



Issue 15, Summer 2023

Welcome to the fifteenth 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.

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## Announcements

### **Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards \$31.5 Million in Climate Resiliency Funding to Communities**

On August 30, 2023, the Healey-Driscoll Administration announced \$31.5 million in grants for climate resilience implementation and planning throughout Massachusetts. For the first time in the history of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program, two Tribes are receiving funding since eligibility was expanded by the Legislature in 2022.

Lieutenant Governor Kim Driscoll and Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper made the announcement in

Stockbridge, the original homelands of the Stockbridge-Munsee Band of Mohicans. In the 1800s, the Tribe was pressured to leave their home, forcing them to eventually relocate to Wisconsin. The Tribe was awarded \$2.26 million MVP Action Grant to reclaim 351 acres of their indigenous homelands and establish tribally driven conservation and forest management strategies.

The awards announced included \$28.5 million in MVP Action Grant funding to 56 different individual municipalities, 16 regional groups, two water districts, and one Tribe. The awards also included \$3 million in funding for the pilot round of MVP 2.0 to 28 individual municipalities, one regional group, and one Tribe. To learn more and see a list of awardees, [click here](#). Congratulations to all our 2024 awardees!



## Fall Field Trips

Join us for a series of field trips showcasing climate adaptation and watershed-scale collaboration.

### Ipswich Field Trip

Learn about community engagement, climate adaptation, and ecological benefits related to the Ipswich Mill Dam Removal and nearby green infrastructure projects. This field trip includes an optional paddle with

IRWA to/from the project site at 10am and optional snack/networking time at 12:30pm.

WHEN: Thursday, September 7, 2023, 11:00 am -12:30 pm

WHO: With the PIE-Rivers Partnership & Ipswich River Watershed Association

WHERE: Meeting address and other details will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration.

[RSVP here.](#)

### **Mystic River Field Trip**

Join us for a boat tour of the Lower Mystic River leaving from Charlestown, Boston, and hosted by MyRWA. We'll hear from community partners about a variety of adaptation projects addressing extreme heat, flooding, access to green space, and environmental justice.

WHEN: Friday, October 13, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

WHO: With the Resilient Mystic Collaborative & Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA)

WHERE: Meeting address and other details will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration.

[RSVP here.](#)

### **Mattapoissett River Valley Field Trip**

Details and RSVP are forthcoming. We will send out a short newsletter update once the details are final.

WHEN: Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Rain Date: Oct. 19)

WHERE: Meeting address and other details will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration.

[RSVP link will be sent in an upcoming communication](#)

*These events are organized by Mass ECAN, the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program, the MA Division of Ecological Restoration, local project partners and watershed collaboratives.*



# Welcoming Our New MVP Staff!



**Sula Watermulder**  
**GIS Specialist**

Sula worked at MassGIS for the past five years and has a master's degree in environmental science and policy from Northeastern University. Sula looks forward to supporting the MVP program and the rest of the climate team with web mapping and analysis. In her spare time, Sula enjoys traveling, following Boston sports, working on jigsaw puzzles, and cuddling with her cat Mango.



**Elder González Trejo**  
**MVP Program Coordinator**

Elder previously served as the Sustainability Policy Associate for the City of Providence. During his tenure he led the Sustainability Department's efforts to implement various environmental justice policies from the Climate Justice Plan. Elder is an active member of several boards/committees that aim to create just, equitable, and sustainable solutions for all. In his spare time, Elder enjoys hiking, cooking, and spending time with his family.



**Emily Murad**  
**MVP Intern**

Emily is currently pursuing a master's degree in Sustainable International Development from Brandies University. Emily brings experience in disaster management, clean energy, and community development. In her current role as MVP intern, Emily supports staff in grant administration, data organization, website maintenance, and program evaluation. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, gardening, and spending time with friends and family.

## **MA Climate Assessment Social Media Toolkit**

The Massachusetts Climate Assessment team developed social media slides you can use to get the main findings of the Assessment out to your audiences and communities. The materials provided include:

- Editable PowerPoint slides that you can adjust to tailor the information to your audience.
- Image files that can be posted directly to social media. Feel free to post all of the slides or just a subset (e.g., the first and last slide, which point the audience to the Climate Assessment website).

Check out the full report at:

[Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment | Mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov/info-details/massachusetts-climate-change-assessment)


Consider including a link to the Climate Assessment webpage, a tailored

caption, and the following hashtags in your social media posts:

**#ClimateAssessment**  
**#MAClimateChange**  
**#ClimateChangeImpacts**  
**#MAClimateChangeAssessment**

For more information and instructions on how to post multiple images on Instagram, [click here](#).

See the full report at [bit.ly/maclimate](http://bit.ly/maclimate)



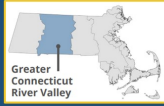
**2022**  
MASSACHUSETTS  
CLIMATE CHANGE  
ASSESSMENT

How are you impacted by climate change in Massachusetts?

Greater Connecticut River Valley Region **Let's find out!**

The **2022 Massachusetts Climate Change Assessment** evaluated and ranked 37 impacts across 5 sectors for 7 regions throughout the Commonwealth based on:

- How big will the impact be from climate change?
- How well do current adaptation actions address the impact?
- Will populations living in environmental justice areas be disproportionately affected?



The Greater Connecticut River Valley Region is centered around the Connecticut River. This region includes rural towns and urban centers. Many of the most urgent climate impacts are already large concerns in the region (e.g., food security, agriculture, and housing).

The next slides show the most urgent impacts per sector for this region →

2022 MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT

### Human Sector

**Top Impacts:**

- **Reduction in food safety and security** due to production and supply chain issues, as well as spoilage during power outages.
- **Health effects of extreme storms and power outages**, including from injuries, food safety, and medical device failure.



Greater Connecticut River Valley  
2022 MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE CHANGE ASSESSMENT

## 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

### Town of Deerfield

#### Deerfield Green Infrastructure & Culvert Resiliency

During the July of 2023, the Greater Connecticut River Valley experienced rainfall events that exceeded normal amounts by an average of 4.32" for the entire month (<https://www.weather.gov/nerfc/ESSJUL>). These extreme rainfall events demonstrated the value of replacing outdated infrastructure with infrastructure that has been sized to meet the challenge of our changing climate.

For example, areas in Deerfield were identified by the Town as being highly vulnerable to flooding during the MVP planning process. These areas include tributaries to the Deerfield River in the vicinity of Old Deerfield village as well as segments of Bloody Brook in the Town Center.

Funding from MVP Action Grants (FY21 and FY22) supported the Town in identifying, planning, and implementing resilience projects that would address the ongoing flooding issue and improve the health and safety of the public and fish/wildlife.

The Town worked with MVP to directly address flooding problems caused by damaged or highly vulnerable culverts, through the physical replacement of two priority culverts with open bottom culverts sized for climate change and designed for wildlife passage. The replacement of the Kelleher Drive culvert helped alleviate chronic flooding on Bloody Brook in the town center, and the replacement of the collapsed Mill Village Road culvert allowed that partially closed road to re-open. Both culverts were able to handle the extreme rainfall that occurred this summer.

**(BEFORE)**



Construction took place in Old Deerfield Village, where a culvert was replaced on Mill Village Road.

**(AFTER)**



Additional construction included replacement of a culvert on Kelleher Drive.  
**(AFTER)**

For more information on how these infrastructure projects have been successful, visit:

[Success-Stories \(deerfieldma.us\)](https://www.deerfieldma.us/Success-Stories)

[Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Program | Deerfield, MA](#)

# Upcoming Dates, Events, & 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](mailto:marissa.robertson2@mass.gov).

## Grant Opportunities

- **Request for Responses - [Dam Removal Preliminary Design Services](#)** MA Department of Ecological Restoration (DER). The goal of this process is to identify and advance new highly valuable projects for ecological restoration and climate resilience. Looking for municipalities to submit potential projects, which will be rated based on benefits resulting from removal and benefits to nearby Environmental Justice communities. Submit proposals as soon as possible.
- **Including Indigenous Knowledge in Ocean and Coastal Decision Making-** The Lenfest Ocean Program is seeking proposals for projects that “elevate Indigenous Peoples in sharing their traditions, culture, knowledge, and wisdom to improve evidence-based decision-making for the management, conservation, and restoration of coastal marine species, habitats, and ecosystems.” Proposals should support “identification, analysis, and/or communication of Indigenous Knowledge and wisdom (where it is culturally appropriate) and approaches that allow this knowledge to inform ocean and coastal management decisions.” For details, see the [Lenfest website](#). Proposals are due by October 16.
- **[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.

## Job Opportunities

- **MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA):**
  - **[Forest and Park Supervisor](#)** - DCR and the Waquoit Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Falmouth are seeking a Forest and Parks Supervisor to work collaboratively with reserve staff to support the operational and maintenance activities of the reserve’s property and buildings and supervise operations staff. For more information, see the job posting.
  - **[Environmental Analyst III](#)** - MassDEP seeks applicants for an Environmental Analyst III position within the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Section, Watershed Planning Program, Bureau of Water Resources, to assist in supporting water quality modeling efforts, interpreting results, and developing and reviewing TMDL reports.
  - **[Epidemiologist II, Environmental Epidemiologist](#)** (2300089S) - The Bureau of Climate & Environmental Health’s Environmental Epidemiology Program (EEP) in the Climate Change and Special Projects Unit seeks an environmental epidemiologist to oversee and conduct epidemiologic analysis related to Climate Change and other environmental health risks and health impacts.
  - **[Epidemiologist II, Environmental Epidemiologist](#)** (2300089X) - The Bureau of Climate & Environmental Health’s Environmental Epidemiology Program (EEP) in the Climate Change and Special Projects Unit seeks an environmental epidemiologist to oversee and conduct epidemiologic analysis related to Climate Change and other environmental health risks and health impacts.
- **Municipal Opportunities:**
  - **[Easthampton, MA: Associate Planner](#)** - The City of Easthampton is seeking an Associate

## Events

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  - [Ipswich Field Trip](#) - Thursday, September 7, 2023, 11:00 am -12:30 pm. Meeting address and other details will be provided in a confirmation email upon registration.
  - [Mystic River Field Trip](#) - Friday, October 13, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm. With the Resilient Mystic Collaborative & Mystic River Watershed Association (MyRWA). Join us for a boat tour of the Lower Mystic River leaving from Charlestown, Boston, and hosted by MyRWA. We'll hear from community partners about a variety of adaptation projects addressing extreme heat, flooding, access to green space, and environmental justice. RSVP required.
  - [Mattapoissett River Valley Field Trip](#) - Tuesday, October 17, 2023, 10:00 am - 12:00 pm (Rain Date: Oct. 19). Details are forthcoming and will be posted on the MassECAN 2023 Events page in the coming weeks. We will send out a short newsletter update once the details are final!
- [The Accelerating Climate Resilience 2023 Speaker Series: Exploring Ways to Strengthen Community Resilience with Microgrids](#) - Thursday, September 7, 2023, 12:00 - 1:00 pm. Register for the Zoom event [here](#).
- [2nd Annual Nonpoint Source Management Forum \(Virtual\)](#)- Wednesday, September 20, 2023, 9:30 am - 12:30 pm. MassDEP invites you to join and learn more about the Watershed Planning Program and the MA NPS Management Program Plan. Registration is required.
- [New England's Climate Future: City, Land and Sea \(In-person Event\)](#)- Thursday, September 28, 2023, 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm, located at GBH Studios, One Guest Street, Brighton, Massachusetts 02135. Come learn what you as an individual can do, how to talk with your children about the climate future and how to discuss climate solutions with your neighbors, relatives and friends – even the skeptical ones– in a productive and empowering way. Event registration is required. Seating is general admission.
- [COASTSWEEP 2023](#): Late August - November. Individuals may organize a clean-up or volunteer at a scheduled cleanup—lists of cleanup dates will be posted later this month and updated regularly. For more information on getting involved as a cleanup coordinator or volunteer, click on the link.
- [DCR Tree Steward Training 2023](#) (Registration Now Open!)
  - Western MA (Amherst) Training: Friday, October 13, 2023, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
  - Eastern MA (Newton) Training: Friday, October 27, 2023, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm.
- [2023 massFM Conference](#): Monday, October 23, 2023, located at the Hogan Campus Center, 1 College Street Worcester, MA 01610.

## Tools & Resources

- [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.

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Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program | [Website](#)

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