

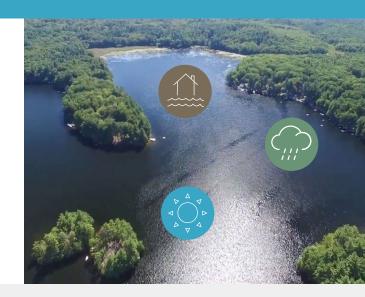


# The Town's First Climate Action and Resilience Plan will set us on a course for a Stronger, Prosperous Future Together.

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



# STRESS ON TOWN

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



# 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.



#### SOCIAL RESILIENCE

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



### **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.



#### TRANSPORTATION

Increasing community mobility through access to and reliability of a clean, multimodal transportation network.



## NATURAL RESOURCES

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



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







## FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO:

www.harvard.ma.us/community-resiliency-workinggroup/pages/climate-action-plan-project

or contact Chris Ryan at: CRyan@harvard.ma.us