

City of Cambridge
2018 MVP Action Grant

Resilience Toolkits Final Report

Under the 2018 MVP Action Grant awarded to the City of Cambridge, four climate resilience toolkits were prepared for renters, small homeowners, small businesses, and large organizations. The City has developed a wealth of information and analyses about climate change impacts in Cambridge, which is used for large scale planning efforts. The toolkits fill the need to provide actionable information for the four sectors about how to make properties and people more prepared for climate change impacts involving flooding and heat.

All the toolkits are structured to help the users identify and understand their climate risks. The toolkits point the users toward information sources, such as the Cambridge Floodviewer which is an online tool to identify flood risks for the present, 2030, and 2070 based on the City's climate change modeling. In addition, checklists with risk factors are used. For instance, in regard to heat vulnerability, users are asked if they have air conditioning, have respiratory or circulatory health conditions, or work outside.

Resilience toolkits were prepared for each of the four sectors, which focus on medium- and long-term actions that users can take to be prepared and resilient for climate change from a property and a personal perspective. The toolkits show graphically the various actions that can be taken. A list of resources is matched to recommended actions.

In addition to the four toolkits, four resilience flyers were developed on heat and flood risks for residents and businesses. The resident flyer was aimed at renters and homeowners. The business flyer was aimed at small businesses and large organizations. The flyers focus on actions to be considered immediately before, during, and after a climate event such as a hurricane or heat wave. The short terms actions focus on measures that do not require significant financial investment.

The toolkits and flyers were developed with the aid of four focus groups composed of representatives from each of the four sectors. Renters and homeowners were recruited through the Community Development Department's climate change email list, which has about 800 people on it. Small business representatives were also recruited from the climate change email list as well as through the contacts of the Community Development Department's Economic Development Division. Large organizations were recruited through the Cambridge Compact for a Sustainable Future, a collaboration between the universities, the City, and major employers. Each focus group met in person and was presented with a draft toolkit. Based on the responses, the City revised the toolkits into their final format.

The toolkits and flyers were presented at four community events: 1) Cambridge River Festival (June 1); 2) Dance for the World Emergency Meet for Climate Justice (June 6); 3) Public meeting for The Port Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan (June 11); and Hoops n' Basketball & Family Health Fair (June 15).

The 2019 Cambridge River Festival drew a total crowd estimated by the Cambridge Police at 125,000. The festival included a Climate Action Extravaganza where organizations and agencies with an environmental and or climate change message were concentrated at University Park Commons. The Community Development Department included a station devoted to the City's Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment and Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience Plan. The resilience toolkits

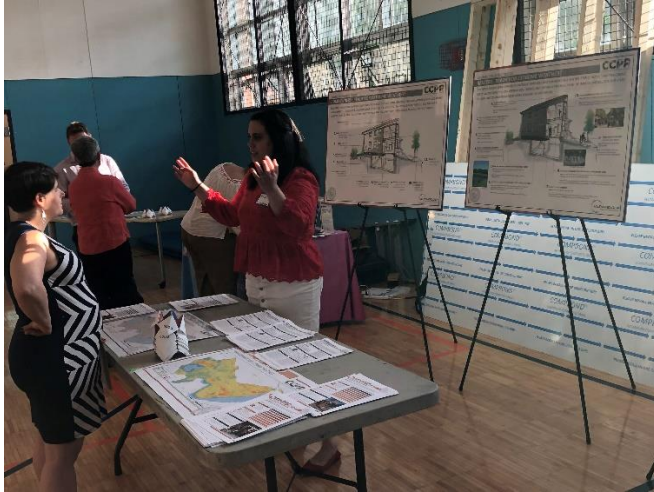
were featured there. Attendees were engaged with maps showing climate change risks in Cambridge; the Cambridge Floodviewer (on a laptop) which is an interactive map that identifies flood risks at the parcel level for the present, 2030, and 2070; and a virtual reality visualization using a headset of flood risks and action in The Port neighborhood. People at the event were engaged with the information about climate risks through the various media and discussion with City staff, and then presented with the toolkits which they could take. One lesson the City learned is that we need to develop a digital method to convey the toolkit information, perhaps through an app.



2019 Cambridge River Festival Climate Action Extravaganza, June 1, 2019

The Dance for the World Emergency Meet for Climate Justice was held at the Sanctuary Theatre in Harvard Square and organized by the Jose Mateo Ballet and the University of Massachusetts Boston Sustainable Solutions Lab. The event involved two dance performances and a panel discussion. Project manager John Bolduc was a member of the panel along with representatives from East Boston Harborkeepers, Citizens' Climate Lobby, and Alternatives for Community & Environment. About 50 people attended the event. The resilience toolkits were distributed and John spoke about climate risks and referred attendees to the toolkits for more information on how to become better prepared and resilient. The event poster is attached to this report.

The public meeting for the Climate Change Preparedness & Resilience (CCPR) Plan for The Port was held at the Cambridge Community Arts Center gymnasium to present the CCPR The Port Plan. The CCPR The Port Plan is the second neighborhood scale climate resilience plan, which is being used to inform the development of a citywide CCPR Plan. The meeting consisted of a one hour open house with displays and engagement stations followed by a panel discussion. The stations included information about the CCPR The Port Plan, the resilience toolkits, The Port Infrastructure Project (underground stormwater storage project), the Code Red and Smart 911 systems managed by the Emergency Communications Department, Fire Department emergency response information, Public Health Department community health programs, and the Communities Responding to Extreme Weather (CREW) program of 350.org. Boards about the resilience toolkits were displayed. Similar to the River Festival, attendees were engaged with the climate risk maps, the Floodviewer, and the virtual reality flood visualization. About 40 people attended the meeting.



CCPR The Port Public Meeting, Resilience Toolkit Station, June 6, 2019

Hoops n' Health is an event organized annually by the Cambridge Public Health Department. The event is organized around a basketball tournament and a family health fair. The event is held at Hoyt Field, a City Park where tents are set up for various City and other programs that relate to community health. In addition to the tournament, music performances are presented. To receive a free lunch, attendees must visit tables and get a stamp from at least four. The Community Development Department had a climate preparedness table. As at the River Festival, people were engaged with the climate risk maps, the Floodviewer, and the virtual reality flood visualization, and then presented with the resilience toolkits. The computer and VR headset were powered with a solar generator (small PV panel and battery). About 650 people attend the fair according to the Public Health Department.

The City will continue to distribute the resilience toolkits at events and through the City website. We are also investigating options to make the toolkit information available through a smart phone app.

JOSE MATEO BALLET THEATRE'S
DANCE FOR WORLD COMMUNITY
AND Sustainable Solutions Lab AT UMASS BOSTON

EMERGENCY MEET FOR CLIMATE JUSTICE

Meet the scientists, activists and artists
who are working to secure a safer and more sustainable future for us all.

See premiere performances of New Dances for Climate Justice
by Yosi Karahashi, Michiko Kurata and McKersin Previlus
and Exhibition by Eco-Artist Kyle Browne.

Learn what YOU can do
to respond to the accelerating threats of climate change and
related injustices against the most vulnerable populations.

THURSDAY
JUNE 6
7-9PM

SANCTUARY THEATRE
400 HARVARD STREET
HARVARD SQUARE
CAMBRIDGE

www.danceforworldcommunity.org

PANELISTS:

- ◆ Magdalena Ayed, *East Boston Harborkeepers*
- ◆ Rob Bonney, *Citizens' Climate Lobby*
- ◆ John Buldoc, *Cambridge Community Development*
- ◆ Mela Miles, *Alternatives for Community & Environment*



SATURDAY / JUNE 8, 2019 12-8PM / HARVARD SQ / CAMBRIDGE
65 FREE PERFORMANCES on 5 Stages / Mass. Ave. between Putnam Ave. & Bow St.

Strengthening Communities through the Connective Power of Dance