

EEA Climate Team Quarterly Newsletter



Summer 2026

Welcome to the Summer issue of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Climate Team Newsletter, highlighting climate efforts and opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Our Climate Team looks forward to continued work together to build a stronger, healthier, cleaner Massachusetts!

We welcome your [feedback!](#)

News and Announcements



Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards More Than \$45 Million Through ECO One Stop to Advance Climate Resilience Projects

On August 13, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced more than \$45 million in grants to support 97 projects that will help communities across Massachusetts better withstand flooding, extreme heat, coastal erosion, and other climate impacts. The funding, awarded through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA's) new [Environment & Climate \(ECO\) One Stop program](#), will help strengthen infrastructure, restore and enhance natural resources, and improve public safety while making it easier to access state funding for climate resilience projects.

The administration announced the first round of ECO One Stop grant awards at Winter Island Park in Salem, where funding will support coastal bank restoration

that protects the shoreline from storm damage and erosion. The project will improve public safety and pedestrian access, restore native vegetation, and preserve archaeological and historic resources dating back 6,000 years.

The inaugural ECO One Stop pilot round includes eight state grant programs supporting projects that reduce climate risks and strengthen communities, including [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Action](#), [Dam & Seawall Repair or Removal](#), [Coastal Resilience](#), [Coastal Habitat and Water Quality](#), [Cooling Corridors](#), [Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance](#), [Culvert Replacement Training Site](#), and [Planning Assistance](#). A total of 97 projects received awards, including 71 municipal projects, 14 regional planning agencies, seven nonprofit organizations, two Tribes, and three other public entities.

We are excited to share the upcoming Expression of Interest (EOI) period for the FY28 round of the Environment & Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop). The EOI process is optional, but highly recommended, for applicants considering submitting an application to the FY28 ECO One Stop. Submitting an EOI allows applicants to provide a summary of their project idea and receive early feedback from relevant grant program staff before the formal application period begins in early 2027. This initial step is completed through a simple online form, which will be open from September 8th until October 16th at 11:59 PM ET.

This year, potential applicants can submit up to 2 EOIs (the equivalent of 2 project ideas), with the exception of Regional Planning Agencies, which are permitted to submit up to 4 EOIs. To help everyone understand how the ECO One Stop EOI process will work, EEA will be hosting a webinar that we encourage you and your partners to attend. The webinar will be held on Tuesday, September 15th, 11am-12pm.

To see the full list of projects and communities funded, visit the [ECO One Stop grants page](#).

Register for the ECO One Stop EOI Webinar

Healey-Driscoll Administration Announces First Statewide Heat Resilience Officer

As Massachusetts experiences hotter summers and more frequent, long-lasting heat waves, Governor Maura Healey announced the appointment of Katie Schlick as Massachusetts' first statewide [Heat Resilience Officer](#).

Massachusetts is the second state in the nation to establish a statewide position dedicated to extreme heat. Schlick will lead coordination across state government and work with communities to prepare for rising temperatures, protect public health and reduce the impacts of extreme heat.

Schlick will report jointly to Climate Chief Hoffer and Department of Public Health (DPH) Commissioner Robbie Goldstein, MD, PhD. She will also work closely with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, and all state agencies through the ResilientMass Action Team to improve preparedness for extreme heat events and support communities across Massachusetts. The position is funded through generous support from The Boston Foundation.

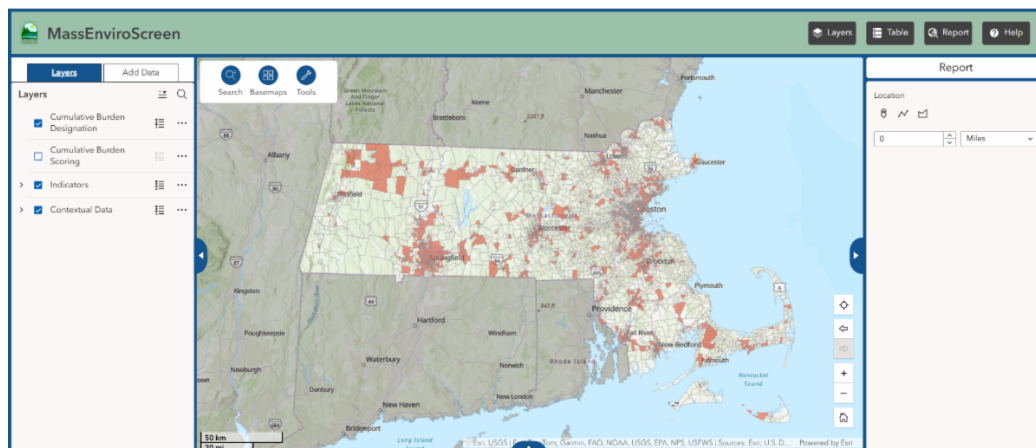
The Healey-Driscoll Administration remains committed to working across state secretariats to strengthen climate planning and coordination. The new Heat



MVP Launches First-Ever Regional Resilience Program to Advance Climate Resilience Projects Across Massachusetts

The Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program has launched its first-ever **Regional Resilience Program**, a two-year initiative designed to help Massachusetts Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) move regionally significant climate resilience projects from planning toward implementation. Developed in response to input from cities, towns, and RPA staff and identified as an action in the Commonwealth's [Resilient Finance Strategy](#), the program will help regions identify priority projects, build clear implementation pathways, and connect communities with funding and financing opportunities. Each participating RPA will establish a Regional Resilience Priorities Portfolio in partnership with municipalities, Tribal Governments, and regional stakeholders, with particular attention to engaging communities that have historically been less involved in resilience planning and implementation.

Over the course of the program, each RPA will develop implementation roadmaps for at least five high-priority regional projects and connect regional project pipelines with opportunities such as ECO One Stop, the Resilience Revolving Loan Fund proposed in the Governor's Mass Ready Act, and other state, federal, and private funding sources. In addition, representatives from each RPA will participate in a statewide training and peer-learning cohort focused on equity-centered engagement, project prioritization and design, implementation planning, community partnerships, and climate finance—building regional capacity while creating a stronger statewide network for sharing tools, lessons learned, and best practices.



MassEnviroScreen Now Final and Publicly Available

The EEA [Office of Environmental Justice and Equity](#) is pleased to announce that the [MassEnviroScreen](#) is final and publicly available. MassEnviroScreen is a GIS-based mapping tool developed by OEJE to support Cumulative Impact Analysis and Site Suitability Assessments under the Commonwealth's clean energy infrastructure siting and permitting regulations. This tool brings together environmental, climate, health, and socioeconomic data to help identify communities that experience higher environmental burdens and social vulnerabilities.

To learn more about MassEnviroScreen, including how it operates, please visit the [MassEnviroScreen StoryMap](#), and the full [MassEnviroScreen Technical Documentation](#).



Public Universities and Facilities Harness \$23 Million for Geothermal, Heat Pump, and Energy Efficiency Projects

In July, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$23 million in grants to support nine large-scale projects that will replace fossil fuel systems with clean energy technologies at public colleges and state facilities across Massachusetts. The awards will support projects at University of Massachusetts Dartmouth, University of Massachusetts Boston, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Massachusetts Maritime Academy, Salem State University, and the Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Developmental Services. By covering up to 45 percent of project costs, the funding will help accelerate construction, reduce upfront expenses, and allow several projects to expand their scope to reduce pollution.

The grants were awarded under DOER's [Leading by Example \(LBE\) Decarbonization Implementation Grant Program \(DIG\)](#). The program helps state agencies and public colleges and universities replace fossil fuel equipment with cleaner technologies, advancing the greenhouse gas reduction goals established under the Leading By Example Executive Order.

Together, the projects are expected to reduce annual GHG emissions by approximately 21,000 metric tons, or 625,000 metric tons over the projects' lifetime. That is equivalent to the emissions from consuming more than 1.4 million barrels of oil or driving roughly 145,000 gasoline-powered cars for one year.



Massachusetts and Northeast Partners Announce Recommendations to Advance Offshore Transmission Solutions

In June, Massachusetts joined eight Northeast states to announce [three landmark reports](#) on technical standards and policy recommendations for advancing the deployment of high-voltage direct current (HVDC) technologies and standards for multi-state offshore transmission networks. The reports were developed by the Planning Offshore Interregional Network Standardization (POINTS) Consortium — a research consortium launched in 2025 to develop best practices and harmonized standards for offshore transmission planning and development. The reports lay the technical and policy foundation for a unified, interoperable offshore transmission grid along the U.S. Atlantic Coast that will reduce costs and promote reliability.

“Massachusetts is continuing to work with Atlantic states to support our offshore wind industry – and that means developing strategies for coordinated transmission investment among states,” said Massachusetts Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “As offshore wind deployment continues along the East Coast, developing common technical standards for transmission infrastructure will help reduce costs, improve coordination across regions, and bring us closer to a more integrated offshore transmission network.”

The POINTS Consortium developed the [recommendations](#) with support from the U.S. DOE, technical experts, and other organizations. The research finds that greater coordination across transmission planning, procurement, equipment standardization, and modernized reliability frameworks can help reduce infrastructure costs, strengthen supply chains, improve grid reliability, and accelerate the deployment of offshore energy resources. The release of these reports represents a key milestone in advancing interregional transmission pathways that can maximize the benefits of offshore wind deployment for consumers while strengthening grid reliability and resilience across the Northeast.

Protecting New Construction from Future Climate Conditions

Over the past six months, the [Board of Building Regulations and Standards \(BBRS\) Climate Resiliency Subcommittee](#) has been working to strengthen flood resilience as Massachusetts develops the 11th Edition of the State Building Code. The Subcommittee—chaired by EEA Assistant Secretary for Resilience Mia Mansfield, with CZM's Rebecca Haney serving as Subcommittee secretary—brings together state, municipal, engineering, architecture, building code, and development

expertise to review changes in national model codes and consider Massachusetts-specific improvements. Building on years of state and local work on flood loss, climate projections, and resilient design, EEA and partner agencies brought forward five proposals addressing key issues including flood design elevations, new dwelling units in flood-prone areas, coastal construction certification, and extending flood-resistant construction standards to portions of the mapped 0.2% (500-year) floodplain.

This spring and summer, the Subcommittee reviewed and voted to advance all five flood resilience proposals introduced by EEA. Together, this work represents important progress toward a building code that better protects Massachusetts residents, communities, and buildings from current and future flood risks. Proposals advanced by the Subcommittee will next move to the full BBRS for consideration as part of the 11th Edition process, with an opportunity for public comment anticipated as that process moves forward.

[Click for notice and minutes of past and upcoming meetings.](#)



Healey-Driscoll Administration Celebrates Milestone of Permanently Preserving More Than 1,000 Farm Properties in Massachusetts

In May, the Healey-Driscoll Administration celebrated the preservation of more than 1,000 farms through its [Agricultural Preservation Restriction \(APR\) program](#). For nearly 50 years, the APR program, administered by the Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR), has helped protect farmland across the state. It was the first program of its kind in the nation and has permanently preserved more than 75,000 acres, supporting the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts.

"Massachusetts farmers feed our communities, strengthen our local economy and preserve the landscapes that define so many parts of our state," said Governor Maura Healey. "For nearly 50 years, the APR program has helped keep farmland affordable and in agricultural use for future generations. Reaching this milestone of more than 1,000 permanently protected farms reflects our commitment to supporting local agriculture, protecting our food supply and ensuring farming continues to thrive across Massachusetts."

The APR program works by partnering with local land trusts, municipalities, and the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation

Service (NRCS) to protect farmland. Through the program, landowners are paid the difference between the “fair market value” and the “agricultural value” of their land in exchange for a permanent restriction that keeps the land in agriculture. This approach makes farmland more affordable and accessible for farmers, strengthens the local food system, and protects natural resources and biodiversity across the state. Because the land is valued for agriculture, it remains more affordable when it is sold, helping ensure future farmers can continue to work the land.

Legislative and Policy Updates



Governor Healey Lays Out Energy Affordability Priorities

On July 31, Governor Maura Healey called for swift action and passage of her energy affordability legislation to lower energy bills and rein in utility spending. [In a letter to members of the conference committee negotiating the final bill](#), the Governor demanded the utilities stop fighting customer refunds and urged lawmakers to move quickly after their initial meeting to deliver relief for Massachusetts households and businesses by changing how utilities do business, getting charges off bills, and building more local sources of energy.

“It is absolutely outrageous that, at a time when the people of Massachusetts are struggling to pay their energy bills, utility spending, profits and shareholder payouts are skyrocketing,” **said Governor Healey**. “Enough is enough. Massachusetts ratepayers shouldn’t be footing the bill for unnecessary utility spending or excessive profits. Passing my energy affordability legislation will ensure ratepayers are getting the best deal for energy, eliminate unnecessary charges from people’s bills, rein in utility spending and profits, and lower costs. Utilities also need to drop their legal challenges to our efforts to return money to consumers and stop seeking rate hikes that people simply can’t afford.”

“Our energy affordability legislation meets the moment we are in,” said **Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper**. “Our administration is ready to act to implement this critical legislation. We’re ready to strike charges, procure more energy, and increase oversight over utility spending.”

Since Governor Healey filed her [energy affordability legislation](#) in May 2025, Massachusetts gas and electric utilities have continued seeking higher profits, increasing shareholder payouts, opposing efforts to rein in spending, and pursuing additional rate increases.

Governor Healey's energy affordability legislation gives the state new tools to lower energy bills by bringing more affordable energy online, reducing unnecessary costs for customers, and holding utilities accountable for excessive spending and profits. In her letter to the conference committee, she highlights key provisions that should remain in the bill to reduce costs, strengthen oversight and help deliver more affordable, reliable energy across Massachusetts. This includes changing how energy is purchased to get the best deals, eliminating fees and profit adders paid to utilities, getting charges off bills, avoiding unnecessary utility spending, bringing more energy into Massachusetts faster and more affordably and allowing the DPU to initiate audits of the utilities. Governor Healey also urged the committee to include protections for ratepayers, communities and the environment from higher costs and other negative impacts driven by data centers, in keeping with her recently released [framework](#).

Massachusetts Grant Program Updates

Build for Mass: Low-Cost Lending Program for Municipal Infrastructure Projects

The Commonwealth has launched [Build for Mass](#), its first general municipal infrastructure lending program. The initiative will provide Massachusetts municipalities with flexible, low-interest financing to address funding gaps, advance priority projects, and maximize access to federal resources. Housed at MassDevelopment, Build for Mass includes two revolving loan programs that help municipalities, especially Gateway Cities and rural communities, move critical projects from planning to completion:

- General Loan Program:
 - Low-cost financing for projects supported by federal funding, including economic development, transportation, clean energy, climate resilience, and other critical municipal infrastructure improvements.
- Green Loan Program:
 - Bridge financing for municipal ground source heat pump and battery storage projects that qualify for the federal Direct Pay program, enabling municipalities and eligible entities to cover upfront project costs and receive IRS Section 48 tax credits upon project completion.

To learn more, visit [Build for Mass](#).

Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards More Than \$2.2 Million for Landscape Conservation Projects Across Massachusetts

The Healey-Driscoll Administration recently announced over \$2.2 million to protect forests, drinking water supplies, and critical natural landscapes across Massachusetts. Through the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Landscape Partnership Grant Program, three projects in Franklin, Hampshire and Plymouth counties will conserve more than 1,600 acres of land, improve access to outdoor recreation, strengthen climate resilience and protect wildlife habitat.

The program also supports the Healey-Driscoll Administration's ["Forests as Climate Solutions Initiative"](#), which aims to protect critically important forests. These initiatives are key components of the administration's [Mass Ready Act](#), demonstrating the Healey-Driscoll Administration's commitment to promoting a clean environment that benefits residents. Land conservation is one of several

strategies the state is advancing to reduce pollution, help cool communities, and prevent the loss of plant and animal species across Massachusetts.

Established in 2011, the [Landscape Partnership Grant Program](#) supports large-scale, multi-partner projects that sustain ecological integrity, promote local economies that depend upon natural resources, and expand public outdoor recreational opportunities. This year's awards will conserve over 1,600 acres and are part of the administration's efforts to build climate change resilience and protect critical natural landscapes.

Massachusetts Awarded Grants for Enhancing MA Grid Resilience and Reliability

The Commonwealth has been awarded approximately \$13.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) under the formula grant opportunity "[Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid](#)," established by Section 40101(d) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Increased electricity demand and more severe weather events pose a challenge to Massachusetts' grid infrastructure and state energy users. This program funds projects to enhance the resilience of the electric grid, prevent outages, and mitigate the impact of disruptive events.

In collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER), [MassCEC developed a program](#) that aims to:

- Identify and fund projects that can improve energy reliability and resilience, while reducing the cost and number of outages for communities and underserved populations
- Support clean energy and decarbonization solutions, including building electrification
- Advance MassCEC and DOER equity, environmental and energy justice priorities
- Create good-paying jobs with the free and fair choice to join a union

Healey-Driscoll Administration Celebrates Removal of Whitney Pond Dam in Ashburnham

On July 14, the Healey-Driscoll Administration and Town of Ashburnham joined state, local, and nonprofit partners to celebrate the restoration of a free-flowing Whitman River for the first time in generations. The [removal of the Whitney Pond Dam marks a major milestone for river health](#), public safety, and climate resilience in central Massachusetts.

"From the beginning, it was clear the Whitney Pond Dam removal would bring lasting benefits to the community, which is why we were proud to support it every step along the way," said **Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Rebecca Tepper**. "The project removes aging, outdated infrastructure to restore the river's natural flow, improves public safety, and creates healthier habitat for fish and wildlife. Projects like this will help the community prepare for future flooding and the impacts of climate change."

Over several years, project partners invested significant resources to remove the aging dam, restore the river, and establish the new Whitney Pond Dam Conservation Area, which features trails, benches, and educational signage for visitors. In addition to more than \$60,000 in funding from the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), the \$1.4 million project received state investments from the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program, the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

Program (MVP), and the Executive Office of Economic Development's Inland Dredge Pilot Program. A priority project for the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), the state supported permitting and construction, provided technical expertise, and project assistance to advance design and implementation to address safety concerns, restore natural river processes, and create new public access at the site.



EEA Climate Team Engagement



Drive Electric Massachusetts Symposium

Mark Scribner, Policy Advisor for Transportation Decarbonization with the Climate Team, was recently featured in an interview at the [2026 Drive Electric Massachusetts Symposium](#), which brought together more than 200 leaders from across the public, private, nonprofit, and clean energy sectors. Mark discussed Massachusetts' strategy for transportation decarbonization, including efforts to expand electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure across the Commonwealth. He also highlighted the policies and public-private partnerships helping advance transportation electrification and support Massachusetts' broader clean energy goals. The interview provides an accessible look at the opportunities and challenges shaping the future of electric transportation in Massachusetts.



Shore Drive Greenway Groundbreaking

With help from our MVP Program, the new Shore Drive Greenway in Somerville will add shade trees, green infrastructure, and a shared-use path to help reduce urban heat and create a greener public space along the Mystic River. The project includes a 12-foot-wide shared path to be constructed through Blessing of the Bay Park, providing easier access to the Mystic River and nearby jobs, public transit, and community resources.

The climate-resilient design features 85 new trees, and 1,520 square feet of native plantings. Underground green stormwater infrastructure will lower urban heat levels, improve air quality, capture carbon, and buffer traffic noise for both commuters and recreational users.



Curiosity Podcast

Katherine Antos, Undersecretary of Resilience and Decarbonization at the EEA, recently joined the [Curiosity Podcast](#) to discuss what it means for Massachusetts to be resilient in the face of climate change.



Framingham Networked Geothermal Field Trip

Climate Team members recently visited Framingham to learn more about the city's innovative networked geothermal energy system. The field trip included a presentation from the City of Framingham, Eversource, and HEET, followed by a tour of the geothermal pump house. The Eversource pilot, which provides clean heating and cooling to more than 35 buildings, offers a promising model for expanding networked geothermal energy and advancing the Commonwealth's climate and clean energy goals.

Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Opportunities

*Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming newsletters?
Submit to patrick.forde@mass.gov.*

Events and Opportunities

- **Athol MassECAN Field Trip:** Join Mass ECAN, the MVP Program, DER, and local project partners from the City of Athol and BSC Group at the Mill Brook Crossing/Lord Pond Plaza in Athol from 10am-12pm on September 16! (Rain date: September 17). We'll learn about the innovative work in this commercial area to address stormwater and heat through stream daylighting and restoration. We'll hear about the community support that made it possible to create new green space right in downtown Athol.
- **2026 MARPA & DLS Statewide Municipal Partnerships Conference:** Please join the Massachusetts Association of Regional Planning Agencies (MARPA) and the Division of Local Services (DLS) at the 2026 MARPA and DLS Conference. Hear from local, state, and regional thought leaders on a range of topics including housing, transportation, climate, municipal finance, and more. On October 5, 2026, 9:00am-12:30pm at the College of the Holy Cross.
- **2026 Dam Busters Conference:** Join Massachusetts Rivers Alliance on September 18th, 2026 at Regis College in Weston, MA for a free, in-person, interactive conference designed to expand dam removal capacity and encourage collaboration between dam removal practitioners.
- **Massachusetts Cultural Districts Initiative Funding Opportunity:** Mass Cultural Council's Cultural Districts Initiative is accepting applications for new district designations, expanding its existing network of 58 state-designated Cultural Districts. Cultural Districts drive economic growth, strengthen our distinctive local character, and improve the quality of life of families across Massachusetts. Applications are due by February 8, 2027.
- **Volunteer for Coast Sweep:** COASTSWEEP is the statewide beach cleanup organized by the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM). Most cleanups are held in September and October, with a few in late August and into November. Volunteering is easy. You can sign up for a cleanup or organize one of your own. COASTSWEEP is part of the International Coastal Cleanup coordinated by Ocean Conservancy in Washington, DC. Volunteers from all over the world collect marine debris—trash, fishing line, and any other human-made items—and categorize and tally what they find. This information is then used to help discover marine debris sources and find solutions to this problem. Over the last 39 years, over 114 thousand dedicated COASTSWEEP volunteers have removed more than 1.4 million pounds of marine debris from Massachusetts shores.
- **Healthy Air Network:** The Public Health Institute of Western Massachusetts is excited to share that the Healthy Air Network has officially launched AirWatch, a mobile app designed to provide real-time, hyper-local air quality information to communities across the region.

- **MEMA: Building Hazard Preparedness into Climate Resiliency:** Join the EBC Climate Change Committee for a webinar series exploring how Massachusetts state agencies are turning key insights from their past work into action in 2026 and beyond. September 9, 2026, 11:45AM-1:00PM.
- **EEAC 2028-2030 Workshops:** The Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC or Council) guides the development and monitors the implementation of Massachusetts' nation-leading energy efficiency plans by the state's investor-owned electric and gas utilities and municipal aggregators with certified efficiency plans. The EEAC will be holding four online workshops, via Zoom Webinar, to develop its priorities for the 2028-2030 Three-Year Plan. These workshops are instrumental for the EEAC to develop recommendations and comments on the PAs development of the Three-Year Plan.
- **Governor's Youth Climate Council:** We are excited to announce that applications are now open for the 2026-2027 Youth Climate Council! This is an incredible opportunity for passionate and driven young individuals from across the state to engage with each other and the Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience on Massachusetts climate policy. YCC will meet monthly over Zoom from September 2026 through May 2027 with opportunities for in person events throughout the year. The application will close Friday, September 11 at 11:59pm. Please reach out to Nadira Khan (nadira.khan@mass.gov) with any questions.
- **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council (EVICC Meeting):** Join the Council meeting on September 9 from 1-3pm to hear updates on EV charging programs and begin scoping the third Assessment to the legislature on ways to improve EV charging access across the state.
- **FY28 ECO One Stop EOI Webinar:** This webinar will provide an overview of the Expression of Interest (EOI) submission and feedback process, including new updates made to the process for this year's round. EEA staff will discuss the EOI submission form, the feedback call process, and will reserve time to answer attendee questions. This webinar will be recorded and posted online for those who cannot attend live. If you have questions about the webinar, please send them to ecoonestop@mass.gov. Tuesday, September 15th, 11am-12pm.
- **Siting and Permitting 101: Large Clean Energy Infrastructure Projects:** The Department's Public Participation and Siting Divisions will present an overview of the Energy Facilities Siting Board's (EFSB) new siting and permitting process. The webinar will cover each phase of the process, from pre-filing consultation and engagement to the conclusion of the adjudicatory proceeding. The webinar will highlight opportunities for public participation and intervening in a proceeding, review key changes under the new regulations, and offer a look into how the EFSB evaluates projects and reaches its decisions. September 17th, 12:00pm.
- **September 2026 Electric Connections Improvements Forum:** EEA is hosting the second semi-annual Electric Connections Improvements Forum on Tuesday, September 15, 2026, at 1:00 PM. The event will be held in person at 1 Ashburton Place, Boston, MA 02108, on the 2nd floor in Conference Rooms C, D and E. At the second forum, the electric utilities will provide updates on their progress in addressing pain points in the grid connection process identified by participants at the previous forum in March. The utilities will also provide information and answer questions about their flexible interconnection offerings. Flexible interconnection can allow buildings and energy projects to connect to the electric grid sooner and, in some cases, avoid or defer costly grid upgrades by adjusting electricity production or consumption during periods of grid congestion.
- **Dam Removal Preliminary Design Services:** DER is now seeking applications for an upcoming opportunity for dam removal preliminary design studies. These studies will help landowners and partners assess opportunities and constraints during early planning phases of potential aquatic habitat restoration and climate resilience projects. DER is interested in dam removal projects that are at an early stage of development and/or decision-making. Selected projects will be eligible to receive technical assistance from DER staff and DER-led contracted technical services from qualified vendors. Applications are due September 28th, 2026 at 5pm.

Tools and Resources

- **Resilience Finance Guidebook:** The Resilience Finance Guidebook for Local Governments provides a practical framework to help local governments move resilience projects from planning to implementation. Developed by ICLEI USA and Duke University's Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment & Sustainability, the guide helps practitioners identify barriers, communicate project value, and align resilience initiatives with funding, financing, and investment strategies.
- **Statewide Climate Funding Opportunities:** This database contains timely information and links for all available statewide climate resilience, mitigation, and environmental funding opportunities in Massachusetts.
- **Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Metrics:** Public resources that provide key information and performance indicators relevant to Massachusetts' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECP).
- **ResilientMass Maps and Data Center:** ResilientMass was created by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to support the Commonwealth with climate change science and tools. This maps and data center features interactive applications to explore the latest statewide climate data and projections curated to support climate resilience in Massachusetts. Learn more about how Resilient Mass bolsters resilience with climate data and tools [here](#).
- **Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Climate Grant Viewer:** This map viewer will allow you to explore grants awarded by several EEA grant programs that address climate change preparedness, adaptation and/or resilience to increasing temperatures, changing precipitation, extreme weather events, and sea level rise.
- **Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience (GEAR) Map:** Originally designed to be used with and accessed through the GEAR guides for the MVP 2.0 pilot process, this interactive mapping tool is also now available on the Maps and Data Center page for use

by the general public for all planning and grant application support. [Visit the 'Maps and Data Gallery' section](#) to access this tool.

- [MVP 2.0 Video Series](#): The MVP 2.0 Video Series explains how the MVP program is evolving to help communities integrate equity into their climate resilience planning and translate priorities into concrete local action. The series highlights three core elements of this process: compensated community liaisons, innovative public engagement methods, and the implementation of high-impact seed projects.

Contact the EEA Climate Team

The EEA Climate Team, led by Undersecretary Katherine Antos, seeks to stem the state's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare Massachusetts communities to be resilient to the effects of a changing climate.

For direct contact information, you can reference our team directory here: [EEA Climate Team](#)

[Contact and Staff Directory](#)



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