

# EEA Climate Team Quarterly Newsletter



Winter 2026

Welcome to another issue of the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Climate Team Newsletter highlighting climate efforts and opportunities across the Commonwealth.

Our Climate Team looks forward to continued work together to build a stronger, healthier, cleaner Massachusetts!

We welcome your [feedback!](#)

## News and Announcements

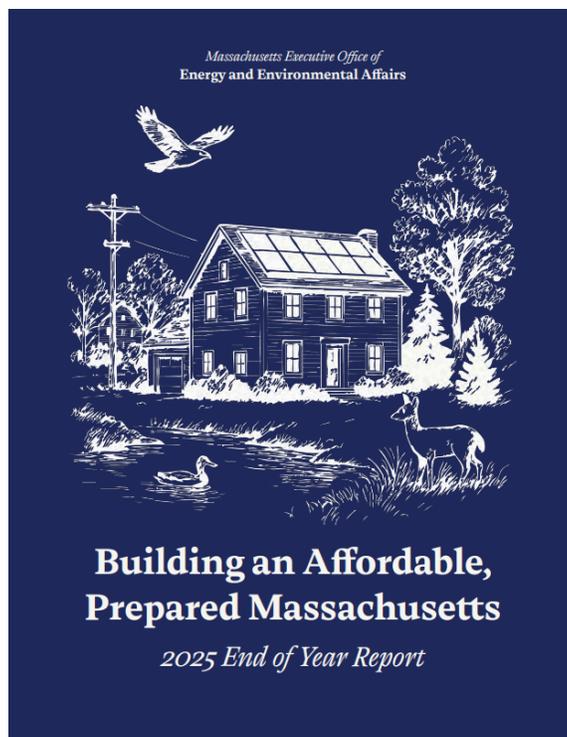


### **EEA Releases 2025 Massachusetts Climate Report Card**

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) released the third annual [Massachusetts Climate Report Card](#) to assess progress in the past 12 months. The landscape for climate work changed significantly over the past year.

The loss of a federal partner and global economic forces including high inflation, tariffs, and continued supply chain issues have slowed progress in providing clean, affordable energy for all and in equipping our communities to respond to climate hazards. Despite these delays in progress, the state is activating available tools to advance a clean, resilient future for residents.

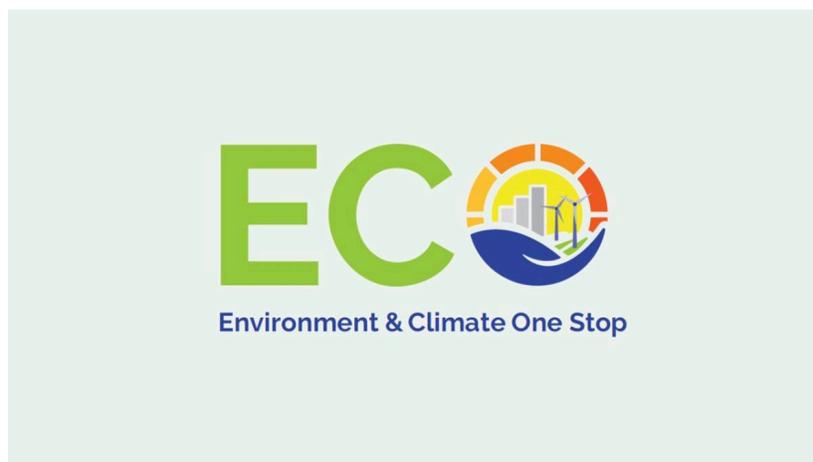
Massachusetts has made significant progress on what it can control. The Commonwealth met several milestones: installing heat pumps in over 100,000 homes a year ahead of the targeted schedule, making considerable progress on major clean energy projects, and conserving over 28% of state lands. Across the board, Massachusetts remains committed to saving energy, cutting costs, reducing emissions, protecting people and property from flooding and other hazards, and supporting burdened communities.



## **Healey-Driscoll Administration Energy and Environmental Agency Releases Yearly Report**

Recently, the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) released their [2025 Annual Report](#), highlighting key milestones and accomplishments from its agencies. These efforts include legislation to lower energy costs for families, investments in extreme weather preparation, and strategies to protect nature. Together, this work has contributed to creating more resilient and sustainable communities in Massachusetts.

“Our agencies are at the forefront of protecting our natural resources, making energy affordable, building resilient and prepared communities, and expanding outdoor accessibility,” said EEA Secretary Rebecca Tepper. “I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our commissioners and the over 3,000 dedicated staff members who tirelessly serve the residents, ecosystems, and wildlife of Massachusetts.”



## **EEA Launches ECO One Stop Grant Application Process**

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) has launched the new [Environment & Climate One Stop \(ECO One Stop\)](#), a streamlined, centralized application process designed to make it easier for communities, organizations, and partners to apply for multiple climate resilience and environmental grant programs in one place. This new initiative simplifies the funding process by offering a single point of entry for the following state grant opportunities that support climate adaptation, environmental protection, and community resilience across the Commonwealth:

- [CZM Coastal Habitat & Water Quality \(CHWQ\) Grants](#)
- [CZM Coastal Resilience Grant](#)
- [DER Culvert Replacement Municipal Assistance \(CRMA\) Grant Program and Training Site Initiatives](#)
- [EEA Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program](#)
- [EEA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness \(MVP\) Action Grant](#)
- [EEA Cooling Corridors Grant Program](#)
- [EEA Planning Assistance Grants](#)

The FY27 ECO One Stop Application is now open. Applications are due by Friday, March 20, 2026. We look forward to partnering with communities, municipalities, nonprofits, and other stakeholders to accelerate climate resilience and environmental solutions across Massachusetts.

[Access the ECO One Stop Application](#)

**FUNDING STRATEGIES TO ADVANCE RESILIENCE**

Massachusetts is facing more frequent and intense extreme weather, threatening communities, infrastructure, and the economy. Hear about Mass Ready, a \$3.1 billion environmental bond bill that will design and fund projects that protect and prepare communities.

**KATHERINE ANTOS**  
Undersecretary for  
Decarbonization & Resilience at  
MA Executive Office of Energy &  
Environmental Affairs

**MIA MANSFIELD**  
Assistant Secretary for  
Resilience at MA Executive  
Office of Energy &  
Environmental Affairs

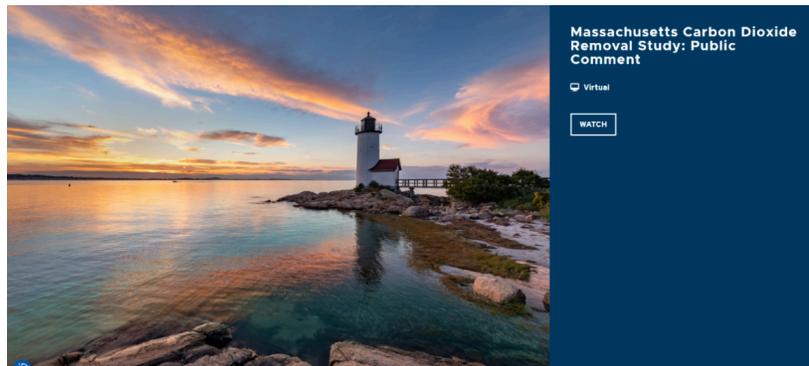
## [Learn About Funding Strategies to Advance Resilience](#)

Join [Rebuild by Design](#), EEA Undersecretary of Decarbonization & Resilience Katherine Antos, and EEA Assistant Secretary for Resilience Mia Mansfield for a [webinar at 1 pm on March 4](#) to hear what the Mass Ready Act does to support the funding, finance and design of projects that protect and prepare communities as they face more frequent and intense storms, droughts, sea level rise and extreme heat.

Mass Ready advances several near term actions identified in the [ResilientMass Finance Strategy](#), a comprehensive roadmap for investing in and scaling climate resilience action across Massachusetts over the coming decades. This includes establishing a Resilience Revolving Fund to offer low-interest loans to communities for climate resilience projects, permit streamlining to make projects easier to implement, and expanding funding and eligibility for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program to build capacity to advance regionally significant resilience projects. Other near-term initiatives described in the Strategy and launched in 2025 and early 2026 including the [ECO One Stop](#) and the [Resilience Playbook](#).

[Register for the webinar here](#)

[Learn more about the ResilientMass Finance Strategy here](#)



## **Comment on Draft Massachusetts Carbon Dioxide Removal Study**

Massachusetts is working aggressively to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions and recognizes the role carbon dioxide removal (CDR) will need to play in achieving this target. To help the state better understand the potential for CDR, the Massachusetts Legislature has directed the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC) to develop a study of CDR opportunities within the state, and RMI has been contracted to perform the study.

The team is seeking public comment on the draft report. In this webinar, RMI explained the contents of the study, presented preliminary findings, and encouraged stakeholders to engage through the public comment process.

We need your feedback to help shape carbon removal in Massachusetts.

- [Massachusetts Carbon Dioxide Removal Study](#)
- [Submit your feedback](#) Please submit your feedback by Friday, February 27 at 11:59pm ET.

**Legislative and Policy Updates**



## **Energy Affordability Legislation**

On February 24, the House Ways and Means Committee released its version of energy affordability legislation, building on Governor Healey's [Energy Affordability, Independence, and Innovation Act](#) (May 2025). The House will debate the bill this week, with Representatives able to offer amendments. Once passed, it moves to the Senate Ways and Means Committee. A Conference Committee will reconcile both chambers' versions before the final bill is issued.

## **Mass Ready Act**

Secretary Tepper testified in support of the [Mass Ready Act](#) on January 13. The Joint Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures, and Assets reported the bill favorably to the Senate Ways and Means Committee on January 27. Senate Ways and Means will release a redraft for floor debate, after which the bill goes to the House for the same process. A Conference Committee will finalize the bill after both chambers pass their versions.

## **FY27 Budget**

Governor Healey testified on her FY27 budget on February 11. EEA Secretary Tepper, undersecretaries, and commissioners will attend the EEA-focused hearing on March 10 at UMass Amherst. Learn more about [EEA's FY27 Budget Priorities](#).

## **Resilient Infrastructure Design Standards**

The EEA, in collaboration with other agencies and Secretariats, has recently started a project to improve resilience in our built environment by creating Resilient Infrastructure Design Standards. As part of this project, we will review existing infrastructure standards and then develop a standardized, technical guide for incorporating climate resilience considerations into the design of certain critical infrastructure project types across the following sectors: transportation, water supply, wastewater, stormwater, energy & utilities, dams. This guide will be a resource for state-funded and reviewed capital projects to reduce their risks of unanticipated loss or interruption of service life. It aims to help ensure projects are able to quickly recover from disruptions with minimal impacts under projected future climate scenarios. We will also be developing sample scopes of work and detailed templates for common project types that will be incorporated into [Climate Resilience Playbook](#). For more information, please contact [sarah.alexander@mass.gov](mailto:sarah.alexander@mass.gov).

## **Flood-resilient Building Code**

Another way that the EEA is improving resilience in our built environment is through our building code. The Massachusetts State Building Code consists of a series of international model codes with state-specific amendments adopted by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS). The tenth edition building code became effective in 2024, and in late 2025, discussions for the eleventh edition code started. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs has developed recommendations to strengthen flood resilience in the built environment that we plan to put forward in this next edition of the building code. BBRS convened a new [Resilience Technical Advisory Committee](#) in February, chaired by Assistant Secretary of Resilience Mia Mansfield, to review proposals and make recommendations to the BBRS for how new buildings and renovations in the Commonwealth can be built to better withstand the increasing natural hazards.

## Massachusetts Grant Program Updates

### **Healey-Driscoll Administration Awards Over \$3 Million in Grants to Help Communities Prepare for Extreme Weather**

Recently, the Healey-Driscoll Administration [announced over \\$3 million through the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Planning 2.0 \(MVP 2.0\) grant program](#) to help local communities take concrete steps to prepare for climate change. Twenty-one municipalities and three regional groups representing 11 additional municipalities are included in this round of grantees. These planning grants will support communities in updating local climate resilience plans and move immediately from planning to action, by funding on-the-ground projects that protect neighborhoods from flash floods, keep residents safer during heatwaves, and ensure reliable water supplies during drought.

Nearly every municipality—about 99 percent, or 349 communities— are currently enrolled in this grant program after completing the initial planning grant process. MVP Planning 2.0 grants help cities and towns update their climate resilience plans, prioritize the needs of residents facing the greatest risks, and launch pilot projects. Due to the increased demand and strong track record, the Healey-Driscoll Administration is seeking to double funding for the MVP program to \$315 million in the proposed [Mass Ready Act](#). The bill also allows nonprofits to apply for grants and partner with cities and towns on high-impact local projects.

### **Dam Owners Technical Assistance Program**

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is offering free engineering services to help dam owners comply with safety regulations through the [Dam Owners Technical Assistance \(TA\) Program](#).

As storms become more severe and frequent, ensuring the safety of our dams is critical for protecting our communities and infrastructure. This year, EEA is focusing on privately owned dams classified as high or significant hazard potential that need urgent compliance assistance.

Starting December 8, 2025, dam owners can [submit requests online](#). With limited funding available, we encourage interested dam owners to apply as soon as possible.

### **DOER Advancing Massachusetts Power Grant Program**

The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) \$47 million Advancing Massachusetts Power (AMP) energy storage grant program is officially open for applications! The program aims to facilitate the equitable deployment of safe energy storage systems (ESS) across the Commonwealth and will prioritize applications that deliver community resilience, pollution reduction, economic opportunity, and health benefits to Massachusetts, especially in communities that face the greatest environmental, health, and economic burdens. Through this competitive solicitation, DOER is offering energy storage grant funding in the areas of: Community Resilience, Long Duration Energy Storage, and Safety and Education.

**[Advancing Massachusetts Power \(AMP\) One Pager](#)**  
**[Advancing Massachusetts Power \(AMP\) Program Manual](#)**

Please access the AMP Program website and application portal by clicking [Advancing Massachusetts Power Application Portal](#). If you have any questions, please reach out to [customerservice@ampmass.com](mailto:customerservice@ampmass.com) or call 1-877-238-0076.

**[Application for Early-Phase Technical Assistance Planning to Initiate Dam Removal Projects](#)**

To support dam owners or stakeholders interested in advancing a dam removal program, the [Massachusetts Rivers Alliance \(Mass Rivers\)](#) is offering a competitive process to award technical assistance (TA) services for early-phase, scope-of-work planning to initiate dam removal projects in Massachusetts to three dam owners or stakeholders. A specific scope of work for each TA recipient will be determined based upon site specific parameters and will be completed within an estimated \$20,000 budget per site. This TA program is only for the initiation of dam removal and not for dam removal alternatives, such as dam repairs and/or fish passage infrastructure.

Questions about this application should be submitted via email to [Andrea Gaut Eigerman, Grant Programs Manager](#), by March 25th by 5:00 pm. Applications are due on Friday, March 27th, 2026, by 11:59 pm.

## EEA Climate Team Engagement

Our climate team continues visiting businesses, institutions and organizers to ensure we're hearing and seeing first-hand project realities and on-the-ground experiences. Below are a few great examples of where the team recently connected with these invaluable external perspectives.



**MIT Global Building Data for Climate Policy Symposium:** The climate team joined MIT for a symposium which brought together experts from around the world to discuss data-driven climate solutions. Secretary Tepper delivered the keynote address, highlighting Massachusetts' leadership in climate action.



**Indigo Tech Site Tour:** The EEA Climate Team recently visited Indigo Tech's headquarters in Woburn to learn about their revolutionary approach to electric vehicles. An MIT spinoff, Indigo is "reinventing the wheel" by integrating motors directly into the wheels (SmartWheel™ technology), which allows for lighter, more efficient, and roomier commercial EVs. This innovation reduces battery size and vehicle weight while eliminating carbon emissions in urban centers.

## Reminder: Register for the 2026 MVP Winter Webinar Series

The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' (EEA) Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program team is excited to host our annual online Winter Webinar Series. The series will include lessons learned from MVP 2.0 Communities and provide municipalities with the latest updates on solar and battery storage grant funding.

### **Webinar #1: MVP 2.0 Seed Projects – Lessons from the Field**

- Date: Wednesday, March 11, 2026
- Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Description: Following the launch of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) 2.0 program, several communities have completed their initial "Seed Projects." This session will feature success stories from these local initiatives, highlighting how towns moved from community engagement to tangible resilience actions.
- [Click here to register for Webinar #1](#)

### **Webinar #2: Municipal Solar and Energy Storage Funding Success Stories**

- Date: Thursday, March 19, 2026
- Time: 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM
- Description: This session will provide a comprehensive update on municipal solar project access and state energy grant resources.
- [Click here to register for Webinar #2](#)

If you cannot make it to either webinar or you would just like to watch on your own time, we will be posting the recording to our [MVP website](#) after the events.

Please reach out to [patrick.forde@mass.gov](mailto:patrick.forde@mass.gov) with any questions.

## Upcoming Dates, Events, and Other Opportunities

*Want to share details of your event or other related climate opportunities in our upcoming newsletters?*

*Submit to [patrick.forde@mass.gov](mailto:patrick.forde@mass.gov).*

### Events and Opportunities

- [MassEnviroScreen Office Hours](#): Join EEA for MassEnviroScreen Office Hours to get your questions answered about the new [MassEnviroScreen tool](#) and how to use it to complete your [ECO One Stop](#) grant application. Mar 11, 2026 12:00 PM via Zoom.
- [Stream Smart Training](#): The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration is hosting a one-day training for anyone interested in planning, designing, and/or constructing road-stream crossings that help facilitate fish and wildlife movement and reconnect habitats in MA on March 25, Berkshire Community College, 9am-4pm (PM site visits optional).
- [Stream Simulation Design \(“Stream Sim”\)](#): The Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration is hosting a 4.5 day technical training on US Forest Service 'stream simulation' method for road-stream crossings, an ecosystem-based approach for designing and constructing resilient crossings that provide aquatic organism passage on May 18-22, US Fish and Wildlife Service Regional Office, Hadley MA. Pre-Register by March 12: email Amanda Kunzmann ([Amanda.kunzmann@usda.gov](mailto:Amanda.kunzmann@usda.gov)) to request a pre-registration application.
- [Insects and Climate Change Education Day](#): UMass Extension Landscape, Nursery and Urban Forestry Program is hosting their Annual Insect and Climate Change Education Day. They will explore plant responses to climate changes (trees and shrubs) and the interplay with insects (including pests). Virtual, February 24, 9:30am-1:30pm.
- [Insights to Action: Coastal and Marine Climate Impacts and Adaptation Priorities](#): The Northeast Climate Adaptation Science Center is hosting a virtual event sharing key insights from a follow-up survey on coastal and marine climate impacts and adaptation priorities in the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic. Join the discussion around how these findings can inform future research, collaboration, and management efforts. February 26, 1:00pm.

### Tools and Resources

- [Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Metrics](#): Public resources that provide key information and performance indicators relevant to Massachusetts' greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECP).
- [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. Learn more about how Resilient Mass bolsters resilience with climate data and tools [here](#).
- [Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Climate Grant Viewer](#): This map viewer will allow you to explore grants awarded by several EEA grant programs that address climate change preparedness, adaptation and/or resilience to increasing temperatures, changing precipitation, extreme weather events, and sea level rise.
- [Guides for Equitable and Actionable Resilience \(GEAR\) Map](#): Originally designed to be used with and accessed through the GEAR guides for the MVP 2.0 pilot process, this interactive mapping tool is also now available on the Maps and Data Center page for use by the general public for all planning and grant application support. [Visit the 'Maps and Data Gallery'](#) section to access this tool.
- [MVP 2.0 Video Series](#): The MVP 2.0 Video Series explains how the MVP program is evolving to help communities integrate equity into their climate resilience planning and translate priorities into concrete local action. The series highlights three core elements of this process: compensated community liaisons, innovative public engagement methods, and the implementation of high-impact seed projects.

### Contact the EEA Climate Team

The EEA Climate Team, led by Undersecretary Katherine Antos, seeks to stem the state's greenhouse gas emissions and prepare Massachusetts communities to be resilient to the effects of a changing climate.

For direct contact information, you can reference our team directory here: [EEA Climate Team](#)

[Contact and Staff Directory](#)



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