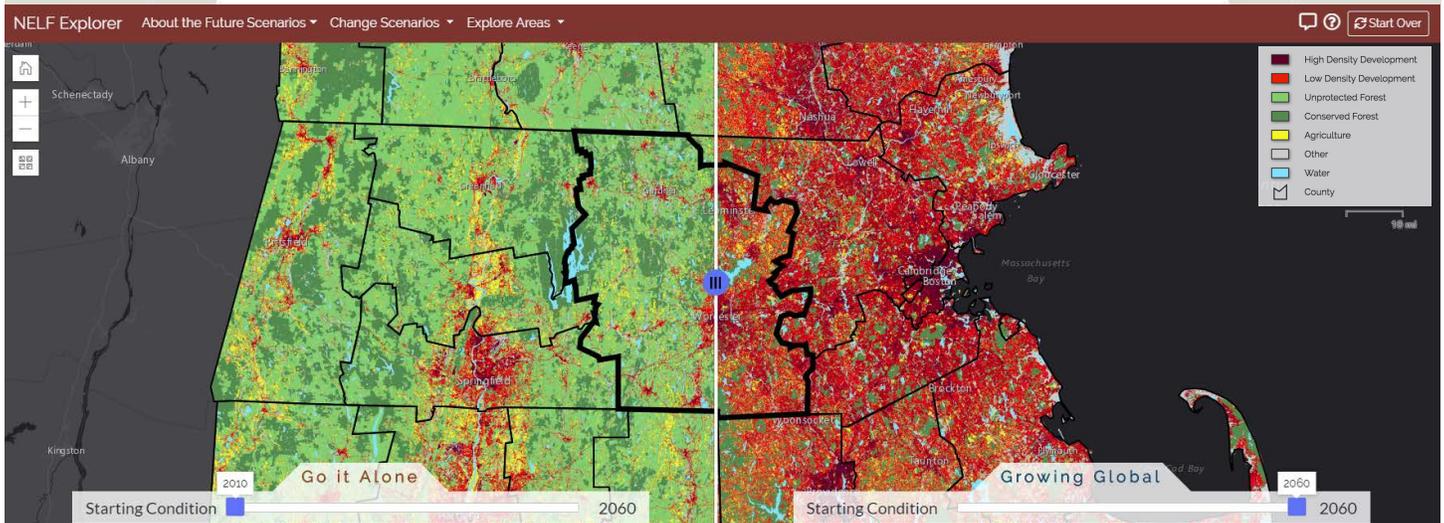


Announcing a **new interactive tool** for planning the **future of the land**

New England Landscape Futures Explorer

Hi! I'm the NELF Explorer. I'm here because **wondering about the future can help us make decisions** about our communities, land, forests, farms, and water resources. What will the future of your community look like? How would you change it if you could? I will help you explore different possible outcomes based on global trends and local decisions.

[Start the activity](#) [Skip to maps](#)

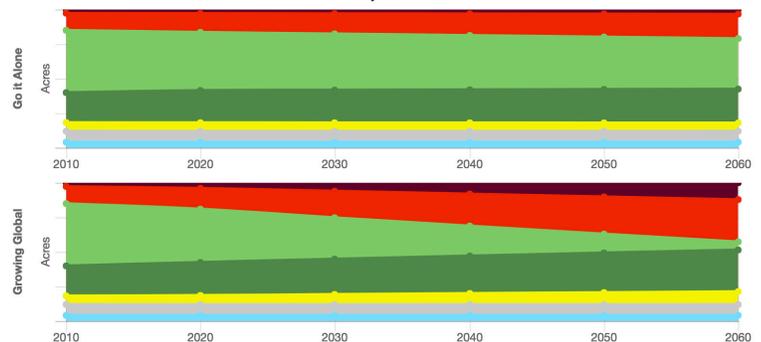


Explore land use over space and time

Maps and sliders show land use over space and time, and allow easy comparisons among scenarios, and between each scenario and recent trends. Graphs summarize land use trends over time for any area selected on the map.

In this example we see that by 2060 Worcester County will have more development and more conserved forest in a Growing Global scenario compared to Go It Alone.

Land uses over time for Worcester County, MA



Understand land-use impacts on conservation priorities

Select from a number of conservation priorities, such as wetlands, and see how much land gets developed or conserved in those areas under different scenarios. In this example, we see that Worcester County will have more conserved forest and developed land in wetlands in the right scenario, Growing Global, compared to the left scenario, Go It Alone. What might this mean for the ecosystem services that wetlands provide to communities in Worcester County?

Impacts on within Worcester County, MA

Conserved forest land increases

Go it Alone: 1,462 acres | Growing Global: 7,179 acres

Conserved forest land in current wetlands within Worcester County, MA **increases** by 2060 in the **Growing Global** scenario compared to the **Go it Alone** scenario.

Developed land increases

Go it Alone: 522 acres | Growing Global: 11,608 acres

Developed land in current wetlands within Worcester County, MA **increases** by 2060 in the **Growing Global** scenario compared to the **Go it Alone** scenario.

About Wetlands:

Wetlands are defined as all areas in the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's National Wetlands Inventory. These include forested swamps, freshwater herbaceous marshes, and saltwater marshes.

New England Landscape Futures Land Use Scenarios

Scenarios, Services, and Society Research Coordination Network (S3 RCN)

Why scenarios?

Scenarios help us plan for an uncertain future by broadening our thinking as to how the future might unfold. Considering the unexpected can help us take actions today to create the future we desire.

How were the scenarios created?

S3 RCN convened 6 workshops, one in each state. Participants pictured the New England landscape 50 years in the future and identified high impact, highly uncertain drivers of landscape change. The two consensus drivers were used to make a matrix, and participants fleshed out a scenario narrative for each quadrant. The S3 RCN team carefully combined the workshop scenarios to produce one set of scenarios for New England.

The New England Scenarios

This matrix shows...

A concise summary of the main characteristics of each of the four scenarios.

For more details...

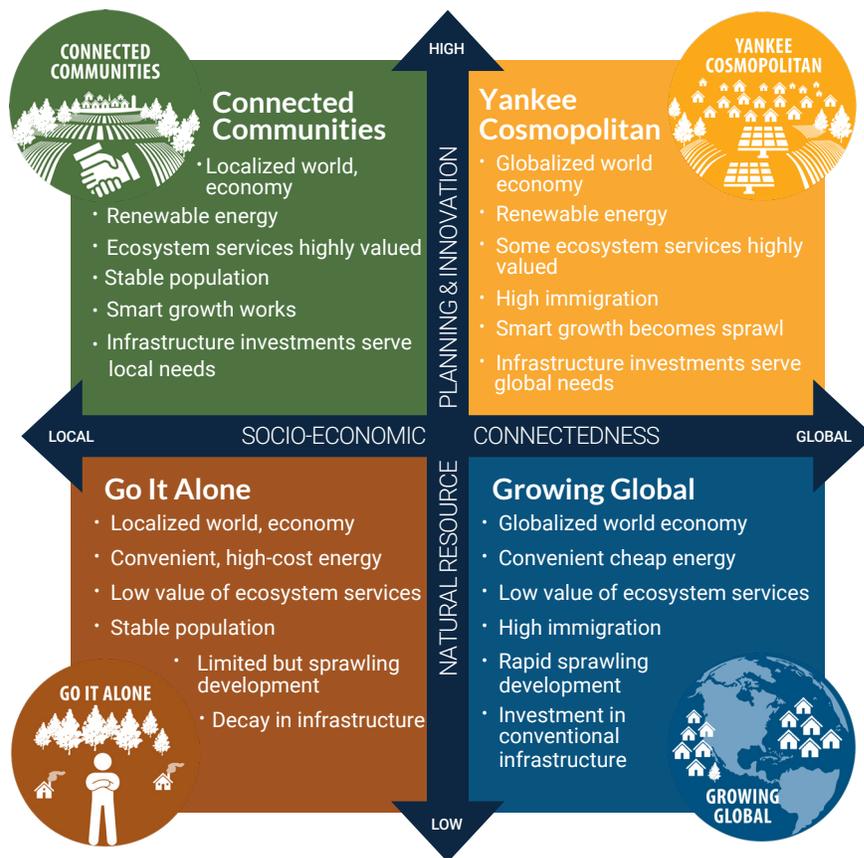
Read more about the drivers that form the matrix, and about each scenario in this publication, available online:

Voices from the Land: Listening to New Englanders' Views of the Future

<https://bit.ly/2ASP80s>

More than just stories!

Access research-quality datasets of land use in each scenario by joining the New England Landscape Futures group on DataBasin.org.



Scenarios by the numbers:

Participants helped parameterize land use outcomes for each scenario, as a percent change from recent trends which represents land use in 2060 under business as usual.

	Development	Agriculture	Conservation	Harvest
Recent Trends (acres)	1.2 million	0.2 million	10.3 million	28.9 million
Connected Communities	- 75%	+ 150%	+ 25%	No change
Yankee Cosmopolitan	+ 40%	No change	- 10%	- 40%
Growing Global	+ 180 %	+ 905%	- 40%	+110%
Go It Alone	- 25%	- 100%	- 80%	+135%