



# Climate Resilience Design Standards (CRDS) Tool:

## A resource for mainstreaming climate resilience in Massachusetts projects.

**Caitlin Spence, PhD**

Assistant Climate Scientist / Hydroclimatology

MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs



Presentation to the Massachusetts Water Resources Commission

January 9, 2025

# Overview

- **EEA Office of Climate Science**
- **What is the CRDS tool?**
- **Tool recommendations by climate hazard**
- **Tool recommended precipitation design standards**
- **Data deep dive> Climate-Informed Design Precipitation for Massachusetts**
- **Q&A**

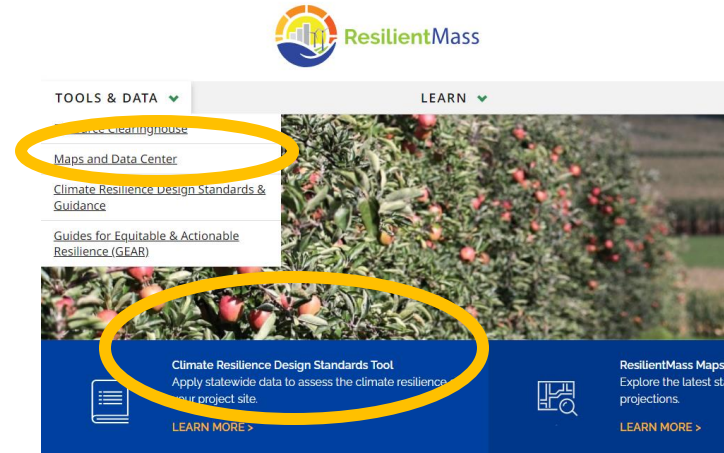
## **ResilientMass Plan Action: Launch an Office of Climate Science to...**

- Serve as an authoritative resource, provide subject matter expertise on statewide climate data and models, and support consistent application of climate change information across agencies.
- Convene the academic climate science community and identify opportunities to partner with universities on climate science needs and next steps.

[climatescience@mass.gov](mailto:climatescience@mass.gov)

# Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool: Overview

- Makes preliminary climate resilience analysis **more broadly accessible**
- Provide recommendations based on **consistent use** of state's climate data
- Provide a unified planning and design **support tool** that state agencies can use to administer grant programs



## When to use this tool:

- Improving a state grant application
- Project siting
- Project planning and design/procurement

# Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool: Overview



Project information



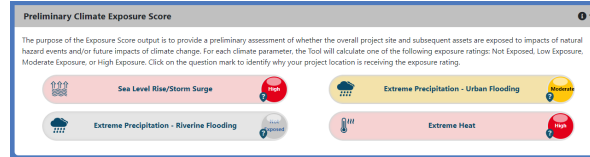
Map View | Project Inputs | Project Outputs | Additional

Step 1 Core Project Information

Step 2 Project Ecosystem Services Benefit

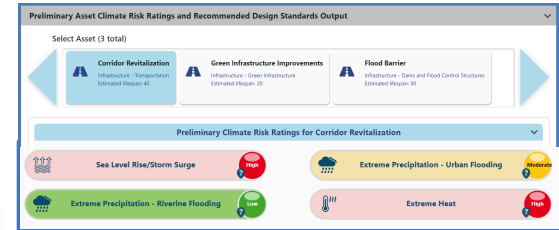
Step 3 Project Climate Exposure

Step 4 Project Assets



Exposure Scores for project site

Risk Ratings for each asset



Preliminary Design Standards

Asset Name	Recommended Planning Horizon	Recommended Return Period	Area Weighted Average		
			Max	Min	(ft - NAVD88)
Pump Station	2050	2% (50-Year)	12.1	12.0	12.0
	2070		13.9	13.8	13.8

Recommended design considerations




**Tool Reporting Workflow**

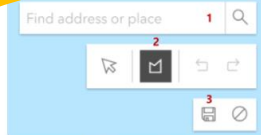
The workflow consists of the following steps:

- START HERE**
- LOCATE PROJECT** (Project Located)
- PROJECT INPUTS** (Inputs Complete)
- PROJECT OUTPUT**
- VIEW REPORT**
- SUBMIT PROJECT**

## Draw Project Area

You must draw a polygon on the map representing the project area.

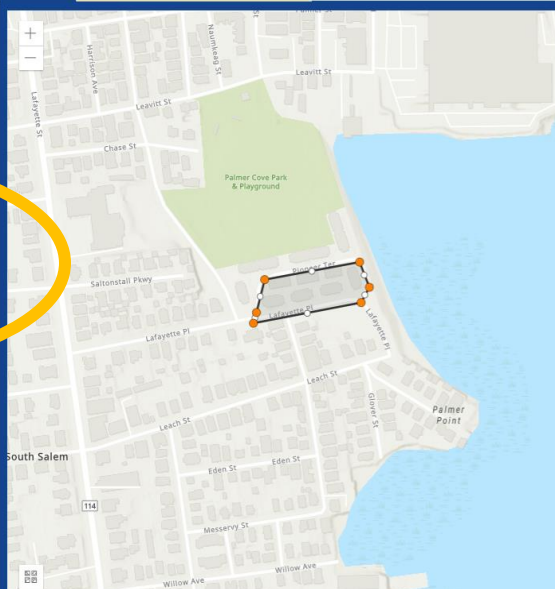
1. Find the project location using the map zoom/pan and/or the address search bar in the upper right area of the map.
2. Draw the polygon using the drawing tools under the search bar.
3. Click the  icon when you are satisfied with the polygon.

A screenshot of the map interface. The search bar at the top contains the text "Find address or place" and a magnifying glass icon. Below the search bar are three icons: a cursor, a polygon tool, and a save icon. The save icon is highlighted with a red circle and the number 3. A yellow oval highlights the entire search and drawing area.

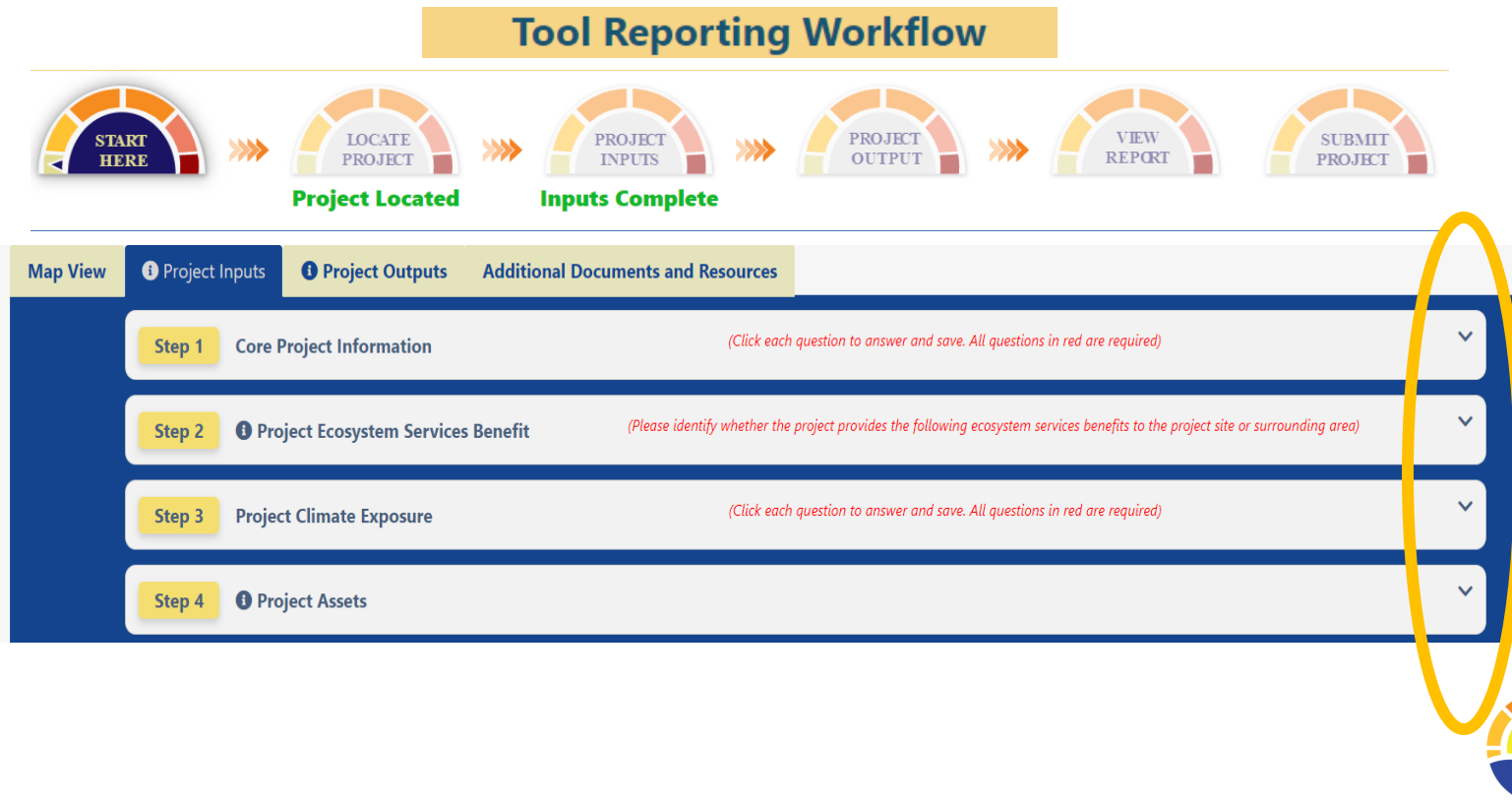
[Show me how](#)

Map View

Additional Documents and Resources

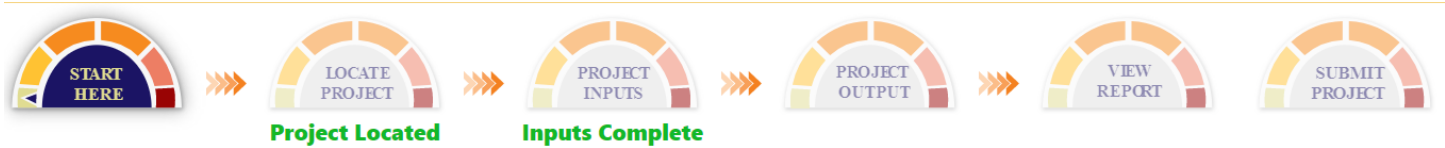
A map view showing a street map of South Salem, Massachusetts. A polygon is drawn on the map, representing a project area. The polygon is drawn on a street that runs parallel to the coastline. The map shows various streets, including Leavitt St, Chase St, Saltonstall Pkwy, Lafayette Pl, Leach St, Eden St, Messervy St, Willow Ave, and Palmer St. A green area labeled "Palmer Cove Park & Playground" is visible. The map also shows the coastline and the ocean. The text "South Salem" is visible on the left side of the map. The text "Palmer Point" is visible on the right side of the map. The text "114" is visible on the left side of the map. The text "E. NASA, NGA, USGS, FEMA | Esri Community Maps Contributors, MassGIS, BuildingFootprintUSA, Esri Canada, Esri HERE, Garmin" is visible at the bottom of the map.

# CRDS Tool: Project Inputs



# CRDS Tool: Project Inputs

## Tool Reporting Workflow



Step 2

Project Ecosystem Services Benefit

1

Provides flood protection through green infrastructure or nature-based solutions

No

1

Provides storm damage mitigation

No

1

Provides groundwater recharge

No

1

Protects public water supply

No

1

Filters stormwater

No

1

Improves water quality

No

1

Promotes decarbonization

Yes

1

Enables carbon sequestration

Yes

1

Provides oxygen production

No

1

Improves air quality

No

1

Prevents pollution

Yes

1

Remediates existing sources of pollution

No

1

Protects fisheries, wildlife, and plant habitat

No

1

Protects land containing shellfish

No

1

Provides pollination

No

1

Provides recreation

No

Step 3

Project Climate Exposure

1

Does the project site have a history of coastal flooding?

Yes

1

Does the project site have a history of flooding during extreme precipitation events (unrelated to water/sewer damages)?

No

1

Does the project result in a net increase in impervious area of the site?

No

1

Does the project site have a history of riverine flooding?

No

Are existing trees being removed as part of the proposed project?

No

Step 4

Project Assets

Building/Facility

Add

UserGuide Building

Infrastructure

Add

N/A

Natural Resources

Add

N/A

Selected Asset:

UserGuide Building

Asset Type:

Typically Occupied

Asset Sub-Type:

Residential building - Public Housing

1 Construction Type:

Maintenance (critical repair)

Construction Year:

2023

1 Useful Life:

15

Identify the length of time the asset can be inaccessible/inoperable without significant consequences.

Building must be accessible/operable at all times, even during natural hazard event

1 Identify the geographic area directly affected by permanent loss or significant inoperability of the building/facility.

Impacts would be limited to local area and/or municipality

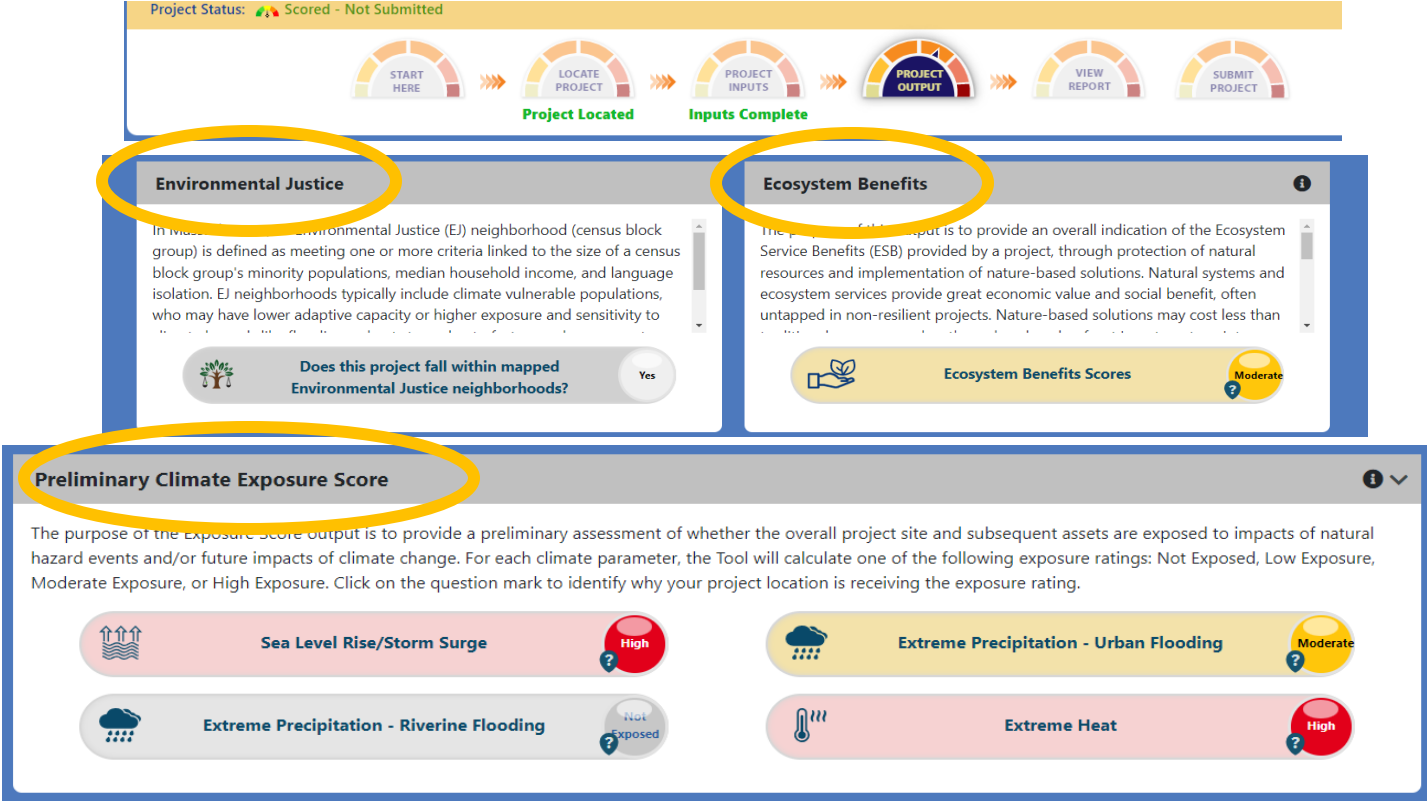
1 Identify the population directly served that would be affected by the permanent loss of use or inoperability of the building/facility.

Less than 1,000 people



# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs

## Tool Reporting Workflow



# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs

Project Status: 🟡 Scored - Not Submitted

START HERE

LOCATE PROJECT

PROJECT INPUTS

PROJECT OUTPUT

VIEW REPORT

SUBMIT PROJECT

Project Located

Inputs Complete

Additional Details Provided

Primary factors influencing **High Exposure** Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge score

Exposed to the 1% annual coastal flood event as early as 2030

Historic coastal flooding at project site

Located within the 0.1% annual coastal flood event within the project's useful life

Preliminary Climate Exposure Score

The purpose of the Exposure Score output is to provide a preliminary assessment of whether the overall project site and subsequent assets are exposed to impacts of natural hazard events and/or future impacts of climate change. For each climate parameter, the Tool will calculate one of the following exposure ratings: Not Exposed, Low Exposure, Moderate Exposure, or High Exposure. Click on the question mark to identify why your project location is receiving the exposure rating.

Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge

High

Extreme Precipitation - Urban Flooding

Moderate

Extreme Precipitation - Riverine Flooding

Not Exposed

Extreme Heat

High

The logo for ResilientMass, featuring a stylized sun with rays in orange and yellow, and a blue wave at the bottom.

ResilientMass

# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs



*Tool projects can accommodate multiple assets*


*Will receive **climate risk** rating for **each asset** entered*


While it is possible to get a “no exposure” **project** score for “Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge” or “Extreme Precipitation – Riverine Flooding” because geographically dependent, the tool will still give an **asset risk score** (low).


# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs

Recommended Design Standards for test

Climate Resilience Design Standards are recommended for each asset and climate parameter. Tiered methodologies, or methodologies to calculate design criteria values, are intended for projects that will be designed for today's climate and plan for the future. The three tiers represent various recommended levels of effort for determining design criteria values, dependent upon the consequences of failure of an asset as a function of scope, time, and severity.

Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge

Extreme Precipitation

Extreme Heat

Target Planning Horizon: 2030

Percentile: 50th Percentile

Design Criteria Applicable for test

Projected Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures

Definition

Average Temperatures represent the daily average temperature over a period of time: Annual represents January through December, Summer represents June through August, and Winter represents December through February. Annual Temperatures are anticipated to increase with climate change, but the rate of change varies depending upon the season.\*

How to Estimate Projected Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures Values

Asset Name	Recommended Planning Horizon	Recommended Percentile	Tiered Methodology	Step-by-Step Methodology
test	2030	50th	Tier 1	<a href="#">Downloadable Methodology PDF</a>

\*Note: Projected Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures are not currently available through this Tool. Users should follow the step-by-step instructions outlined in the downloadable methodology PDF to estimate the projected Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures based on the recommended planning horizon, percentile, and tiered methodology. The three tiers represent various anticipated levels of effort for calculating design criteria values, dependent upon the consequences of failure of an asset as a function of scope, time, and severity and useful life of the asset.

How Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures may inform Planning

How Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures may inform Early Design

How Annual/Summer/Winter Average Temperatures may inform Project Evaluation

Will receive recommended standards and design criteria for **each asset** entered:


- Average temperature (annual/seasonal)
- Days per year over 90F
- Days per year over 95F
- Days per year under 32F
- Cooling, Heating, and Growing Degree-Days
- Heat index (instructions to calculate)


2024 Updates in queue for deployment


Guidance for how to consider outputs



# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs

 Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge

 Extreme Precipitation

 Extreme Heat

Target Planning Horizon: 2050

Return Period: 100-yr (1%)

Design Criteria Applicable for Test2050

✓ Projected Total Precipitation Depth & Peak Intensity for 24-hr Design Storms

Definition

Total Precipitation Depth for 24-hour Design Storms is the total amount of rain in inches that falls over a period of 24-hours. It can be any 24-hour period, not just a traditional calendar day. This is given for a specific design storm (return period) such as the 100-year or 10-year storm (1% or 10%). Peak Intensity is the maximum rate of rainfall in inches per hour of a 24-hour design storm\*.

Projected Total Precipitation Depth and Peak Intensity values can be used to assess potential flooding impacts and inform design of green and grey infrastructure solutions to mitigate flooding and manage stormwater.

Projected Total Precipitation Depth Values and Peak Intensity Methodology

The Tool uses climate projections developed by Cornell University as part of the EEA's Massachusetts Climate and Hydrologic Risk Project. Assets receive a projected value for the 24-hour Total Precipitation Depth associated with a recommended return period (design storm) and planning horizon.

Asset Name	Recommended Planning Horizon	Recommended Return Period (Design Storm)	Projected 24-hr Total Precipitation Depth (inches)	Step-by-Step Methodology for Peak Intensity
Test2050	2050	100-Year (1%)	9.9	<a href="#">Downloadable Methodology PDF</a>

**ATTENTION: This is a Tier 1 project & Flood Control Structures project.** Due to the criticality and useful life of this project, it is recommended that NCHRP15-61 methodology be used to calculate total precipitation depth for 24-hour design storms, and those results be compared to the provided total storm depth output: [Tier 3 methodology PDF](#).

How Total Precipitation Depth may inform Planning

How Total Precipitation Depth may inform Early Design

How Total Precipitation Depth may inform Project Evaluation

Limitations for Projected Total Precipitation Depth & Peak Intensity, Standards, and Guidance


Will receive recommended standards and design criteria for **each asset** entered:


- What 24-hour design storm return period?
- Recommends considering alternative storm durations as relevant to project


Explore **additional design storm precipitation values** on external dashboard



# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs

 Sea Level Rise/Storm Surge

 Extreme Precipitation

 Extreme Heat

Design Standards

Projected Water Surface Elevation Maps

Target Planning Horizon: 2070

Intermediate Planning Horizon: 2050

Return Period: 1000-yr (0.1%)

Design Criteria Applicable for Bridge St Bridge

✓ Projected Tidal Datums

✓ Projected Water Surface Elevation

✓ Projected Wave Action Water Elevation

✓ Projected Wave Heights

✓ Projected Duration of Flooding

✓ Projected Design Flood Velocity

✓ Projected Scour & Erosion

MC-FRM OUTPUTS

Not part of MCFRM standard outputs

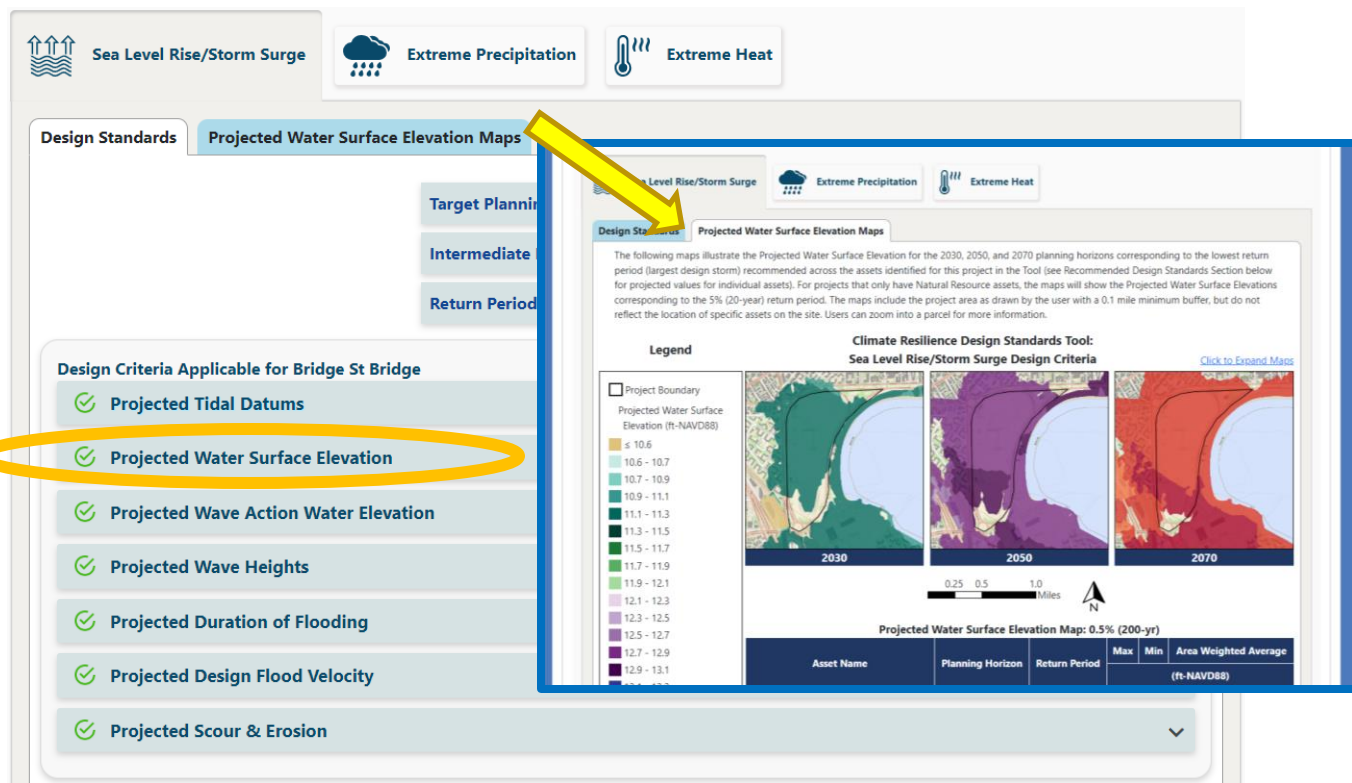
Most of the coastal design criteria projected values are sourced from the **Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model (MC-FRM)**



ResilientMass



# CRDS Tool: Project Outputs

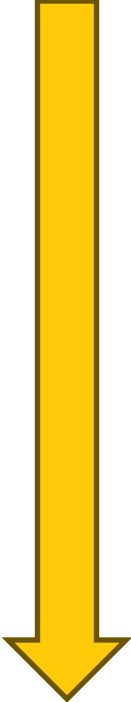


Most of the coastal design criteria projected values are sourced from the **Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model (MC-FRM)**



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# CRDS Tool: Version History



## Beta Tool (April 2021)

- MVP and Massworks requested Tool reports in grant applications

## Version 1.0 (February 2022)

- Climate exposure updates
- Ecosystem service benefits updates
- Additional in-tool guidance

## Version 1.1 (April 2022)

- **MC-FRM Level 2 outputs** (dynamic tables for applicable coastal design criteria)
- MA Climate Hydrologic Risk Project outputs (dynamic tables for applicable extreme precipitation design criteria)

## Version 1.2 (July 2022)

- **MC-FRM Projected Water Surface Elevation Maps** (interactive in-tool interface and printed maps in project report)

## Version 1.3 (2023)

- Update to Environmental Justice neighborhood dataset to reflect 2020 Census

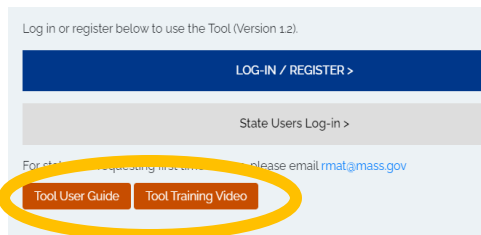
## Version 1.4 (2025) – In progress

- Updates to temperature design standards
- Additional MC-FRM maps
- Bug fixes



# CRDS Tool: Support & Documentation

## Key available resources:



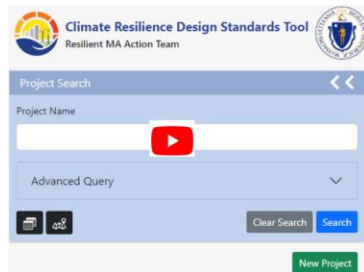
Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool  
Version 1.2, July 2022

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User  
guide

Trainin  
g video



Tool (V1.2) Training Video - February, 2023

## Guidance and Best Practices

The Climate Resilience Design Guidance provides general design guidance to consider while implementing resilience principles that are not specific to project type or climate hazards, and are illustrated through exam the Guidance considerations and document decision making throughout the planning process.

### Guidance and Best Practices PDF

Additional forms include:

- [Site Suitability](#)
- [Regional Coordination](#)
- [Flexible Adaptation Pathways](#)

*Climate resilience  
design guidance and  
best practices*

Table 1.1. Climate Resilience Design Guidance Best Practices

Considerations	Best Practice
Site Suitability (SS)	1. Reduce exposure to climate hazards 2. Mitigate adverse climate impacts and provide benefits 3. Protect, conserve, and restore critical natural resources on-site and off-site
Regional Coordination (RC)	1. Assess regional context of vulnerability 2. Evaluate impacts beyond site-specific design 3. Optimize capital investment opportunities 4. Prioritize services and assets that serve vulnerable populations
Flexible Adaptation Pathways (AP)	1. Embed future capacity and design for uncertainty 2. Design for incremental change 3. Encourage climate mitigation and other co-benefits 4. Prioritize nature-based solutions 5. Prepare for current and future operational and maintenance needs

## Documentation and training for technical data inputs

- [Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model \(MC-FRM\) FAQ](#) (April 6, 2022)
- [Massachusetts Coast Flood Risk Model \(MC-FRM\) Online Trainings](#) (April-May 2023)
- [EEA's Climate and Hydrologic Risk Project - Weather Generator Technical Document](#) (April, 2022)
- [EEA's Climate and Hydrologic Risk Project - IDF Curves Technical Document](#) (December, 2021)

[https://resilient.mass.gov/rmat\\_home/designstandards/](https://resilient.mass.gov/rmat_home/designstandards/)



ResilientMass

# Additional projections data: Climate projections dashboard

Get projections by location

Read about how metrics were made

### Climate Change Projections Dashboard

**HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD**

Use the filter data options below to view projections of climate metrics for specified areas of interest under a future warming scenario. Select either a **Watershed** or **Town**. Next, select the **Target decade** and **Season**. Toggle between tabs to view climate metrics at the bottom of the dashboard.

Use the locator map to view projections of extreme precipitation frequency estimates across Massachusetts. Click on the layer icon (stacked squares) in the top right corner and click on "IDF Sites". Zoom with mouse to desired area or use search icon to zoom and click on blue box and then click "Select" in the pop-up box (box with plus sign). Click on the "Precipitation Frequency Table" tab at the bottom of the dashboard to view precipitation depth values (inches) for various future design storms.

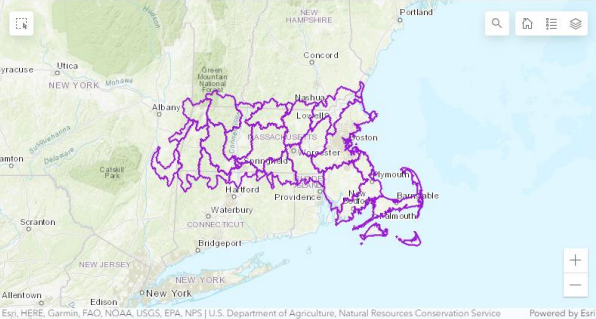
**FILTER DATA**

Climate Projections by Watershed:  
Blackstone

Climate Projections by Town:  
None

Target Decade:  
2030

Season:  
Annual



Map showing watersheds and towns in Massachusetts. A blue box highlights a specific area in the northwestern part of the state.

**HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD**

Stochastic Weather Generator outputs:

To view **temperature and precipitation projections**, use the **filter data** options in the left panel for specified areas of interest under a future warming scenario ([Representative Concentration Pathway \(RCP\) 8.5, a comparatively high greenhouse gas emissions scenario](#)). Temperature and precipitation projections for Massachusetts are provided at the watershed scale (averaged across HUC 8 watershed boundaries) and were developed with downscaled Global Climate Models and a **Stochastic Weather Generator** (see the [Background](#) to learn more).

Select either a **Watershed** or **Town** from the filter menus on the left panel. For towns that span more than one watershed, users will see those watersheds listed in the drop-down menu after a town is selected, but users must choose one of the watersheds to see projections appear in the display tiles below the locator map. Alternatively, use the locator map and click to select a watershed (purple polygons), zoom and click to select a town (orange polygons), or use the search icon (🔍) to search for desired areas of interest. If using locator map to identify watershed, user must select the desired watershed polygon on the map for the climate metrics to update. Users can also click the select tool (📐) in the upper left corner of the map and click on the area of interest.

Next, select the **Target decade** (2030, 2050, 2070, 2090) and **Season** (annual, winter, spring, summer, fall) from the filter menus on the left panel to view the 30-year average centered on the selected time period. Users can toggle between tabs at the bottom of

[DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS](#) | [BACKGROUND](#) | [CLIMATE METRICS](#) | [REFERENCES](#)

<b>Max temperature</b> (degrees F) <b>3.6</b> (1.8 to 5.4) 84.8	<b>Days above 95 degrees F</b> (days) <b>3</b> (1 to 5) 0	<b>Number of heatstress events</b> (events) <b>0</b> (0 to 1) 0	<b>Average duration of heatwaves</b> (days) <b>0</b> (0 to 0) 0	<b>Cooling degree days</b> (degree days) <b>363</b> (169 to 577) 529
<b>Days above 90 degrees F</b> (days) <b>11</b> (4 to 19) 5	<b>Days above 100 degrees F</b> (days) <b>0</b> (0 to 0) 0	<b>Number of heatwave events</b> (events) <b>0</b> (0 to 0) 0	<b>Max duration of heatwaves</b> (days) <b>0</b> (0 to 0) 0	<b>Growing degree days</b> (degree days) <b>628</b> (308 to 955) 2944

[AVERAGE AND COLD DAYS](#) | [HOT DAYS](#) | [PRECIPITATION](#) | [STOCHASTIC WEATHER GENERATOR](#) | [PRECIPITATION FREQUENCY TABLE](#)

See projected metrics of interest



# Climate projections dashboard: Planned Updates

## Climate-Hydrologic Risk Project Projected Temperature & Precipitation Statistics

### TEMPERATURE

- Minimum, average & maximum
- Number of days over 90F, 95F & 100F
- Number of days under 32F & 0F
- Number of cold & heat wave events
- Number of heat & cold stress events
- Heating & cooling degree days
- Growing degree days
- Heat Index
- Dew Point (0.4%, 1%, 2%)
- Minimum & maximum heat index
- Minimum & maximum dew point
- Maximum Dew Point
- Heating dry bulb (99% & 99.6%)
- Cooling dry bulb (0.4%, 1%, 2%)
- Mean coincident wet bulb (0.4%, 1%, 2%)
- Date of first & last frost
- Number of freeze/thaw events

### Durations:

- Average heat & cold wave duration
- Annual maximum heat & minimum cold wave duration

### PRECIPITATION

- Total
- Maximum 24-hour
- 90<sup>th</sup> & 99<sup>th</sup> percentile 24-hour
- Number of days with more than 1", 2", & 4"
- Proportion of precipitation as rain vs. snow

### Annual Return Periods:

- 2-, 5-, 10-, 20-, 50-, 100-, 200-, and 500-year 24-hour & 48-hour
- 1000-year 24- & 48-hour

### Average number of consecutive:

- Wet days
- Dry days

### STREAMFLOW

#### Low-flow:

- 7q10
- 7q2

#### High-flow:

- Peak discharge for 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year return periods

## KEY

- Existing Parameters from Phase 1
- New parameters expected via Phase 2



# Climate projections dashboard: Precipitation Frequency Table

## Climate Change Projections Dashboard

**HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD**

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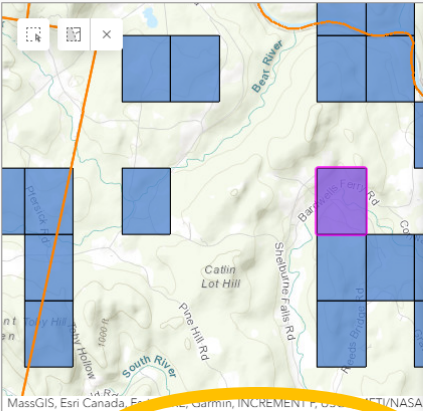
**FILTER DATA**

Climate Projections by Watershed:  
Blackstone

Climate Projections by Town:  
None

Target Decade:  
2030

Season:  
Annual



**IDF Site 1884**

Zoom to + Pan

Basin_ID	20.00
HU_8_NAME	Deerfield
HUC_8	01080203
SITE	Site 1884

**HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD**

**Stochastic Weather Generator outputs:**

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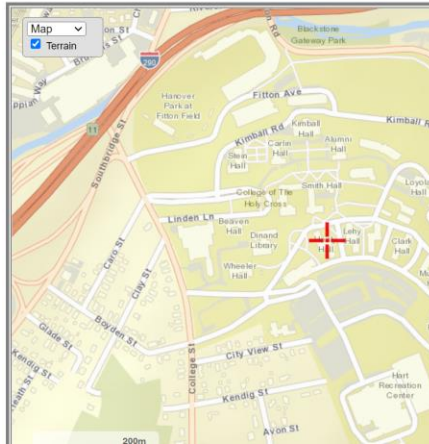
**DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS** | **BACKGROUND** | **CLIMATE METRICS** | **REFERENCES**

Site	Year	Duration	RI_1yr_50th	RI_2yr_50th	RI_5yr_50th	RI_10yr_50th	RI_25yr_50th	RI_50yr_50th	RI_100yr_50th	RI_200yr_50th	RI_500yr_50th	RI_1000yr_50th
Site 1884	2030	10m	0.4 (0.4 - 0.4)	0.4 (0.4 - 0.5)	0.5 (0.5 - 0.6)	0.6 (0.6 - 0.7)	0.7 (0.7 - 0.8)	0.8 (0.8 - 0.9)	0.9 (0.9 - 1)	1 (1 - 1.1)	1.1 (1.1 - 1.2)	1.2 (1.2 - 1.3)
Site 1884	2030	10m	0.5 (0.5 - 0.6)	0.6 (0.6 - 0.6)	0.7 (0.7 - 0.8)	0.9 (0.8 - 0.9)	1 (1 - 1.1)	1.1 (1.1 - 1.2)	1.3 (1.2 - 1.4)	1.4 (1.4 - 1.5)	1.6 (1.5 - 1.7)	1.7 (1.7 - 1.9)
Site 1884	2030	15m	0.6 (0.6 - 0.6)	0.7 (0.7 - 0.8)	0.9 (0.8 - 0.9)	1 (1 - 1.1)	1.2 (1.2 - 1.3)	1.4 (1.3 - 1.4)	1.5 (1.4 - 1.6)	1.7 (1.6 - 1.8)	1.9 (1.8 - 2)	2 (2 - 2.2)
Site 1884	2030	60m	1.1 (1 - 1.2)	1.3 (1.2 - 1.4)	1.6 (1.5 - 1.7)	1.8 (1.8 - 1.9)	2.2 (2.1 - 2.3)	2.4 (2.3 - 2.6)	2.7 (2.6 - 2.9)	3 (2.9 - 3.2)	3.4 (3.2 - 3.6)	3.7 (3.5 - 3.9)
Site 1884	2030	02h	1.4 (1.3 - 1.5)	1.6 (1.6 - 1.7)	2 (1.9 - 2.1)	2.3 (2.2 - 2.5)	2.8 (2.7 - 3)	3.1 (3 - 3.3)	3.5 (3.3 - 3.7)	3.8 (3.7 - 4.1)	4.4 (4.2 - 4.7)	4.8 (4.7 - 5.2)
Site 1884	2030	03h	1.6 (1.5 - 1.7)	1.9 (1.8 - 2)	2.3 (2.2 - 2.5)	2.7 (2.6 - 2.9)	3.2 (3.1 - 3.4)	3.6 (3.5 - 3.8)	4 (3.9 - 4.3)	4.5 (4.3 - 4.8)	5.1 (5 - 5.5)	5.7 (5.5 - 6.1)



# ResilientMass Projected Design Storms: Basis

## Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) Statistics Reference: NOAA Atlas 14



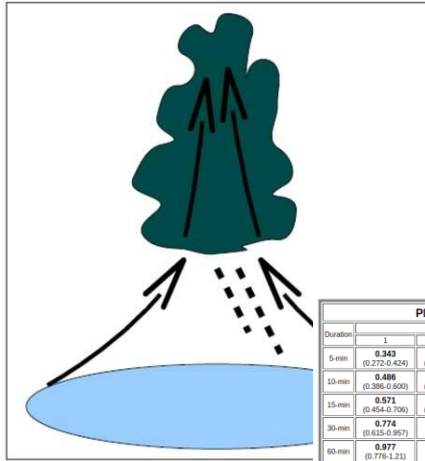
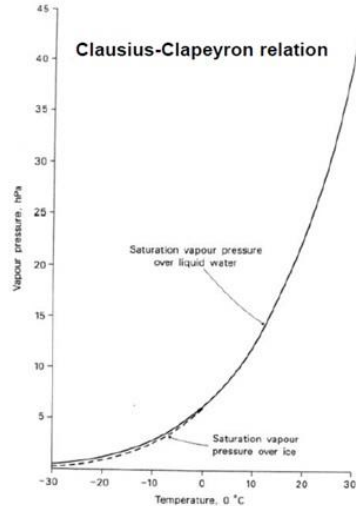
AMS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in inches) <sup>1</sup>									
Duration	Annual exceedance probability (1/years)								
	1/2	1/5	1/10	1/25	1/50	1/100	1/200	1/500	1/1000
5-min	0.371 (0.297-0.457)	0.487 (0.389-0.604)	0.576 (0.456-0.717)	0.692 (0.527-0.906)	0.780 (0.580-1.04)	0.869 (0.624-1.21)	0.964 (0.656-1.39)	1.10 (0.714-1.65)	1.20 (0.761-1.85)
10-min	0.525 (0.421-0.648)	0.690 (0.551-0.856)	0.815 (0.646-1.02)	0.980 (0.747-1.28)	1.10 (0.821-1.48)	1.23 (0.883-1.72)	1.37 (0.928-1.97)	1.55 (1.01-2.34)	1.70 (1.08-2.62)
15-min	0.618 (0.495-0.761)	0.812 (0.648-1.01)	0.959 (0.761-1.20)	1.15 (0.879-1.51)	1.30 (0.966-1.74)	1.45 (1.04-2.02)	1.61 (1.09-2.32)	1.83 (1.19-2.75)	2.00 (1.27-3.08)
30-min	0.841 (0.673-1.04)	1.11 (0.883-1.37)	1.31 (1.04-1.63)	1.57 (1.20-2.06)	1.77 (1.32-2.37)	1.98 (1.42-2.76)	2.19 (1.49-3.16)	2.49 (1.62-3.75)	2.73 (1.73-4.21)
60-min	1.06 (0.852-1.31)	1.40 (1.12-1.74)	1.66 (1.31-2.06)	1.99 (1.52-2.60)	2.24 (1.67-3.01)	2.50 (1.80-3.49)	2.78 (1.89-4.01)	3.16 (2.06-4.75)	3.46 (2.19-5.33)
2-hr	1.36 (1.09-1.66)	1.80 (1.44-2.22)	2.14 (1.70-2.65)	2.58 (1.98-3.36)	2.91 (2.18-3.90)	3.26 (2.36-4.56)	3.65 (2.49-5.24)	4.22 (2.75-6.31)	4.70 (2.98-7.18)
3-hr	1.55 (1.26-1.90)	2.08 (1.68-2.55)	2.48 (1.98-3.06)	3.00 (2.31-3.90)	3.38 (2.55-4.52)	3.79 (2.77-5.31)	4.27 (2.92-6.11)	4.98 (3.25-7.42)	5.58 (3.55-8.50)
6-hr	1.95 (1.59-2.37)	2.64 (2.14-3.22)	3.17 (2.55-3.89)	3.86 (3.00-5.00)	4.37 (3.32-5.82)	4.91 (3.62-6.86)	5.56 (3.81-7.90)	6.54 (4.28-9.68)	7.38 (4.70-11.2)
12-hr	2.41 (1.98-2.91)	3.32 (2.71-4.02)	4.00 (3.24-4.88)	4.91 (3.83-6.32)	5.56 (4.25-7.37)	6.28 (4.64-8.71)	7.12 (4.90-10.1)	8.40 (5.52-12.3)	9.49 (6.07-14.3)
24-hr	2.87 (2.37-3.45)	4.00 (3.28-4.81)	4.85 (3.96-5.87)	5.97 (4.69-7.64)	6.79 (5.21-8.93)	7.67 (5.70-10.6)	8.72 (6.02-12.2)	10.3 (6.82-15.1)	11.7 (7.52-17.5)
2-day	3.30 (2.74-3.93)	4.61 (3.82-5.52)	5.61 (4.61-6.75)	6.92 (5.47-8.82)	7.88 (6.09-10.3)	8.92 (6.68-12.3)	10.2 (7.05-14.2)	12.1 (8.03-17.6)	13.8 (8.90-20.5)
3-day	3.58 (2.99-4.25)	5.00 (4.16-5.96)	6.08 (5.01-7.29)	7.50 (5.94-9.51)	8.52 (6.61-11.1)	9.64 (7.25-13.2)	11.0 (7.65-15.3)	13.1 (8.71-19.0)	15.0 (9.66-22.1)
4-day	3.84 (3.21-4.54)	5.33 (4.44-6.33)	6.46 (5.34-7.72)	7.95 (6.32-10.1)	9.02 (7.02-11.7)	10.2 (7.68-13.9)	11.6 (8.10-16.1)	13.9 (9.20-20.0)	15.8 (10.2-23.2)
7-day	4.54 (3.82-5.34)	6.16 (5.16-7.28)	7.39 (6.14-8.79)	9.02 (7.19-11.3)	10.2 (7.95-13.2)	11.5 (8.64-15.5)	13.0 (9.08-17.9)	15.3 (10.2-22.0)	17.3 (11.2-25.4)

**If NOAA Atlas 14 precipitation values are based on historic storms, how rare would the same events be today or in the future?**

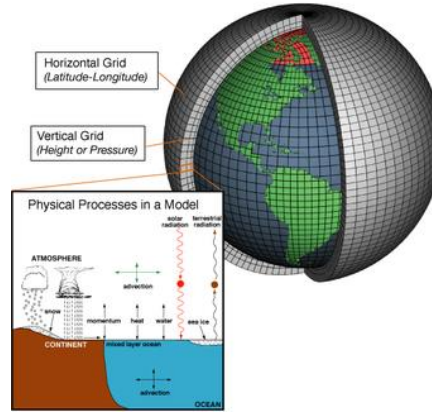
# ResilientMass Projected Design Storms: Basis

## Massachusetts' Future IDF curves

Theoretical: 7% increase in atmospheric moisture-holding capacity per degree Celsius of warming.



Source: Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut.



Global climate model

Scenario, decade, and projected warming

- RCP 8.5, 2050 → 2 degrees Celsius

PDS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in inches)<sup>1</sup>

Duration	1	2	5	10	25	50	100	200	500	1000
5-min	0.343 (0.272-0.424)	0.400 (0.319-0.492)	0.494 (0.391-0.614)	0.572 (0.444-0.714)	0.679 (0.514-0.903)	0.761 (0.603-1.09)	0.845 (0.634-1.35)	0.936 (0.690-1.59)	1.06 (0.755-1.78)	1.16
10-min	0.486 (0.386-0.600)	0.567 (0.450-0.702)	0.700 (0.553-0.870)	0.810 (0.637-1.01)	0.962 (0.729-1.26)	1.08 (0.797-1.45)	1.20 (0.85-1.67)	1.32 (0.896-1.91)	1.50 (0.976-2.25)	1.65
15-min	0.571 (0.454-0.705)	0.667 (0.529-0.825)	0.824 (0.651-1.02)	0.953 (0.749-1.19)	1.13 (0.857-1.48)	1.27 (0.936-1.79)	1.41 (1.01-1.98)	1.56 (1.06-2.25)	1.77 (1.12-2.65)	1.94
30-min	0.774 (0.615-0.957)	0.905 (0.718-1.12)	1.12 (0.884-1.39)	1.30 (1.00-1.62)	1.54 (1.00-2.02)	1.73 (1.28-2.31)	1.92 (1.37-2.67)	2.12 (1.44-3.06)	2.41 (1.56-3.61)	2.63
60-min	0.977 (0.776-1.21)	1.14 (0.907-1.41)	1.41 (1.12-1.76)	1.64 (1.28-2.05)	1.95 (1.47-2.55)	2.18 (1.61-2.83)	2.42 (1.73-3.38)	2.68 (1.86-4.06)	3.04 (2.13-4.31)	3.33
2-hr	1.24 (0.988-1.52)	1.46 (1.17-1.79)	1.82 (1.45-2.25)	2.13 (1.69-2.64)	2.54 (1.94-3.32)	2.86 (2.13-3.83)	3.19 (2.31-4.46)	3.57 (2.43-5.12)	4.13 (2.70-6.16)	4.61
3-hr	1.41 (1.13-1.73)	1.66 (1.34-2.05)	2.11 (1.69-2.59)	2.47 (1.96-3.06)	2.97 (2.28-3.87)	3.33 (2.50-4.46)	3.73 (2.72-5.22)	4.20 (2.86-6.00)	4.91 (3.21-7.30)	5.51
6-hr	1.76 (1.42-2.14)	2.11 (1.71-2.57)	2.69 (2.17-3.29)	3.17 (2.54-3.90)	3.83 (2.96-4.97)	4.32 (3.27-5.76)	4.85 (3.56-6.77)	5.50 (3.76-7.80)	6.48 (4.24-9.56)	7.32
12-hr	2.17 (1.76-2.61)	2.63 (2.14-3.17)	3.38 (2.74-4.10)	4.01 (3.23-4.89)	4.87 (3.78-6.28)	5.51 (4.18-7.29)	6.29 (4.57-8.59)	7.23 (4.83-9.82)	8.30 (5.45-12.2)	9.39
24-hr	2.57 (2.11-3.08)	3.14 (2.57-3.77)	4.08 (3.32-4.91)	4.85 (3.93-5.98)	5.91 (4.62-7.57)	6.70 (5.12-8.82)	7.56 (5.60-10.4)	8.59 (5.93-12.0)	10.2 (6.70-14.8)	11.5
	2.94	3.61	4.70	5.60	6.85	7.77	8.77	10.00	11.9	13.5

$$= 4.91 * (1.07^2)$$

$$= 5.62''$$

Source: Water Environmental Change.

# ResilientMass Projected Design Storms: Applications

## How can I use the scaled IDF dataset?

- Add as guidance/optional stretch reference in local stormwater ordinance
- Use to show future benefits in FEMA benefit-cost analysis
- Climate-informed stormwater infrastructure & BMP design

ResilientMass Maps and Data Center Search Data Additional Info & Contact resilient.mass.gov

## ResilientMass Maps and Data Center

ResilientMass was created by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to support the Commonwealth with climate change science and tools. This maps and data center features interactive applications to explore the latest statewide climate data and projections curated to support climate resilience in Massachusetts.

**Climate & Hazards Viewer**  
Explore relevant information curated to support climate resilience in MA.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)

**Climate Change Projections Dashboard**  
Explore the latest statewide climate projections.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)

**Search Data**  
Find and download data or browse by theme.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)

**Additional Viewer Gallery**  
Explore featured topic-specific interactive applications.  
[LEARN MORE >](#)

### Climate Change Projections Dashboard

**HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD**  
Use the filter data options below to view projections of climate metrics for specified areas of interest under a future warming scenario. Select either a Watershed or Town. Next, select the Target decade and Season. Toggle between tabs to view climate metrics at the bottom of the dashboard.

Use the locator map to view projections of extreme precipitation frequency estimates across Massachusetts. Click on the layer icon (stacked squares) in the top right corner and click on "IDF Sites". Zoom with mouse to desired area or use search icon to zoom and click on blue box and then click "Select" in the pop-up box (box with plus sign). Click on the "Precipitation Frequency Table" tab at the bottom of the dashboard to view precipitation depth values (inches) for various future design storms.

**FILTER DATA**  
Climate Projections by Watershed: Blackstone  
Climate Projections by Town:

**HOW TO USE THIS DASHBOARD**  
Stochastic Weather Generator outputs:  
To view temperature and precipitation projections, use the filter data options in the left panel for specified areas of interest under a future warming scenario (Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 - comparatively high greenhouse gas emissions scenario). Temperature and precipitation projections for Massachusetts are provided at the watershed scale (averaged across HUC 8 watershed boundaries) and were developed with downscaled Global Climate Models and a Stochastic Weather Generator (see the Background to learn more).

DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS

Site	Year	Durati...	RI_1y...	RI_2y...	RI_5y...	RI_10...	RI_25...	RI_50...	RI_10...	RI_20...	RI_50...	RI_100...
Site 1	2030	05m	0.4 (0.3 - ...)	0.4 (0.4 - ...)	0.5 (0.5 - ...)	0.6 (0.6 - ...)	0.8 (0.7 - ...)	0.9 (0.8 - ...)	1 (0.9 - 1)	1.1 (1 - 1.2)	1.3 (1.2 - ...)	1.4 (1.3 - 1.5)
Site 1	2030	10m	0.5 (0.5 - ...)	0.6 (0.6 - ...)	0.8 (0.7 - ...)	0.9 (0.9 - 1)	1.1 (1 - 1.2)	1.2 (1.2 - ...)	1.4 (1.3 - ...)	1.6 (1.5 - ...)	1.8 (1.7 - ...)	2 (1.8 - 2.1)
Site 1	2030	15m	0.6 (0.6 - ...)	0.7 (0.7 - ...)	0.9 (0.9 - 1)	1.1 (1 - 1.1)	1.3 (1.2 - ...)	1.5 (1.4 - ...)	1.6 (1.5 - ...)	1.8 (1.7 - 2)	2.1 (2 - 2.2)	2.3 (2.2 - 2.5)

PRECIPITATION FREQUENCY TABLE





**Office of Climate Science**  
[Climatescience@mass.gov](mailto:Climatescience@mass.gov)  
<https://www.resilient.mass.gov>

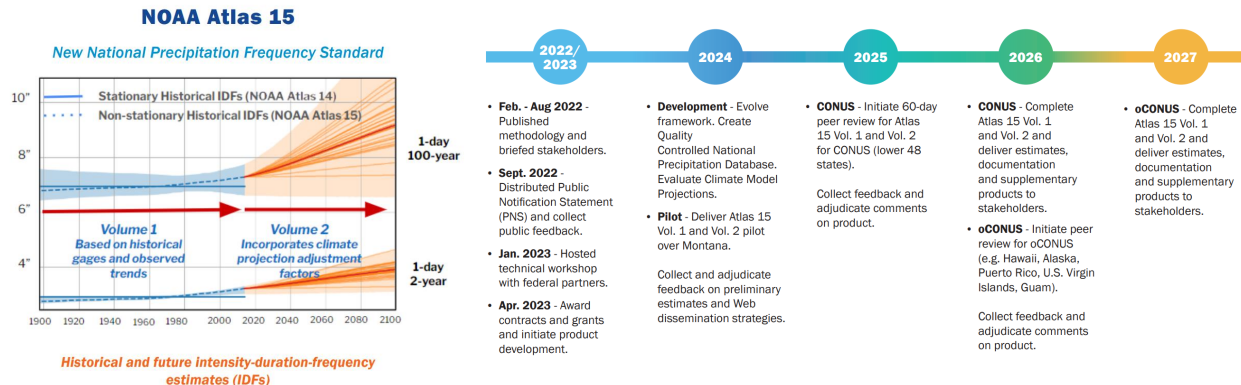
[Edwin.Sumargo@mass.gov](mailto:Edwin.Sumargo@mass.gov)  
[Caitlin.Spence@mass.gov](mailto:Caitlin.Spence@mass.gov)  
[Margot.Mansfield@mass.gov](mailto:Margot.Mansfield@mass.gov)



**ResilientMass**

## Next Steps & Open Questions

- Update scaled IDF dataset to reflect CMIP6 projected temperatures
- Investigate shifts in storm tracks, regional storm typologies, and storm frequencies
- Track NOAA Atlas 15 planned methods and milestones

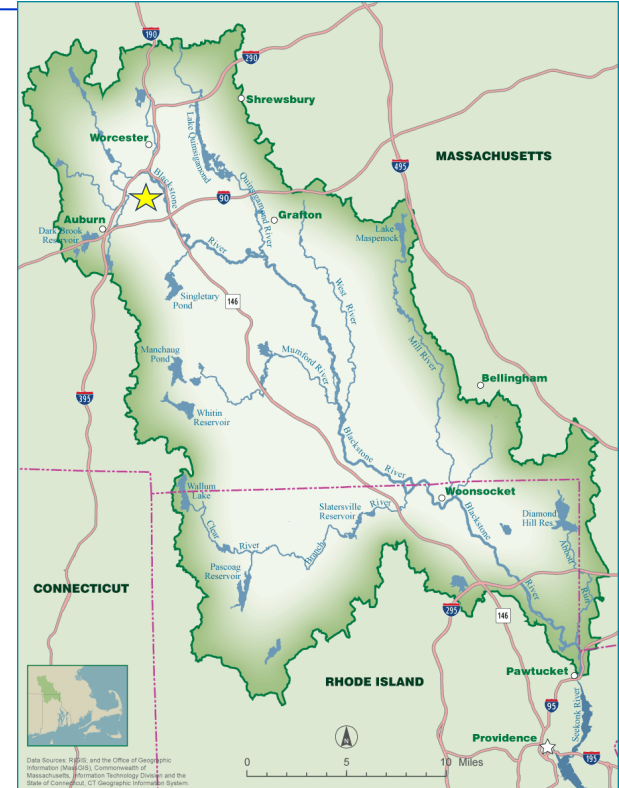




# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## Overview

- Evolving extreme precipitation in New England
- Data resource introduction: MA Climate-Scaled IDF Curves
- Example: Leominster 9/11/23 flooding
- NOAA Atlas 15: What we know now
- Next Steps



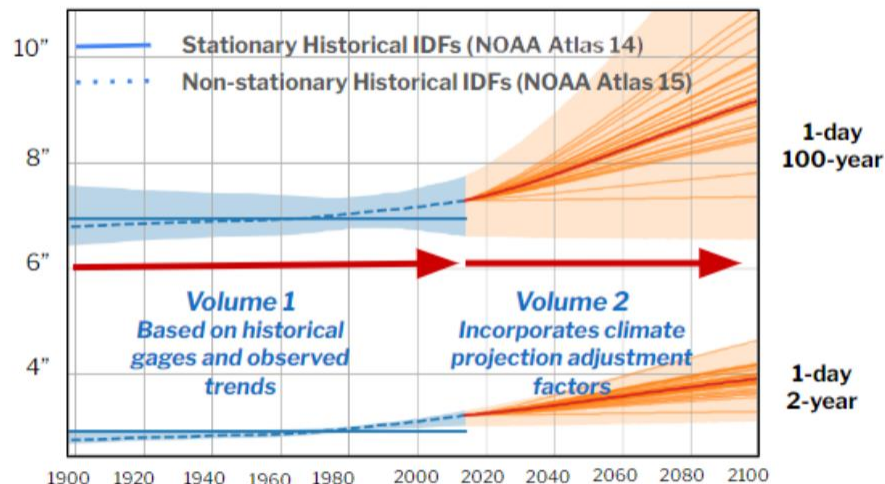
Source: Blackstone River Watershed Association  
<http://www.thebrwa.org/map.htm>

## What is Atlas 15?

- **Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) provides funding for NWS' Office of Weather Prediction (OWP) to**
  - Update Atlas 14 methods explicitly accounting for climate change
  - Update precipitation depth/duration/frequency values across the US
- **NOAA Atlas 15 Volume 1: Historic trends in observed values**
- **NOAA Atlas 15 Volume 2: Adjustment factors for Volume 1 values to reflect future climate projections**

## NOAA Atlas 15

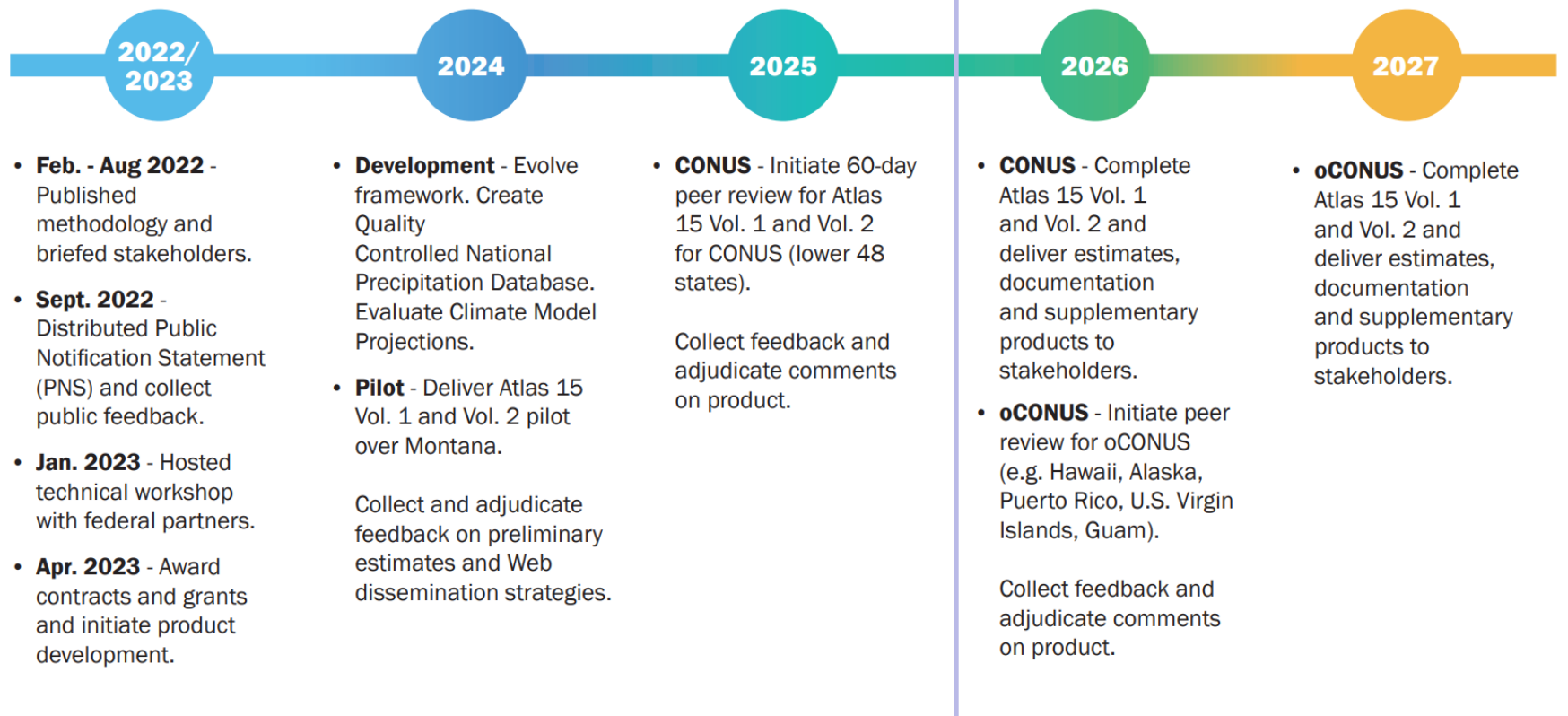
### New National Precipitation Frequency Standard



*Historical and future intensity-duration-frequency estimates (IDFs)*

# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## NOAA Atlas 15 timeline



# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

**AMS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in inches)<sup>1</sup>**

Duration	Annual exceedance probability (1/years)								
	1/2	1/5	1/10	1/25	1/50	1/100	1/200	1/500	1/1000
6-hr	<b>1.85</b> (1.48-2.28)	<b>2.55</b> (2.03-3.14)	<b>3.07</b> (2.43-3.80)	<b>3.77</b> (2.89-4.86)	<b>4.27</b> (3.22-5.62)	<b>4.82</b> (3.54-6.58)	<b>5.50</b> (3.75-7.49)	<b>6.55</b> (4.30-9.17)	<b>7.47</b> (4.78-10.6)
12-hr	<b>2.36</b> (1.91-2.87)	<b>3.22</b> (2.60-3.94)	<b>3.88</b> (3.10-4.76)	<b>4.74</b> (3.67-6.05)	<b>5.37</b> (4.07-6.99)	<b>6.05</b> (4.46-8.16)	<b>6.86</b> (4.72-9.28)	<b>8.11</b> (5.35-11.3)	<b>9.18</b> (5.90-13.0)
24-hr	<b>2.85</b> (2.33-3.44)	<b>3.89</b> (3.17-4.71)	<b>4.67</b> (3.78-5.68)	<b>5.71</b> (4.46-7.21)	<b>6.47</b> (4.94-8.33)	<b>7.28</b> (5.40-9.71)	<b>8.24</b> (5.70-11.1)	<b>9.68</b> (6.41-13.4)	<b>10.9</b> (7.04-15.3)
2-day	<b>3.26</b> (2.70-3.90)	<b>4.47</b> (3.69-5.36)	<b>5.39</b> (4.41-6.49)	<b>6.60</b> (5.20-8.26)	<b>7.48</b> (5.78-9.56)	<b>8.43</b> (6.31-11.2)	<b>9.55</b> (6.66-12.7)	<b>11.2</b> (7.49-15.4)	<b>12.7</b> (8.22-17.6)

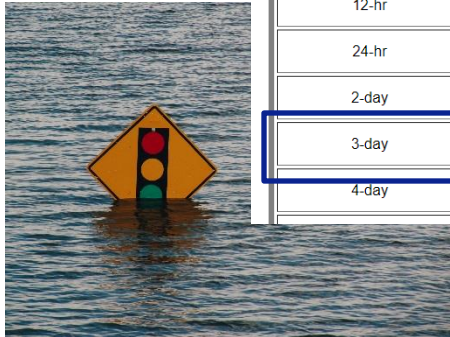


Washed out road in Leominster, CBS  
Boston September 2023

*“...dropped nearly **ten inches of rain in six hours...** the rainfall was “a 200-year event”, says Matthew Belk, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Boston.” CBS News, Boston*

# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

AMS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in inches) <sup>1</sup>									
Duration	Annual exceedance probability (1/years)								
	1/2	1/5	1/10	1/25	1/50	1/100	1/200	1/500	1/1000
5-min	0.351 (0.279-0.439)	0.489 (0.388-0.614)	0.594 (0.467-0.749)	0.732 (0.555-0.964)	0.834 (0.620-1.12)	0.941 (0.678-1.32)	1.06 (0.720-1.51)	1.24 (0.806-1.82)	1.42 (0.906-2.14)
10-min	0.497 (0.395-0.622)	0.693 (0.549-0.869)	0.841 (0.662-1.06)	1.04 (0.787-1.36)	1.18 (0.878-1.59)	1.33 (0.961-1.86)	1.51 (1.02-2.14)	1.76 (1.14-2.58)	2.02 (1.32-2.94)
15-min	0.585 (0.465-0.732)	0.816 (0.646-1.02)	0.990 (0.780-1.25)	1.22 (0.925-1.61)	1.39 (1.03-1.87)	1.57 (1.13-2.19)	1.77 (1.20-2.52)	2.07 (1.34-3.04)	2.32 (1.47-3.46)
30-min	0.809 (0.644-1.01)	1.13 (0.898-1.42)	1.38 (1.09-1.74)	1.70 (1.29-2.24)	1.94 (1.44-2.61)	2.19 (1.58-3.07)	2.48 (1.68-3.52)	2.90 (1.89-4.26)	3.26 (2.06-4.87)
60-min	1.03 (0.823-1.30)	1.45 (1.15-1.82)	1.77 (1.39-2.23)	2.19 (1.66-2.88)	2.49 (1.85-3.36)	2.82 (2.03-3.94)	3.19 (2.16-4.53)	3.74 (2.43-5.49)	4.20 (2.66-6.28)
2-hr	1.33 (1.07-1.65)	1.90 (1.52-2.36)	2.33 (1.85-2.91)	2.89 (2.22-3.79)	3.31 (2.48-4.43)	3.75 (2.74-5.23)	4.27 (2.91-6.02)	5.06 (3.30-7.36)	5.73 (3.65-8.49)
3-hr	1.55 (1.25-1.91)	2.21 (1.77-2.73)	2.70 (2.16-3.37)	3.36 (2.59-4.38)	3.84 (2.90-5.13)	4.36 (3.20-6.06)	4.98 (3.40-6.98)	5.91 (3.87-8.56)	6.71 (4.28-9.89)
6-hr	2.00 (1.63-2.45)	2.82 (2.28-3.46)	3.43 (2.76-4.24)	4.25 (3.30-5.49)	4.84 (3.68-6.40)	5.48 (4.05-7.55)	6.24 (4.29-8.68)	7.40 (4.87-10.6)	8.39 (5.38-12.3)
12-hr	2.56 (2.10-3.11)	3.53 (2.88-4.29)	4.26 (3.45-5.21)	5.22 (4.08-6.67)	5.92 (4.53-7.75)	6.68 (4.95-9.09)	7.56 (5.23-10.4)	8.89 (5.88-12.6)	10.0 (6.46-14.5)
24-hr	3.09 (2.56-3.72)	4.24 (3.50-5.12)	5.11 (4.18-6.20)	6.27 (4.94-7.94)	7.11 (5.48-9.22)	8.01 (5.98-10.8)	9.07 (6.31-12.4)	10.7 (7.10-15.0)	12.0 (7.78-17.3)
2-day	3.50 (2.92-4.17)	4.89 (4.06-5.84)	5.94 (4.90-7.14)	7.33 (5.82-9.23)	8.34 (6.49-10.8)	9.44 (7.12-12.7)	10.8 (7.52-14.5)	12.8 (8.54-17.8)	14.5 (9.44-20.6)
3-day	3.79 (3.18-4.50)	5.28 (4.41-6.28)	6.41 (5.31-7.66)	7.90 (6.30-9.88)	8.98 (7.01-11.5)	10.1 (7.69-13.6)	11.6 (8.12-15.6)	13.7 (9.21-19.1)	15.6 (10.2-22.1)
4-day	4.06 (3.42-4.79)	5.60 (4.70-6.63)	6.76 (5.63-8.05)	8.30 (6.65-10.3)	9.42 (7.38-12.0)	10.6 (8.07-14.1)	12.1 (8.51-16.2)	14.3 (9.62-19.8)	16.2 (10.6-22.8)



Town of North Attleborough Facebook, September 2023

“...about ten inches in the past 72 hours...” MassLive, September 2023

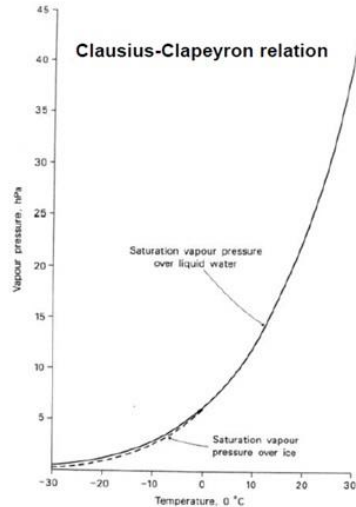
“...nearly five inches of rain in four hours...” CBS News, Boston September 2023



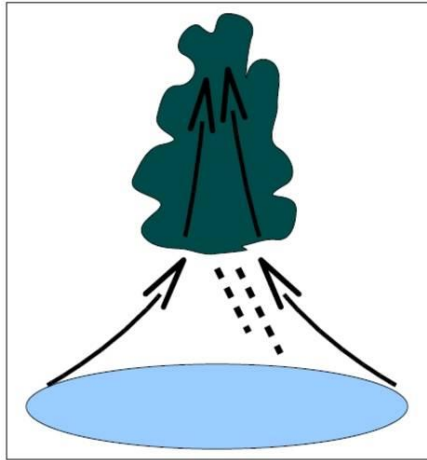
# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## Massachusetts' Future IDF curves

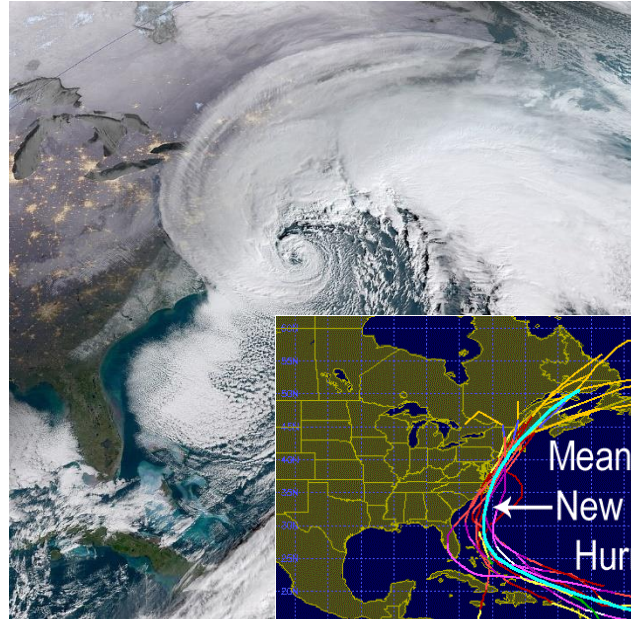
Theoretical: 7% increase in atmospheric moisture-holding capacity per degree Celsius of warming.



Source: Water Environmental Change.

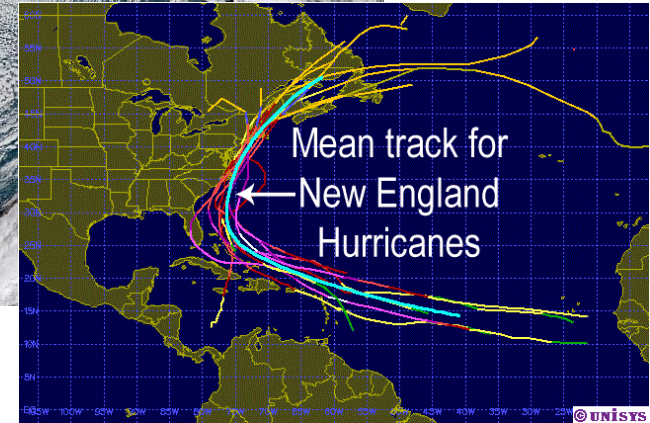


Source: Koninklijk Nederlands Meteorologisch Instituut.



Source: GOES-16 (NOAA)

Reality: ???



Source: Quincy Vagell, 2014

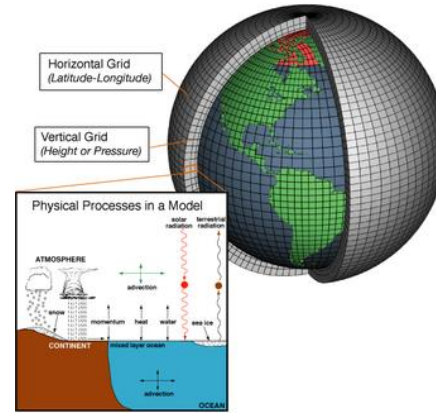


# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## Massachusetts' Future IDF curves

How does precipitation scale with temperature or dew point? Does precipitation increase more than theory would suggest? Less?

- Annually?
- Seasonally?
- Daily?
- Under different weather regimes?



Global climate model

Scenario, decade, and projected warming

- RCP 8.5, 2050 → 2 degrees Celsius

**NO**

We can use a 7% per degree Celsius precipitation scaling rate.

Lenoir, Najibi, and Steinschneider (2023)

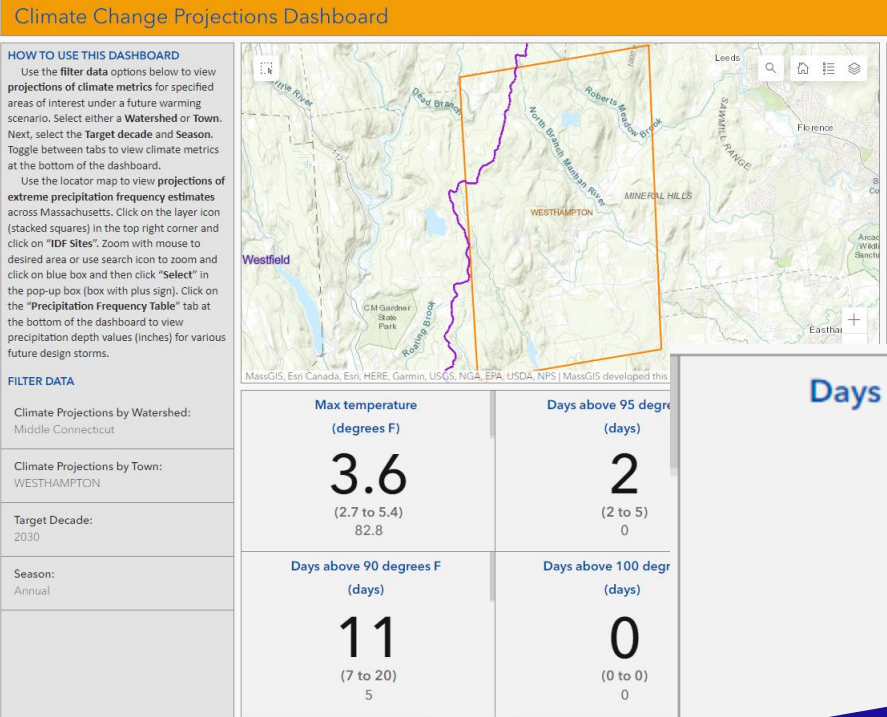
Duration	Average recurrence interval (years)									
	1	2	5	10	25	50	100	200	500	1000
5-min	0.343 (0.272-0.428)	0.400 (0.319-0.492)	0.494 (0.391-0.614)	0.572 (0.448-0.714)	0.679 (0.514-0.900)	0.761 (0.561-1.02)	0.845 (0.603-1.19)	0.936 (0.634-1.35)	1.06 (0.690-1.59)	1.16 (0.705-1.78)
10-min	0.486 (0.386-0.600)	0.567 (0.450-0.702)	0.700 (0.553-0.870)	0.810 (0.637-1.01)	0.962 (0.729-1.26)	1.08 (0.797-1.45)	1.20 (0.855-1.67)	1.32 (0.896-1.91)	1.50 (0.976-2.25)	1.65 (1.04-2.52)
15-min	0.571 (0.454-0.705)	0.667 (0.529-0.825)	0.824 (0.651-1.02)	0.953 (0.749-1.19)	1.13 (0.857-1.48)	1.27 (0.938-1.79)	1.41 (1.01-1.98)	1.56 (1.06-2.25)	1.77 (1.12-2.65)	1.94 (1.23-2.97)
30-min	0.774 (0.615-0.957)	0.905 (0.718-1.12)	1.12 (0.884-1.39)	1.30 (1.00-1.62)	1.54 (1.17-2.02)	1.73 (1.28-2.31)	1.92 (1.37-2.67)	2.12 (1.44-3.06)	2.41 (1.56-3.61)	2.63 (1.67-4.04)
60-min	0.977 (0.776-1.21)	1.14 (0.907-1.41)	1.41 (1.12-1.76)	1.64 (1.28-2.05)	1.95 (1.47-2.59)	2.18 (1.61-2.83)	2.42 (1.73-3.38)	2.68 (1.86-3.87)	3.04 (1.98-4.56)	3.33 (2.15-5.11)
2-hr	1.24 (0.988-1.52)	1.46 (1.17-1.79)	1.82 (1.46-2.25)	2.13 (1.69-2.64)	2.54 (1.94-3.32)	2.86 (2.13-3.83)	3.19 (2.31-4.46)	3.57 (2.43-5.12)	4.13 (2.70-6.16)	4.61 (2.92-7.02)
3-hr	1.41 (1.13-1.73)	1.66 (1.34-2.05)	2.11 (1.69-2.59)	2.47 (1.96-3.06)	2.97 (2.28-3.87)	3.33 (2.50-4.46)	3.73 (2.72-5.22)	4.20 (2.86-6.00)	4.91 (3.21-7.30)	5.51 (3.51-8.38)
6-hr	1.76 (1.42-2.14)	2.11 (1.71-2.57)	2.69 (2.17-3.29)	3.17 (2.54-3.90)	3.83 (2.96-4.97)	4.32 (3.27-5.76)	4.85 (3.56-6.77)	5.50 (3.76-7.80)	6.48 (4.24-9.56)	7.32 (4.67-11.0)
12-hr	2.17 (1.76-2.61)	2.63 (2.14-3.17)	3.38 (2.74-4.10)	4.01 (3.23-4.89)	4.87 (3.78-6.28)	5.51 (4.18-7.29)	6.29 (4.57-8.59)	7.23 (4.83-9.92)	8.30 (5.45-12.2)	9.39 (6.05-14.1)
24-hr	2.57 (2.11-3.08)	3.14 (2.57-3.77)	4.08 (3.32-4.91)	4.85 (3.93-5.98)	5.91 (4.62-7.57)	6.70 (5.12-8.82)	7.56 (5.60-10.4)	8.59 (5.93-12.0)	10.2 (6.70-14.8)	11.5 (7.38-17.1)
	2.64	3.61	4.70	5.60	6.85	7.77	8.77	10.00	11.9	13.5

$$= 4.91 * (1.07^2)$$

$$= 5.62''$$

# Additional projections data: Climate projections dashboard

## Climate Change Projections Dashboard



Median/50<sup>th</sup> percentile projection: Two more days over 95F than we've typically seen in the past (so... two)

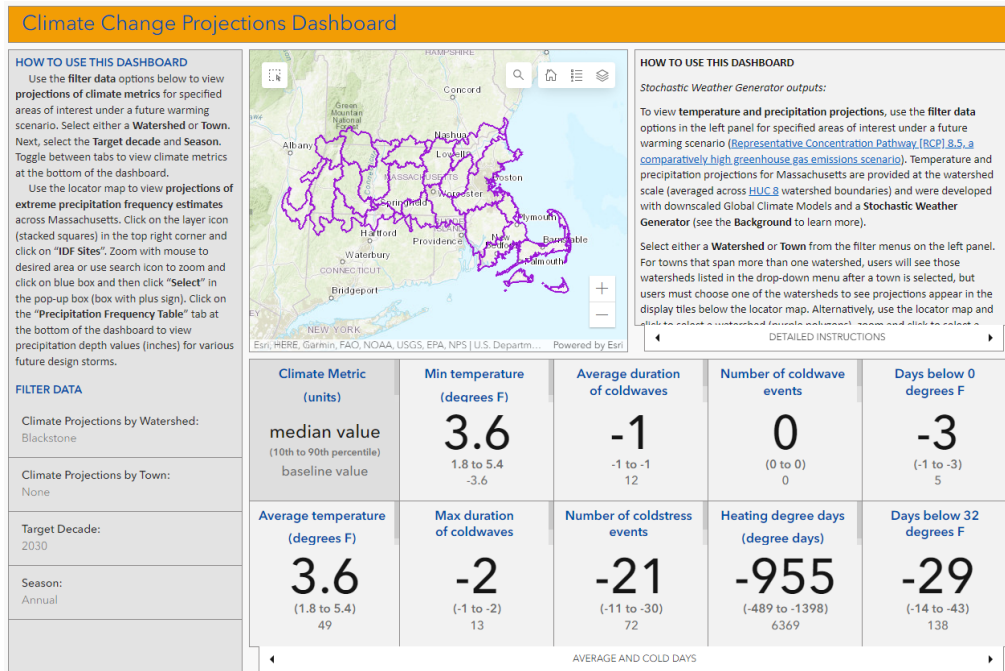
90% of climate models say more than 2 more days per year. 10% of models say 5 or more additional days per year.

What we've seen in the past:  
Typically 0 days over 95F each year

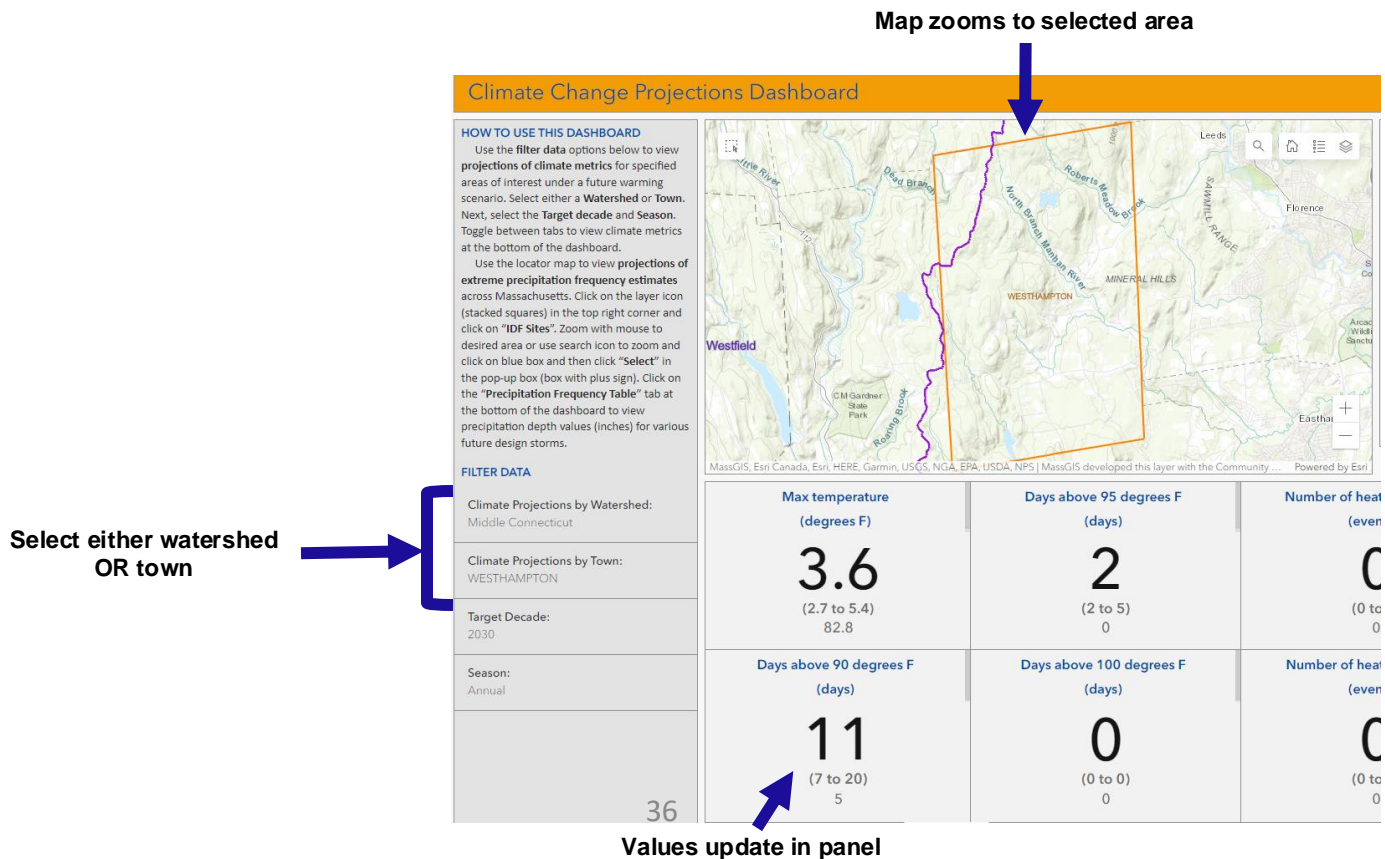
# Climate Change Projections Dashboard

## When to use the dashboard?

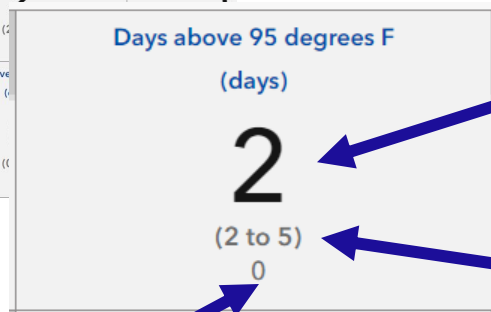
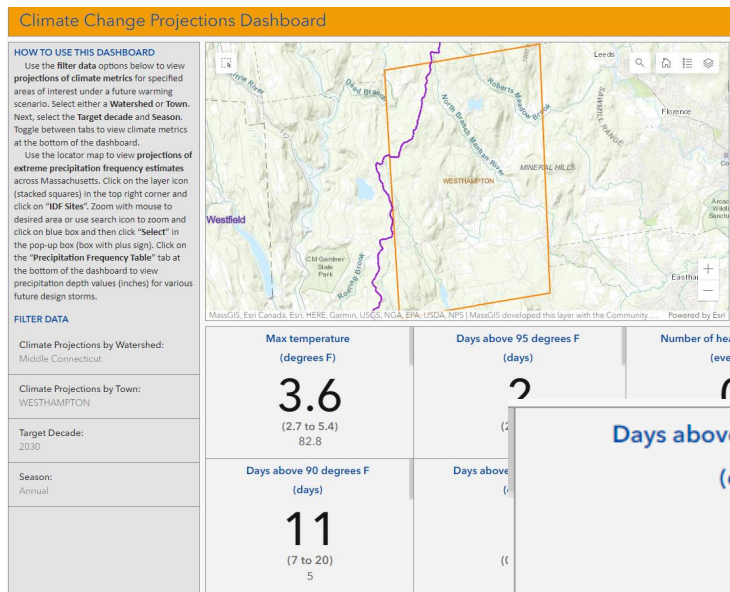
- Exploring future climate hazards for adaptation planning
- Designing stormwater infrastructure to last
- Screening for ecosystem/habitat risks
- And more!



# Climate Change Projections Dashboard



# Climate Change Projections Dashboard



Median projection:  
Two more days over  
95F than we've  
typically seen in the  
past (so... two)

90% of climate models say  
more than 2 more days per  
year. 10% of models say 5  
or more additional days  
per year.

What we've seen in the past:  
Typically 0 days over 95F each year

# Climate Change Projections Dashboard

## What you can find

Site	Year	Season	90th percentile (percent change)	99th percentile (percent change)	Consecutive dry days (days)	Consecutive wet days (days)	Cooling degree days (degree days)	Days above 1 inch (days)
Middle Connecticut	2030	Annual	0.7 (0.4 - 0.7)	6.7 (4.4 - 8.8)	0 (0 - 1)	0 (0 - 0)	208 (222 - 196)	1 (1 - 1)
Middle Connecticut	2030	Fall	0.9 (0.7 - 1.3)	5.6 (3.5 - 8.6)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	48 (33 - 62)	0 (0 - 0)
Middle Connecticut	2030	Spring	0.5 (0.5 - 0.7)	6.7 (2.7 - 9.6)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	24 (10 - 42)	0 (0 - 0)
Middle Connecticut	2030	Summer	0 (0 - 0)	4.7 (2.4 - 6.1)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	18 (1 - 35)	0 (0 - 0)
Middle Connecticut	2030	Winter	1.2 (0.7 - 1)	7.8 (4.5 - 11.6)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)	0 (0 - 0)

Downloadable table containing all metrics for location

- Precipitation depth by storm return period (chance of depth being equaled or exceeded in a given year)
- 5-, 10-, 15-, 60-minute storms
- 2-, 3-, 6-, 12-, 24-, and 48-hour storms
- 1-, 2-, 5-, 10-, 25-, 50-, 100-, 200-, 500-, and 1000-year storms
  - 100-year storm: 1% chance of equal or bigger storm occurring in a given year

### AVERAGE AND COLD DAYS

- Lowest one-day temperature
- Average temperature
- Number of cold stress events
- Number of cold waves
- Maximum cold wave duration
- Number of days below 0F
- Number of days below 32F
- Heating degree days

### HOT DAYS

- Number of heat stress events
- Number of heat waves
- Average heat wave duration
- Maximum heat wave duration
- Number of days above 90F
- Number of days above 95F
- Number of days above 100F
- Growing degree days
- Cooling degree days

### PRECIPITATION

### STOCHASTIC WEATHER GENERATOR TABLE

### PRECIPITATION FREQUENCY TABLE

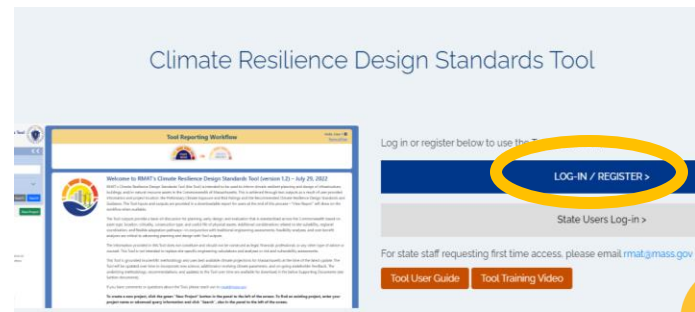
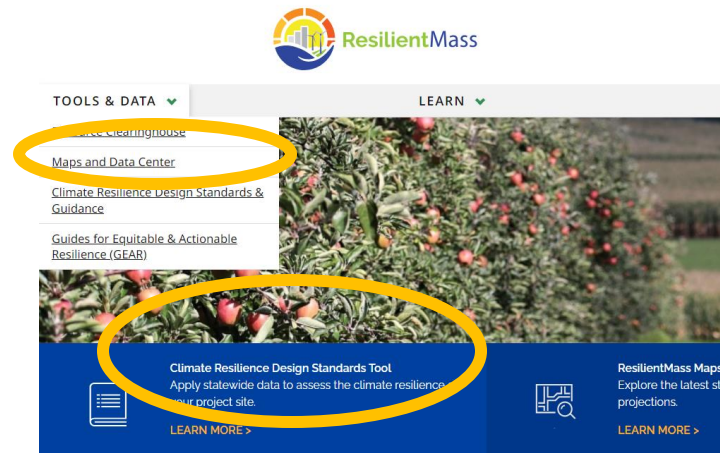
- Total precipitation
- Highest one-day precipitation
- Number of days with >1", 2", 4" precipitation
- Average consecutive number of dry days
- Average consecutive number of wet days
- 90th, 99th percentile storm (out of all days in a year with measurable precipitation)



# Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool: Overview

## Goals:

- Make preliminary climate resilience analysis **more broadly accessible**
- Inform "**climate smart**" capital planning and procurement
- Provide resilience recommendations based on **consistent use** of state's climate data
- Provide a unified planning and design **support tool** that state agencies can use to administer grant programs
- Provide **consistent information to municipalities** hosted on **resilient.mass.gov**



[https://resilient.mass.gov/rmat\\_home/designstandards/](https://resilient.mass.gov/rmat_home/designstandards/)



ResilientMass



# CRDS Tool: Extreme Precipitation Design Values



Washed out road in Leominster, CBS Boston September 2023

*"...dropped nearly ten inches of rain in six hours... the rainfall was "a 200-year event", says Matthew Belk, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Boston." CBS News, Boston*



Town of North Attleborough Facebook, September 2023

*"...about ten inches in the past 72 hours..." MassLive, September 2023*  
*"...nearly five inches of rain in four hours..." CBS News, Boston September 2023*



Farms flooding along Connecticut River. CBS News Boston, July 2023

## FLOODING • SEP 11

Severe flash flooding prompts emergency in Leominster, impacts other parts of Mass.

## LEOMINSTER • SEP 12

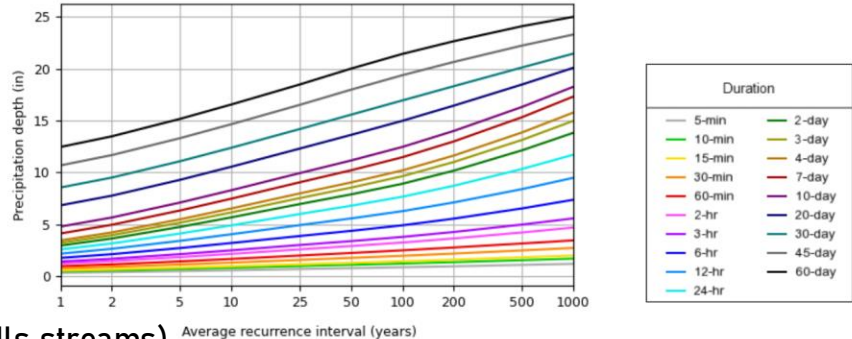
Flooding in Leominster: Dams being shored up, Healey declares Mass. state of emergency

**As extreme precipitation flooding impacts Massachusetts, climate-informed design values allow risk-based flood management.**

# CRDS Tool: Extreme Precipitation Design Values

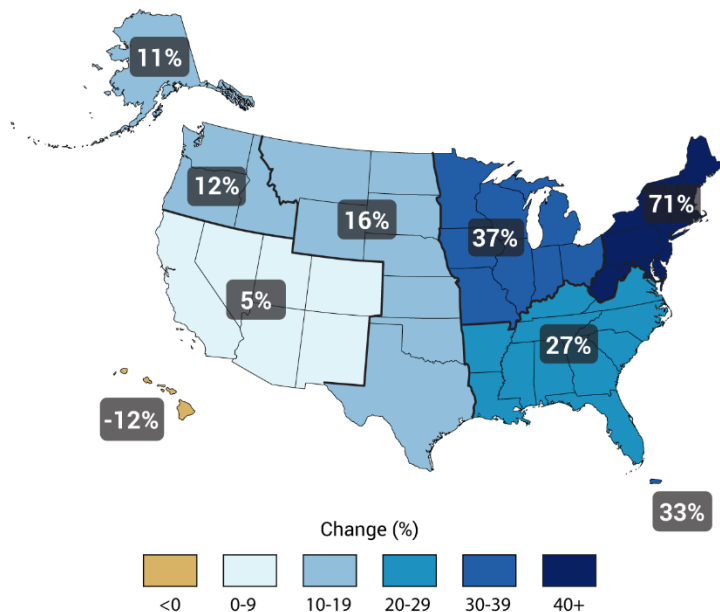
## Precipitation intensity-duration-frequency (IDF) relationships

- What is IDF?
  - **Intensity:** How much rain (depth) per time?
  - **Duration:** How long does the storm last?
  - **Frequency:** What is the chance that the same or greater rainfall depth will fall in the same amount of time in a given year?
  - “Return Period” describes the approximate frequency a specific IDF storm could be expected.
- Examples
  - There is a 1 in 10 (10%) chance that a “10 year storm” will be equaled or exceeded in each year
  - There is a 1 in 100 (1%) chance that a “100-year storm” will be equaled or exceeded in each year
  - In Worcester, MA, the 10-year storm is ...
    - 4.85” in 24 hours
    - 2.14” in 2 hours
- Used in
  - Stormwater bylaws
  - Stormwater infrastructure & BMP design
  - Flood modelling (urban, flash floods, smalls streams)



# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## Observed Change in Very Heavy Precipitation



Source: National Climate Assessment, 2014

Table 4-76: Projected Frequency of Future Annual Extreme Precipitation Events in Massachusetts

	2030	2050	2070	2100
Number of Days >1" precipitation	7-9	8-10	8-10	8-11
Number of Days >2" precipitation	1	1-2	1-2	1-2

Source: resilient MA, 2018

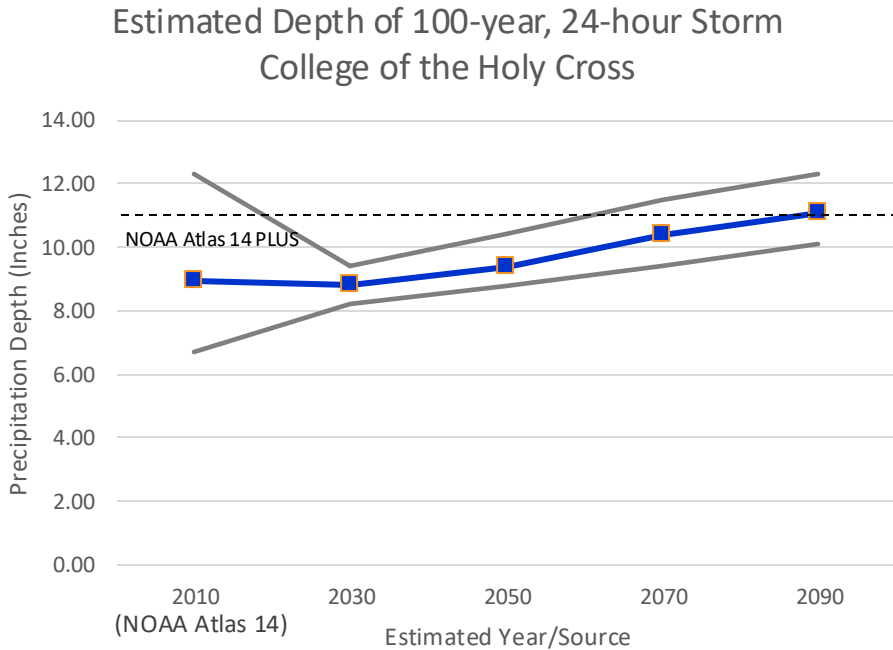
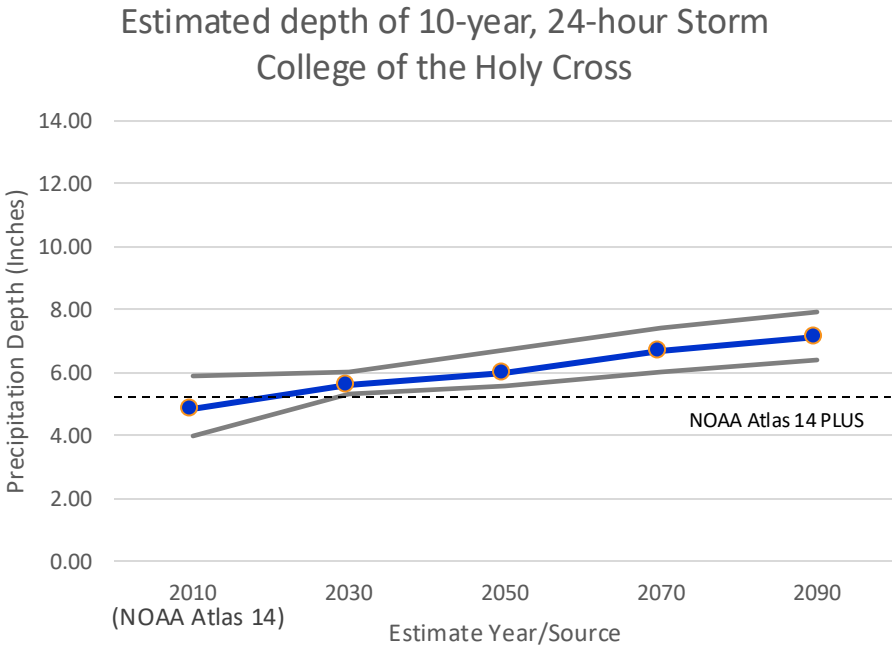
Source: MA State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan (SHMCAP), 2018.

## What is the future of extreme precipitation in New England?

- Storms have become more extreme....
  - Between 1958 and 2012, the amount of precipitation which falls in the heaviest 1% of rain events increased 71% across New England
- And projections suggest the changes will continue to grow.
  - Downscaled precipitation projections published in 2016 suggest the number of days with more than 1" in MA will increase from less than 7 to up to 11, on average, each year.

# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## Past and Future Storms at College of the Holy Cross



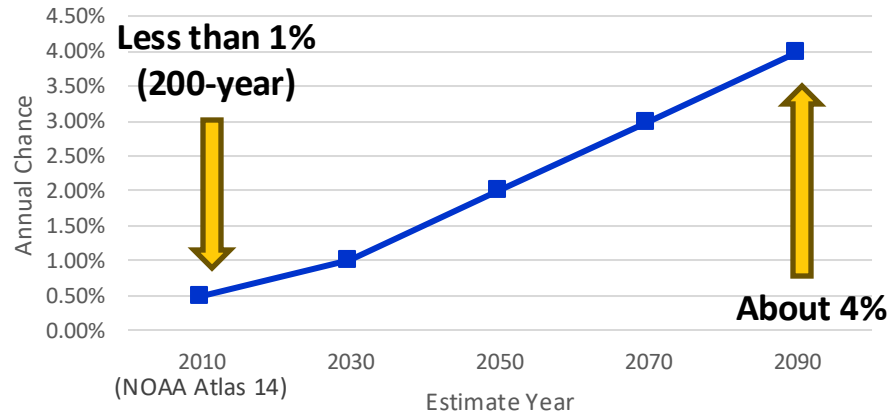
Lower and Upper Bound (Atlas 14 values use different method) Estimate

Lower and Upper Bound (Atlas 14 values use different method) Estimate

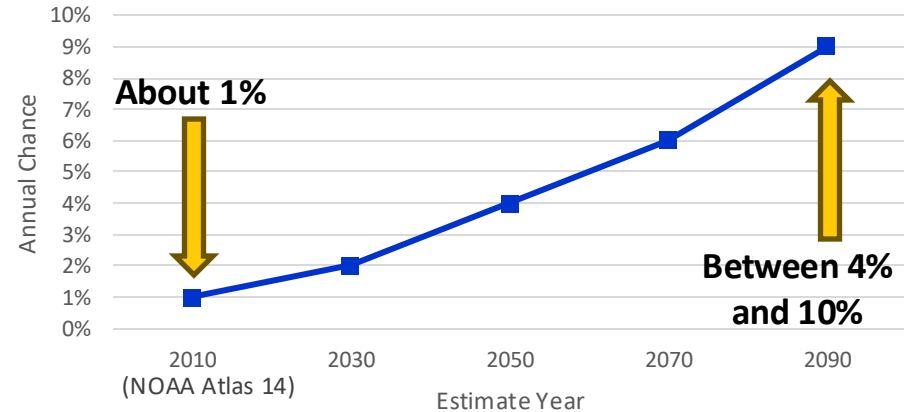
# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

**What is the future chance of storms like the September 11, 2023 Leominster and North Attleborough storms?**

Estimated Annual Chance of 9.5" Precipitation  
in 48 hours, **Leominster MA**



Annual Chance of 4.5" Precipitation in 3-4 hours,  
**North Attleborough MA**



# MA Climate-Scaled Precipitation Design Values

## IDF reference for future extreme precipitation?

Duration	Annual exceedance probability (1/years)							
	1/2	1/5	1/10	1/25	1/50	1/100	1/200	1/1000
5-min	0.371 (0.297-0.457)	0.487 (0.389-0.604)	0.576 (0.456-0.717)	0.692 (0.527-0.906)	0.780 (0.580-1.04)	0.869 (0.624-1.21)	0.964 (0.656-1.39)	1.10 (0.714-1.65)
10-min	0.525 (0.421-0.648)	0.690 (0.551-0.856)	0.815 (0.646-1.02)	0.980 (0.747-1.28)	1.10 (0.821-1.48)	1.23 (0.883-1.72)	1.37 (0.928-1.97)	1.55 (1.01-2.34)
15-min	0.618 (0.495-0.761)	0.812 (0.648-1.01)	0.959 (0.761-1.20)	1.15 (0.879-1.51)	1.30 (0.966-1.74)	1.45 (1.04-2.02)	1.61 (1.09-2.32)	1.83 (1.19-2.75)
30-min	0.841 (0.673-1.04)	1.11 (0.883-1.37)	1.31 (1.04-1.63)	1.57 (1.20-2.06)	1.77 (1.32-2.37)	1.98 (1.42-2.76)	2.19 (1.49-3.16)	2.49 (1.62-3.75)
60-min	1.06 (0.852-1.31)	1.40 (1.12-1.74)	1.66 (1.31-2.06)	1.99 (1.52-2.60)	2.24 (1.67-3.01)	2.50 (1.80-3.49)	2.78 (1.89-4.01)	3.16 (2.06-4.75)
2-hr	1.36 (1.09-1.66)	1.80 (1.44-2.22)	2.14 (1.70-2.65)	2.58 (1.98-3.36)	2.91 (2.18-3.90)	3.26 (2.36-4.56)	3.65 (2.49-5.24)	4.22 (2.75-6.31)
3-hr	1.55 (1.26-1.90)	2.08 (1.68-2.55)	2.48 (1.98-3.06)	3.00 (2.31-3.90)	3.38 (2.55-4.52)	3.79 (2.77-5.31)	4.27 (2.92-6.11)	4.98 (3.55-6.80)
6-hr	1.95 (1.59-2.37)	2.64 (2.14-3.22)	3.17 (2.55-3.89)	3.86 (3.00-5.00)	4.37 (3.32-5.82)	4.91 (3.62-6.86)	5.56 (3.81-7.90)	6.54 (4.28-9.68)
12-hr	2.41 (1.98-2.91)	3.32 (2.71-4.02)	4.00 (3.24-4.88)	4.91 (3.83-6.32)	5.56 (4.25-7.37)	6.28 (4.64-8.71)	7.12 (4.90-10.1)	8.40 (5.52-12.3)
24-hr	2.87 (2.37-3.45)	4.00 (3.28-4.81)	4.85 (3.95-5.87)	5.97 (4.69-7.64)	6.79 (5.21-8.93)	7.67 (5.70-10.6)	8.72 (6.02-12.2)	10.3 (6.82-15.1)
2-day	3.36 (2.74-3.93)	4.61 (3.82-5.52)	5.52 (4.61-6.75)	6.52 (5.47-8.82)	7.60 (6.09-10.3)	8.72 (6.68-12.3)	10.2 (7.05-14.2)	12.1 (8.03-17.6)
3-day	3.58 (2.99-4.25)	5.00 (4.16-5.96)	6.08 (5.01-7.29)	7.50 (5.94-9.51)	8.52 (6.61-11.1)	9.64 (7.25-13.2)	11.0 (7.65-15.3)	13.1 (8.71-19.0)
4-day	3.84 (3.21-4.54)	5.33 (4.44-6.33)	6.46 (5.34-7.72)	7.95 (6.32-10.1)	9.02 (7.02-11.7)	10.2 (7.68-13.9)	11.6 (8.10-16.1)	13.9 (9.20-20.0)
7-day	4.54 (3.82-5.34)	6.16 (5.16-7.28)	7.39 (6.14-8.79)	9.02 (7.19-11.3)	10.2 (7.95-13.2)	11.5 (8.64-15.5)	13.0 (9.08-17.9)	15.3 (10.2-22.0)
	5.22	6.92	8.26	9.80	11.1	12.5	14.0	16.2

- NOAA Atlas 14 PLUS method
  - 10-year, 24-hour storm PLUS = 90% of the 10-year, 24-hour estimate upper bound
  - 10-year, 24-hour storm PLUS =  $5.87'' \times 0.9$
  - 10-year, 24-hour PLUS =  $5.28''$
- Some guidelines recommend “NOAA Atlas 14 PLUS PLUS” method
  - 10-year, 24-hour storm PLUS PLUS = 10-year, 24-hour storm upper bound
  - =  $5.87''$

# Climate Resilience Design Standards Tool

Recommended  
planning/design parameter



Based on



Table 4.1. Standard Output Recommendations Provided by the Tool

Standards Output Recommendations	Example	Relationship Driving Recommendation
Planning Horizon <sup>1</sup>	2070	Useful Life
Return Period <sup>2,8</sup>	100-year (1% AEP)	Criticality <sup>3</sup> , Asset Type, and Useful/Exposure Service Life <sup>4</sup>
Percentiles <sup>5</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> percentile	Criticality <sup>3</sup> and Construction Type
Design Criteria <sup>6</sup>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Projected Total Precipitation Depth for 24-hr Design Storm</li><li>Projected Wave Action Water Elevation</li><li>Projected Cooling Degree Days, etc.</li></ul>	Asset Type and Location
Tiered Methodology <sup>7</sup> to estimate projected design criteria values	Tier 3 – High Level of Effort	Criticality <sup>3</sup> and Useful Life

Longer useful life → later target decade

More critical + longer useful life → higher return period

More critical → higher percentile

More critical + longer useful life → higher level of effort to estimate values