

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Case Study

Municipality: Oak Bluffs lead town in collaboration with MVC

Project Title: MV and Gosnold Climate Action Plans

Award Year (FY): 2021

Grant Award: \$ 173,843

Match: \$ 68,021

Match Source: In-kind

One- or Two-Year Project: One year

Municipal Department Leading Project: MVC climate change planner

Project Website URL: www.thevineyardway.org; <https://www.cuttyhunk-can.net/>

Community Overview:

- What is the population size of your community and where is it located? 20,600 year-round, 85,000 summer
- Do you have any [Environmental Justice](#) or other Climate Vulnerable communities? (Think about both those who live and work in your town.) The Vineyard has three state recognized Environmental Justice Communities: Tisbury (income), Edgartown (minority) and Aquinnah (minority). Income in Dukes County is below the state average, the Vineyard has an Indigenous community, a large Brazilian community (non-English-speaking), and a growing number of older residents.
- Other unique traits of your municipality like who the top employers are, geography, history, etc. The Vineyard and Gosnold are island communities, exposed at every edge to sea level rise and storm events; we have a seasonal, visitor-based economy that is vulnerable to weather and changing economic conditions; there is a large income gap between year-round and seasonal residents; we have a critical affordable housing shortage; development pressure is threatening the natural environment. Still, the islands are rich in natural resources, beautiful, historic architecture, and is tight-knit year-round communities.

Project Description and Goals:

- Where was the project located? Martha's Vineyard Island and the Elizabeth islands (Dukes County)
- What climate change impacts did the project address? On the Vineyard, and largely in Gosnold, the impacts were broken down into the following six thematic areas: land use, natural resources, and biodiversity; transportation and infrastructure; public health and safety; food security; economic resilience; and energy transformation.
- What were the specific goals and tasks of the project as stated in your application? The project is a comprehensive 20-year, community-based Climate Action Plan with specific goals, objectives, and actions for each of the six thematic working groups noted above, plus cross-cutting goals, objectives, and actions. Each of the working groups developed

SMART objectives, and achievable goals including timelines and measures of success. The plan built on the results of the MVP community resilience Building workshops.

- Did your project meet the goals set forth in your application in terms of:
 - Employing nature-based solutions -Yes, this was a priority in developing goals and specific actions
 - Improving equitable outcomes for and fostering strong partnerships with EJ and other Climate Vulnerable Populations – Yes, equity is one of five guiding values set forth in the plan. The Steering Committee included representatives of the Wampanoag Tribe, the NAACP, and the Brazilian community. Equity is addressed in each thematic area.
 - Providing regional benefits – Yes, regional benefits include increasing the Islands’ renewably-generated energy, training for regional residents in climate-related jobs, a full-time regional emergency management professional, an improved regional transportation systems and supply chain, improved regional land use practices, and protection of biodiversity.
 - Implementing the public involvement and community engagement plan set forth in your application – Yes. On the Vineyard we held 19 public presentations focusing on the six thematic areas, 6 workshops with town employees/board members, a Wampanoag Tribal workshop, six meeting with Select Boards, 25 stakeholder group presentations, and a public survey. There were 40 media reports/commentaries. Climate Action Week included 40 events plus a finale event and attracted participation by over 1,400 local residents. Gosnold is holding a series of community engagement events during the summer of 2022
 - Finishing the project on time – Yes.

Results and Deliverables:

- Describe, and quantify (where possible) project results (e.g., square footage of habitat restored or created, increase in tree canopy coverage, etc.). Report out on the metrics outlined in your application. The Vineyard and Gosnold Climate Action Plans combined have over 200 specific actions designed to increase resilience to the impacts of climate change. These actions were developed collaboratively by over 100 community members with expertise in the six thematic areas. The plan addresses both adaptation and mitigation strategies.
- Provide a brief summary of project deliverables with web links, if available. See attached CAP Executive Summary. The Climate Action Plans are available on the website, www.thevineyardway.org and <https://www.cuttyhunk-can.net/>
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Lessons Learned:

- What lessons were learned as a result of the project? Focus on both the technical matter of the project and process-oriented lessons learned. The value of a well-designed planning process; a local consultant (with outside experts for specific issues); use grant

funding within the community by compensating thematic working group liaisons; inclusivity and collaboration with towns, NGOs, specific population groups; the value of creative and broad-ranging community engagement; the feasibility of developing a plan largely via Zoom; the value of having the plans on websites available to the public and able to be updated as actions are implemented.

- What is the best way for other communities to learn from your project/process? We would be happy to give presentations about our CAP development and process; communities can contact Meghan Gombos, local consultant, Sea Change Consulting, at meghan.gombos@gmail.com or Liz Durkee, MVC climate change planner at durkee@mvcommission.org.

Partners and Other Support:

- Include a list of all project partners and describe their role in supporting/assisting in the project. See attachment

Project Photos:

- In your electronic submission of this report, please attach (as .jpg or .png) a few high-resolution (at least 300 pixels per inch) representative photos of the project. Photos should not show persons who can be easily identified, and avoid inclusion of any copyrighted, trademarked, or branded logos in the images. MVP may use these images on its website or other promotional purposes, so please also let us know if there is someone who should receive credit for taking the photo.