policies according to our needs.	
Diversity	Residents can get around in different ways, so if one system fails they can use another.	
Self-reliance	Our community can house displaced residents in prolonged emergencies.	

<b>Jobs and Economy</b>		<b>0 - 4</b>
Equity	All residents have access to enough income to sustain a household.	
Quality	Our schools and training programs prepare students to solve problems and contribute to community well-being.	
Ecology	Our local and regional economy is based on sustainable use and re-use of our region's resources.	
Ownership	We regulate our economy to ensure high standards for safe working conditions, fair business practices, and environmental stewardship.	
Diversity	Our local economy is diversified enough so if one industry leaves, the economy as a whole can stay healthy.	
Self-reliance	When local businesses are hurt by a natural disaster, the community helps get them back on their feet to restore local jobs and income.	

<b>Governance</b>		<b>0 - 4</b>
Equity	All residents have equal access to and influence on local government.	
Quality	All residents have access to good health care, education, and services.	
Ecology	Our local government effectively protects our local environment.	
Ownership	Our local government is accountable to the community.	
Diversity	Our local officials are representative of the communities they serve.	

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Self-reliance	Our local government is prepared to deal with emergencies, and neighbors are organized to help each other in times of need.	
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## Research and Discussion Questions

1. Which assessment questions did you find most difficult to answer? Why? Is there follow-up research you'd like to do on them?

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2. Calculate the average scores for each system (food, water, etc). In which system did your city or town score an average of 3 or higher, meaning the resilience criteria are met most of the time?

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3. In which systems did your city or town score an average of less than 3? Which system had the lowest resilience score?

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4. What would it take to raise the resilience scores in your community?

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