

Progress Report

A Guide for Implementing the Healthy Soils Action Plan in Design and Construction Ref# C137

Jan 8, 2025

Dear Tom Anderson,

Thank you for the opportunity to put together A Guide for Implementing the Healthy Soils Action Plan in Design and Construction. We have been making steady progress. Please find below a table with the progress on each deliverable as well as completed and confirmed upcoming outreach events. We are currently working towards getting the first couple of guide sections ready to be put on the Mass Healthy Soils Website <https://masshealthysouls.org/guide/> so we can start to receive feedback as we complete the other sections.

Deliverables

Deliverable	December 30, 2024 Deliverable Status
1. Presentation or facilitation of at least 14 total Educational and Outreach Events for Design and Construction Professionals	<i>4 Events completed with a total reach of 450 professionals, 5 additional events are confirmed.</i>
2. The “Guide for Implementing the Healthy Soils Action Plan in Design and Construction” multimedia website, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aggregation of research as a curated dataset available as annotated bibliography and/or Zotero library • Custom Educational Resources as downloadable 5-20 page PDFs. 	<i>Website was launched October 15, 2024, with:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Searchable Resources library</i> • <i>Summary of project and grant</i> • <i>Contact form</i>

• List of resources, apps, tools, and institutions for further reading	
3. 2-4 Policy Briefs for relevant agencies such as MassDEP, EOEEA, and Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards	<i>Pending, Phase 3.</i>
Press	Greenfield Recorder published an article on Nov 7, 2024 announcing the launch of the project.

Deliverable Details December 2024

Completed Outreach Event Details

<i>Event Title</i>	<i>Organization/ Company</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Presenter</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Post-Completion Event Notes</i>
Fall Conference: Water Water Everywhere	Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions	10/19/2024	Devens, MA	Rachel Lindsay, Bas Gutwein	300	300 Person attendance, good interest in our table and discussions involving the website, 28 participants gave us their contact information for our contact list.
Informational Call / Strategic Meeting	Urban Land Institute Boston	10/23/2024	Virtual	Jim Newman	4	Four members of ULI, two from Linnean Solutions, and one RDG representative were present for a fruitful discussion of shared interests and values. The HSG team answered some specific questions about the applicability of Healthy Soils Practices in development and was invited to contribute to a forthcoming Watershed-level resilience project led by ULI.
Inside/Out Field Session	Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA) Spring Conference	October 17, 2024	Wareham, MA	Evan Miller	25	Well attended with 25 participants. Many people expressed a strong interest in Biochar. The attendance of Fred Horton from Standard Biocarbon was appreciated.

Season's End Summit: Gardening for Life	Ecological Landscape Alliance	12/5/2024	Grafton, MA	Rachel Lindsay	120	Received feedback with some suggestions/ questions about preventing soil compaction during construction - Audience generally enthusiastic and many professionals got in touch to share info, case studies, and to learn more.
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Confirmed Upcoming Outreach Events

<i>Organization/Company</i>	<i>Event Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Ecological Landscape Alliance	Annual Conference & Eco Market	February 26 - 28, 2025	Virtual + MA
	Bulletin or Member Newsletter (Into the Weeds)	Spring 2025	virtual
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition	Land Conservation Conference	March 21, 2025	UMass Amherst
Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Alliance	Green Industry Winter Forum	Feb 12 - 13, 2025	
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)	BuildingEnergy Boston	March 20-21, 2025	Boston, MA