



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Quarterly Newsletter

Winter 2020, Issue 2

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Welcome to the second quarterly issue of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Newsletter. The MVP grant program provides support for cities and towns 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 program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action grant funding and other opportunities.

Meet the new Berkshires and Hilltowns Regional Coordinator!

Carrieanne Petrik, the MVP Regional Coordinator for the Berkshires and Hilltowns, has been working with communities in western Massachusetts for over twenty years on issues relating to sustainability, agriculture and climate change. Her academic training in geology led her to focus on geological carbon sequestration, but her love of food and farming extend this knowledge to organic carbon sequestration in agricultural systems. Carrieanne has worked extensively with school systems

developing innovative curriculum for both teachers and students around geology and climate change. Most recently, she has been working as a Community Engagement Specialist with the Trustees of Reservations. When not working, Carrieanne can be found working in her garden, exploring rivers and forests or applying her scientific love of experimentation to baking, with mixed results.



MVP Planning and Action Grants

- FY20 Planning and Action Grant recipients have been notified. See tables below for more information on awardees.
- The FY21 MVP Planning and Action grant round is expected in Spring 2020.



Governor Baker, Lieutenant Governor Polito, and EEA Secretary Theoharides announced MVP FY20 awards in New Bedford, February 5, 2020

FY20 MVP Planning Grant Awardees

Congratulations to the FY20 MVP Planning Grant recipients! The following municipalities have been awarded funding to complete a community resiliency planning process in addition to an expanded scope or hazard mitigation plan (if requested and funded).

With these 38 new municipalities enrolled in our program, MVP municipal participation in the state has increased to 82%. The official press release can be found [here](#).

| Applicant | Region | Total Award |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| Abington | Greater Boston | \$17,000 |
| Acushnet | Southeast | \$15,000 |
| Berlin | Central | \$20,000 |
| Bernardston | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$20,000 |
| Billerica | Northeast | \$39,000 |
| Bolton | Central | \$15,000 |
| Boxborough | Northeast | \$15,000 |
| Dracut | Northeast | \$44,000 |
| East Bridgewater | Southeast | \$15,000 |
| Georgetown | Northeast | \$47,000 |
| Hatfield | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$20,000 |
| Haverhill | Northeast | \$70,600 |
| Hubbardston | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$20,000 |
| Lowell | Northeast | \$77,550 |
| Lunenburg | Central | \$15,000 |
| New Marlborough | Berkshires & Hilltowns | \$20,000 |
| New Salem | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$27,000 |
| North Andover | Northeast | \$35,000 |
| North Brookfield | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$25,000 |
| Northfield & Warwick | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$39,000 |
| Pembroke | Southeast | \$29,500 |
| Princeton | Central | \$20,000 |
| Randolph | Greater Boston | \$40,000 |
| Reading | Northeast | \$21,000 |
| Rowe | Berkshires & Hilltowns | \$20,000 |
| Rowley | Northeast | \$15,000 |
| Sharon | Greater Boston | \$22,000 |
| Shutesbury | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$27,000 |
| Southampton | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$22,000 |
| Sterling | Central | \$15,000 |
| Stoneham | Greater Boston | \$36,000 |
| Sturbridge | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$15,000 |
| Topsfield | Northeast | \$27,000 |
| Townsend | Central | \$22,000 |
| Westfield | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$32,000 |
| Westminster | Central | \$22,000 |
| Winchendon | Greater Connecticut River Valley | \$36,400 |
| TOTAL (38) | | \$1,018,050 |

FY20 MVP Action Grant Awardees

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs received 111 applications from cities and towns throughout the Commonwealth in response to the FY20 Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grants. Of the applications, 54 have received Action Grant funding, representing 52 unique cities and towns or regional groups. The following municipalities have been awarded during this round. Congratulations to our newest round of Action Grant awardees! The official press release can be found [here](#).

| Applicant | Project Title | Recommended amount to fund |
|---|---|----------------------------|
| Acton | 53 River Street Dam Removal | \$112,500 |
| Adams & Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership | Mohawk Trail Woodland Partnership Regional Adaptation & Resilience Project | \$1,489,956 |
| Amesbury | Open Space and Recreation Plan Update | \$37,500 |
| Amherst | Climate Action, Adaptation and Resilience Plan | \$100,000 |
| Auburn | Develop Protection Measures for Vulnerable Drinking Water Supply Areas and Evaluate Green Bridge Design | \$145,452 |
| Beverly | Climate Action and Resilience Plan | \$100,000 |
| Boxford, Topsfield, & Ipswich | Increasing regional flood resiliency through re-designing culverts in the Howlett Brook Watershed | \$45,866 |
| Brookline | Urban Forest Climate Resiliency Master Plan | \$112,500 |
| Canton | Climate Change Vulnerability and Resiliency Assessment Study | \$337,500 |
| Chelmsford | Dunshire Drive Culvert Replacement & Deep Brook Stream Restoration: Phase I | \$83,545 |
| Chelsea & Everett | Island End River Flood Resilience Project | \$454,555 |
| Deerfield | Flood Resiliency Through Green Infrastructure in Deerfield | \$572,250 |
| Easton | Wetland Restoration- Removal of Abandoned Structures | \$177,620 |
| Erving | Wheelock Culvert Repair/Replacement and Data Redundancy | \$64,000 |
| Fall River | Water Supply Risk & Resilience Assessment (RRA) and Distribution System | \$115,725 |
| Framingham | Walnut Street Neighborhood Flood Mitigation & City Stormwater Utility Feasibility Studies | \$206,850 |
| Gosnold | Cuttyhunk Land Conservation Project | \$1,400,000 |
| Harvard | Community Climate Action & Land Stewardship Plan | \$70,860 |
| Holliston | Sustainability & Resiliency Action Plan | \$100,000 |
| Holyoke | Impervious Surface Mapping for Resiliency Planning and Implementation | \$93,850 |
| Hull | Assessment of Shoreline Resiliency Alternatives for Marginal Road | \$25,373 |
| Ipswich | Ipswich River Sewer Interceptor and Siphon Risk Mitigation and Resiliency Improvements | \$18,945 |
| Lynn | Strawberry Brook Resilient Stormwater Management and Implementation Plan | \$112,500 |
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| Manchester-by-the-Sea | Sawmill Brook Central Pond Restoration Project Phase 2: Permitting and Final Design | \$72,385 |
| Medford | Equity-Centered Process for Climate Action and Adaptation Planning | \$36,136 |
| | Suitability Assessment for Equitable, Community-Driven Resilience Hubs | \$65,259 |
| Melrose | City Hall Parking Lot Green Infrastructure Project | \$70,313 |
| Monson | Energy Resiliency for Town Hall-EOC-Police HQ Facility | \$75,000 |
| Monterey | Enhancing Flood Resiliency through Culvert Improvements along the Konkapot River in Monterey Town Center | \$57,893 |
| Nahant | Increasing the Resiliency of Short Beach on Nahant to Sea Level Rise: Access Point Restoration and Modification Plan | \$35,565 |
| New Bedford & Fairhaven | New Bedford Harbor MC-FRM Evaluation and Resilience Design Guideline Development | \$58,662 |
| Newbury | Controlling Flooding and Addressing Future Climate Impacts through the Replacement of the Orchard Street Culvert | \$126,324 |
| Newbury & Newburyport | Plum Island Cost/Benefit Analysis | \$217,451 |
| Newburyport | Resilient Critical Infrastructure: Adapting a Wastewater Treatment Facility, Underground Electric Lines and Public Rail Trail to Future Sea Level Rise and Storm Surge | \$71,160 |
| Northampton | Restoring the Pine Grove Golf Course for Climate Resiliency | \$225,000 |
| Oak Bluffs, Aquinnah, Chilmark, West Tisbury, Tisbury, & Edgartown | Development of an Island-Wide Specific Adaptation Strategy | \$54,000 |
| Palmer | RT 181 Culvert Replacement & Culvert Infrastructure Assessment | \$26,000 |
| | Comprehensive Master Plan | \$112,500 |
| Peabody | Resilient North River Canal Corridor– Phase 2 | \$365,014 |
| Pelham | Pelham Severe Weather Mitigation Project | \$140,000 |
| Pittsfield | Mill Street (Tel-Electric) Dam Removal Project | \$99,000 |
| Plainfield | Transportation Infrastructure Improvement, Inventory, and Prioritization Plan | \$33,550 |
| Quincy | Coastal Flood Mitigation Storm Drainage Improvements - Phase 1: Engineering & Public Outreach | \$164,046 |
| Salem | Ocean Ave. West Pump Station Flood Mitigation – Preliminary Design | \$174,750 |
| Sheffield, New Marlborough, & Sandisfield- | Rural Dirt Road Resilience: Assessment, Pilot Study, and Recommendations Report | \$123,972 |
| Shirley | Microgrid Feasibility Study | \$63,272 |
| Somerville, Boston, | Critical Regional Infrastructure and Social Vulnerability in the Lower | \$389,995 |

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|---|--|---------------------|
| Chelsea, Everett, Winthrop, & Revere | Mystic Watershed | |
| Swampscott | Beach Access Resiliency and Accessibility Improvements | \$375,521 |
| Uxbridge | Integrated Vector-borne Disease Control Program | \$256,926 |
| Waltham | Resilient Stormwater Management and Implementation Plan | \$217,370 |
| Weston | Climate Action & Resiliency Plan | \$100,000 |
| Woburn | Shaker Glen Restoration and Flood Mitigation | \$145,445 |
| Worcester | Worcester Senior Center Parking Lot – Nature-Based Solutions | \$466,140 |
| Yarmouth | Energy Resiliency for Mission-Critical Facilities | \$150,000 |
| Total Municipalities or Regions (52) | Total Projects (54) | \$10,545,996 |

MVP Project Highlights

FY19 Planning Grant:

MVP Roadshow comes to life in Great Barrington

Great Barrington completed their Community Resilience Building (CRB) workshop in November where the action item of engaging with their diverse community continued to float to the top among all participants as a priority in building climate resiliency. With this directive, the core team decided that it was important to involve as many voices as possible in the “listening session” portion of the program. To do this, they are working with their vendor to digest and translate the matrices generated by the community into a visual format that can be understood by many in a short period of time. This visual format will be brought to a variety of locations including the hospital, town hall, health clinic, high school, food co-op, library, farmers market, food pantry and community center. Each of these locations will display one of these posters which will ask for feed back on the priorities generated by the CRB workshop and be staffed by a community volunteer, town staff person, or vendor staff person to help answer questions. This is what the core team is calling the “MVP Roadshow.” Once the data from the Roadshow is collected, the vendor will then incorporate it into the Great Barrington MVP plan. The MVP Roadshow will kick off at the town Selectboard meeting on Monday March 9th and will be televised on the local station.

For more information on this project, contact Carrieanne Petrik, Berkshires and Hilltowns Regional Coordinator at

carrieanne.petrik@mass.gov.



Mural honoring the birth place of W.E.B DuBois in a walkway in Great Barrington created by local youth.

FY19 Action Grant:

Community Resilience Through Urban Forestry: Improving Emergency Response and Environmental Conditions in Springfield, Massachusetts

The City of Springfield experienced three federally-declared disasters in rapid succession in 2011, which led to the City prioritizing climate resilience and the subsequent development of a Climate Action & Resilience Plan (2017). One of the key strategies the City identified through its Climate Action & Resiliency planning process was the development of strategies to support the City's urban forest canopy through the establishment of clear, actionable metrics for enhancing the urban canopy. The City received an Action grant to enhance Springfield Forestry's ability to meet the goals contained within the City's Climate Action Plan. The City is conducting a detailed vulnerability and risk assessment of its urban forest, increasing the capacity of its municipal nursery operation, and conducting green job skills training with local youth.

For more information on this project, contact Andrew Smith, Greater Connecticut River Valley Regional Coordinator at andrew.b.smith@mass.gov.



Photo of the nursery in July 2019, Springfield, MA.

MVP Program Resources

Below is list of resources to assist current MVP communities as they undergo their planning or action grants. More resources can be found at this [link](#).

Planning Grant:

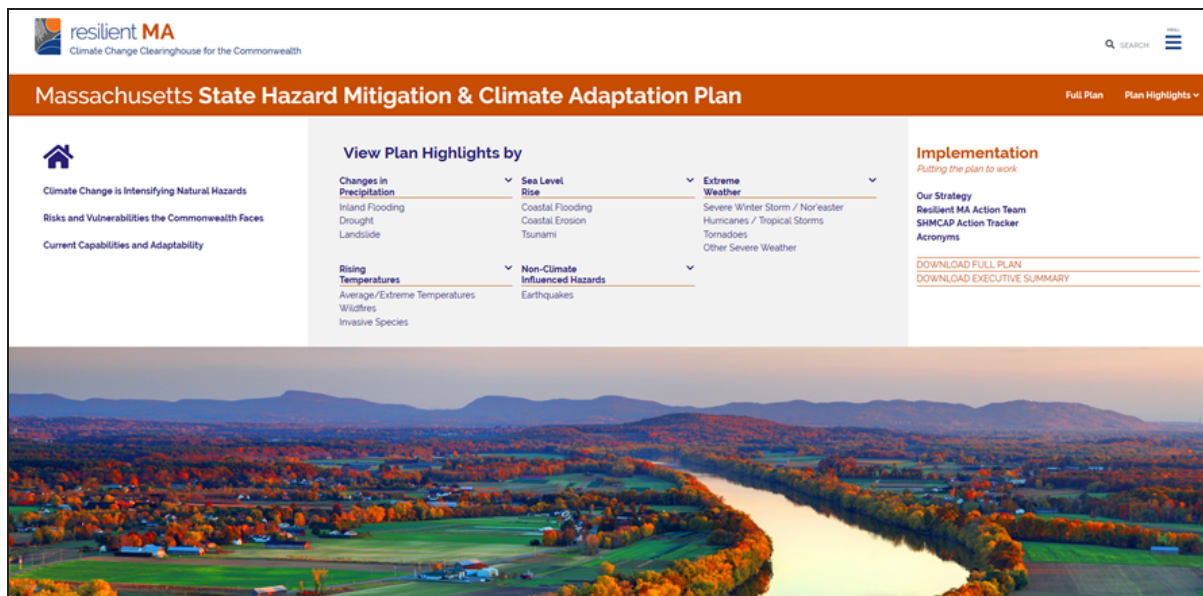
- [MVP Planning Grant training webinar](#) (PowerPoint without audio can be found at this [link](#))
- [Quarterly progress report template](#)
- [MVP Webinars](#)
- [resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse](#)
- [Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) program Planning Reports](#)

Action Grant:

- [Learn More About Completed Action Grant Projects](#)
- [Action Grant Case Study Template](#)

Other Climate Resources:

- **MassDEP "Climate Guide"** - An overview of MassDEP's various climate efforts. The guide can be found [here](#).
- **MA Decarbonization Roadmap** - To achieve long-term emission reduction goals within the Commonwealth, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is undertaking a planning process to identify cost-effective and equitable strategies to ensure Massachusetts reduces greenhouse gas emissions by at least 80% by 2050. Click [here](#) for more information on the study.
- **Mass.gov Community Grant Finder** - Learn about other state grant opportunities available to Massachusetts cities and towns. The grant finder can be found [here](#).
- **resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse** - The resilient MA Climate Change Clearinghouse provides communities with the best science and data on expected climate changes and information on community resiliency. The site also catalogs specific vulnerabilities, risks and strategies concerning agriculture, forestry, local government, education, energy, recreation, and transportation. Follow this [link](#) to visit the clearinghouse.
 - **NEW FEATURES** – The MA Climate Change Clearinghouse has a new look! The new streamlined home page now includes a full site navigation drop-down menu. All existing content is still accessible on the website and can be navigated to using the new menu feature in the upper right corner of every resilientMA page. New content now includes the State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP) Portal. Follow this [link](#) and click on "Plan Highlights" to access the SHMCAP Portal menu to explore key highlights from the 2018 SHMCAP and a dynamic action tracker tool to view updates and progress on state agency actions. The full plan and individual chapters are also available for download.
 - *To clear your cache and ensure that website changes properly function, please remember to hit **Ctrl+F5**.
 - **We are soliciting a vendor to help develop the next phase of ResilientMA.org. Please see [Commbuys](#) for details.**



Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Grant Opportunities

Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming MVP newsletters? Submit to vallery.b.cardoso@mass.gov.

- **MassAudubon is hiring 4 new climate change staff** to support its recently finalized Climate Action Plan. Please contact Alexandra Vecchio at avecchio@massaudubon.org if you have any questions. Information on the positions can be found at the following links:
 - [Climate Change Development Director](#)
 - [Climate Change Communications Manager](#)
 - [Climate Change Education Manager](#)
- **The Division of Ecological Restoration (DER)** is currently hiring for three new positions. The three positions focus on 1) building the capacity of watershed and other regional organizations to lead and support restoration; 2) ecological restoration communications; and 3) restoration operations management. More information on the available positions and how to apply can be found at this [link](#).
- **The American Planning Association (APA) is currently seeking project inquiries** through an initial short-form application from communities interested in exploring nature-based and green infrastructure solutions through pre- and post-disaster recovery planning. Three grantees will be selected to receive specialized technical assistance from a Recovery Planning Assistance Team (RPAT), a subset of APA's Community Planning Assistance Teams (CPAT) program, that brings experienced volunteer planners to disaster-affected communities. All logistical expenses are funded. Request for proposal (RFP) is open until the three projects are selected (or February 28, 2020). More information can be found at this [link](#).
- **Public Meetings on the 2050 Roadmap: Building Solutions to Address Climate Change in the Commonwealth** - The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs is hosting a series of public meetings on the Commonwealth's planning efforts to address climate change. These meetings will be held at different locations across the state during the month of March. Dates and locations, as well as information on how to register can be found at this [link](#).
- **March 7, 2020: Local Environmental Action**, Northeastern University. Local Environmental Action is an opportunity to join community leaders, environmental advocates and activists from across the region for an exciting day of skills training, networking, and inspiration. Registration and event information can be found [here](#).
- **May 11-12, 2020: Antioch University New England, in partnership with NOAA and the Island Institute, is convening the 2020 Local Solutions: Climate Preparedness Conference in Portland, Maine.** The 2020 Local Solutions conference will empower participants to take action steps that center climate equity. The two keynotes and each convening session will provide guidance about how to implement climate resilience with an equity frame. Click [here](#) for more information and to register.
- **Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grants** - The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) will soon seek proposals from Massachusetts municipalities for the [Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance Grant Program](#) to replace undersized, perched, and/or degraded culverts in areas with high ecological value with new structures that meet environmental design and structural standards along with climate resiliency criteria. Only projects that will meet the goals of the Massachusetts Stream Crossing Standards are eligible (see DER's [River Restoration: Culvert Replacements page](#) for information on the standards). Total funding of \$750,000 to \$1.5 million is anticipated for Fiscal Year 2021. This Pre-RFR period provides an opportunity to preview the upcoming RFR and discuss possible projects with DER staff prior to the RFR release on February 25. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact DER's Carrie Banks at (413) 579-3015 or DERCulverts@mass.gov and attend a Grant Briefing for details on the program, to ask questions, and to discuss projects ideas. For more information, see the [Culvert Replacement Grant Pre-RFR announcement](#).
- **Climate Change Resilience in Fisheries and Aquaculture Grant Program (Deadline to apply is February 28, 2020)** - The Massachusetts Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) is accepting applications for the 2020 Climate Change Resilience in Fisheries and Aquaculture Grant Program. The goal of this Grant Program is to develop, utilize, or promote technologies that enhance the resiliency of the Massachusetts commercial fishing and aquaculture industries to climate change and enhance the environmental monitoring capacity of Massachusetts coastal waters. The Program will allow awards of up to \$100,000 per project. A total of \$500,000 will be obtainable contingent on availability of funds. For more information and how to apply, follow this [link](#).

MVP Regions and Coordinators

A full list of municipalities and regions can be found [here](#).



Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

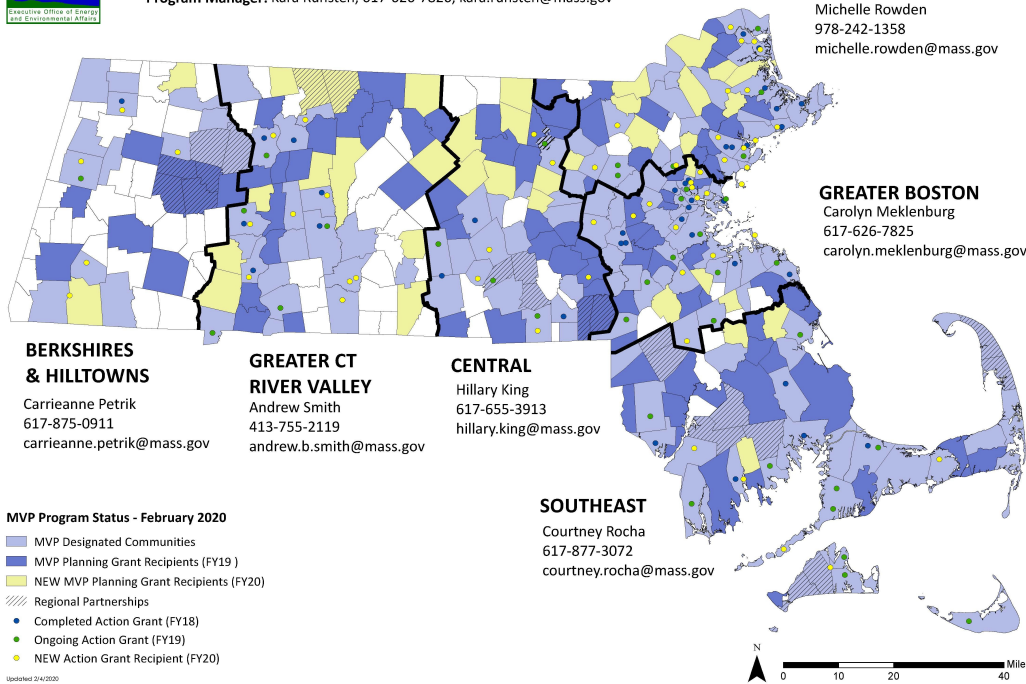
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MVP Program Status - February 2020

- MVP Designated Communities
- MVP Planning Grant Recipients (FY19)
- NEW MVP Planning Grant Recipients (FY20)
- Regional Partnerships
- Completed Action Grant (FY18)
- Ongoing Action Grant (FY19)
- NEW Action Grant Recipient (FY20)

Updated 2/4/2020

Have a question? Reach out to our MVP Regional Coordinators.

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