



**Harvard's  
Climate  
Initiative**

**COMMIT > ACT > THRIVE**

## The Town's First Climate Action and Resilience Plan will set us on a course for a Stronger, Prosperous Future Together.

Harvard as a community recognizes the need to prepare our town for the consequences of climate change. To ensure our bountiful farms and tight-knit community will continue to thrive for generations to come, we need to work together to protect and preserve our town and all of its important assets. With Harvard's Climate Initiative, Harvard will persevere.

### Why We Must Act

Our community has been carefully handed down from generation to generation, family to family, for nearly 300 years. With the changing climate, much is at stake: Our 33-acre Bare Hill Pond, 2,000 acres of conservation land, and pristine forests and wetlands face unprecedented risks. The health of our tight-knit community, from our historic buildings and farms to our excellent school system, depends on Harvard acting to swiftly strengthen the Harvard we know and love. Working together to protect the health of future generations in Harvard takes collective action – for our community, that action is Harvard's Climate Initiative.



### Climate Change is Already Impacting Harvard

**HARVARD HAS ALREADY SEEN AN INCREASE IN STRONGER STORMS, HIGH HEAT, DROUGHTS, AND FLOODS.**

**WHICH IS CAUSING:**

#### STRESS ON PEOPLE

- Safety risks from extreme storm events
- Health risks from extreme heat and pests/disease
- Financial risk from damage to homes, farms, businesses



#### STRESS ON TOWN

- Increased maintenance and repair demands
- Keeping community safe and utilities operational
- Need for more robust emergency preparedness and response



#### STRESS ON ENVIRONMENT

- Risks to our rich biodiversity
- Increased pests
- Damage to farms, trees, and waterways



## Plan Elements

The plan will focus on six (6) key areas called plan elements. Each plan element represents an important component of the community that needs to be considered as it relates to its contribution to climate change and the associated impacts.



### BUILT ENVIRONMENT

Enhancing the sustainability and resilience of Harvard's infrastructure (roads, drainage, etc.) as well as its homes and buildings.



### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & LAND USE

Ensuring the decisions we make to develop our land for economic growth take into account the importance of preserving our agriculture, forests, and open space.



### NATURAL RESOURCES

Prioritizing the protection and enhancement of Harvard's forests, water resources, and overall natural environment.



### SOCIAL RESILIENCE

Fostering a connected and supportive community to improve public health and safety and emergency preparedness for all.



### TRANSPORTATION

Increasing community mobility through access to and reliability of a clean, multi-modal transportation network.



### WASTE

Minimizing solid waste generation and disposal through reducing, reusing, and recycling practices.

## Guiding Principles

These six (6) guiding principles represent core values of Harvard's Climate Initiative and will be used as a lens through which all actions in the plan are assessed.



**GREENHOUSE GAS  
EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS**



**COMMUNITY/SOCIAL CAPITAL**



**HEALTHY AND PRODUCTIVE  
NATURAL RESOURCES**



**RESILIENCE**



**REGIONAL COLLABORATION  
AND LEADERSHIP**



**EDUCATION**

## How to Get Involved

We invite you to share your ideas about how Harvard can protect and strengthen our community assets in the face of climate change. We need everyone in Town to **COMMIT** to **ACT** so that we can **THRIVE** as a community.



Engage with one of our online surveys and engagement activities



Share your ideas with the Community Resilience Working Group and online through social media



Encourage friends and family to engage in the process



Photo by Lisa Aciukewicz, 47th Annual Harvard Flea Market



Harvard Conservation Trust Facebook, Guided Mushroom Walk

### FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

[www.harvard.ma.us/community-resiliency-working-group/pages/climate-action-plan-project](http://www.harvard.ma.us/community-resiliency-working-group/pages/climate-action-plan-project)

or contact Chris Ryan at:  
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