

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program Quarterly Newsletter



Issue 14, Spring 2023

Welcome to the fourteenth 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.

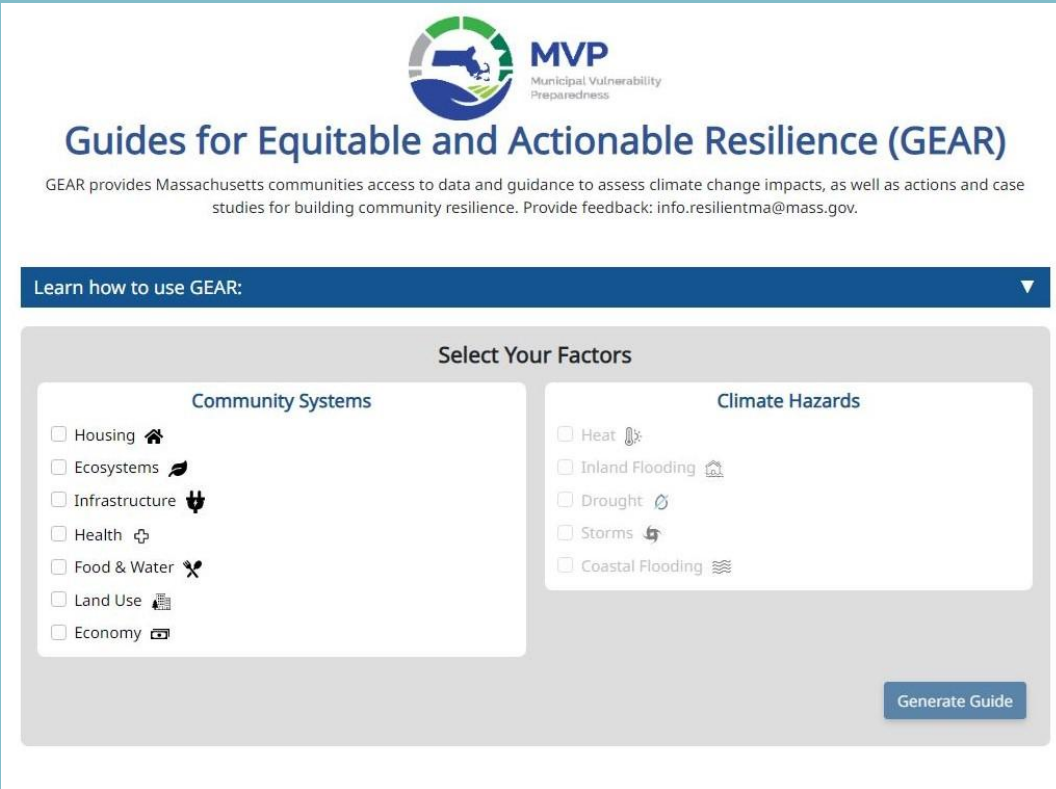
Announcements

GEAR Release: Guides for Equitable & Actionable Resilience

The MVP team is excited to announce the launch of a new planning resource, **GEAR: Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience**. GEAR was developed as a component of MVP 2.0 but is publicly accessible to all. It provides communities with access to climate data and guidance to assess local climate change impacts, as well as suggested actions and case studies for building community resilience. GEAR allows users to investigate the ways in which community systems (such as

housing, infrastructure, or health) interact with a specific climate hazard (such as heat, drought, or coastal flooding). There are 18 unique guides that feature background information and data from the Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment, guided explorations utilizing GIS maps, actions to consider, and MVP case study examples. **Watch the how-to video on the homepage for a quick tutorial.**

GEAR is a beta tool while MVP 2.0 is in its pilot year. Please send us your feedback at info.resilientma@mass.gov.



The screenshot shows the MVP (Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness) GEAR interface. At the top is the MVP logo with the text 'MVP Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness'. Below the logo is the title 'Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience (GEAR)' and a brief description: '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.' A blue bar with the text 'Learn how to use GEAR:' and a dropdown arrow is below the description. The main content area is titled 'Select Your Factors' and contains two columns of checkboxes. The left column, 'Community Systems', includes: Housing (house icon), Ecosystems (leaf icon), Infrastructure (power lines icon), Health (person icon), Food & Water (fork and knife icon), Land Use (building icon), and Economy (dollar sign icon). The right column, 'Climate Hazards', includes: Heat (sun with flame icon), Inland Flooding (house with water icon), Drought (circular arrow icon), Storms (cloud with lightning icon), and Coastal Flooding (waves icon). A 'Generate Guide' button is located at the bottom right of the selection area.

MVP 2.0 Webpage Now Live

The expanded [**MVP 2.0 webpage**](#) is now live. 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.

MVP Project Highlights

Mashpee: Increasing Resilience to Harmful Algal Blooms in Santuit Pond (FY23)

Mashpee [**recently voted by a majority**](#) to expand their current wetland buffer zones from 100 feet to 150 feet and to increase the current 50-foot requirements for natural vegetative buffer strips to 75 feet. Residents also

voted to restrict horsepower on Santuit Pond. These bylaws and corresponding education and outreach were developed through Mashpee's FY23 Action Grant.



Ayer-Devens Main Streets Pocket Forests Pilot (FY23)

Ayer & Devens recently hosted a Pocket Forest Planting Day on East Main Street. An area of 2000 square-feet was planted on a 0.44-acre town-owned parcel by over 100 attendees. Over 300 plants were planted, and fences and drip irrigation were installed. Pocket forests, or community forests, can help increase biodiversity and habitat, improve air and water quality, provide shade and cooling, and enhance public health and community resilience.

AYER/DEVENS MAIN STREET POCKET FOREST PLANTING DAY



Saturday April 29th

SESSION 1: 10-noon

(COME TO EITHER
SESSION OR BOTH!)

SESSION 2: 1-3PM

LOCATION: INTERSECTION OF MAIN ST. AND E.
MAIN ST.

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLANTING
THE FIRST POCKET FOREST IN
AYER!

VOLUNTEERS WILL BE TAUGHT PROPER PLANTING
TECHNIQUE, AND HAVE THE CHANCE TO GET THEIR
HANDS DIRTY PLANTING THIS AWESOME PROJECT!

PARKING IS AVAILABLE AT THE
LIBRARY OR ALONG FAULKNER ST.

SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS WILL
BE AVAILABLE

THIS IS A FAMILY FRIENDLY EVENT,
CHILDREN WELCOME!



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT:
<https://climate-resilient.wixsite.com/ayerdevens>



Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Opportunities

Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming MVP newsletters? Submit to marissa.robertson2@mass.gov.

Grant Opportunities

- **Parks and Conservation Grants:**
 - The EEA Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is seeking applications for the FY 2024 [Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities](#) (PARC) grant. PARC grants help communities acquire parkland, develop new parks, and renovate existing parks. PARC grant applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on July 13.
 - The EEA Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is seeking applications for the FY 2024 [Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity](#) (LAND) grant. LAND grants provide funds to municipal conservation commissions to purchase conservation land. LAND grant applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on July 13.
 - The EEA Division of Conservation Services (DCS) is seeking applications for the FY 2024 [Conservation Partnership](#) grants. Conservation Partnership grants provide funds to non-profit organizations for land acquisitions. Conservation Partnership applications are due by 3:00 p.m. on July 17.
- **MA Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM):**
 - [Coastal Habitat & Water Quality Grants](#) - CZM is seeking proposals for projects that assess and treat stormwater impacts and support comprehensive habitat restoration planning activities. Projects must address nonpoint source (NPS) pollution from paved or unpaved surfaces; build capacity for future implementation of stormwater green infrastructure; or assess aquatic and coastal habitat within the coastal watershed for the purposes of restoration plan development. Municipalities within the [Massachusetts coastal watershed](#) are eligible to apply, along with certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations, regional planning agencies, and stormwater collaboratives in partnership with municipalities. See the RFR on the [COMMBUYS website](#) for eligibility requirements, project categories, and evaluation criteria. Proposals are due by 5:00 pm on June 16.
 - [Coastal Resilience Grants](#) - CZM is seeking proposals for innovative and transferable local and regional projects to address coastal flooding, erosion, and sea level rise impacts.

For FY 24, CZM will provide funding and technical assistance to coastal communities, certified 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations that own vulnerable coastal property that is open and accessible to the public, and federally recognized and state-acknowledged Massachusetts Tribes. Eligible project types include evaluating vulnerabilities and risks, public outreach, and redesigning and retrofitting vulnerable municipally owned facilities and infrastructure, shoreline restoration, and proactive planning projects. Applicants may request up to \$2 million in funding per project. Projects must be completed by June 30, 2024 - or projects may be selected for extended contract end date up to June 30, 2025 (FY25), depending on the proposal and EEA funding decisions. See the RFR on the [COMMBUYS website](#) for eligibility requirements, project categories, and evaluation criteria. Proposals are due by 4:00 pm on July 11. The question and answer period for the RFR is open until 4:00 pm on June 13. Please submit questions to patricia.bowie@mass.gov. Answers to all questions will be posted on the [COMMBUYS website](#) after June 13.

Job Opportunities

- **MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA):**
 - [DER Ecological Restoration Specialist, Coastal Wetlands Restoration](#) - DER is seeking a wetland and stream restoration project manager with a particular focus on coastal restoration efforts in DER's Wetlands Restoration Program.
 - [DER Ecological Restoration Specialist, Dam Removal](#) - DER is seeking an ecological restoration project manager with emphasis on river restoration and dam removal in DER's Dam Removal Program. The Ecological Restoration Specialist will also provide programmatic support for the Dam Removal Program, such as field data collection, assistance with project identification and evaluation, landowner consultation, and participation in other forms of data collection that inform the technical practice of dam removal.
 - [DER Stream Crossing Specialist](#) - DER is seeking a Stream Crossing Specialist to contribute to ecological and community resiliency by working with partners to remove stream barriers, reconnect stream habitat, reduce storm hazards, and restore fish passage.
 - [MDAR Agricultural Energy & Climate Specialist](#) - The Mass. Dept. of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) is seeking an environmental analyst to support work that advances alternative energy initiatives on farms, including clean energy and energy efficiency and climate resiliency. Specific duties include developing agricultural plans, policies, and programs, grant coordination, and management of the MA Farm Energy Program.
- **Municipal Opportunities:**
 - [Easthampton, MA: Associate Planner](#) - The City of Easthampton is seeking an Associate Planner to assist with land use permitting, technical assistance, research and data collection, and grant application and administration.
 - [Ware, MA: Director of Planning and Community Development](#) - The Town of Ware is seeking a Director of Planning and Community Development to oversee planning, land use, zoning, and conservation.
 - [Whately, MA: Community Development Administrator/Assistant Town Administrator](#) - The Town of Whately is seeking a Community Development Administrator to provide technical planning and zoning expertise, assist with amendments of by-laws, and engage in long range planning activities.

Events

- Tuesday, June 13, 8:30-11:00 am at Mendon Town Hall: [Green Infrastructure Workshop](#)

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program | [Website](#)

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs | 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900,
Boston, MA 02114

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