



Bolton FY21 MVP Action Grant

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program



MVP Action Grant Pre-Request for Responses
(RFR) Webinar for the FY24 Round
MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Agenda

- Overview of MVP Program
- Details on FY24 Action Grant Round
- Case Studies by Regional Coordinators
- Q&A on Action Grants

Other notes:

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



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.



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

MVP Director: Kara Runsten

MVP Deputy Director: Marissa Robertson

Northeast Regional Coordinator:
Michelle Rowden

MVP Planning Grant Process

97% participation
341 communities

Action Grant Projects

FY 18: 37

FY 19: 36

FY 20: 53

FY 21: 41

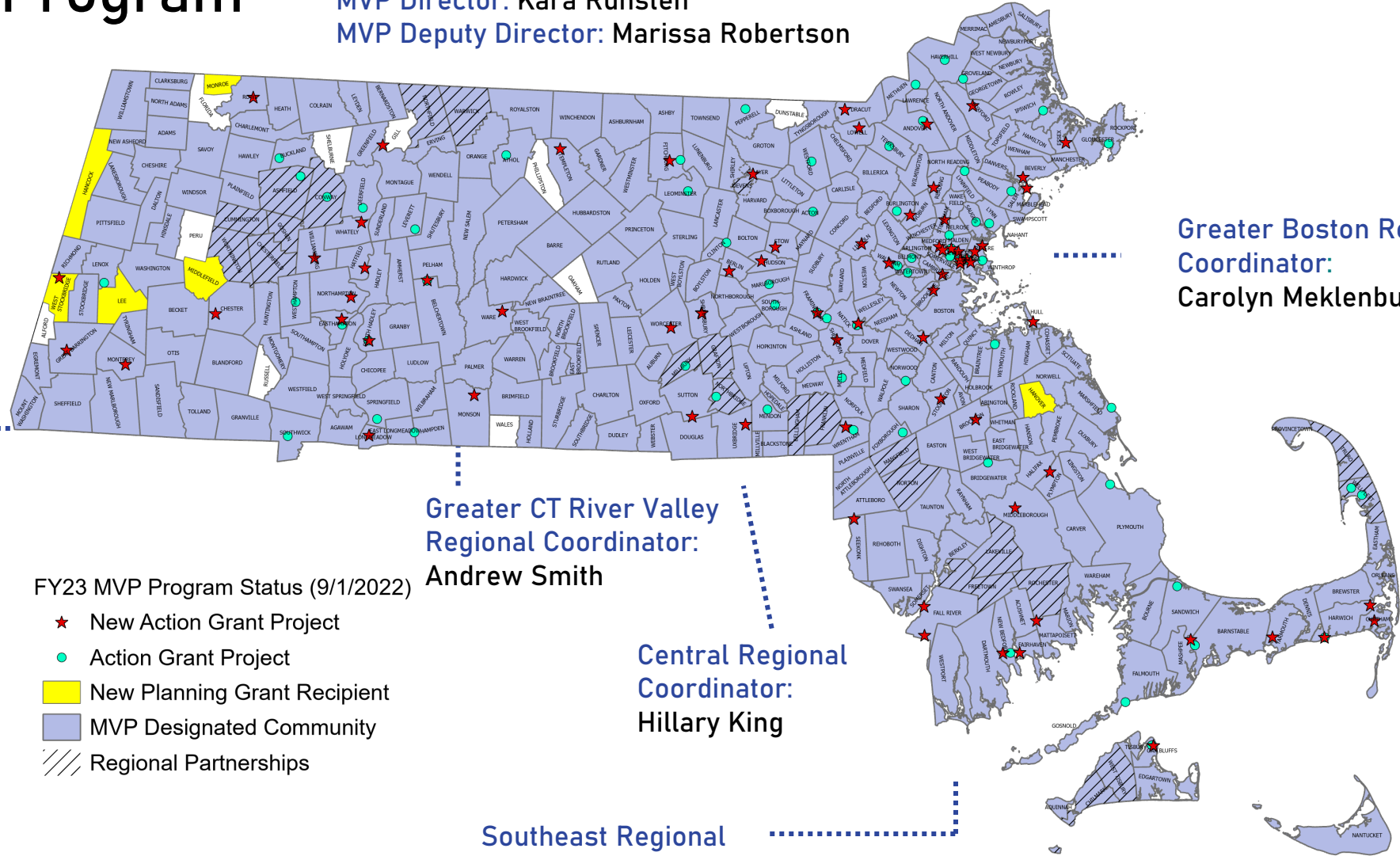
FY 22: 66

FY 23: 73 (\$32.6M)

Total Awards

Planning & Action
\$100M to date

Berkshires & Hilltowns Regional Coordinator:
Carrienne Petrik



FY23 MVP Program Status (9/1/2022)

Greater CT River Valley
Regional Coordinator:
Andrew Smith

Central Regional
Coordinator:
Hillary King

Southeast Regional
Coordinator:
Courtney Rocha

MVP Core Principles

A community-led project that:



Furtheres a community identified priority action to address climate change impacts.



Increasing equitable outcomes for Environmental Justice (EJ) and other priority populations and addressing the root causes of social vulnerability.



Builds community capacity for climate resilience.



Conducts robust community engagement and supports strong partnerships with EJ and other priority populations.



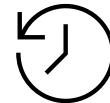
Utilizes climate change data for a proactive solution.



Employs Nature-based solutions (NBS).



Achieves broad and multiple community benefits.



Commits to monitoring project success and maintaining the project into the future.



Utilizes regional solutions for regional benefit.



Pursues innovative, transferable approaches.

Statistics From Last Round

134 applications

\$58 million requested

73 funded projects

Total funding \$32.6 million

Average grant size: ~\$447,000

FY24 Round Details and Timeline

- ▶ \$20 million available
- ▶ Max \$3M for individual \$5M for regional projects
- ▶ 25% match required, with exceptions
- ▶ Reimbursement



Submit applications
by online form



- ▶ RFR release: Late-March 2023
- ▶ RFR Q&A period ~2 weeks
- ▶ Applications due: Early May 2023
- ▶ Award announcement: ~August 2023
- ▶ Projects start: Anticipated September 2023 (please build project timeline w/ this in mind)
- ▶ Projects end: June 30, 2024 OR June 30, 2025 (make clear phases in each fiscal year)



What's NEW in this FY 24 round?

1. **Expanded Eligibility:** The legislature recently amended the eligibility of MVP. The language expanded eligibility in two ways. First, it expanded eligibility from only cities and towns to “the commonwealth’s political subdivisions” and federally-recognized and state-acknowledged tribes. Second, it also allowed for grants directly to any authorities, commissions, boards and instrumentalities of those eligible entities. The projects applied for should align with priorities in an MVP-approved municipal climate resilience plan and should also include a letter of support from the municipality/ies related to the project (with exception for Tribes). Questions about eligibility can be sent to kara.runsten@mass.gov.
2. **MVP Core Principles:** Edited to better emphasize the program’s focus on building social resilience in communities, in addition to infrastructural and environmental resilience.
3. **Priority Populations:** Based on feedback through MVP 2.0 process, changing terminology and tweaking definition of “climate vulnerable populations” to “priority populations.”

What's NEW in this FY 24 round? (contd.)

4. Climate Action Plans: We recommend applying to pilot the MVP 2.0 program (RFR expected April 2023) instead. If you want to apply for both (in case we can't accommodate you in the MVP 2.0 pilot) Action Grant applications for climate action plans must include the core pieces of the MVP 2.0 program (conducting a social vulnerability assessment, hiring community liaisons, participating in equity trainings, and revisiting priorities).
5. Attachment D (yearly progress report): Required for all applicants, answer to best of ability.
6. Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment: Added question to describe how the proposed project will address one or more of the top impacts in the applicant's region or statewide in the 2022 [Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment report](#).
7. Capacity Building: Added question about how the project will build community capacity for climate resilience.
8. 10% Match Eligibility: Updated Attachment N related to communities eligible for 10% match of total project cost for this grant round.

Project Types



Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates



Design and Permitting



Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

Note: Demonstrate necessary permits & permissions have been secured

Action Grant – Application Components

- ✓ Completed online form
- ✓ Completed application narrative (attachment to RFR)
- ✓ Completed scope/budget template (attachment to RFR) with clear delineation between fiscal years
 - ✓ More detailed scope/budget spreadsheet is still optional

- ✓ *Additional Attachments:*
 - ✓ MVP yearly progress report (attachment to RFR)
 - ✓ Attachment for design, permitting, and construction projects
 - ✓ Statement of match (described in RFR)
 - ✓ Letters of support from landowner (if applicable), partners, the public (submitted with application), municipalities (if political subdivision application)
 - ✓ Required Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool Report attachment for projects that focus on a specific site and involve physical assets at any stage
 - ✓ For land acquisition projects:
 - ✓ Draft Town Meeting/City Council vote language
 - ✓ Appraisal

Project Narrative: Please upload a document with your answers to all the questions in the "project narrative" section of the application of the RFR. Please make sure to include the name of the lead municipality and the project title at the top of the document.*

Choose File

Remove File

No File Chosen

Excel Version of Scope/Budget Spreadsheet (Attachment B in the RFR)*

Choose File

Remove File

No File Chosen

Yearly Progress Report (use EEA-provided template in Attachment D of the RFR)

Choose File

Remove File

No File Chosen

Required if the municipality completed their planning process a year or more ago. If regional application please include for all MVP-designated municipalities.

Statement of Match from authorized signatory of the municipality (described in Section 1.F of the RFR)*

Choose File

Remove File

No File Chosen

Required Information for Design and Construction Projects (Attachment C in the RFR) if applicable

Choose File

Remove File

No File Chosen

Document with all letters of support compiled

Choose File

Remove File

No File Chosen

To the extent possible, please do not have support letters sent in separately. Please compile them all into one document and attach here.

Please

[Save and Resume Later](#)

Submit Form

Attachment B & Budgeting Resources

Review the list of instructions below to understand how to use this spreadsheet.

General Instructions

1

For notes embedded in Scope_Budget and Optional Budget Data tab spreadsheets, hover over cells with red triangle in top right of cell.

Project Task Description	Deliverables	Ap
Tasks to be Completed by June 30, 2023		
Task 1: Project Management and Reporting	[Include other project management tasks, such as monthly coordination calls as subtasks. Project management accounts for less than 10% of the Total Project Cost Overall.]	
Sub-task 1.1 Kick-off meeting with Town, EEA, and Consultant		
Sub-task 1.2 Monthly progress reports FY23 (template provided)		
Sub-task 1.3 Project Case Study (template provided)		
Sub-task 1.4 [Description]		

2

In Scope_Budget and Optional Budget Data tab spreadsheets, **yellow cells are for user input. Green, blue, and orange cells contain formulas and should not be altered.**

Total Grant	In-Kind Match	Cash Match	Total Match	Total Project Cost
			\$ -	\$0.00
			\$ -	\$0.00
			\$ -	\$0.00
			\$ -	\$0.00
			\$ -	\$0.00
\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$0.00

Checklist for applicants when completing Attachment B Scope/Budget

Required Budget Spreadsheet (Scope_Budget tab)

- ☐ Budget broken down into a task / sub-task structure that aligns with included application scope and schedule.
- ☐ Required budget spreadsheet filled out completely for each task and sub-task proposed, including required tasks for Kickoff, Project Management and Reporting, and Stakeholder Engagement, as indicated in the spreadsheet.
 - o Provided task/sub-task descriptions
 - o Listed deliverables for each task / sub-task.
 - o Included approximate start and end dates for each sub-task.
 - o Budget broken out across fiscal years.

INSTRUCTIONS

TIPS

SCOPE_BUDGET

OPTIONAL BUDGET DATA

Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool

Includes elements like:

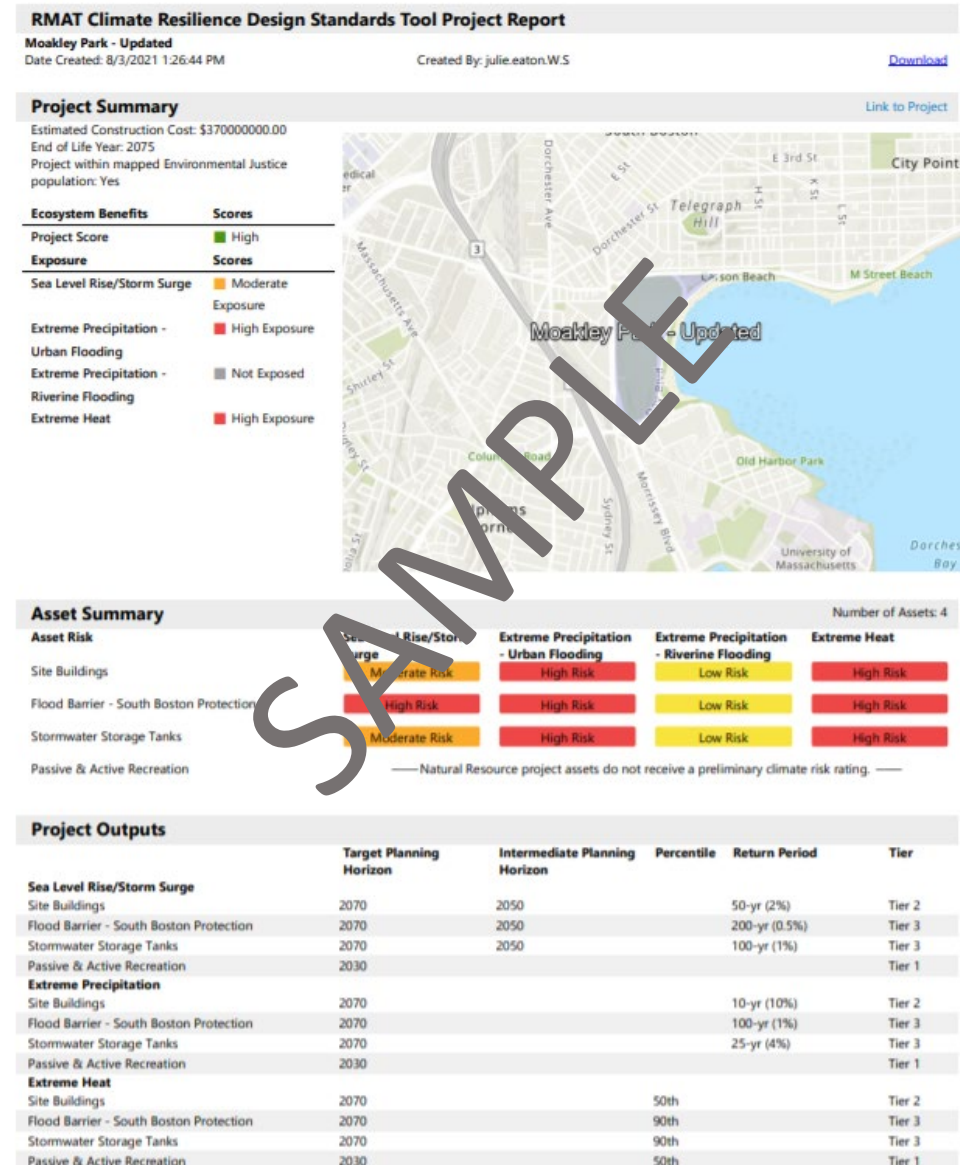
- Location on a map
- Series of questions about the project, location, and climate hazards
- GIS based data from ResilientMA

Provides:

- Preliminary Climate Exposure & Risk Rating
- Recommended Design Criteria
 - Planning Horizon
 - Return Period
 - Design Standards

Important Notes:

- Required for all MVP projects in any phase that include a physical asset (i.e., buildings, infrastructure, natural resources)
- Additional guidance, text, and user interface updates
- Updated Data (Cornell, MC-FRM)
- Submit the project when finished
- RMAT@Mass.gov for any questions



MA Climate Change Assessment

- Identified a shortlist of **37 impacts** of climate change across **five sectors**
 - The shortlist allows the assessment to focus on the impacts most likely to require adaptation action, therefore providing actionable inputs to the 2023 SHMCAP
- For each impact: evaluated magnitude of consequence, disproportionality of exposure, and adaptation to identify, per sector, **top three most urgent impacts statewide and by region**
- Utilized existing studies and data, local climate adaptation plans, and stakeholder input to identify priority impacts

Report: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-climate-change-assessment>

Webinar: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xnY9ROfOD4A&feature=youtu.be>

Assessment Sectors

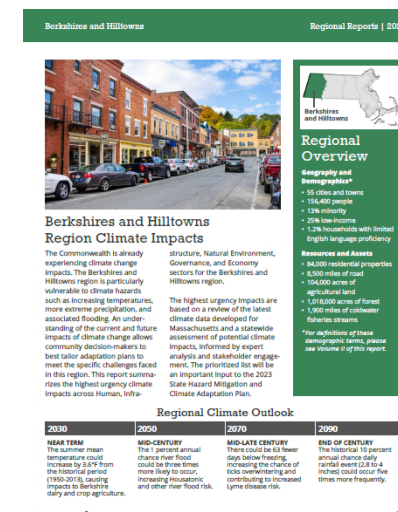
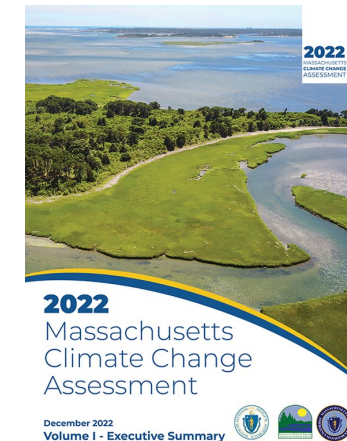
Human

Infrastructure

Natural Environment

Governance

Economy



Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Project Description, Rationale, and Climate Data
 - What climate change impacts the project will address, what the objectives are, why the project was chosen, how it reflects priorities in MVP plan
 - Project includes use of Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool, if applicable
 - Project relationship to priorities in MA Climate Change Assessment impacts
 - Incorporates up-to-date climate science and data on future conditions
 - Includes yearly progress report
- Timeline, Scope, and Budget (including 25% match of total project cost, 10% if community listed in Attachment N)
 - Project scope—detail the steps of the project in the application and the summary in the scope/budget attachment
 - Project budget (delineated by fiscal year with a clear phases in each fiscal year if applying for FY25 funding)
 - Clear project timeline with capability to be completed in the contract period (timelines should start around September 2023).
 - Identification of regulatory components (including attachment for design, permitting, and construction projects)

Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Nature-Based Solutions and Environmental Benefits
 - How ecological systems are incorporated into the overall vision of project
 - Identification and description of environmental co-benefits of project
 - Hard infrastructure can get partial points
- Environmental Justice and Public/Regional Benefits
 - Project located in and positive impacts to Environmental Justice Population– should also have demonstrated support from that community (community liaison model and/or letters of support), can get partial points for projects benefitting a Priority Population
 - Project benefits a large area and number of people and has many co-benefits
 - Whether the project is regional

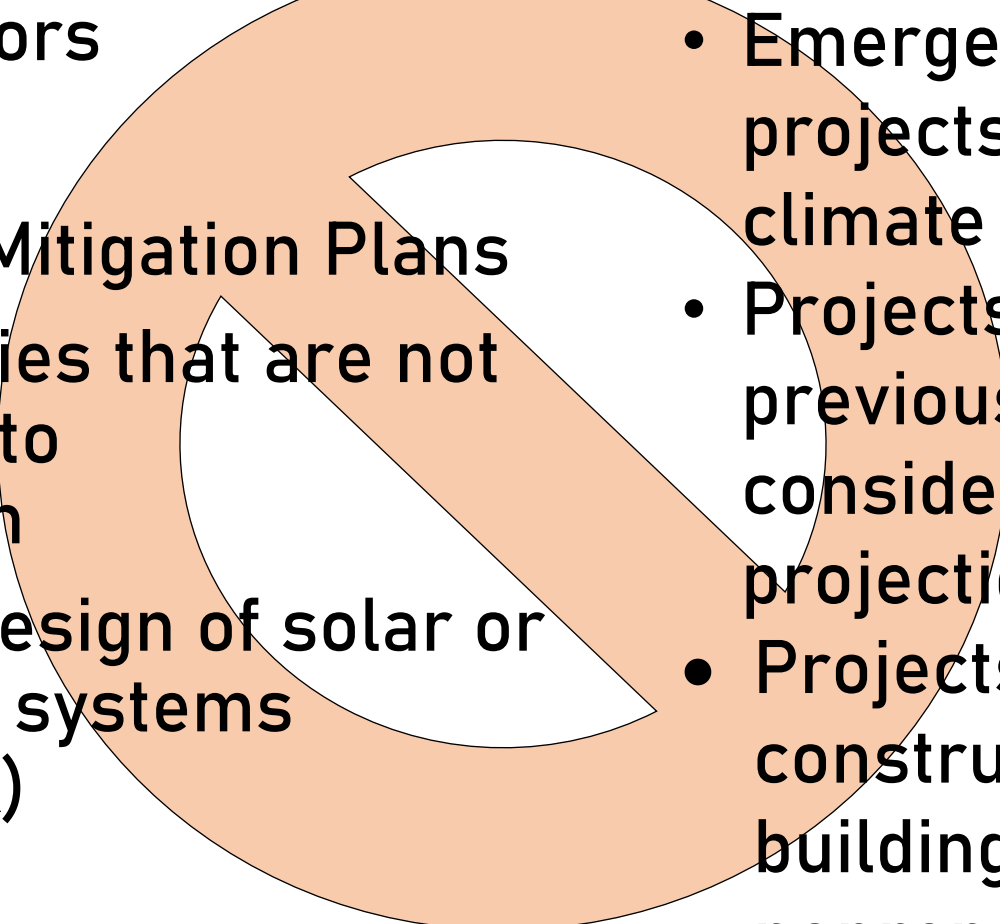
Competitive Evaluation Criteria

- Public Involvement and Community Engagement
 - Follow guidance to complete a Public Involvement and Community Engagement Plan (matrix and narrative) consisting of print, digital, and in-person equitable outreach
 - Degree to which feedback will be incorporated into process and mechanism to share results
 - Tasks identified in plan should be incorporated into scope/budget with distinct deliverables
 - If a construction/implementation project- can get points for robust past engagement strategies, just be clear about what is in this scope and what has already occurred
- Project Transferability, Capacity Building, Measurement of Success, and Maintenance
 - Demonstration project and transferable to other communities
 - Degree to which project or tasks in project build community capacity for climate resilience (e.g., fostering social and institutional relationships, integrating climate resilience thinking into other policy or planning projects, training community members on climate resilience and equity, engaging students with climate resilience curricula, etc.)
 - Measurement (directional outcomes and metrics) and monitoring of project success
 - Plan for maintenance or updates to project to make sure the project's goals continue long-term

Competitive Evaluation Criteria

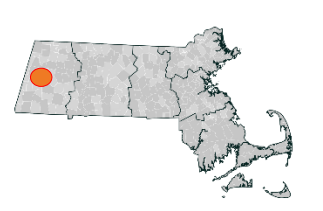
- Need for Financial Assistance
 - Narrative of why funding is needed (to be combined with an assessment by EEA)
- Project Feasibility & Management
 - Technical, financial, and management capacity to take on project
 - If ongoing MVP grant or planning to also apply for MVP 2.0 pilot this spring, note capacity to take on all these projects
 - Landowner, public, and/or partner support
 - Non-municipal eligible entities (except for Tribes) should include a letter of support from the municipality/ies related to the project
 - Good standing in MVP program, to be completed by MVP team
- Overall Project Quality
 - Determined by reviewers

Action projects that are NOT MVP-competitive:

- 
- Diesel generators
 - Tree removal
 - FEMA Hazard Mitigation Plans
 - Academic studies that are not directly linked to implementation
 - Feasibility or design of solar or solar + battery systems (installation ok)
 - Emergency preparedness projects that don't incorporate climate projections/planning
 - Projects that repair to previous conditions without consideration of climate projections
 - Projects that include building construction where the building will rely on nonrenewable sources of energy

Action Grant Examples

The Housatonic Stream Restoration for Regional Flood Resilience Project



Regional Project: Pittsfield, Stockbridge, New Marlborough, Lenox FY22

[Town-wide Culvert Assessments for Regional Flood Resilience \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com)

AWARD

\$295,190

MATCH \$99,720

PROJECT TYPE

Type 1: Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED

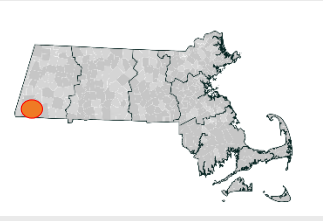
Conducting robust community engagement; Increasing equitable outcomes for EJ and other priority populations; Utilizing regional solutions toward regional benefit

DESCRIPTION

- Update of each municipality's culvert inventory by conducting over 400 culvert assessments
- Robust community engagement:
 - Involvement with multiple EJ/community-based organizations across municipalities
 - Paid youth crew trained in culvert assessment protocol to assist with regional assessment
 - Watershed, water quality protection, and climate change studies incorporated into middle and high school curricula
 - Youth Climate Leadership Program, field trips to project sites



Rural Dirt Road Resilience: Assessment, Pilot Study, and Recommendations Report



Regional Project: Sheffield, New Marlborough, & Sandisfield FY20

[MVP Dirt Roads \(wordpress.com\)](https://mvp-dirtroads.wordpress.com)

[Assessment & Recommendations Report](#)

AWARD

\$123,973

MATCH \$41,520

PROJECT TYPE

Type 1: Planning, Assessments, Capacity Building, and Regulatory Updates

CORE PRINCIPLES DEMONSTRATED

Conducting robust community engagement;
Utilizing regional solutions toward regional benefit

DESCRIPTION

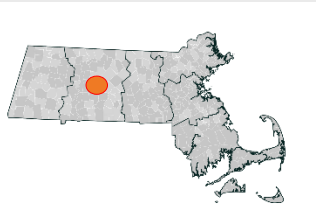
- Sought to better understand how and under what conditions rural dirt roads are vulnerable to the effects of climate change
- Developed a robust dirt road scoring methodology using community feedback, field and desktop data collection, and stakeholder engagement
- Produced a rural dirt road vulnerability assessment report and provided recommendations



Climate Resilient Downtown Affordable Housing



Northampton FY23 (ongoing)



AWARD

\$921,300

MATCH

\$344,000

PROJECT TYPE

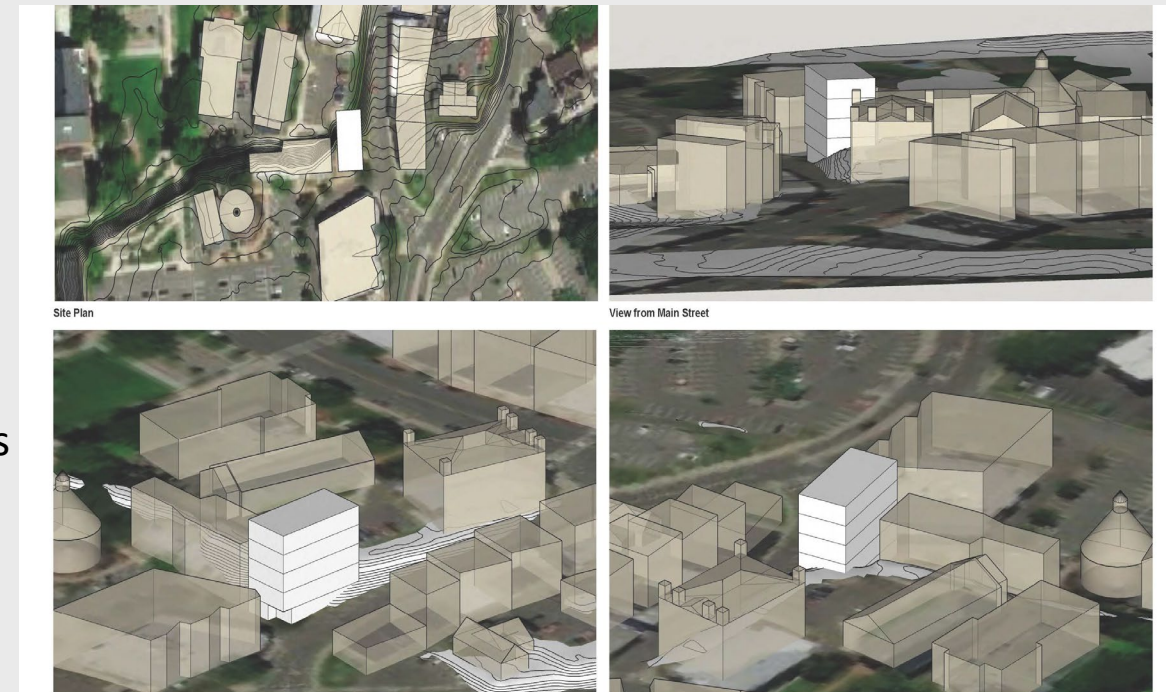
Type 2: Design and Permitting

**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED**

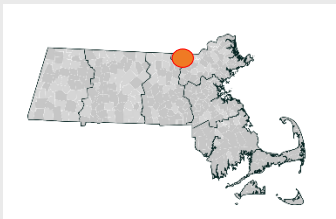
Pursuing innovative, transferable approaches;
Achieving broad and multiple community benefits

DESCRIPTION

- Design and permitting for passive house standard ~20+ unit multifamily dwelling
- Will serve priority populations, with a specific focus on those who currently are or are at risk of becoming houseless (highest risks – flooding and extreme heat)
- Strategically located:
 - Near essential services and transportation
 - Elevated out of floodplain
 - Highly visible
 - Epicenter of climate vulnerable populations



Sucker Brook Continuity Restoration



Pepperell FY22 (ongoing)

[Sucker Brook Continuity Restoration Project - Building Community Resiliency | Pepperell, MA - Official Website](#)

AWARD

\$840,142

MATCH \$206,238

PROJECT TYPE

Type 3: Construction and On-the-Ground Implementation

**CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED**

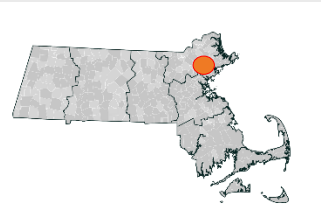
Employing Nature-Based Solution (NBS); Utilizing climate change data for a proactive solution

DESCRIPTION

- On-the-ground construction phase to remove a dam and replace 2 undersized, failing culverts on Sucker Brook, a cold-water fishery of high ecological value
- Will improve ecological conditions and water quality/quantity, remove public safety hazards, eliminate flooding risks, enhance climate resiliency
- Aiming to restore stream continuity & mimic the natural stream processes with larger culverts and restore free-flowing conditions



Richardson Green Conservation Acquisition



Lynnfield FY22

<https://ecga.org/RichardsonGreen>

[Conservation Commission | Lynnfield MA](#)

AWARD

\$1,638,750

MATCH

\$758,950

PROJECT TYPE

Richardson Green Conservation Acquisition –
Action Grant

CORE PRINCIPLES
DEMONSTRATED

Employing Nature-Based Solutions; Utilizing
Regional Solutions Toward Regional Benefits

DESCRIPTION

- **Protection of 21 acres of undeveloped forest in Ipswich River watershed:** Habitat protection/restoration, reduction of development in climate vulnerable areas, protection of water quality & groundwater recharge, improved air quality, carbon sequestration, mitigation of inland flooding risks
- One phase of larger project known as "A Vision for Willis Woods"
- **Significant project success from public-private collaboration of 7 partners:** Greenbelt/Essex County's Land Trust, Ipswich River Watershed Association, Lynnfield Center Water District, towns of Lynnfield, Middleton, North Reading, and City of Peabody
- **Future plans:** development of extensive recreational trails network with connections to partner communities



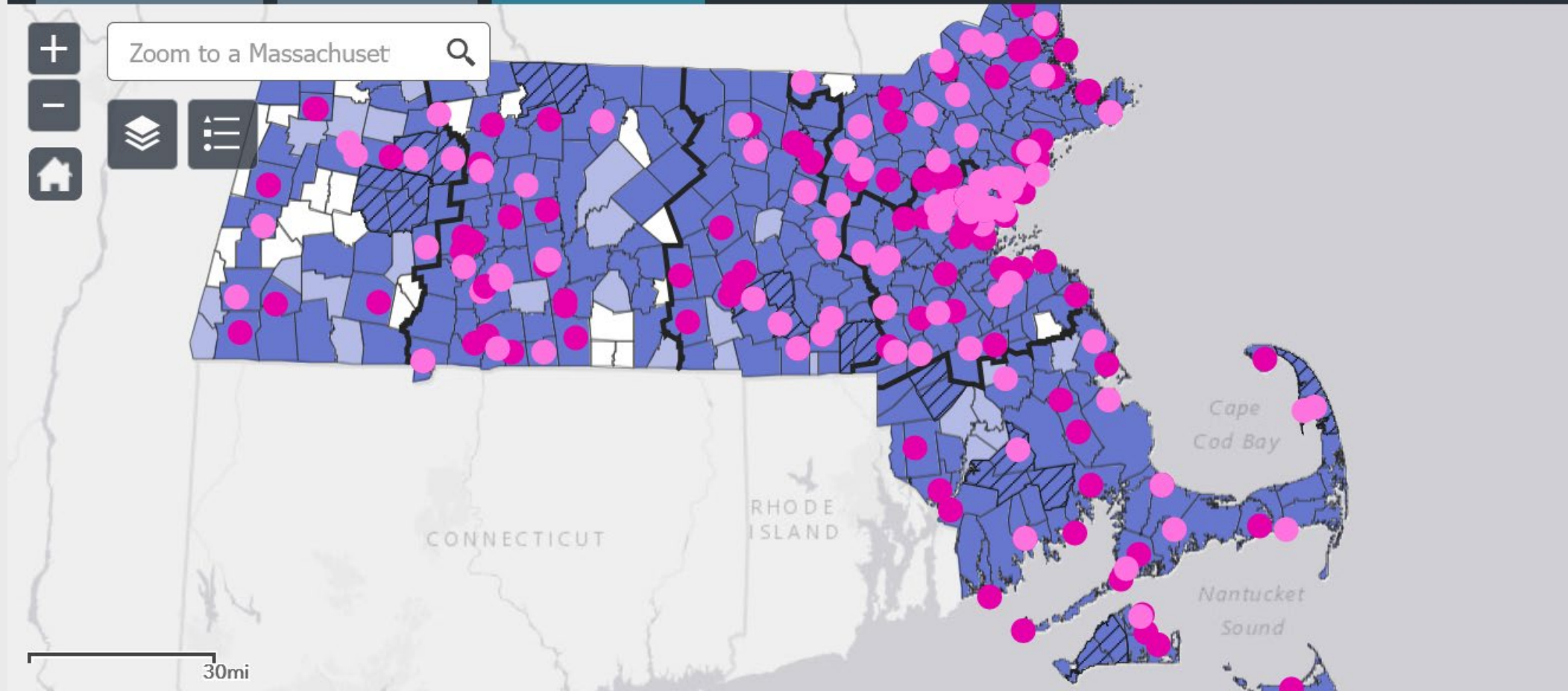
View the MVP grants in the tabs below:

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program

Planning Grants

Action Grants

All MVP Grants



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 www.resilientma.mass.gov/mvp

MVP 2.0 Pilot



We are excited to pilot a new MVP planning program starting this Spring! The new MVP 2.0 program will provide communities with guidance and funding to:

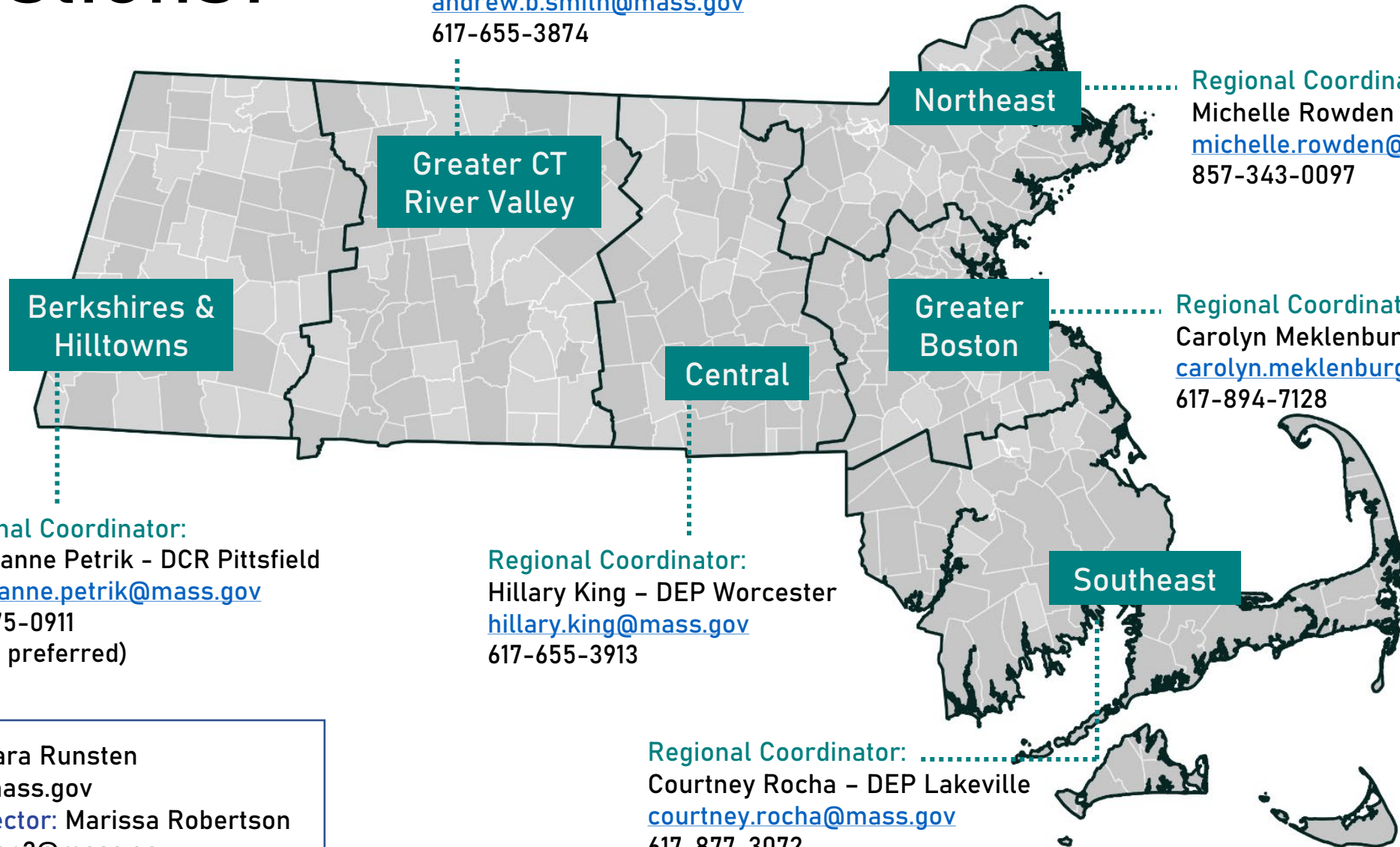
- Expand their Core Team membership to center community members who will be most impacted by climate change
- Receive innovative training on climate resilience best practices, equity, and environmental justice
- Revisit priorities in their current MVP plans based on this new knowledge and engagement, and
- Receive technical assistance and guaranteed funding (~50K) to develop and implement an action project.

We will have an informational session in mid-April and expect the (short!) application to come out in late April with a due date of late May.



Questions?

Regional Coordinator:
Andrew Smith – DEP Springfield
andrew.b.smith@mass.gov
617-655-3874



MVP Director: Kara Runsten
kara.runsten@mass.gov
MVP Deputy Director: Marissa Robertson
Marissa.robertson2@mass.gov

Find your region by municipality: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/contact-mvp-regional-coordinator>