

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program Action Grant Case Study

https://mapc365.sharepoint.com/:f/s/LincolnClimateActionPlan/ErU9_vPBeohApTIIByuo40YBAFnMUrj_weQCmIG3zT2_Xw?e=1sfzHC

CAP Sharepoint with MAPC

Municipality: Town of Lincoln

Project Title: Lincoln Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (L-CAP)

Award Year (FY): 2023

Grant Award: \$ 100,000

Match: \$ 47,667.00

Match Source: Staff Hours

One or Two Year Project: One year.

Municipal Department Leading Project: Planning and Land Use

Project Website URL: <https://www.lincolntown.org/1411/Climate-Action-Plan>

Community Overview:

- What is the population size of your community and where is it located?

Lincoln is a rural/suburban Town of around 7,000 residents. There is an EJ community near Hanscom Family Housing in North Lincoln, and several Climate Vulnerable communities throughout town, including elderly, low-income, and residents living with disabilities.

According to the most recent Federal Census:

- 20% of Lincoln's population is over the age of 65.
- 12% of the population has some sort of disability.
- 13% of households make less than \$35,000 per year.
- 20% of the population is non-white.
- 25% of households are renter-occupied and are likely to have less control over their housing than those who own their own homes.

Project Description and Goals:

Lincoln's climate goals guide the development and implementation of both short and long-term climate mitigation and resilience efforts in Lincoln.

1. Transition to clean energy technologies to support the Town of Lincoln's path towards carbon neutrality.

2. Prioritize accessibility, walkability, and connectivity to the Town's commercial centers and community spaces, while ensuring that these interconnected multimodal transportation systems are also affordable, reliable, and climate resilient.

3. Protect Lincoln's agricultural, historic, and environmental resources from climate change impacts.

4. Make sure Lincoln residents, especially those who are underserved and underrepresented, are prepared to address major climate hazards related to flooding, drought, severe storms, extreme heat and more.

5. Increase town-wide diversion rate through programs and policies to prevent, reduce, reuse, compost, and recycle waste.

6. Engage and support local business owners and residents in making their buildings and homes more sustainable and resilient, in an equitable, affordable, and accessible way.

7. Align local efforts with the State's climate goals and programs. Connect and share progress of Lincoln's climate actions with others in the region, and advocate for climate solutions at the regional and state level.

- **Where was the project located?**

- This was a Town-wide Planning project. Meetings took place in a variety of virtual and in-person formats.

- **What climate change impacts did the project address?**

- The project sought to address drought, extreme storm events, precipitation, and extreme weather impacts to human health and infrastructure. Additionally, the Town sought to utilize this process to determine how we can do our part to reduce our carbon emissions.

- **What were the specific goals and tasks of the project as stated in your application?**

- Broadly and inclusively engage Lincoln's population to develop a comprehensive climate action plan, building community-wide awareness and buy-in for action
- Improve public health by addressing water quality, air quality, recreation, and adaptability
- Protect vulnerable populations from climate impacts and provide strategies for adaptation.
- Increase resiliency of the built, natural, and human environment
- Address critical infrastructure vulnerabilities
- Protect natural resources and ecosystem services to make them more resilient
- Protect and enhance wildlife and pollinator habitat
- Develop a pathway to rapidly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and reach net zero community emissions by 2050
- Ensure that mitigation and adaptation strategies are equitable and enable a just transition to net zero emissions

- **Did your project meet the goals set forth in your application in terms of:**

Employing nature-based solutions

- Many nature-based solutions to the various climate sectors made it into the final list of strategies. The sector on Working Lands and Natural Resources has four Top Strategies built out for implementation that directly provide nature based solutions and co-benefits.
 - Priority: Work with the Agricultural Commission and local farmers to promote climate change adaptation strategies for

farming such as improving soil quality, diversifying crop rotations, modifying planting schedules, and techniques to avoid the use of pesticides and herbicides.

- Priority: Work with homeowners to promote sustainable landscaping practices. This includes, for example, prioritizing the planting of climate resilient species to withstand anticipated climate change impacts (such as extreme temperatures, drought, flooding, extreme weather events, etc.).
- Priority: Update Lincoln's Wetlands Protection Bylaw to ensure incorporation of nature-based solutions, climate resilience, preservation of native species and ecosystem health.
- Priority: Encourage local farmers in Lincoln to participate in the Boston region's effort in supporting local food systems and increasing food security.

Improving equitable outcomes for and fostering strong partnerships with EJ and other Climate Vulnerable Populations

- One of our highest priority strategies was the establishment of a resident ambassador program. This program will make it much more accessible for all residents to gain knowledge and assistance, especially EJ and other vulnerable populations:
 - Priority: Develop materials and establish a resident ambassador program to educate and assist residents with understanding and accessing available federal and state grant programs for weatherization, building energy retrofits, adoption of solar PV, and battery storage, etc. Ensure access for Environmental Justice (EJ) communities, renters, low/moderate income households, and additional priority populations.
- We also will establish a Town committee to ensure the implementation of the Town's Climate Action Plan, especially through the lens of equity to prevent or minimize unintended consequences on the priority populations as well as those whose lives may be already severely impacted by climate change. Focus on engaging and supporting priority populations such as people of color, elders, youth, environmental justice populations, families with young children, diverse residents, and low-income families.

Providing regional benefits

- We hope that Lincoln can be a model to other small communities in their climate action work. We were part of MAPC's pilot Building Decarbonization and Electric Vehicles Impact Tools, which will be utilized by other communities in their climate action work. EXPAND
- Priority strategies also call out regional collaborations (e.g., shared services among neighboring communities, etc.) and continued state advocacy work to align local with state's climate goals and actions.

Implementing the public involvement and community engagement plan set forth in your application

- Our engagement plan was followed throughout the process. We completed stakeholder mapping, 5 workshops, 23 listening tours, two focus groups, and produced a town-wide survey during the engagement process. All of these outreach events compiled into the 200+ strategies that we then combined into the final list.
- Census Tract 3602 includes eight percent of residents who experience English-language isolation. As part of this process, we worked with a translation company to provide translations of the community survey and various outreach materials as well as live interpretation at community events. While this may not be a large percentage of the entire town population, we found it essential to provide these services to remove barriers to entry into the process wherever possible.

Finishing the project on time

The project has been completed and the L-CAP will continue to be a living document with updates being conducted whenever new data and community input is received.

Results and Deliverables:

- **Describe, and quantify (where possible) project results (e.g. square footage of habitat restored or created, increase in tree canopy coverage, etc.). Report out on the metrics outlined in your application.**
 - Survey responses: 293 responses completed
 - Community events held - 30
 - Strategies developed - 200+
- **Provide a brief summary of project deliverables with web links, if available.**
 - For the project's online dashboard: <https://mapc.ma/L-CAP>
 - For the project's homepage: <http://lincolntown.org/1411/Climate-Action-Plan>

Lessons Learned:

- **What lessons were learned as a result of the project? Focus on both the technical matter of the project and process-oriented lessons learned.**
 - Difficult to reach EJ community at Hanscom, but through the process have made connections to hopefully connect through the schools at Hanscom
 - Hard to reach businesses in Town, need to find ways to reach them in a way that does not burden them
 - The community members had so many ideas for strategies, it ended up being difficult to break them down without removing any input. Utilizing a prioritization scoring criteria was very helpful, but also ran into snags because different members of the community believed criteria should be different. This is why the summer community review period will be so helpful, since it will provide residents the opportunity to see the full plan and provide feedback.

- Language access: even though we identified top non-English languages that we should offer services for, not many took advantage of. However, we think that it is still useful to provide interpretation services (for community workshops) and translations of key documents.
- **What is the best way for other communities to learn from your project/process?**
 - Make connections with your EJ and priority communities however possible, not just during planning processes. Also, when you have these connections prioritize going to where people are or where they already gather (community locations, existing meetings, etc.) It was incredibly useful and much appreciated by the residents when we were able to show up at existing meetings and hold events where people live.

Partners and Other Support:

- **Include a list of all project partners and describe their role in supporting/assisting in the project.**
 - Green Energy Committee - Tasked Climate Action Lincoln with developing the Plan and provided essential feedback on the issues related to the Energy sector.
 - Climate Action Lincoln - Subcommittee of the Green Energy Committee that provided input throughout the planning process and were instrumental in the application for the MVP grant.
 - Working Group
 - The L-CAP milestones of goal setting, evaluation, and strategy development were guided by the Lincoln Climate Action Plan Working Group, which was comprised of a mix of Town staff, residents, and representatives from community organizations as well as from the Lincoln Green Energy Committee and Climate Action Lincoln.
 - Boards and committees - Provided essential input on strategies for the plan
 - Agricultural Commission
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee
 - Board of Health
 - Board of Water Commissioners
 - Conservation Commission
 - Green Energy Committee
 - Historic Commission
 - Housing Commission
 - Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Anti-Racism Committee
 - Lincoln School Committee

- Planning Board
- Roadway and Traffic Committee
- Select Board
- Zoning Board of Appeals
- Numerous Town Departments also participated in the process of evaluating strategies
 - Building & Engineering
 - Conservation
 - Council on Aging and Human Services
 - Planning and Land Use
 - Public Works
 - Public Safety
 - Town Administration
 - Water

Project Photos:





Lincoln Climate Action Plan

Questions or
comments?

Contact Jennifer Curtin
curtinj@lincolntown.org



The Town of Lincoln is planning for a resilient and sustainable future, and **we want to hear from you!**

Visit the project website to register for Community Workshops on **April 12 at 7PM** and **April 14 at 8:30AM**



[lincolntown.org/1411/
Climate-Action-Plan](https://lincolntown.org/1411/Climate-Action-Plan)

Take and share the **public survey** to tell us your thoughts on climate action planning
Closes on April 10, 2023



[www.Tinyurl.com/
LincolnClimateActionSurvey](https://www.Tinyurl.com/LincolnClimateActionSurvey)