



Norwood FY22 MVP Action Grant

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



**MVP Action Grant Pre-Request for Responses
(RFR) Webinar for the FY27 ECO One Stop Round**
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Agenda

- Overview of MVP Program
- Details on FY27 Action Grant Round
- Case Studies and Transferrable Tools by Regional Coordinators
- Q&A on Action Grants

Other notes:

- Recording
- Please use the Q&A box for questions



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program



A state and local partnership to build resilience to climate change by building capacity to respond to climate effects at the local level and pilot innovative adaptation practice.

MVP Planning 1.0

99% participation
349 communities

MVP Planning 2.0

FY24 Pilot: 32 municipalities
1 Tribe

FY25: 32 municipalities

Action Grant Projects

FY 18: 37

FY 19: 36

FY 20: 53

FY 21: 41

FY 22: 66

FY 23: 73

FY 24: 79

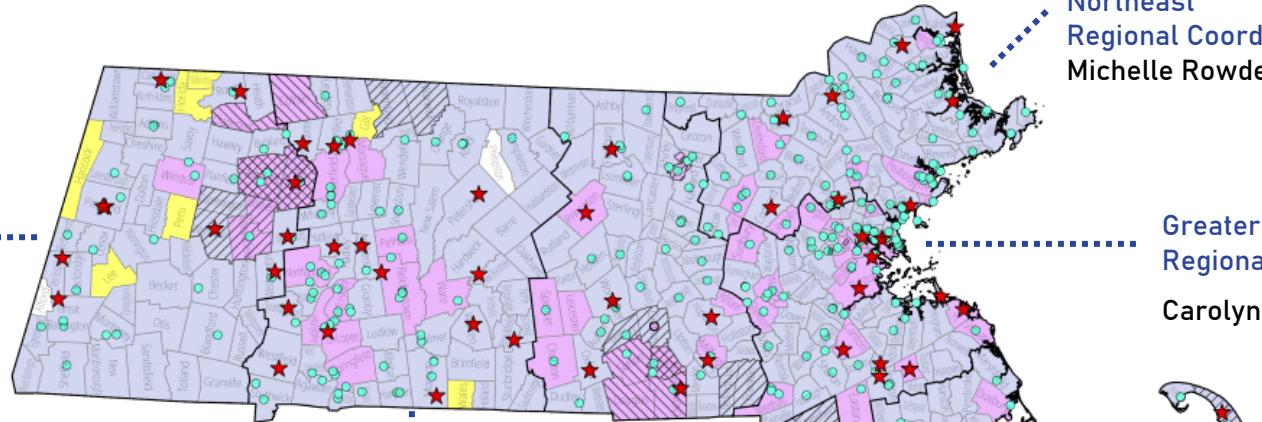
FY 25: 71

FY 26: 54 (\$28.5M)

Total Awards

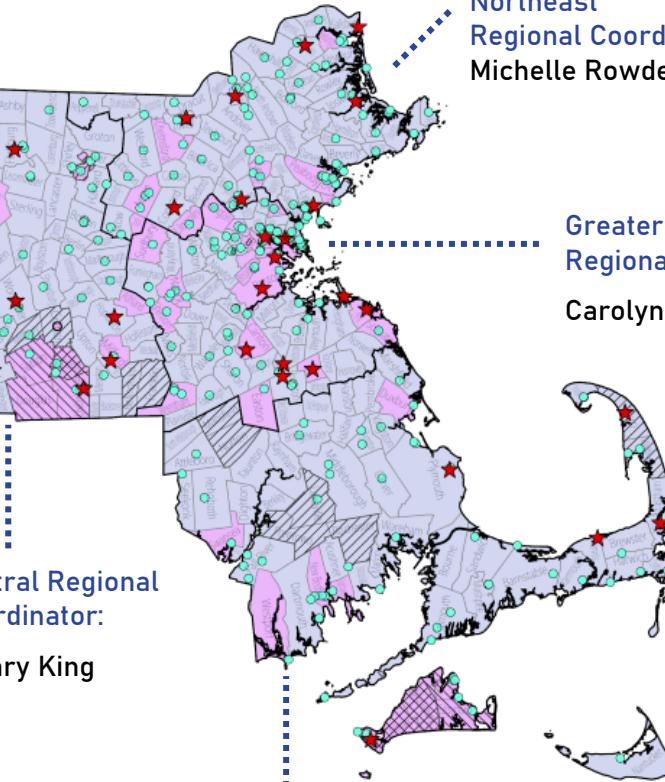
Planning & Action
\$210M to date

Berkshires &
Hilltowns Regional
Coordinator:
Emma Sass



Greater CT
River Valley
Regional
Coordinator:
Andrew Smith

Central Regional
Coordinator:
Hillary King



Northeast
Regional Coordinator:
Michelle Rowden

Greater Boston
Regional Coordinator:
Carolyn Norkiewicz

Southeast
Regional Coordinator:
Courtney Rocha

MVP Director: Kara Runsten
MVP Deputy Director: Marissa Robertson
MVP Program Coordinator: Elder González Trejo
GIS Specialist: Sula Watermulder
MVP Fellow: Emily Murad
Deputy Director of Climate Equity and Environmental Justice: Oleander Stone

[Contact MVP Regional Coordinator | Mass.gov](#)



Climate resilience is the ability of a community to address the needs of its built, social, and natural environment to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger from events and trends related to climate change hazards.

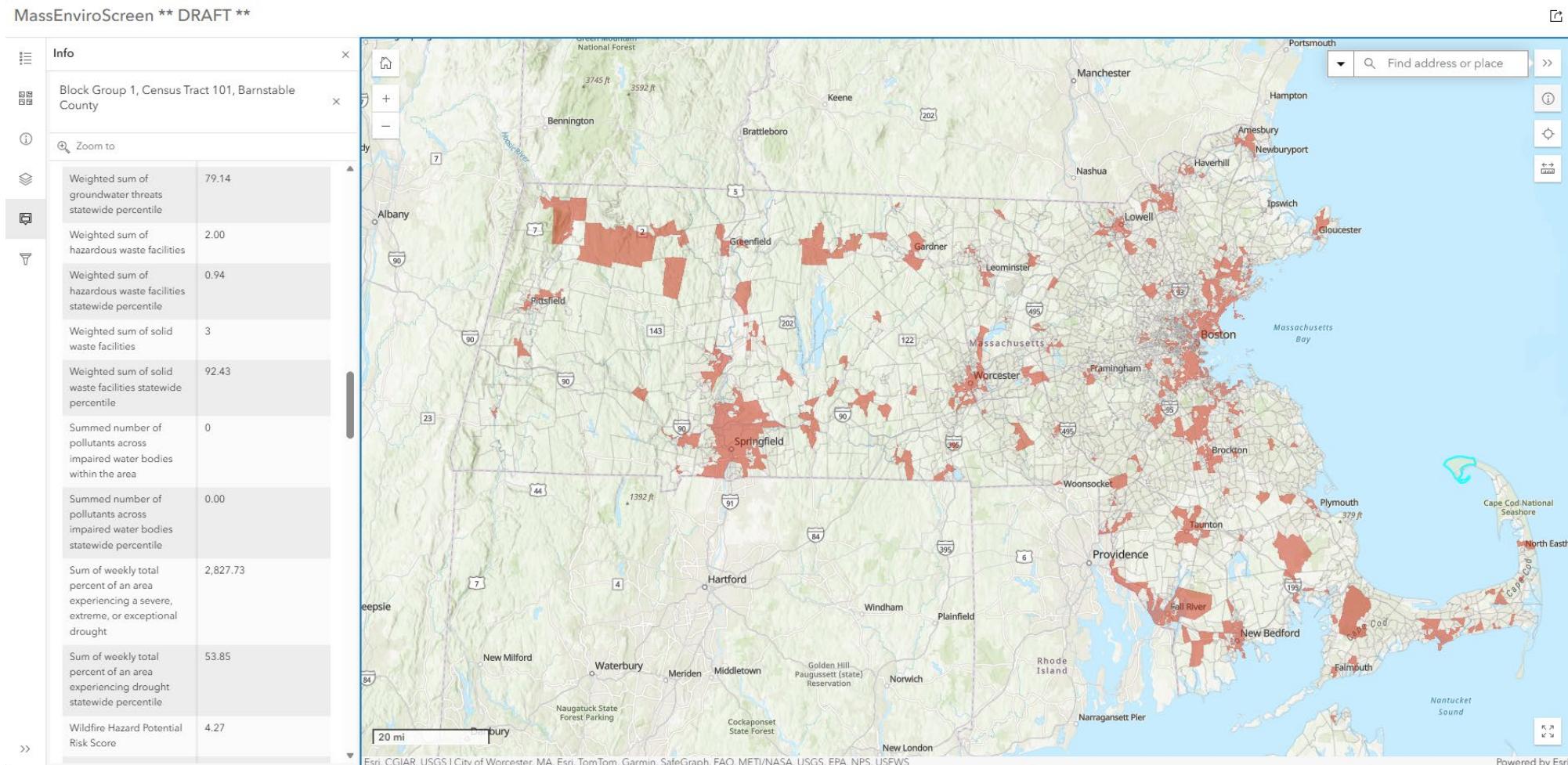
Resilient communities don't just recover—they *continuously build capacity* to reduce the impacts of future climate events.

MVP Core Principles

A community-led project that:

 Furthers a community identified priority action to address climate change impacts.	 Employs Nature-based solutions (NBS).
 Increasing equitable outcomes for Burdened Areas and addressing the root causes of social vulnerability.	 Achieves broad and multiple community benefits.
 Builds community capacity for climate resilience.	 Commits to monitoring project success and maintaining the project into the future.
 Conducts robust community engagement and supports strong partnerships with populations in Burdened Areas.	 Utilizes regional solutions for regional benefit.
 Utilizes climate change data for a proactive solution.	 Pursues innovative, transferable approaches.

Piloting the MassEnviroScreen Tool



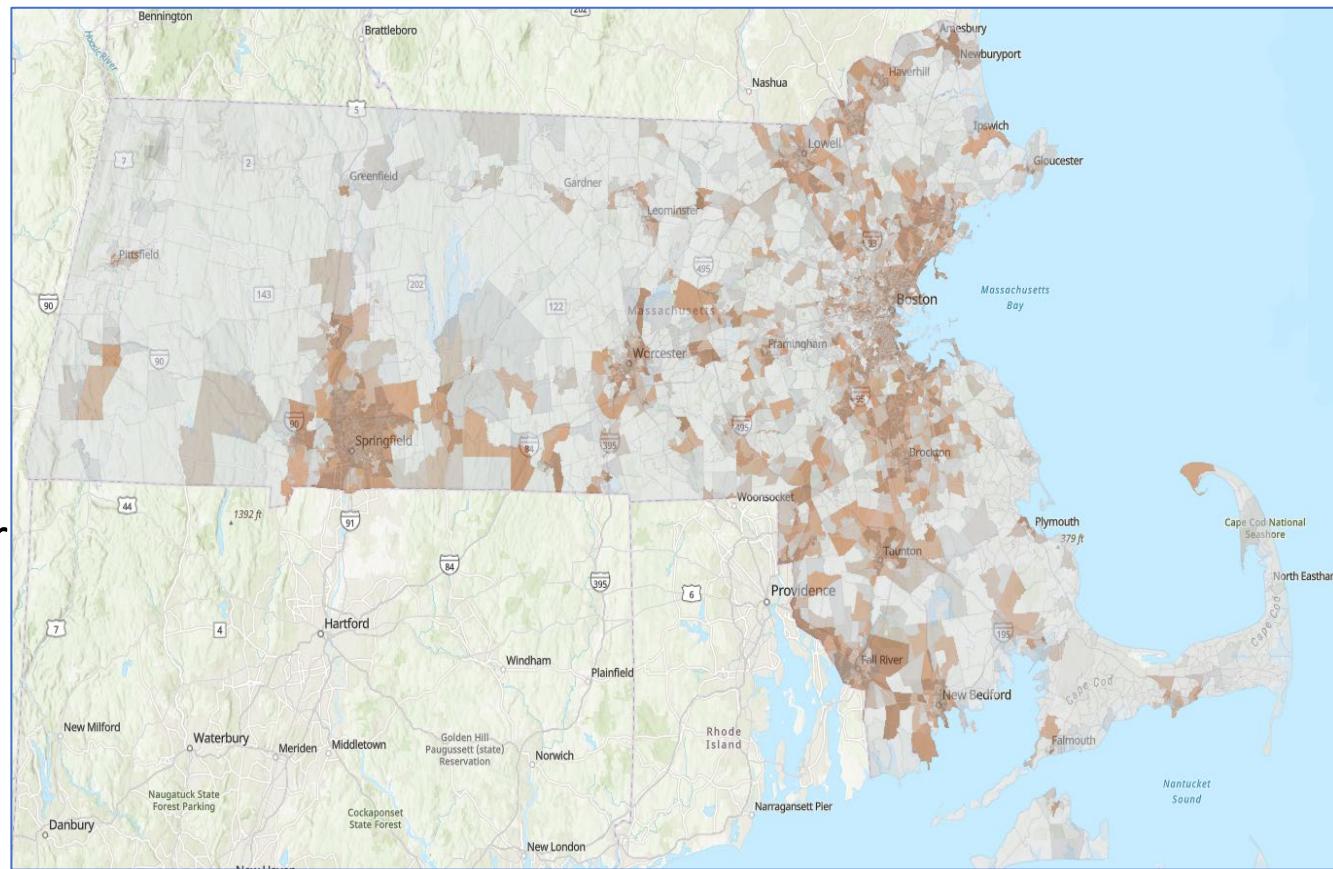
<https://mass-eoea.maps.arcgis.com/apps/instant/sidebar/index.html?appid=4be63e892a3d42d69334615a64095a39>

What is MassEnviroScreen?

- The MassEnviroScreen (MES) is a statewide environmental justice screening and mapping tool developed by OEJE
- Uses statewide data to identify communities facing cumulative environmental, climate, health and socioeconomic stressors
- Provides a consistent, transparent baseline for identifying communities that may experience greater cumulative impacts

How communities can use MES:

- Understand local conditions
- Support advocacy and organizing
- Engage more effectively in public processes and community engagement
- Strengthen grant applications



MassEnviroScreen Components

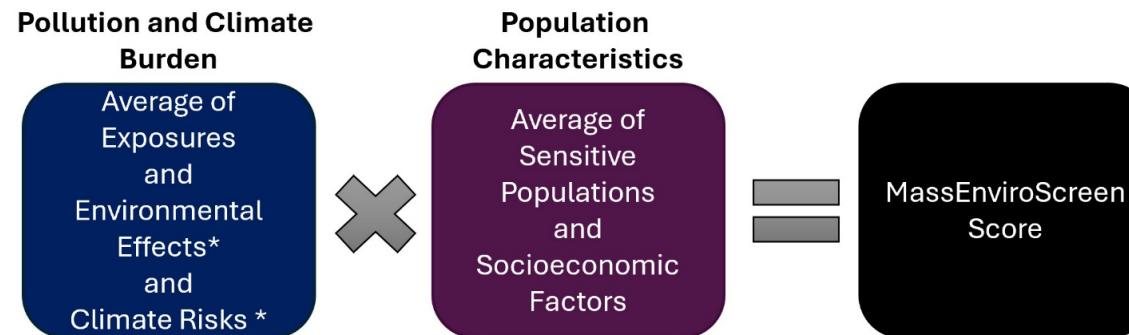
MassEnviroScreen's 30 indicators fall into five broad components:

- **Environmental exposure** indicators are based on measurements of different types of pollution that people may come into contact with.
- **Environmental effects** indicators are based on the locations of toxic chemicals in or near communities.
- **Climate risk** indicators are based on exposures to climate hazards.
- **Sensitive populations** indicators measure the number of people in a community who may be more severely affected by pollution or climate hazards because of their health.
- **Socioeconomic factor** indicators are conditions that may increase people's stress or make healthy living difficult and cause them to be more sensitive to pollution's effects.

These components together provide a comprehensive picture of cumulative impact in the Commonwealth.

MassEnviroScreen Methodology

- Indicators are standardized and combined into component scores
- There are two major components:
 - Pollution and Climate Burden = Exposures + Environmental Effects + Climate Risks
 - Population Characteristics = Sensitive Populations and Socioeconomic Factors
- The model follows this conceptual formula:

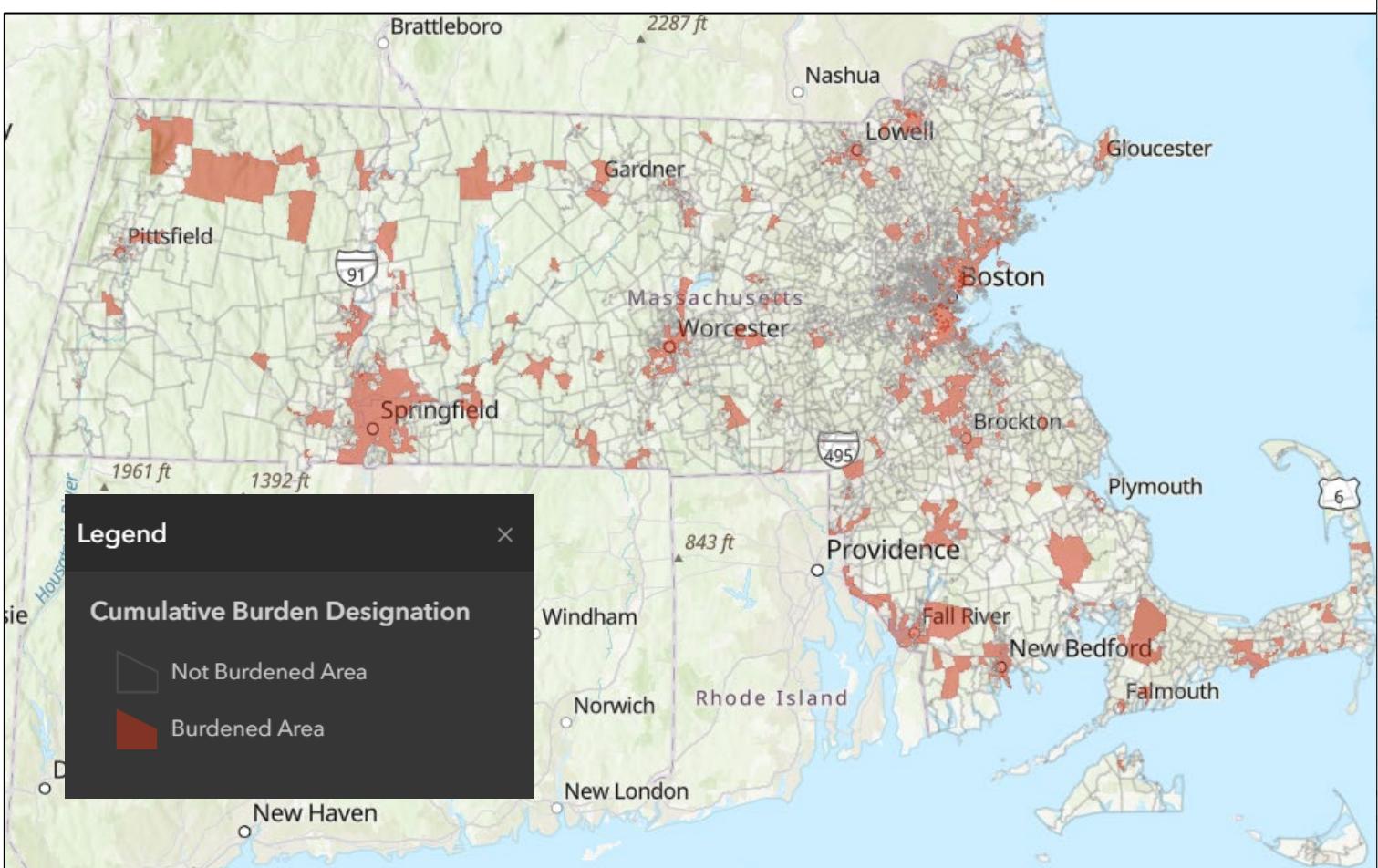


- MassEnviroScreen assigns a cumulative burden score (0 – 100) to every census block group in Massachusetts.
- The MassEnviroScreen score also represent percentile ranks, which means that a community's score also indicates the percentage of scores in a group that are equal to or higher than a given score.

Model Output

- Higher scores = a combined greater pollution, climate burden and social vulnerability
- Communities are designated as ***Burdened Areas*** when they **meet one or both** of the following criteria:
 - cumulative burden percentile score (i.e, MassEnviroScore) of 75 or greater, OR
 - annual median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide annual median household income
- Importantly, a community not identified as a BA may still exhibit elevated percentile values for individual indicators; in these cases, applicants are encouraged to review MES at the indicator level to better understand localized conditions and explain how their project is benefitting these more vulnerable individuals.
- **Indicator Percentile Values:**
 - For each indicator, raw data values are converted into percentiles
 - Percentiles show how a community compares to all other communities in Massachusetts
 - For each indicator, both the raw value and percentile are available for each community which allows users to identify which indicators are most relevant in each community

MassEnviroScreen: Map of Burdened Areas



About MassEnviroScreen

MassEnviroScreen is currently provided as a draft product for feedback and may be further refined through the draft comment period process. The [Office of Environmental Justice and Equity \(OEJE\)](#) will accept written comments on MassEnviroScreen submitted to ej.inquiries@mass.gov. The final version will include additional functionalities and be designed to ensure accessibility and usability for all stakeholders.

MassEnviroScreen is a tool for identifying or prioritizing the most environmentally vulnerable or burdened communities in Massachusetts based on a cumulative burden score that incorporates exposure to pollution and climate risks and the presence of sensitive or vulnerable populations, as well as whether the community meets a criterion related to lower household income.

Burdened Areas are communities (i.e., census block groups) that meet one or more of the following criteria:

cumulative burden percentile score of 75 or greater, OR

annual median household income is 65 percent or less of the statewide annual median household income.

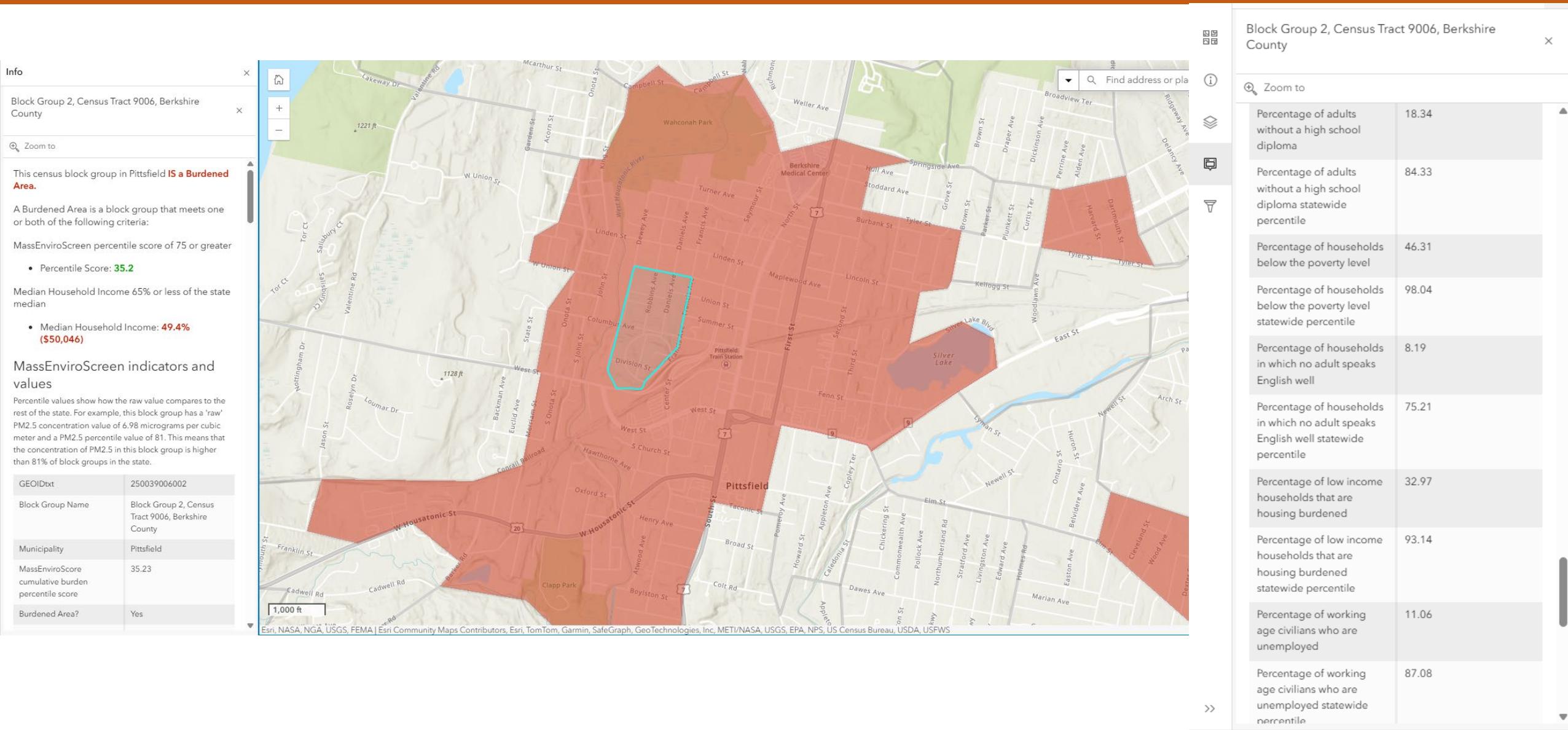
Cumulative burden scores are calculated for each census block group in Massachusetts based on a formula that integrates 30 statewide indicators or measures of environmental conditions and exposures, demographic and socioeconomic factors, and health conditions of the people living in those communities. To learn more about how MassEnviroScreen works and the data used, consult the [Technical Documentation](#).

MassEnviroScreen was developed by the [Massachusetts Office of Environmental Justice and Equity \(OEJE\)](#) in collaboration with other agencies within the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), as well as outside experts, and stakeholders. The tool is intended to satisfy key requirements of the Commonwealth's 2024 Climate Act by supporting the development and application of site suitability and cumulative impact processes required by statute. It also complements the site suitability guidance and cumulative impact analysis (CIA) standards and guidelines that EEA and OEJE are developing, as well as the procedural and permitting reforms being advanced through the Energy Facilities Siting Board (EFSB). This resource has been designed to provide a consistent, data-driven basis for evaluating community-level burdens and integrating those findings into siting and permitting decisions.

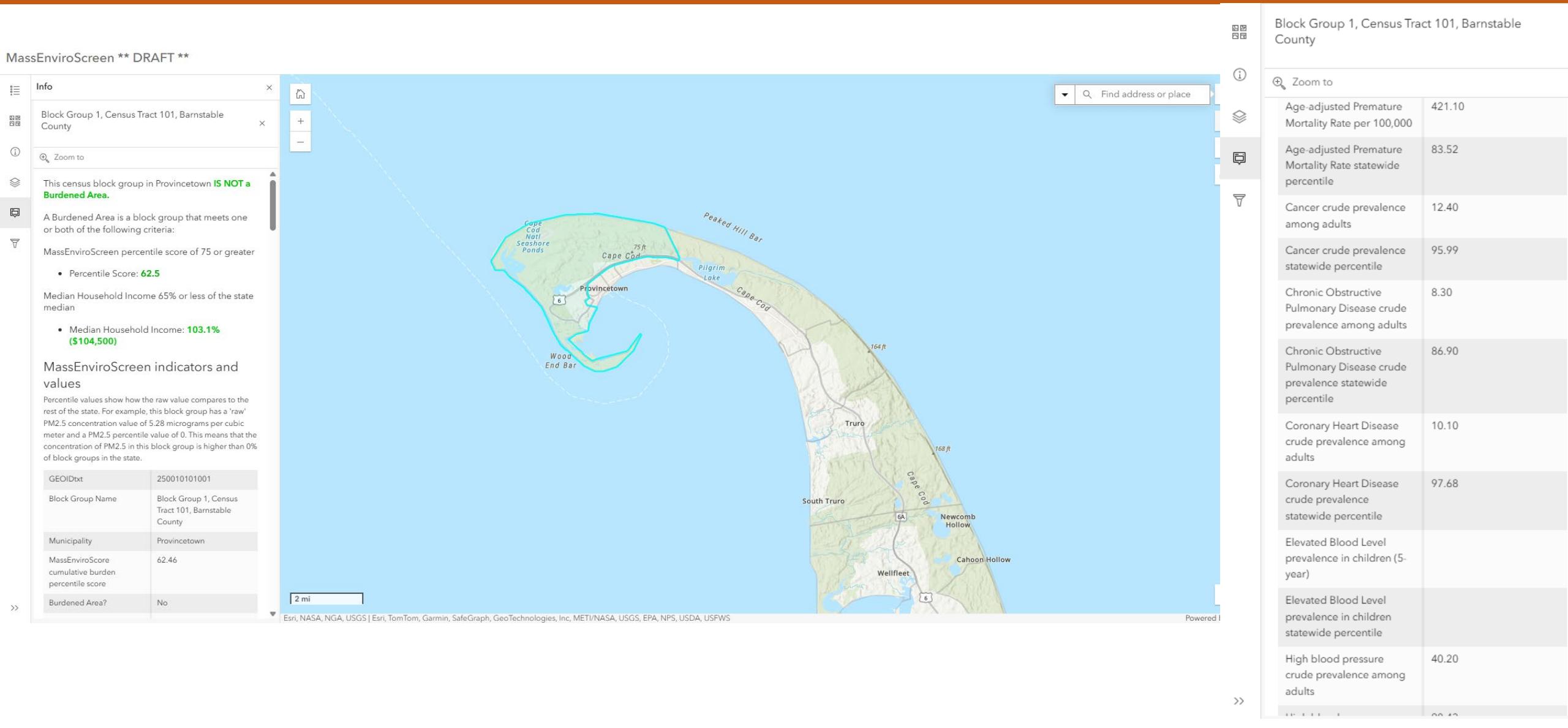
Don't show this again

Enter

MassEnviroScreen: Pittsfield - Block Group 2, Census Tract 9006



MassEnviroScreen: Provincetown - Block Group 1, Census Tract 101



Contact Information

For any questions related to the draft MassEnviroScreen tool, please contact the Office of Environmental Justice and Equity (OEJE) at ej.inquiries@mass.gov .

Statistics From Last Round (FY26)

158 applications

\$109.6 million requested

54 funded projects

Total funding \$28.5 million

Average grant size: ~\$527,900

FY27 Round Details and Timeline

- MVP Action Grant is part of the new ECO One Stop application
 - [ECO One Stop Webinars](#):
 - Tuesday, January 27 - 10:00-11:00 a.m.
 - Wednesday, January 28 - 12:00-1:00 p.m.
 - Submit applications through the Grants Management System (GMS)
 - [How to use the GMS – Webinar](#):
 - Thursday, January 29 – 10:00-11:00 a.m.



Executive Office of Energy & Environment...

HOME HELP

An official website of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts [Here's how you know](#)

Login to Applicant Portal

MyMassGov

Use this page to browse all **Grant Programs**

Filter and Sort Grant Programs

Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs Grants Management System

If you have already started an application and need to access your applicant portal, [click here](#).

FY27 Round Details and Timeline

- MVP Project Funding:
 - Max \$3M for individual projects
 - \$5M for regional projects
- 10% match required, with exceptions:
 - Tribal governments and designated rural and small towns have no match requirement.
- Reimbursement based

- MVP funds both 1- and 2-year projects.
- Projects start: Anticipated August 2026
- Projects end:
 - 1 year: June 30, 2027
 - 2 year: June 30, 2028



Eligible Applicants

- Municipalities who have received "MVP Community" designation from EEA by completing an MVP 1.0 plan through original MVP Planning Grant process or through designation for prior work.
 - Communities with MVP plans dated December 2018 and earlier must also have applied to the MVP Planning 2.0 grant in 2023, 2024, or 2025 to be eligible for this opportunity.
- Commonwealth's political subdivisions, including, but not limited to:
 - Cities
 - Towns
 - Counties and districts
 - Any authority, commission, board, or instrumentality of the foregoing
 - These entities must apply for projects aligning with an MVP plan and include a letter of support from municipalities, who must be eligible to apply for this grant.
- Tribal governments

Project Types



Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates (Type 1)

- Identifying and assessing people, resources, or critical infrastructure that may be impacted by climate change to develop a resilience strategy
- Assessing feasibility of a specific climate adaptation strategy
- Developing and/or adopting planning documents and regulations that encourage climate change adaptation
- Capacity-building projects that increase social resiliency, such as implementing community liaison programs or education/training campaigns related to climate resilience.

Project Types



Design and Permitting (Type 2)

- Creating design plans for site preparation, installation, and project monitoring and maintenance
- Preparing and filing federal, state, local, and utility permit applications for proposed activities

Project Types

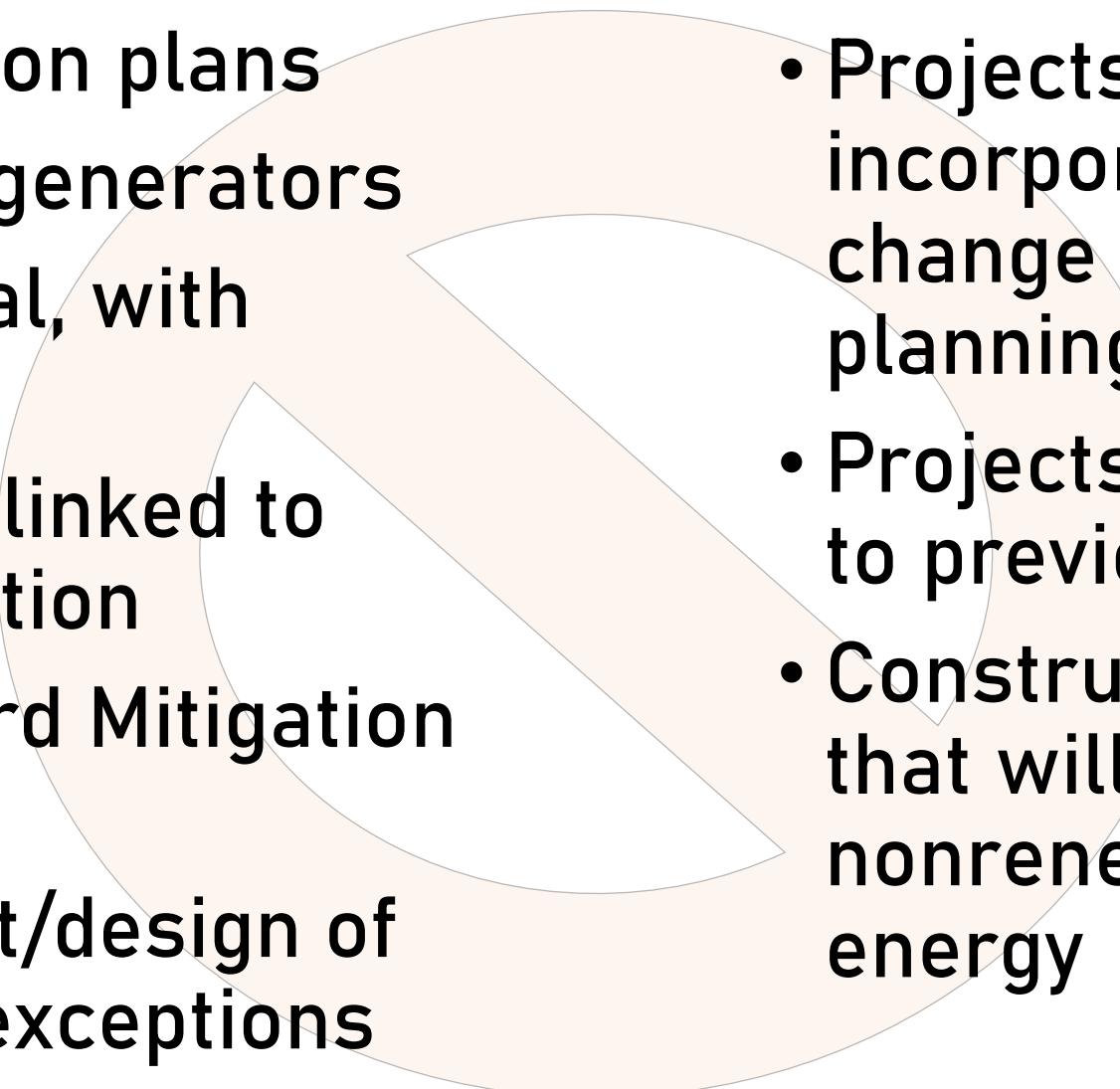


Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

Note: Demonstrate necessary permits & permissions have been secured

- Preparing project site, constructing/installing adaptation options, and developing/implementing appropriate monitoring protocols
- Installing or implementing tangible energy resilience projects
- Acquiring land or property to achieve climate resiliency goals
- Implementing “on-the ground” adaptation projects such as tree planting or innovative pilot projects

Action projects that are NOT MVP-competitive:

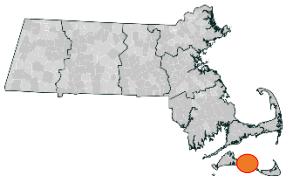


- Climate action plans
- Fossil-fuel generators
- Tree removal, with exceptions
- Studies not linked to implementation
- FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Assessment/design of solar, with exceptions
- Projects that do not incorporate future climate change projections or planning
- Projects that seek to repair to previous conditions
- Construction of buildings that will rely on nonrenewable sources of energy

Action Grant Examples & Transferrable Tools

SOUTHEAST

Martha's Vineyard Public Food Forest Plan



Martha's Vineyard Commission FY 2024/25

AWARD \$96,764

PROJECT TYPE Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building & Regulatory Updates

**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED** Furthering a community identified priority action to address climate change impacts; Employing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS)

DESCRIPTION

- Detailed site design for Aquinnah community food forest
- Island-wide assessment and recommendations for public food forests in all Island towns
- Public food forest implementation guide and toolkit



Martha's Vineyard Food Forest Plan

Assessment Criteria

Where should we do this?

In order to determine where these public food forests may be successfully established, an Island-wide assessment was conducted to identify potential sites in each town. These assessments aim to find locations where establishing a public food forest would be environmentally, logically, and legally viable, and would maximize community access, engagement, and benefit from these spaces. Assessment criteria were developed by identifying the conditions and qualities that would characterize and support a successful public food forest space, and translating those characteristics into objective criteria that would define an ideal site. Those criteria, as detailed below, were then used to analyze all parcels in each town and isolate sites that have those ideal characteristics. The results of this assessment are a refined selection of recommended locations for public food production spaces.

For the purposes of this process, which intends to identify public sites specifically, the results of this assessment process are notably constrained to only include town-owned properties, wherein municipal ownership serves as a straight-forward criteria for property that is or reasonably could be open to the public and collectively managed. Therefore, this excludes the many more potential sites that might be developed on privately owned and/or conserved land. There are undoubtedly many more locations on properties owned by organizations, businesses, and individual that would make excellent food forest sites as well, and which would further enrich island's local food system and community food access, should the owners wish to do so.

Site Criteria

Priority (Required) Criteria

1. Site can be open to the public; Town-owned property.
2. Outside of current coastal flood zones and projected sea level rise and inundation zones.
3. Minimum 1000 square feet unbuilt, non-impervious land area.
4. Not within delineated wetlands or wetland buffer zones.

Secondary (Preferred) Criteria

1. Within walking distance (.5 miles) of school or library and/or within Environmental Justice population and/or within a high-density neighborhood.
2. Accessible by public transportation and/or safe walking access.
3. Access to public parking.
4. Access to a water source for irrigation at planting time.

AQUINNAH TOWN FOOD FOREST 2025 SITE PLAN & PLANTING LAYOUT



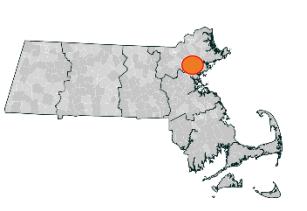
Rank	Food source	Food source description
1.	Existing fruit	Black Rasp
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3.	Existing fruit	Black Cherry
4.	Existing fruit	Red Maple
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7.	Existing fruit	Red Raspberry
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NORTHEAST

Maillet, Sommes & Morgan Constructed Wetland



Reading MVP Action Grant FY23-24



To learn more please visit:

www.readingma.gov/msm

REGION Northeast

AWARD \$2,221,172

PROJECT TYPE Construction & on the ground implementation

**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED** Furthering a community identified priority action; Employing Nature-Based-Solutions; Achieving multiple community and regional benefits

DESCRIPTION

- Captures and attenuates stormwater impacting the Aberjona River by creating adjacent offline storage areas.
- Reduces climate related in-land flooding upstream by increasing stormwater storage capacity through the construction of a series of stormwater wetlands



Constructed Wetland Project Website

Projected Schedule

The remaining project timeline would see completion of the project by June 30, 2024.

The Plan Design is currently at the 100% Construction Ready level (see below). The project was released to bid in early 2023 and the contract was awarded to T-Ford Company. Site preparation is expected to ensue in Late Spring/Early Summer 2023. FY24 (July 2023-June 2024) will see the construction of the wetland system, paving and curbing, trail development and the installation of site elements and landscaping. While elements may be subject to future change the proposed schedule is as follows:

Mallet, Sommes & Morgan Constructed Wetland System - Project Schedule	
Work to Complete	Proposed Schedule
Community Engagement and Awareness	Length of Project
Completion of Plan Design	September 2022 - February 2023
Project Bid	February 2023 - April 2023
Site Preparation	July 2023
Erosion Control Install	July 2023
Demolition and Clearing / Earthworks	July 2023 - August 2023
Drainage and Utility Install	September 2023 - October 2023
Constructed Wetland	August 2023 - November 2023
Path/Trail Services	November 2023
Site Elements Install	November 2023 - December 2023
Paving and Curbing	November 2023 - December 2023
Landscape Install and Maintenance	Fall 2023 - June 2024

RELATED PROJECT DOCUMENTS

Project Plans and Supporting Documents:

- [Mallet, Sommes & Morgan Constructed Stormwater Wetland - Permitting Plan Set, dated December 2022](#)
- [Proposed Scope of Work and Estimate - 100% Plan Design and Public Engagement, dated 1/18/22](#)
- [Project Construction Estimate, dated 6/15/21](#)

Conservation Commission Materials:

- [Mallet, Sommes & Morgan Constructed Stormwater Wetland - Order of Conditions, dated 8/3/21](#)
- [Mallet, Sommes & Morgan Constructed Stormwater Wetland - Notice of Intent/Waiver Request Application, dated 6/1/21](#)

MVP Action Grant Documents:

- [Project Narrative](#)
- [RMAT Tool Summary](#)
- [Attachment C: Required Information for Design, Permitting and Construction Projects](#)

Reading ARPA Committee Presentation and Video:

The project was awarded \$75,000 from the Reading ARPA Committee and Select Board to fund the project's 100% plan design, surveying and public engagement (Scope of Work/Estimate above).

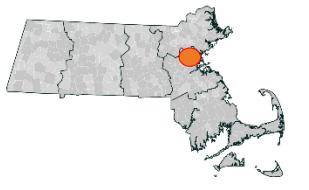
- [Project Team Presentation, dated 6/15/22](#)

GREATER BOSTON

Strengthening Medford Connects: An Interconnected Resiliency Network for Future Resilience Hubs



Medford MVP Action Grant FY25 (ongoing)



To learn more please visit:

[Medford Connects - City of Medford](#)

REGION

Greater Boston

AWARD

\$746,580

PROJECT TYPE

Planning, Assessment, Capacity Building, and
Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES

Increasing equitable outcomes; Building community
capacity for climate resilience; Conducting robust
engagement; Achieving broad and multiple community
benefits

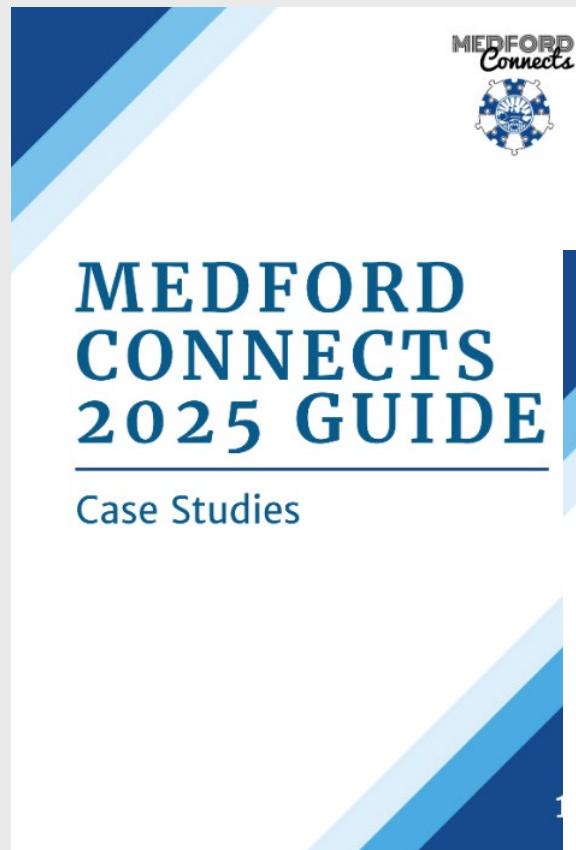
DEMONSTRATED

DESCRIPTION

Focused on increasing equitable outcomes for climate-sensitive
populations by addressing the root causes of social vulnerability,
building community capacity, and achieving broad and multiple
community benefits. Medford is partnering with CBOs to continue
deep community engagement.



Medford Connects 2025 Guide



FINANCIAL SECURITY CONNECTOR

Our Financial Security Connector, Charbel, went "on tour" this year to connect with local financial institutions and resource providers. Through this outreach, Charbel helped establish new partnerships with Bunker Hill Community College and Cambridge Savings Bank, expanding access to financial education and services for Medford residents.

The partnership with Cambridge Savings Bank, in particular, has grown into a robust collaboration. Together, we offered a free six-part Financial Literacy Workshop Series open to the community.

Topics included:

- May 20: Budgeting & Saving
- May 27: Credit
- June 3: Building Your Nest Egg
- June 10: Fraud Awareness
- June 17: Home Buying
- June 24: Financial Planning

These workshops helped equip residents with practical tools and knowledge to improve their financial well-being and long-term stability. Charbel's work continues to build pathways toward economic resilience in Medford.



FOOD SYSTEMS CONNECTOR

As part of her "on tour" efforts, our Food Systems Connector, Libby, has been a regular presence at the Medford Farmers Market, using the space to connect with residents, share resources, and support local food access. Her outreach has focused on both seasonal preparedness and food security.

During summer months, Libby has distributed helpful warm-weather resources—including hats, sunscreen, and seltzers—to help residents stay safe and comfortable in the heat. These simple but impactful items have been especially appreciated by seniors, families with young children, and residents spending time outdoors. In addition to direct engagement, Libby plays a key role in facilitating food donations. Each week, she collects leftover produce from market vendors and redistributes it to residents in need, helping reduce food waste and ensuring fresh, healthy food reaches more community members.

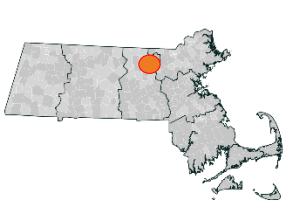


CENTRAL

Harvard Climate Implementation Plan – Phase One: Protective Bylaws and Community Outreach



Town of Harvard FY24/25



[Harvard Climate Initiative Website](#)

REGION Central

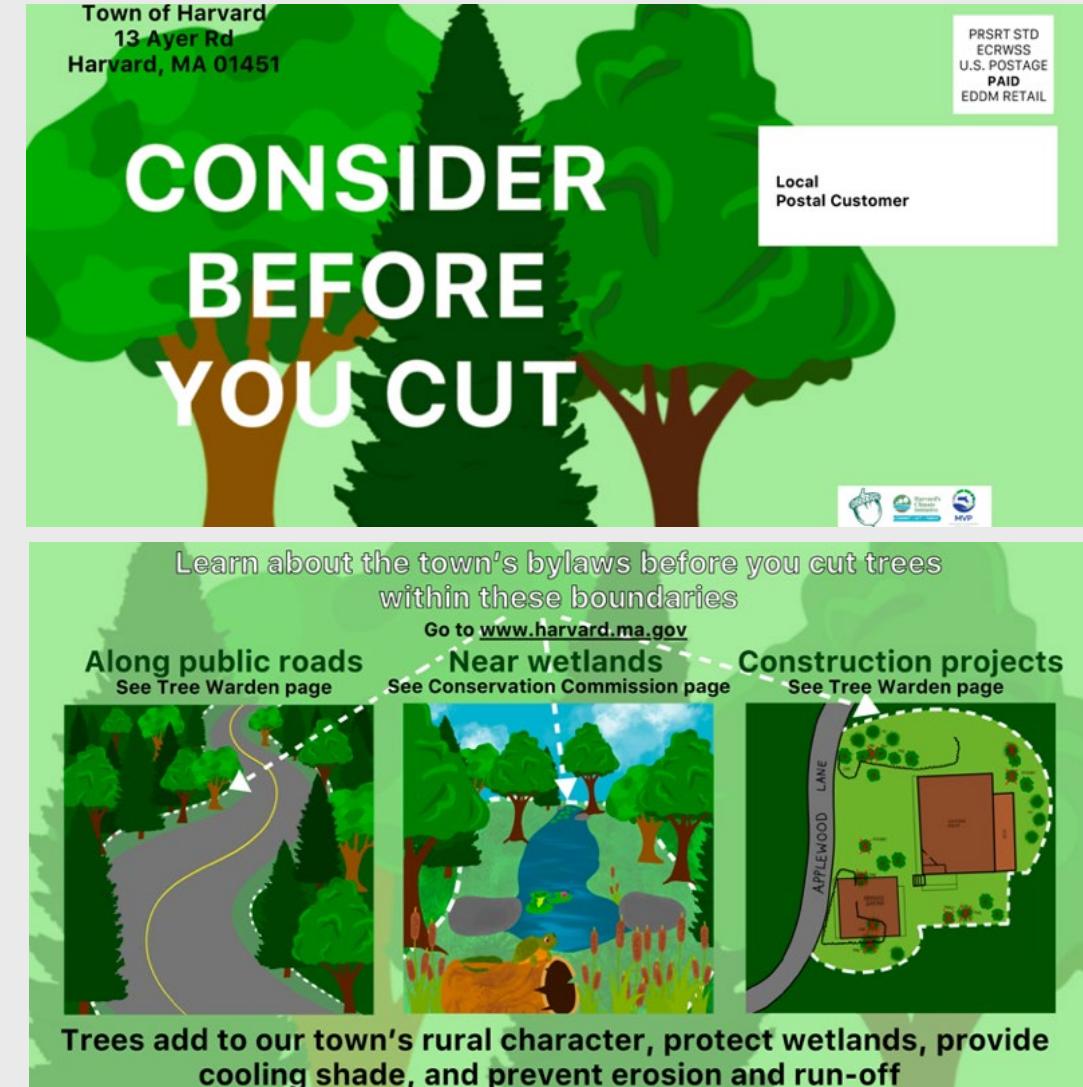
AWARD \$47,390

PROJECT TYPE Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED Employing Nature-Based Solutions (NBS); Conducting robust community engagement

DESCRIPTION

- Developed bylaws that address wetlands protection, erosion control, and open space residential development.
- Additional focus on community education and outreach for these bylaws and general climate resiliency.



Harvard Bylaw Update Final Report

Article 3 Handout

Open Space Conservation-Planned Residential Development (OSC-PRD) Bylaw Amendment Overview

What is the Open Space Conservation-Planned Residential Development (OSC-PRD) Bylaw?

The OSC-PRD provision in our Town bylaw aims to permit high-quality residential development that preserves open space, water resources, wetlands, habitat, prime agricultural land, scenic landscapes and natural features, reduces infrastructure and site development cost, and promotes a diversity of housing opportunities within the Town.

Why are amendments being proposed in Article 3 to the OCS-PRD Bylaw?

The original OCS-PRD provision was incorporated into the Town bylaw in 2003. During the past 20 years, this OCS-PRD has only been used once. The Planning Board decided to amend the OCS-PRD bylaw with two goals in mind: (1) to increase provisions in the bylaw that support the preservation of open space, meet climate goals, and support the diversification of housing options and (1) to make the bylaw more accessible and financially feasible for developers to use in practice.

What are the key elements of the amended OSC-PRD bylaw?

- **Preservation of Open Space:** The bylaw requires that at least 50% of the land in a development is set aside as protected open space.
- **Increased Base Density:** If 50% open space preservation is achieved, the density allowed per acre increases to 2 units per 1 acre, compared to the standard 1 unit per 1.5 acres that exists currently in Harvard.
- **Zoning:** An OSC-PRD may be proposed only in the Agricultural – Residential Zoning District.
- **Density Bonuses to Support Town Goals:** Density bonuses are available to increase the density to no more than 10 units per acre if certain goals are met including incorporating senior housing, affordable housing, high energy efficiency, and use of alternative energy sources into the development.
- **Special Permit Control:** The Planning Board will retain its special permit authority, which means it can require changes to plans or even deny an application that has negative impacts on the town or neighborhood.

What does an Open Space development look like in practice?

The example to the right illustrates what an Open Space development could look like if the OCS-PRD Bylaw is used. Rather than buildings and pavement being distributed throughout the lot, eliminating the majority of open space, over 50% of the land is preserved for open space including walking paths and wetland areas.



EXAMPLE

What benefits can the amendments to the OCS-PRD Bylaw bring to our Town?

- Preserves Open Space & Natural Resources
- Supports our Town Climate Goals
- Helps us Meet our Local Housing Needs Including Senior and Affordable Housing

Summary Table of Key Metrics

Metric	Old Mill Road	Littleton Road	Craftsman Apts	Craftsman-Single
Size (ac.)	10.1	16.6	12.6	12.6
No. of Conventional Lots	1	5	2	2
Wetlands (ac./ %)	.29/2.9%	0	2.1/16.7%	2.1/16.7%
75-Foot Wetland Buffer (ac./ %)	1.2/11.7%	0	1.1/8.8%	1.1/8.8%
Wetland & 75-Foot Wetland Buffer (ac./ %)	1.5/14.6%	0	3.2/25.5%	3.2/25.5%
Total Open Space (ac./ %)	6.2/61.1%	8.6/50.6%	7.3/58.4%	7.3/58.4%
Wetland & 75-Foot Buffer - % of Open Space	23.9%	0	44.0%	44.0%
Roads (ac.)	.6	.4	.15	.26
Building Envelope (ac./ %)	2.7/27%	8.4/49.4%	2.3/18.1%	2.6/20.6%
Units	13	70	73	21
Density, Units per Gross Acre	1.3	4.2	5.0	1.7
Units per Buildable Acre	4.7	8.3	27.8	8.1

Know Your Land Series | Community webinars focused on:

- Forest Health
- Conservation Restrictions
- Replacing invasive species

Community Engagement on Climate:

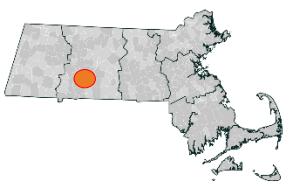
- [Student-led conference sharing stories and observations](#)
- [Dr. Jane Flegal speaks on Hope for a Sustainable Future](#)
- [En-ROADS Climate Simulator Workshop for students and the community with MIT meteorologist Tamara Shapiro Ledley, PhD](#)

GREATER CONNECTICUT RIVER VALLEY

Holyoke Community Cookbook



City of Holyoke FY24/25



Learn more:

[Explore the Holyoke Community Cookbook](#)

REGION

Greater Connecticut River Valley

AWARD

\$141,680

PROJECT TYPE

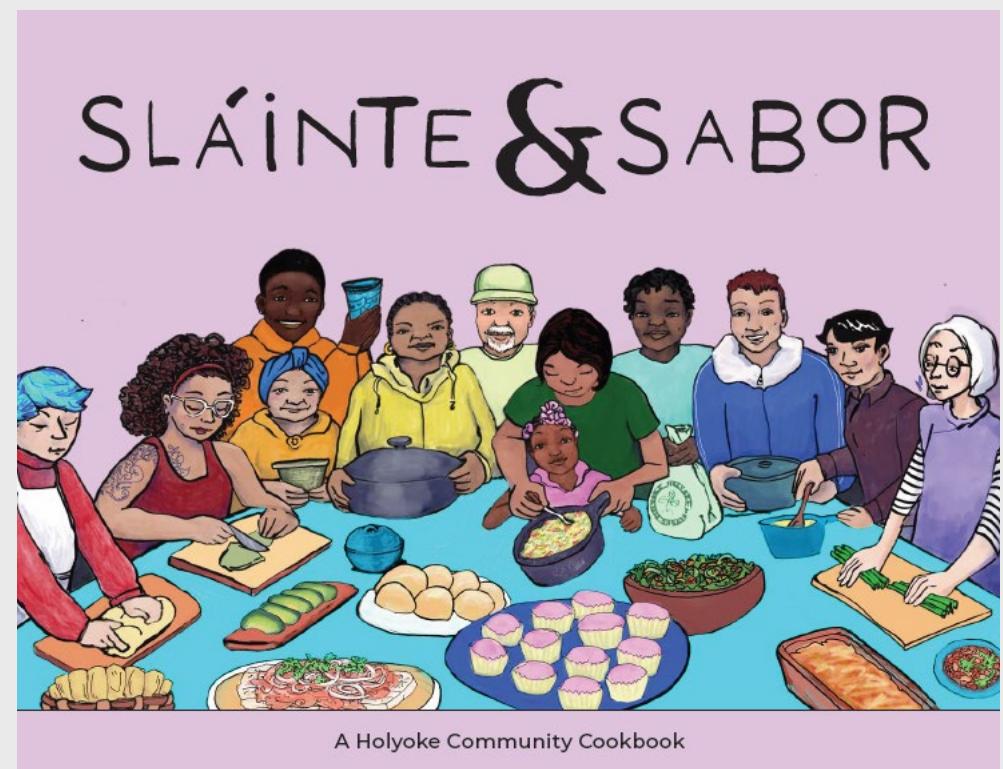
Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES

Building community capacity for climate resilience; Conducting robust community engagement and supporting strong partnerships

DEMONSTRATED

The Holyoke Community Cookbook project builds towards greater community resilience, health equity, and food justice through the creation of a community cookbook.



Holyoke Community Cookbook

Food assistance in Holyoke

TYPE	PROGRAM & ADDRESS	PHONE	SERVES	DAYS OPEN*						HOURS / DETAILS
				SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	
Meal program	Kate's Kitchen, Providence Ministries, 51 Hamilton Street	(413) 533-5909	Anyone in need							Monday - Friday, 12:00pm - 1:00pm (dine-in lunch). Monday - Friday, 5:00pm - 6:00pm (dine-in dinner). Saturday - Sunday, 12:00pm - 1:00pm (to-go lunch)
Meal program	The Salvation Army Hot Meals to Go, Holyoke Corps Community Center, 271 Appleton Street	(413) 532-6312	Anyone in need					THU		Thursday, 2:00pm - 4:00pm (bagged food at the door)
Meal program	Soup Kitchen at Bethlehem Baptist Community Church, 304 Elm Street	(413) 533-4590	Anyone in need					THU		2nd and last Thursdays of the month, 11:30am - 1:30pm
Meal program	Blessed Sacrament Parish Take and Eat, 1945 Northampton Street	(413) 532-0713	Homebound seniors	SUN						2nd Sunday of the month, home delivery. Call to register for the program.
Mobile food bank	Mobile Food Bank at Beaudoin Village/Yoerg Circle (Food Bank of Western MA), 40 Leary Drive	(413) 419-0079	Anyone in need	MON						1st and 3rd Monday of the month, 11:00am - 11:45am. Bring an empty shopping bag.
Mobile food bank	Mobile Food Bank at One Holyoke CDC (Food Bank of Western MA), 70 North Bridge Street	(413) 419-0079	Anyone in need					FRI		2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 1:00pm - 1:45pm. Bring an empty shopping bag.
Mobile food bank	Mobile Food Bank at St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Food Bank of Western MA), 485 Appleton Street	(413) 419-0079	Anyone in need		TUE					2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, 11:00am - 12:00pm. Bring an empty shopping bag.
Pantry	Margaret's Pantry, Providence Ministries, 56 Cabot Street	(413) 538-8026	Anyone in Greater Holyoke (except Springfield residents)	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI		Monday - Friday, 10:30am - 12:30pm (or you can call to make arrangements to pick up food outside normal hours)
Pantry	The Salvation Army CES Emergency Food Pantry, Holyoke Corps Community Center, 271 Appleton Street	(413) 532-6312	Anyone in need, once every 30 days		TUE	WED	THU			Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30am - 12:00pm. Call to set up an appointment.

Sopa de Plátanos Fritos

Natasha Colón

Serves: 6
Time: 1 hour

Ingredients:

1 lb ground beef
3-4 tablespoons sofrito
1 onion, chopped
1 corn cob, husks removed and cut into 3 pieces
8 cups water
7 green plantains
Salt, to taste

Instructions:

1. Bring eight cups of water to a boil.
2. In the meantime, sauté the beef with the sofrito and the chopped onion until the beef is cooked and the onion is soft.
3. Add the beef mixture and the corn cob pieces to the boiling water.
4. Put the plantains in a pot of new water and bring to a boil. After they are done soaking, put them in a pot of new water and bring to a boil. Remember to drain the water and add new water before boiling; otherwise it gets too thick. Boil the plantains until they are soft.
5. Once boiled, pass the plantains through a blender and add them to the broth.
6. Let the soup cook on medium heat for 20 minutes.



Heart-healthy tips:
Use lean ground meat (90% or higher)

Community Gardens and Farms in Holyoke

Holyoke has many community gardens! Currently the ones in operation are run by Nuestras Raíces. However, many different organizations have created and maintained gardens in the past, and there are many opportunities for groups to cultivate new or existing gardens in the future.



Nuestras Raíces

WHAT IS FOOD SOVEREIGNTY?

Food sovereignty is our right to healthy and culturally appropriate food, produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and our right to define our own food and agriculture systems.

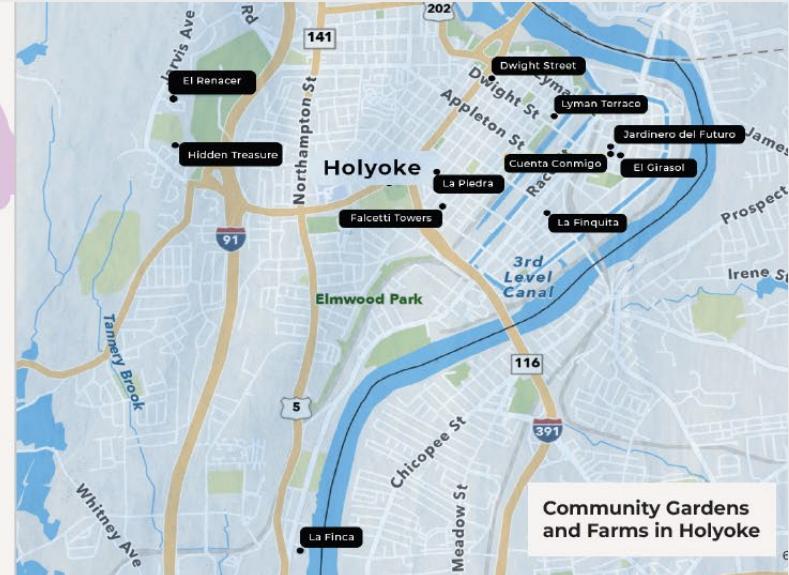
So many people and organizations contributed to this cookbook!

A huge thank you to these organizations, in particular: Mass in Motion, the Holyoke Food Economy Coalition, Nueva Esperanza, Enlace de Familias, Nuestras Raíces, the Holyoke Farmers' Market, El Corazón, the Faith-based Food Access Community, Let's Move Hampden County 5-2-1-0, Community Involved in Sustaining Agriculture (CISA), Holyoke Community College, OneHolyoke CDC, Greater Holyoke YMCA, Food Bank of Western Massachusetts, Holyoke Food and Equity Collective, Neighbor to Neighbor, Holyoke Medical Center, Holyoke Media, and Explore Holyoke.

This project was led by Stephanie Colón (Mass in Motion), Kayla Rodriguez (Nueva Esperanza), Frank Martínez López (Enlace de Familias), and Holly Jacobson and Olivia Vilá (Linnean Solutions), with support from the Holyoke Food Economy Coalition. A special thank you to Ana Jaramillo (LMHC 5-2-1-0), Jason Comcowich (Nuestras Raíces), Aaron Vega (Office of Planning and Economic Development), Mayor Joshua Garcia, and Representative Patricia Duffy.

Food photography by Holyoke Community College Spring 2024 Culinary Arts Graduates with instructor Tracy Carter.

Community photography by Dennis Marrero and Nuestras Raíces.



Community Gardens and Farms in Holyoke

Graphic design by local designer Jailyne Torres-Figueroa (playerastudio.com).

Art by local artist Youme Nguyễn Ly (youmeland.org). Art on the inside cover by Christine Berge.

Storytelling by Dave Dulfend, Erica Cruz, Jessica Nuñez, Maddy Soltren, Nathan Racine, Sakara Yashenko, Solkie Velez, and Yohannie Ortiz.

Recipes by Adela Lazala, Ana Olveda, Angelita González Echevarría, Carmen Davila, Chloe Rondon, Danielle Soto, Dulce Almonte, Evelyn Colón, Iris Espada, Isaiah Luna, James Leahy, Jason Comcowich, Jessica Nuñez, Jillian McBride, Jorge Colón, Kyle Counter, Luis Rondon, Maribel Ortiz, Myriam Alvarado, Natasha Colón, Nelly Cruz, Nelly Davila, Ruthy Sustache, Solkie Velez, Waleska Daniels, Yohannie Ortiz, Yorelys Torres Rios, Youme Nguyễn Ly.

Recipe testing and health recommendations by Brianna Couture and Marissa Chiappérino.

This project was funded by the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program and Mass In Motion.

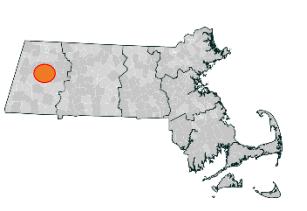
Note: The cookbook team reached out to individuals who submitted recipes to clarify steps and to fill gaps. In cases where they weren't able to reach the individual, recipe testers helped to test the recipes and clarify the instructions, while trying to stay as true to the original recipe as possible!

BERKSHIRES & HILLTOWNS

Ashfield Living Culture and Rural Climate Resilience Project



Town of Ashfield FY25



Learn more:

[MVP | Ashfield, MA](#)

REGION

Berkshires & Hilltowns

AWARD

\$166,000

PROJECT TYPE

Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and
Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES

Building community capacity for climate resilience; Conducting robust community engagement and supporting strong partnerships; Achieving broad and multiple community benefits.

DEMONSTRATED

DESCRIPTION

- Town collaboration with local arts and culture organizations Double Edge Theatre and Ohketeau Cultural Center.
- Focus on equitable and inclusive outreach, engagement, and relationship-building.
- Core themes: Clean Energy, Affordable Housing, Nature-based Solutions.
- Three Community Dinners & dialogues, two Site Tours, Community Resilience Day.



Ashfield Rural Climate Resilience and Living Culture Project Summary



Ashfield Rural Climate Resilience and Living Culture Project

Municipal Vulnerability Project Case Study

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY







UMassAmherst
Arts Extension Service

Climate Strategists

- Holly Jacobson
- Lauren de la Parra

UMassAmherst
Clean Energy Extension

A total of 417 people, or 25% of the total population, participated in the gatherings and took part in one-on-one conversations.

Community Resilience Day

The Community Resilience Day offered an opportunity for community members to learn more about the MVP project in a flexible and less formal setting than a community dinner. Individuals who may have been unable to attend a weeknight event at a set time could drop by Double Edge, engage in a fun activity, such as fly on a bungee, play musical instruments, and have a conversation about rural resilience. For families with children, the activities gave parents the chance to view available materials and have a conversation in a small group setting. Some people who may never have heard of the MVP project before had the opportunity to be introduced for the first time, join the mailing list to be invited to future events, and bring home materials about the project goals, and work done to date. This event provided another opportunity for community members to explore what it means to create a resilient community.



Discussing the MVP grant during the Community Resilience Day. Photo by Double Edge.

Key Findings #1- Continue the Work, Continue Gathering

One of the first questions raised during the Site Gathering #1 was *How to keep getting minds in the room to continue visioning and finding creative pathways to sustainability and resilience for everyone?*

The answer was clear as one of the most uplifting findings from **Ashfield Rural Climate Resilience and Living Culture Project** was the enthusiasm for participating in the Community Dinners and Student Community Liaison work, and the stated desire for this to continue. People want more opportunities to gather and continue to share time together working collaboratively toward solutions. They also want some degree of agency to help and have their ideas acted upon.

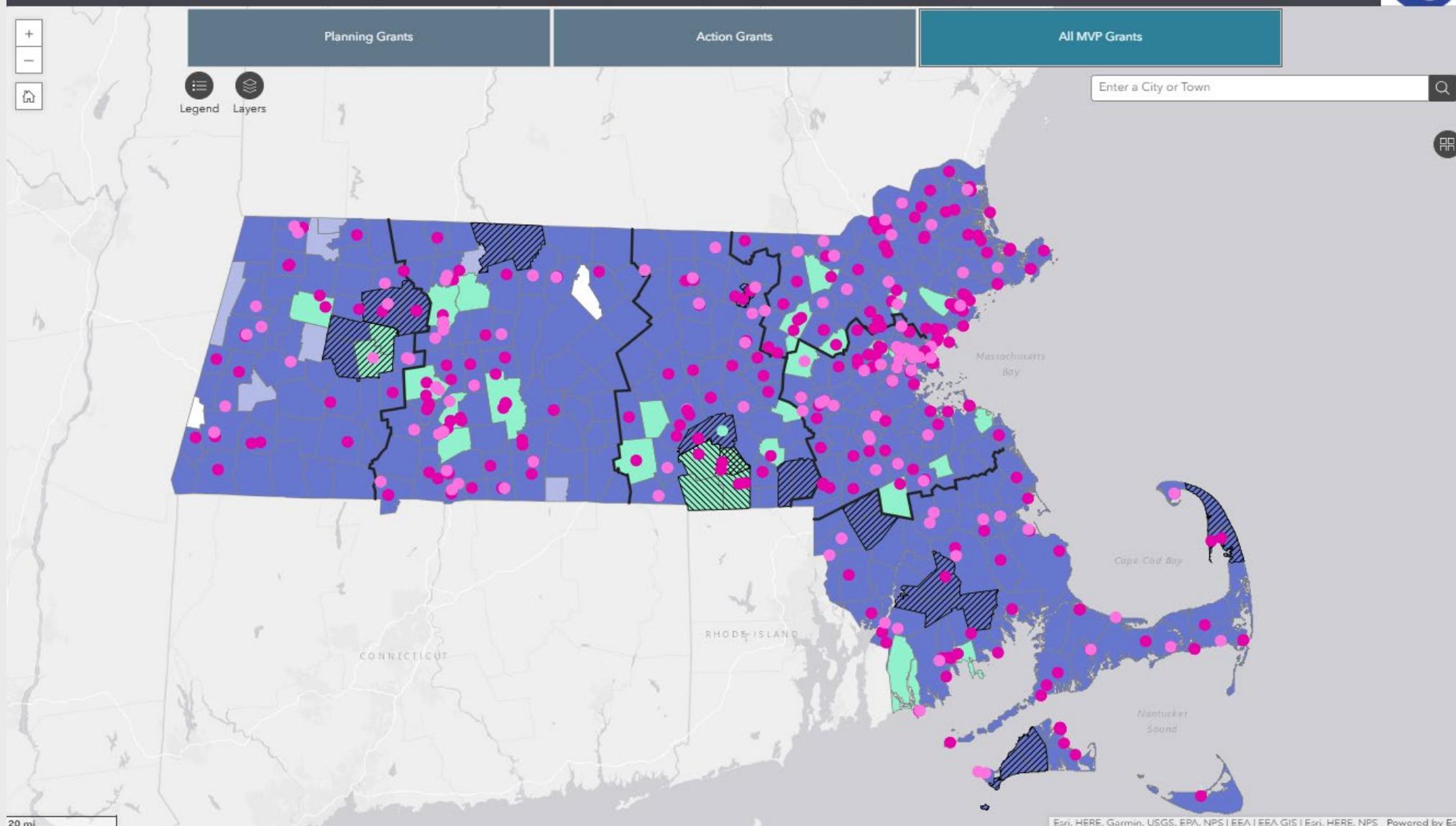
Collaborations such as the **Ashfield Rural Climate Resilience and Living Culture Project** offer a roadmap for involving residents and embracing local nonprofits and regional partners to share in creating resiliency and solving some of the challenges the community faces. The culmination of this project has been clarifying needs and actions identified by the community.

Actions: Continue to Gather.

- Create volunteer-run committees, including Youth-led (see Key Findings #4) to provide the leadership to hold future gatherings.
- Empower Leadership with clear goals.
- Design ad hoc committees with short term goals, clear deadlines, and opportunities to join another project. Ad hoc committees could support planning the next Community Gathering, Potluck Dinner, or Visioning session.

Actions: Remove Barriers for ongoing participation –

- Structure meetings and work to fit the lives of busy people. Aim to meet at mutually convenient times and in locations that could accommodate children,
- Seek stipend grant funds to engage future low-income Resilient Ashfield participants who otherwise need to be at work.
- See Key Findings #4 regarding Student Committees.



To view more examples of MVP Action Grant Projects:

<https://www.mass.gov/info-details/municipal-vulnerability-preparedness-program-action-grant-projects>
or check out our interactive grant viewer at <https://www.mass.gov/mvp>

Program Updates

- **MVP Winter Webinar Series 2026: Dates and topics coming soon!**
- **The Climate Resilience Playbook**
 - Developed in partnership with MAPC and PVPC
 - An online, interactive tool that local planners can use to identify and scope out resilience actions for their communities
 - Playbook is live: [Climate Resilience Playbook](#)
- **New ResilientMass Homepage: [ResilientMass | Mass.gov](#)**
 - Consolidates grant and program resources
 - Announcements
 - New resources:
 - [Statewide resilience funding database](#)
 - [ResilientMass Resource Database](#)
- **MVP 2.0**
 - Getting ready to announce next round of awarded communities

Questions?

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617-655-3874

Regional Coordinator:
Emma Sass - DEP Springfield
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Hilltowns

Greater CT
River Valley

Northeast

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