



Issue 16, Fall 2023

Welcome to the sixteenth quarterly issue of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Newsletter. The MVP grant program provides support for communities in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The Commonwealth awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP Planning Grant program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action Grant funding and other opportunities.

Announcements

Massachusetts Releases Statewide Climate Resilience Plan

On October 11th, 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration released its Statewide Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan, known as the **ResilientMass Plan**. In total, the ResilientMass plan details 142 actions across state agencies that are tracked publicly at **Resilient.Mass.Gov**. Key actions include establishing an Office of Climate Science, making the state building code more resilient, and updating MBTA design standards.

ResilientMass is based on the findings, science, and stakeholder engagement of the Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment. Among the most significant hazards to Massachusetts are flooding from precipitation, coastal flooding and erosion due to sea level rise, and high heat. Actions that respond to these impacts will each be advanced by a designated lead agency, in collaboration with other state and community partners. ResilientMass is implemented by the inter-agency ResilientMass Action Team, and a new Office of Climate Science will support agencies and municipalities integrating climate change information into their plans and projects.

We look forward to working with you to implement the ResilientMass Plan over the coming years. Please reach out to rmat@mass.gov with any questions about the plan or to climatescience@mass.gov with any specific questions on climate change data and science.



Massachusetts Launches Statewide Coastal Resilience Strategy

The Healey-Driscoll Administration today announced the launch of the [ResilientCoasts](#) initiative, a holistic strategy for addressing the impacts of climate change along the coastline of Massachusetts. In collaboration with the state's 78 coastal communities, ResilientCoasts will pursue a multipronged approach to identify regulatory, policy, and funding mechanisms to develop focused long-term solutions. Notably, the initiative will be led by a new Chief Coastal Resilience Officer within the Office of Coastal Zone Management. Working with communities, this team will establish Coastal Resilience Districts based on their unique climate impacts. The development of a coastal resilience strategy is a priority action within the state's [ResilientMass Plan](#).



NOW OPEN! EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR FY25 MVP ACTION GRANTS

The MVP team is currently accepting Expression of Interest (EOI) forms for FY25 Action Grant ideas. Through this form, potential applicants will provide basic information about their project idea. MVP staff will then provide feedback on the project ideas prior to the Request for Responses (RFR) release date. For the FY25 round, submission of an EOI for a project is not mandatory in order to submit an application once the RFR comes out (tentatively mid-March 2024) but is encouraged.

The EOI form can be found here:
[**FY25 MVP Action Grant EOI - Formstack**](#)

EOI Timeline: We will review EOIs on a rolling basis. Earlier submissions will be prioritized for feedback with the MVP staff and will be given feedback from a wider range of state agencies. The deadline to submit this form for feedback is Friday, December 15, 2023.

Number of Submissions: Each applicant should limit EOIs submitted to a maximum of 2 (i.e., 2 different potential project ideas).

Disclaimer: Please note that while this EOI process is provided as a courtesy to help create a competitive application, positive feedback during the EOI stage does not guarantee that a project will ultimately be funded.

Expression of Interest (EOI) for MVP FY25 Action Grant



Project and Engagement Highlights



Town of Mattapoisett

Mattapoisett River Valley Drinking Water Resilience Project

The Buzzards Bay Coalition, in partnership with the towns of Mattapoisett, Fairhaven, Marion, Acushnet, and Rochester, has successfully completed the Mattapoisett River Valley Drinking Water Resilience Project, a landmark initiative safeguarding 240 acres of land and protecting clean drinking water in the region.

The Mattapoisett River Valley is home to one of southeastern Massachusetts' most critical sources of drinking water. Recognizing the increasing challenges posed by climate change and population growth, the Coalition worked together with all five towns to ensure the long-term sustainability and resilience of this essential groundwater aquifer.

The project, made possible with support from the Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant, will also benefit important fish and wildlife habitats, outdoor recreation opportunities, and sustainable local agriculture. Community members will soon be able to explore expanded trails that connect to the Coalition's Mattapoisett River Reserve trail system and enjoy Buzzards Bay Coalition activities and community programming in the farm buildings at Red Brick Farm. The portions of land that are currently being farmed will continue to be used for agricultural purposes.

MVP 2023 Field Trips

Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network

This fall, the MVP Program and the Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network collaborated for the second year in a field trip series that featured exciting, innovative climate resilience projects happening throughout the Commonwealth.

This year's field trip series focused on showcasing projects that were working to address climate change at the watershed scale. The series showcased work in Ipswich, where a broad coalition is working to enhance coastal resilience and fish passageways, progressed to the Mystic River Watershed,

where watershed-scale efforts to promote climate resilience are being implemented, and finished in Mattapoisett, where the Buzzard's Bay coalition are working to preserve agricultural landscapes within the context of ecological restoration.

There's something for everyone and if you didn't join is this year, come join us next fall as we work to make climate resilience approachable to the Commonwealth's climate resilience community.



ResilientMass Resource Clearinghouse User Survey



[Take Our Survey: Click Here](#)

The EEA is currently in the process of re-designing the [ResilientMass Resource Clearinghouse](#), which is hosted on the [ResilientMass website](#). The purpose of the re-design is to provide more relevant and up-to-date resources related to climate adaptation and resilience within the state of Massachusetts. Please send any additional comments or questions to MVP Deputy Director Marissa Robertson at marissa.robertson2@mass.gov.

Upcoming Dates, Events, & Other Opportunities

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

Grant Opportunities

- [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning 2.0](#) (MVP 2.0) is a grant for municipalities to revisit their climate resilience priorities with a focus on equity and translate those priorities into action. Explore this page to learn more about the MVP 2.0 process and access MVP 2.0 resources, including the MVP 2.0 guide, additional process documents, and GEAR.
- The [LWCF grant program](#) provides financial assistance to municipalities and the state's Departments of Conservation and Recreation and Fish and Game for the acquisition of parkland, development of a new park, renovation of an existing park, development of trails in an existing conservation or recreation area, or the acquisition of conservation land. Grants up to \$1,000,000

are available this grant round. Two information sessions will be held: the first on Wednesday, November 8, 2023, at 2:00 pm on Microsoft Teams and the second on Monday, November 20, 2023, at 11:00 am at the DFW Field Headquarters in Westboro. It is highly preferable to attend the in-person workshop. Please RSVP to Melissa Cryan at melissa.cryan@mass.gov to attend either session. For additional information and to apply, [click here](#).

- [Inflation Reduction Act Community Change Grants Program | US EPA](#) - EPA's new Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants program (Community Change Grants) will invest approximately \$2 billion dollars in Inflation Reduction Act funds in environmental and climate justice activities to benefit disadvantaged communities through projects that reduce pollution, increase community climate resilience, and build community capacity to respond to environmental and climate justice challenges. These place-based investments will be focused on community-driven initiatives to be responsive to community and stakeholder input. They are designed to deliver on the transformative potential of the IRA for communities most adversely and disproportionately impacted by climate change, legacy pollution, and historical disinvestments. Community Challenge grants are available to partnerships of at least two community-based non-profit organizations and partnerships between CBOs and one or any combination of the following: Federally-Recognized Tribe, local government, and institution of higher education. EPA's Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights plans to issue the Community Change Grants Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in early autumn 2023.
- [EmPower Massachusetts | MassCEC](#) - EmPower Massachusetts offers multiple stages of investment in communities and community-based organizations so that they can explore, develop, and implement program models or projects that provide access to the benefits of clean energy for previously underserved populations. This MassCEC program crowd-sources new and innovative ideas, then helps put them into action. Application period opens August 10, 2023, and MassCEC will be accepting applications for both grant opportunities through April 3, 2024.
- The [Clean School Bus Program | US EPA](#) is a federal grant program that provides \$5 billion over five years (FY 2022-2026) to replace existing school buses with zero-emission and low-emission models. EPA expects to announce the 2023 Grant Program selectees by early 2024. In Fall 2023, EPA opened the [2023 CSB Rebates](#) program; EPA expects to award at least \$500 million in funding under the 2023 rebate program. EPA will continue to update this page with additional Clean School Bus Program funding information and educational resources. View the [awards for 2022 Clean School Bus Rebates](#).

Job Opportunities

- **MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA):**
 - [Employee Relations Specialist](#) - The EEA seeks applicants for the position of Employee Relations Specialist. The Employee Relations Specialist plays a crucial role in fostering a positive and productive work environment by managing employee relations and promoting a culture of fairness, equity, and compliance within the organization.
 - [Executive Assistant to Undersecretary](#) - The EEA has three openings for Executive Assistant positions to support its senior leadership; Deputy Secretary and Special Counsel for Federal and Regional Energy Affairs; Undersecretary for the Environment and Undersecretary for Energy; Undersecretary for Environmental Justice & Equity; and Undersecretary for Decarbonization and Resilience.
 - [Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Manager](#) - The EEA seeks applicants for the position of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Manager. The Diversity Equity and Inclusion Manager reports to the Director of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and works to cultivate a supportive and inclusive work environment for all employees across the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs.
 - [EOEEA Special Assistant](#) - The EEA is looking to hire a Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff for the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Work with EEA Chief of Staff, the EEA executive leadership team, as well as other agencies and executive assistants within and outside the administration on the planning and execution of special projects and public events.
 - [Chief Coastal Resilience Officer](#) - The Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM) is seeking a **Chief Coastal Resilience Officer** to lead coastal resilience efforts for the Commonwealth. This new position will be responsible for implementing the policies and programs of CZM as they relate to improving resilience to climate change impacts along the Massachusetts coast. For more information and to apply, see the [full job posting](#).

Events

- **Building Code Application Discussion and FEMA GO Information** November 30, 2023 at 1:00- 2:00 pm ET [Click here to join the meeting](#)
 - **FEMA is giving away funding this year for building code-type activities** that may interest your municipality. You can request up to 75% of the cost of the following items—all you have to do is enter an application in FEMA GO online.
- **SAVE THE DATE: 2024 Winter Webinar Series**
 - EEA is excited to host its third Winter Webinar Series. Details on topics and speakers and registration links are forthcoming.
 - Webinar #1: February 14th, 2024, 10am-12pm
 - Webinar #2: February 21st, 2024, 10am-12pm
 - Webinar #3: February 28th, 2024, 10am-12pm

- **The Federal Funds and Infrastructure Office (FFIO)** is thrilled to announce the launch of the Massachusetts Federal Funds Partnership—an exciting monthly initiative aimed at empowering municipalities and tribes across the Commonwealth to access and leverage federal funding opportunities effectively.
 - More information on future meetings can be found [here](#).
- **The Global Warming Solutions Act Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)** is a committee to advise the Administration's implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) featuring leaders from sectors and communities across Massachusetts.
 - More information on the IAC can be found [here](#).
- The Executive Office of Economic Development (EOED) is hosting a series of online engagement sessions to inform development of a Local Floodplain Action Guide, a guide to assist cities and towns in taking impactful zoning, administrative, and other local actions to reduce flood risk and promote flood-resilient construction. Municipal staff and board members, elected officials, regional planning agencies, community-based organizations, and stakeholders are invited to join and contribute. Upcoming sessions include the following:
 - Reducing Flood Risk in Boston Harbor and the North & South Shores, Regional Engagement Session via Zoom, November 30th at 12 pm: <https://bit.ly/floodplain-shores>
 - Reducing Flood Risk on the Cape, Islands, and South Coast, Regional Engagement Session via Zoom, December 7th at 12 pm: <https://bit.ly/floodplain-islands>
 - Can't make the session for your region? Don't worry. Join another or share your input using the [online Feedback Form](#).
- **[Crisis as Catalyst: Meeting the Moment with Transformational Investments](#)** In the wake of a crisis, be it an extreme weather event, a pandemic, or something else, political dynamics shift that catalyze innovation and usher in possibilities previously deemed unimaginable.
 - Join the [Climate Adaptation Forum](#) at 9AM on Thursday, November 30th to learn about these critical junctures in history when opportunities to do the impossible became reality.

Tools & Resources

- **[Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience \(GEAR\)](#)** GEAR provides Massachusetts communities access to data and guidance to assess climate change impacts, as well as actions and case studies for building community resilience. Provide feedback: info.resilientma@mass.gov.
- **[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).
- **[Digital Coast](#)**: The Digital Coast was developed to meet the unique needs of the coastal management community. The website provides not only coastal data, but also the tools, training, and information needed to make these data truly useful. Content comes from many sources, all of which are vetted by NOAA.
- **[Recommendations of the Climate Chief](#)**: The report from Climate Chief Melissa Hoffer outlines a whole-of-government approach to addressing the climate crisis. With an unprecedented level of interest in climate action, including with investments from the federal government and partnerships with the private sector, local governments, public health, academia and philanthropy, the task of the Climate Office is to build new and effective frameworks for action.

MVP Team | [Website](#)

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