

Progress Report

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

Mar 19, 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 a beta-launch of the guide sections (Custom Educational Resources) to be published on the Mass Healthy Soils Website <https://masshealthysouls.org/guide/>, by the end of April 2025. Following that, we'd be working towards revisions and finalizing those guides based on continued feedback.

Deliverables

Deliverable	March 19, 2025 Deliverable Status
1. Presentation or facilitation of at least 14 total Educational and Outreach Events for Design and Construction Professionals	<i>7 Events completed with a total reach of 680+ professionals, 4 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. • List of resources, apps, tools, and institutions for further reading 	<p><i>Website was launched October 15, 2024, with:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Searchable Resources library</i> • <i>Summary of project and grant</i> • <i>Contact form</i> <p><i>Custom Educational Resources underway, beta-launch of these to happen by May 1, 2025 . PDFs will include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Healthy Soils in Site Design and Construction</i> • <i>Current Site Development Practices + Soil Health</i> • <i>Best Design and Construction Practices: Pre-Development Design</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Best Design and Construction Practices: Specifying Amended + Blended Soils</i> • <i>Best Design and Construction Practices: On Site Soil Management</i> • <i>Best Design and Construction Practices: Post-Construction Soil Maintenance</i>
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. Working on additional press releases to update the public on the progress/ status of the project.

Deliverable Details March 2025

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.
Green Industry Winter Forum	Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Alliance	Feb 12 - 13, 2025		Bas Gutwein	100	Sebastian Gutwein presented to a well attended session. Conversations with members after the session were enlightening on the perspectives and needs of the landscape sector.
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.
InSight: Honoring our Past, Illuminating the Future	ASLA National Conference 2024	October 5 - 9, 2024	Washington DC	Rachel, Gillian, Chris	125 Rachel Lindsay from RDG, Chris Hardy from Sasaki, and Gillian Davies from BSC Group co-presented a 90-minute presentation at the annual conference for the ASLA. With over 100 in attendance, the talk was successful in reaching designers, architects, and engineers to emphasize the importance of soil health in landscape design and restoration. The presentation was followed by a number of questions from the audience and engagement with the speakers after the event.
Roundtable	Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	3/17/2025	Virtual	Jim Newman	6 In this hour and half roundtable Jim Newman presented to 6 representatives from the DOT with lively discussion afterwards. Gillian Davies, Sebastian Gutwein, and Patrick Black also attended.
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.

Confirmed Upcoming Outreach Events

<i>Organization/Company</i>	<i>Event Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Location</i>
Boston Society of Landscape Architects (BSLA)	Fieldday: NE Conference on Landscape Architecture	May 23, 2025	Northeastern U, Boston
Massachusetts Land Trust Coalition	Land Conservation Conference	March 21, 2025	UMass Amherst
Northeast Sustainable Energy Association (NESEA)	BuildingEnergy Boston	March 20-21, 2025	Boston, MA
Southborough MA Open Space Committee	Planners Presentation	Summer 2025	hybrid