

# EEA Climate Team Quarterly Newsletter



Fall 2025

Welcome to another 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 Celebrates Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Awardees**

Recently, Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll, Senator Jo Comerford, Senator Paul Mark, Representative Lindsey Sabadosa, and Undersecretary of Decarbonization and Resilience Katherine Antos joined the Town of Williamsburg and the Trustees of Reservations to celebrate [nearly \\$30 million in Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness grants](#) at the Beaver Brook property.

This past September, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) awarded 54 grants to communities, Tribal governments and regional planning agencies to prepare for extreme weather, including heat waves, flooding, wildfires and storms. The administration gathered at the site of the Williamsburg Flood Resilience Project. Williamsburg was devastated after the 2023 floods, and this project will include rewilding a former golf course to help mitigate future flooding.

The MVP Program is Massachusetts' flagship climate resilience program to help

cities, towns and Tribes plan and implement locally-driven strategies to deal with the immediate and long-term impacts of climate change. The program goes beyond funding plans – it helps communities turn those plans into action. Since its inception in 2017, MVP has funded over 500 projects ranging from stormwater system upgrades and cooling shelters to updated zoning and green infrastructure.

The MVP program is also a core piece of Governor Healey's recently proposed Mass Ready Act, which includes \$642 million to prepare for inland and coastal flooding and \$388 million to invest in climate readiness. MVP is a priority program of ResilientMass, the statewide climate adaptation plan to reduce risk and strengthen communities in the face of climate change impacts. ResilientMass identified damage to buildings and infrastructure from inland flooding and large rainstorms as one of the most urgent impacts of climate change in Massachusetts.

## **Reduced Heat Pump Electricity Rates Available for Households Across Massachusetts**

Recently, the Healey-Driscoll Administration joined with Eversource, National Grid and Unitil to raise awareness about new electric heat pump rates as the winter heating season begins. Governor Maura Healey called for expanded heat pump rates in her [Energy Affordability Agenda](#) announced in March. Starting this winter, the seasonal reduced rates are available to residential customers of the three major utilities who heat their homes with heat pumps, one of the most efficient forms of heating.

Over 100,000 customers who have installed heat pumps after January 1, 2019, and received a Mass Save incentive were automatically enrolled in the heat pump rate, starting November 1, 2025. Close collaboration between Eversource, National Grid and Unitil – under the direction of the Healey-Driscoll Administration – has made this benefit possible.

### **How It Works**

A heat pump is a heating and cooling system that moves heat indoors in the winter and draws heat outdoors in the summer. Because they transfer heat, rather than generating it, heat pumps can be up to three times as energy efficient as conventional boilers or furnaces. An air-source heat pump – the most common type of heat pump – can reduce your electricity use for heating by up to 75 percent compared to electric resistance heating, such as baseboard heaters. High-efficiency heat pumps also dehumidify better than standard central air conditioners, resulting in less energy usage and more comfort in summer months.

These seasonal rates are lower than the standard base distribution rates from the electric utilities. The new rates for heat pump households will have no financial impact on other electric customers: non-heat pump households will not pay more for electricity this winter because of the new rate.

For more information about the heat pump rate, please visit [MassSave.com/heat-pump-rate](https://masssave.com/heat-pump-rate).



## **Healey-Driscoll Administration Releases Comprehensive Strategy for Coastal Protection**

Recently, the Healey-Driscoll Administration released the final [ResilientCoasts Plan](#) – a comprehensive statewide strategy designed to help coastal communities protect residents, strengthen local infrastructure, and safeguard Massachusetts' natural resources.

Developed with direct input from local officials, residents, and regional partners, the plan provides practical, community-driven steps to prepare for future storms, flooding, sea level rise, and erosion – while saving taxpayers billions through smart investments made now.

Research shows that every \$1 invested in resilience can yield about \$13 in benefits and avoided recovery costs, and communities that delay action risk losing up to \$33 in future economic activity for every dollar not invested. The ResilientCoasts Plan supports cities and towns in planning and prioritizing the projects that matter most – stronger shorelines, better storm protection, and safer roads.

The plan is designed to support local decision-making and make it easier for towns and regions to access funding, share data, and coordinate projects. It lays out the steps to protect people and property, strengthen infrastructure, and preserve natural buffers like dunes, wetlands, and salt marshes that reduce flood risks.

## **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council (EVICC) Releases Second Assessment**

In August 2022, [An Act Driving Clean Energy and Offshore Wind](#) (Act) was signed into law. Recognizing the need for Massachusetts to develop a comprehensive plan for transportation emission reduction, the [Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council \(EVICC\)](#) was established pursuant to Section 81 of the Act to develop strategies resulting in an equitable, interconnected, accessible and reliable electric vehicle (EV) charging network in Massachusetts. EVICC is required to report on these strategies to the legislature through a formal assessment submitted every two years (Assessment).

The EVICC released its Second Assessment and filed it with the legislature as required by law on August 11, 2025. The Second Assessment provides a detailed look at the current state of EV charging in Massachusetts, estimates of EV charging and associated electric grid needs in 2030 and 2035, and strategic actions to deliver

an equitable, interconnected, accessible, and reliable EV charging network in Massachusetts. More information on this assessment and its development is available on the [Second EVICC Assessment webpage](#).

## **Climate Resilience Playbook Wins American Planning Association Award**

The EEA is proud to share that the American Planning Association - Massachusetts Chapter (APA-MA) Awards Committee has selected the “[Climate Resilience Playbook: Implementation Guidance and Resources for Massachusetts Municipalities](#)” to receive the prestigious 2025 APA-MA President’s Award!

The Playbook is being recognized for its essential, practical approach to municipal climate adaptation. Learn more about this project and search actions your community can take to prepare for the impacts of climate change: [Climate Resilience Playbook](#). This award will be formally presented at the APA-MA Annual Awards & Holiday Luncheon on Friday December 5, 2025

## **Legislative Updates**



### **Mass Ready Act**

The [Mass Ready Act](#), officially *An Act to build resilience for Massachusetts communities*, is a comprehensive environmental bond bill filed in June and currently before the Joint Committee on Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), which will advance to the Joint Committee on Bonding if favorably reported. Mass Ready authorizes \$3 billion to strengthen infrastructure, invest in local economies and protect water and nature. The legislation also includes significant policy proposals, including establishing a Resilience Revolving Fund to finance projects that protect communities; requiring building owners to disclose flood risk to prospective buyers and renters; incorporating expertise on climate risk, resilient design and housing production into the state building code; and streamlining permits for priority resilience and housing projects. EEA is further advancing streamlining through proposed amendments to the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) regulations (301 CMR 11.00) designed to expedite the review of housing projects.



The public comment period on the draft regulations closed on November 10, and EEA expects to finalize the regulations in early 2026.

## **Energy Affordability Act**

The Healey-Driscoll Administration's [\*\*Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act\*\*](#) will save residents and businesses money, bring more energy in Massachusetts, and increase accountability. The central goal of the bill is to reduce costs for residents and businesses by getting certain expenses off bills and creating greater accountability within the energy sector. The bill received a hearing on June 25 and was before the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy (TUE). On Monday, November 10, the House side of the TUE Committee released its version of the bill, and now it is before the House Ways and Means Committee. As the legislative process plays out, the Administration is moving ahead with its [\*\*Affordability Agenda\*\*](#) to decrease bill costs through administrative actions that do not require statutory approval.

## **Legislative Timeline**

This session, the legislature is adhering to newly created Joint Rules that were published June 23, 2025. It is important to note that the Joint Rules do not apply to bills filed by the Governor. Therefore, the Mass Ready Act and Energy Affordability Act may move on a different timeline. According to these rules, all other bills should be reported out of their committee of origin by the first Wednesday in December (Dec 3, 2025). Therefore, we should see more bill movement this winter. Please click [\*\*here\*\*](#) to view other upcoming legislative deadlines.

# **Massachusetts Grant Program Updates**

## **Environment & Climate One Stop (ECO One Stop) Launched**

The [\*\*ECO One Stop\*\*](#) is a new, streamlined grant application for climate and environmental resilience projects in Massachusetts. This initiative consolidates multiple EEA grant applications into one application system.

The ECO One Stop provides eligible applicants with a simplified, single point of entry for various climate and environmental resilience grants. This integrated process includes:

- Expression of Interest (EOI): An optional, but highly recommended, initial step to share your project idea and receive early feedback.
- Centralized Grant Application: A single application to be considered for multiple funding opportunities.
- Strategic Funding Identification: EEA will work to match as many projects as possible with the most suitable funding source.

The EOI process recently closed after receiving over 500 EOIs, and EEA expects to open for formal applications through its new [\*\*Grants Management System\*\*](#) in January 2026.

## **MassDOT Launches Community Culvert Grant Program**

MassDOT is launching a new [\*\*Community Culvert Program\*\*](#) to provide funding to municipalities for the modernization, repair, replacement, removal, and improved resiliency of culverts. Tribal governments are also eligible to apply. To be considered for funding, the existing culvert must be on a public way with an existing span of 10 feet or less. Both new and ongoing projects will be considered for funding. Design and construction projects will be considered.

Projects will be selected based primarily on technical merit and need, as well as

meaningful community, ecological, resilience, and transportation benefits. Applications will be accepted for the Community Culvert Grant Program **November 6-January 9**. It is anticipated grant awards will be made in Winter of 2026 (before the 2026 construction season begins).

## **DOER Transforming Energy in Schools Initiative (TESI) Program Opportunity Notice**

The DOER Transforming Energy in Schools Initiative (TESI) Program Opportunity Notice is now open. A total of \$57 million is available to support full or substantial decarbonization of schools located in low-income communities. The program aims to demonstrate equitable, cost-efficient pathways to upgrade a variety of school building types and provide models for the Commonwealth to continue to support equitable access to healthy and resilient schools. Program benefits include lower energy costs for school districts, pollution reductions, local workforce development opportunities, improved learning facilities, and community and/or neighborhood benefits.

Application submissions are **due at 5:00 PM on December 5, 2025**. The application is on: [COMMBUYS - Bid Solicitation](#).

## **MVP 2.0 FY26 Grant Applications Now Open**

The EEA has opened applications for the FY26 round of the [MVP Planning 2.0 \("MVP 2.0"\) grant](#). MVP 2.0 is an innovative new grant program that builds on the work communities have done to date, and supports communities with new processes, tools, and resources for building local and regional resilience. Through MVP 2.0, communities will revisit resilience priorities with a focus on equity and translate those priorities into action through project development and implementation support.

MVP 2.0 applications are **due by 11:59 p.m. ET on Monday, December 15, 2025** (via the [EEA Grants Management System](#), see RFR for details).

## **EEA Climate Team Engagement**

Our climate team has been visiting businesses, institutions and organizers to ensure we're hearing and seeing first-hand project realities and on-the-ground experiences. Below are a few great examples of where the team recently connected with these invaluable external perspectives.



**Cala Systems Tour:** The team toured Cala Systems to examine their advanced, intelligent heat pump water heaters. This technology combines sensors and predictive controls to learn household hot water needs, optimizing usage to improve comfort, maximize savings, and minimize carbon emissions. Key features discussed included the system's innovative ability to integrate seamlessly with residential solar and battery systems.

**Chinatown Community Tour:** A tour led by the Asian Community



Development Corporation (ACDC) provided crucial insight into the history of Boston's Chinatown and the ongoing climate and environmental justice concerns facing the neighborhood. The engagement focused specifically on challenges related to heat resilience and the preservation and development of open space within the densely populated community.

**UMass Amherst Site Visit:** A comprehensive visit to the UMass Amherst campus allowed the team to learn about the institution's ambitious efforts to reduce emissions and transition toward an all-electric campus. The discussion centered on the far-reaching scope and scale of the current series of decarbonization projects UMass Amherst is implementing, which serve as a model for large-scale institutional transformation.



## Winter Energy Preparedness



### Winter Energy Price Spike Communications Toolkit

Energy prices in Massachusetts typically increase in the winter due to the combination of regional gas supply constraints and most of our electricity generation and heating for homes and businesses relying on gas.

Winter 2025-26 is no different. Overall energy price increases continue to impact affordability for millions of residents across the Commonwealth already burdened by the high inflation of the past few years. Assistance programs for heating bills and discounts on electricity and gas bills are available for many residents but hundreds of thousands of residents are expected to not be enrolled.

Created by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), the [Winter Energy](#)

[Price Spike Communications Toolkit](#) is a communications and social media resource to help municipalities keep your communities informed about available opportunities to assist with high cost electric, gas, and heating bills.

Other resources you will find in the Toolkit include:

- [Resources for Residents Within Your Community](#) (how to reduce utility costs, municipal aggregation, etc)
- [Social Media Sample Posts](#)
- [Links to Additional Resources](#) (HEAP, fuel price information, Mass Save, etc.)

## Planting Seeds of Resilience: Communities Lead the Way with MVP 2.0 Seed Projects

Across Massachusetts, communities are stepping up with bold, creative solutions to adapt to the changes in climate of today and tomorrow. With the launch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0, a program designed to supercharge local resilience, towns and cities are piloting innovative seed projects that tackle everything from food insecurity to flood prevention, from community cooling hubs to Indigenous-led housing design.

These seed projects are not just about preparing for climate change—they're about reimagining and investing in what thriving, equitable, and connected communities can become in the years ahead.

### Community Centers Become Resilience Anchors

From **Chesterfield** to **Ashland**, towns are transforming existing community centers into lifelines during emergencies. These centers will provide clean water, cooling during heat waves, fresh food storage, and even device charging stations during power outages. By building on spaces that residents already trust and use, communities are making resilience accessible, familiar, and reliable.

**Arlington** is going one step further, creating a network of safe spaces where residents can escape extreme heat while accessing critical social services—from healthcare to mental health support. Meanwhile, **Milford** is reimagining its parks as resilience hubs, turning recreational spaces into centers of communication, resource-sharing, and connection.

### Growing Food Security and Justice

Food resilience is a central theme across MVP 2.0 projects. In **Sutton** and **Abington**, community gardens are sprouting up to supply fresh produce to food pantries while fostering intergenerational learning and healthier lifestyles. **Lincoln** is weaving together local farms, food pantries, and growers into a comprehensive food justice and agricultural development program—tackling food deserts and strengthening local economies.

**Northampton** is piloting a fresh food delivery program for vulnerable residents, and **Cohasset** is building collaborative governance around food justice to unite schools, farms, gardeners, and the local food bank. These initiatives ensure that resilience means not just survival, but nourishment, equity, and thriving communities.

### Forests and Trees as Living Solutions

Forests are becoming classrooms, laboratories, and protectors in towns like **Windsor**, which is creating a 100-acre educational forest to research wildfire defense, conservation, and carbon mitigation. **Charlton**, with Indigenous partners,



is co-designing a long-term forest management plan and policy to guide stewardship for decades to come.

Smaller-scale but equally impactful, **Uxbridge** is planting a pocket forest to restore habitat, improve stormwater absorption, and cool the community, while **Chelmsford** is launching a tree planting campaign with a strong focus on equity—prioritizing neighborhoods most vulnerable to heat and least shaded by trees.

Housing, Energy, and Innovative Infrastructure

### **Housing and Resilience**

Communities are also tackling the intersection of housing and resilience. The **Hassanamisco Nipmuc Band** is piloting climate-adaptive and affordable housing models rooted in Indigenous knowledge. **Belchertown** and **South Hadley** are embedding resilience directly into housing trust bylaws to ensure affordability and sustainability go hand in hand.

Meanwhile, **Montague** is hosting a community build to create insulated window inserts that make homes more energy efficient for years to come—a low-cost, high-impact solution. **Maynard** is rolling out green stormwater infrastructure to address flooding challenges, while **Deerfield** is conducting watershed studies to better understand and mitigate chronic flooding in town centers.

### **Building Communication and Community Power**

From **Goshen's** equity-centered Resiliency Hub to Reading's expanded communication networks, MVP 2.0 projects recognize that resilience depends on people being informed, connected, and empowered. **Westport** is even distributing emergency kits with educational materials to ensure residents—especially those in environmental justice neighborhoods—have the knowledge and tools they need before disaster strikes.

And in **Sudbury**, the next generation is taking the lead: a youth-driven climate adaptation initiative is putting young people at the center of resilience planning, giving them the tools to lead projects today while building the framework for tomorrow's community capacity.

### **A New Era of Local Climate Leadership**

Together, these seed projects demonstrate the vision of MVP 2.0: community-driven, equity-centered, and innovation-focused resilience. By investing in these locally designed solutions, Massachusetts is planting the seeds of a stronger, healthier, and more sustainable future—one rooted in collaboration, creativity, and care.

The projects may look different in each community—a cooling center here, a pocket forest there—but together, they form a powerful mosaic of climate leadership. MVP 2.0 isn't just about preparing for the next storm or heatwave. It's about reshaping how communities live, grow, and thrive in the face of climate change.

MVP 2.0 is proving that resilience is not just about bouncing back—it's about leaping forward.



## 2026 MA Climate Science Report Survey

The Massachusetts (MA) Office of Climate Science is working with a team of experts to develop the (first) 2026 MA Climate Science Report. This new report will provide the foundational scientific resources to inform climate impact assessments in the next update of the MA Climate Change Assessment (2027) and ResilientMass Plan (2028), and other state and local resilience planning.

The purpose of this survey is to gather prospective end users' input on the science, data, and guidance needs around climate stressors and hazards information, so the report can effectively inform impact/risk assessments and resilience planning.

Your input is valuable to make sure EEA's **MA Climate Science Report** provides what our partners need. Please submit your input by **November 28, 2025**.

[Take Survey Here](#)

## 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](mailto:patrick.forde@mass.gov).*

### Events and Opportunities

- [EBC Seventh Annual New England Climate Change and Resiliency Summit & Poster Session](#): The seventh annual EBC New England Climate Change and Resiliency Summit will bring together leaders from across the region to address that critical question: how do we prepare for the new norm? Each New England state is invited to discuss their programs and priorities for adaptation and resiliency and discuss among themselves and with attendees the challenges and opportunities. January 8, 2026 at University of Massachusetts Lowell.
- [MVP 2.0 Cohort Meeting](#)
  - Greater Boston: Tuesday, December 2, 11AM – 1PM, The Copper Rolling Mill Paul Revere Heritage Site (4 Rolling Mill Way, Canton, MA)
- [Upcoming Green Communities Grant and Designation Deadlines](#)
  - November 28: [Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap Technical Assistance](#) Applications for communities seeking Climate Leader Communities Designation within 1 year.
  - November 28: [Climate Leader Communities Technical Support](#) deadline for consideration for Winter 25-26 Awards

- December 30: [Green Communities Designation](#) Application Deadline
- December 30: [Climate Leader Communities Designation](#) Application Deadline
- [Mass River Alliance Job Announcement](#): The Massachusetts River Alliance Seeks Executive Director. Founded in 2007, the Massachusetts Rivers Alliance ("Mass Rivers") is a nonprofit conservation organization working to protect and restore the Commonwealth's rivers and streams. The organization pursues its mission through advocacy, education, organizing and mobilizing constituencies, and by connecting members to reach common goals. With a record of achievement and strong partnerships across nonprofit, private, and government sectors, Mass Rivers is now the leading organization for statewide river advocacy.
- [EEA Resilience RFQ Opportunity](#): Help develop new finance mechanisms for resilience projects in Massachusetts. EEA is seeking a vendor to provide assistance with the research and development of new finance mechanisms that the Commonwealth may consider to scale implementation of local climate resilience projects.
- [MAPC Technical Assistance Program \(TAP\)](#): MAPC is accepting project concepts for the 2026 Technical Assistance Program (TAP). This is an opportunity for you to work with MAPC on local programs and planning initiatives that advance regional goals. See more details on this year's funding priorities below. Apply by Monday, December 8, 2025 for your project to be considered when the greatest amount of funding is available.
- [Mass Trails Grant](#): MassTrails provides matching grants to communities, public entities, Native nations, and non-profit organizations to plan, design, create, and maintain the diverse network of trails, trail systems, and trails experiences used and enjoyed by Massachusetts residents and visitors. The 2026 MassTrails Grant Application period is now open. Applications are due Monday, February 2, 2026.
- [Massachusetts Community Biodiversity Grants Program](#): The Community Biodiversity Grants Program seeks proposals for projects that drive on-the-ground progress towards the state's Biodiversity Conservation Goals. The program will award grants between \$20,000 and \$200,000 to support local efforts to protect and restore biodiversity and bring nature to every neighborhood. The deadline for applications is December 26, 2025.
- [Building Wildfire Resilience in Your Community](#): On December 2, 1:00 - 2:30pm, attend a dynamic virtual networking event focused on understanding wildfire risk across the state, the ecological role of fire on the landscape, and how municipalities can reduce risk to their communities and increase their local resilience! Now, more than ever, it's important for municipal conservation and sustainability professionals and partners to come together to advance climate resilience in our cities and towns. This event will provide an opportunity to connect with peers, learn from each other, and explore overlapping work. This event can provide 1.5 CFE credits through the Society of American Foresters. This event is hosted in partnership by Mass ECAN, the MA Society for Municipal Conservation Professionals (MSMCP), and MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) Program, with speakers from DCR (Dept. of Conservation & Recreation) and MassWildlife.

## Tools and Resources

- [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.
- [2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment Data](#): the datasets created during the Climate Change Assessment are now available for download. These include spreadsheets and GIS layers for the Climate, Economy, Environment, Governance, Human, and Infrastructure sectors, along with general statewide datasets. See the 'Find or Browse Data by Theme' section to download this data.
- [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.
- [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).
- [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](#)



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