



Climate Forestry Certification Process for Consulting Foresters

1. Complete the online [Climate Forestry Stewardship Planning Training for Foresters](#). Sessions were held in February 2022 and February 2023. Self-paced modules are in development with a tentative release date of March 2024.
2. Attend a field training session on climate vulnerability and forest carbon. One session was held in May 2022 and two sessions were held in April 2023. You only need to attend one. There will be at least one session in April 2024. Once you have completed the online and field training sessions, your name will be added to the [DCR online list for Climate Forestry](#).
3. Write a Forest Stewardship Climate Plan in collaboration with a Mass Audubon Climate Forestry specialist. A Mass Audubon climate forestry expert will meet with you for a site visit of the property for which you are preparing the plan and provide an in-depth review of the draft plan. Because the process can involve multiple rounds of communication and feedback, it is important to **schedule the initial site visit well in advance** (at least 2 months prior to submittal or longer if a large or complex property) of when the completed plan is due. Email climateforestry@massaudubon.org to schedule a site visit.
 - a. Field visit – this should be done after the forest stands have been mapped for the property but is otherwise usually best done early in the plan preparation process. Please do share the stand map before the visit, and any existing stand description (for example, if this is a revision of an existing plan). Foresters often find it helpful to work through the [field assessment](#) at a point or two. We will also visit each stand (or representative stands if it is a large property) to discuss climate vulnerabilities and management approaches. This is a good chance to ask any questions about the plan format or content as well as property-specific issues. These site visits typically take 1.5 – 3 hours, depending on size of the property, climate vulnerability issues, and how many questions you may have.
 - b. Plan review – once you have a complete draft, send it to the Mass Audubon climate forestry expert for review. The completed landowner goals sheet should be included with the draft plan. They will provide feedback on communication around climate change impacts and forest vulnerabilities, as well as how the proposed management practices address these and carbon dynamics (See [Directions for Plan Preparation Climate Forestry](#) for requirements). They may also provide feedback on connecting management practices to landowner goals and minor grammar edits (typos etc.). Often, we ask that you send the revised version back for a second look before submission to DCR for approval.

4. Write a second climate plan on your own that is co-reviewed by Mass Audubon and DCR. Send your second completed plan to Mass Audubon. Mass Audubon will co-review the plan with the appropriate Service Forester. No site visit is required, but you may request one. Please submit the plan at least 2 months prior to the date the completed plan is due.

5. After review of the second plan and approval by DCR, you are certified to write climate plans for cost-share without Mass Audubon review. However, climate forestry experts continue to be available for consultation (questions, site visits, plan review) if desired. Do not hesitate to reach out.