

Planning & Sustainability • City of Northampton

planning | resiliency | conservation | place-making | sustainable transportation | zoning | GIS | historic | CB architecture | agriculture and food

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October 30, 2018

Sean R. Cronin, Senior Deputy Commissioner of Local Services
Division of Local Services
PO Box 9569
Boston, MA 02114

RE: Northampton Community Compact--Climate Change Mitigation & Adaption Best Practices

Dear Mr. Cronin,

On behalf of the City of Northampton, we are updating you on how we are addressing the ***Community Compact Best Practices for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation***.

Climate Mitigation

First, we are working on our ***Northampton Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan***, to guide our mitigation efforts. We have updated our Greenhouse Gas Inventory, held several stakeholder and public forums, and will complete the plan this coming March.

Second, the Mayor announced the City's new policy of being carbon neutral by 2050. The plan will lay out the blueprint to take us there.

Finally, we are advancing a number "low hanging fruit" actions towards carbon neutrality. For example, with a MassDOT CMAQ grant, we have implemented ValleyBike, an electric-assist bike share program to reduce GHG emissions from travel. We are also in the feasibility stage of Community Choice Aggregation PLUS, the plus being how can we make our energy supply more renewable by methods other than buying RECs, from local distributed energy production and storage to reducing our peak demand.

Climate Adaption

As with climate mitigation, our ***Resiliency and Regeneration Plan*** will advance climate adaptation. We use the word resiliency to signal a systematic approach to thrive with climate change, not simply adopt.

Second, using MVP Action grant funding (thank you), our ***Northampton Designs with Nature*** program will design stormwater demonstration projects that will help us adapt to climate change and celebrate, instead of fear, water.



Please let me know if you need anything else.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Wayne Feiden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a blue color.

Wayne Feiden, FAICP
Director of Planning & Sustainability

Cc: Lyn Simmons, Chief of Staff, Mayor David J. Narkewicz