

# Engaging Massachusetts Communities in Climate Action

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Executive Office of Energy  
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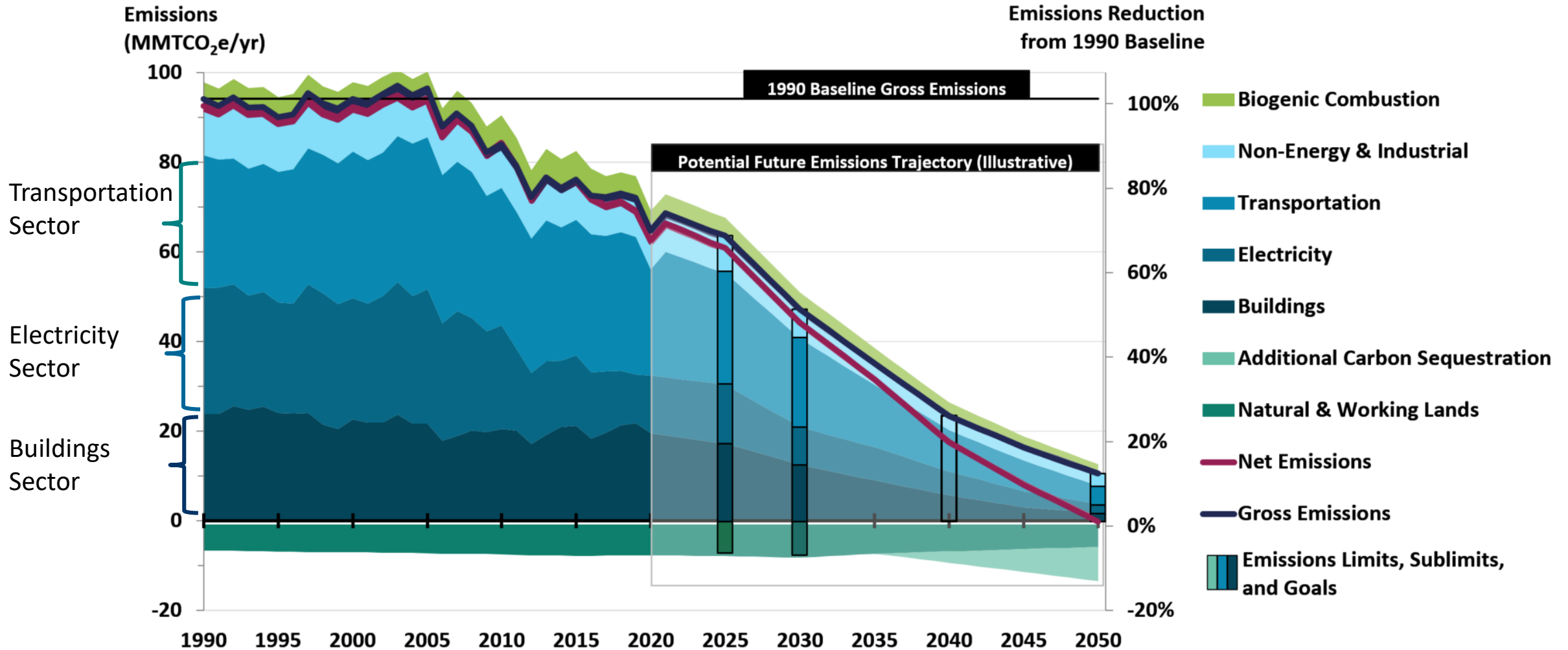
March 27, 2026



North Adams, MA

# Three Things to Know about Massachusetts:

## 1. Commitment to Net Zero Greenhouse Gas Emissions



Source: Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050 (2022)

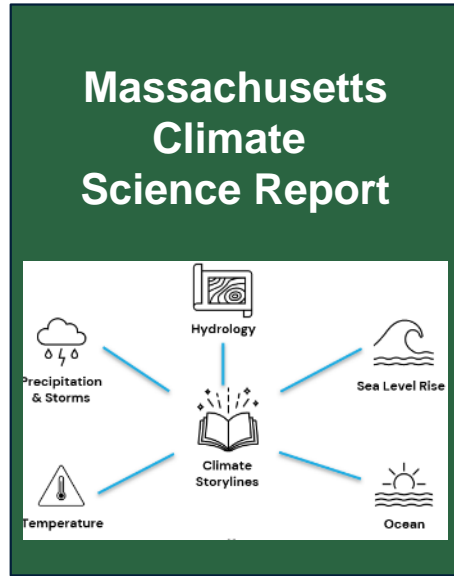
# Three Things to Know about Massachusetts:

## 2. ResilientMass Framework Grounded in Science to Prepare Communities



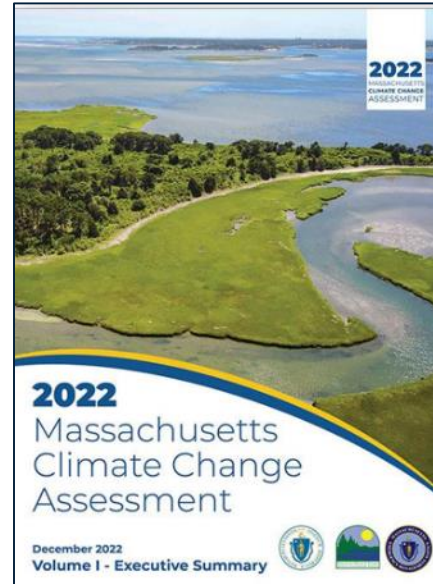
**2023:**  
Launched  
Office of  
Climate  
Science

2026



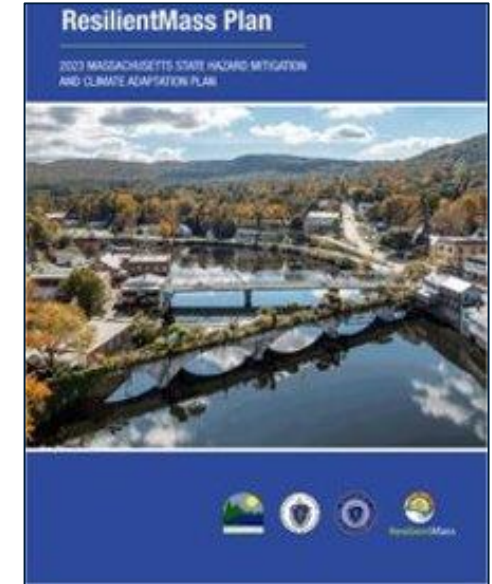
Identifies and assesses latest climate **science, trends, projections**, and data gaps to explain climate hazards and stressors

2027



Assesses and prioritizes the **impacts of climate stressors & hazards** on health, built infrastructure, natural resources, governance, and economy

2028



Identifies state **actions** to address priority climate impacts, including **building community capacity** to scale solutions

**Example**

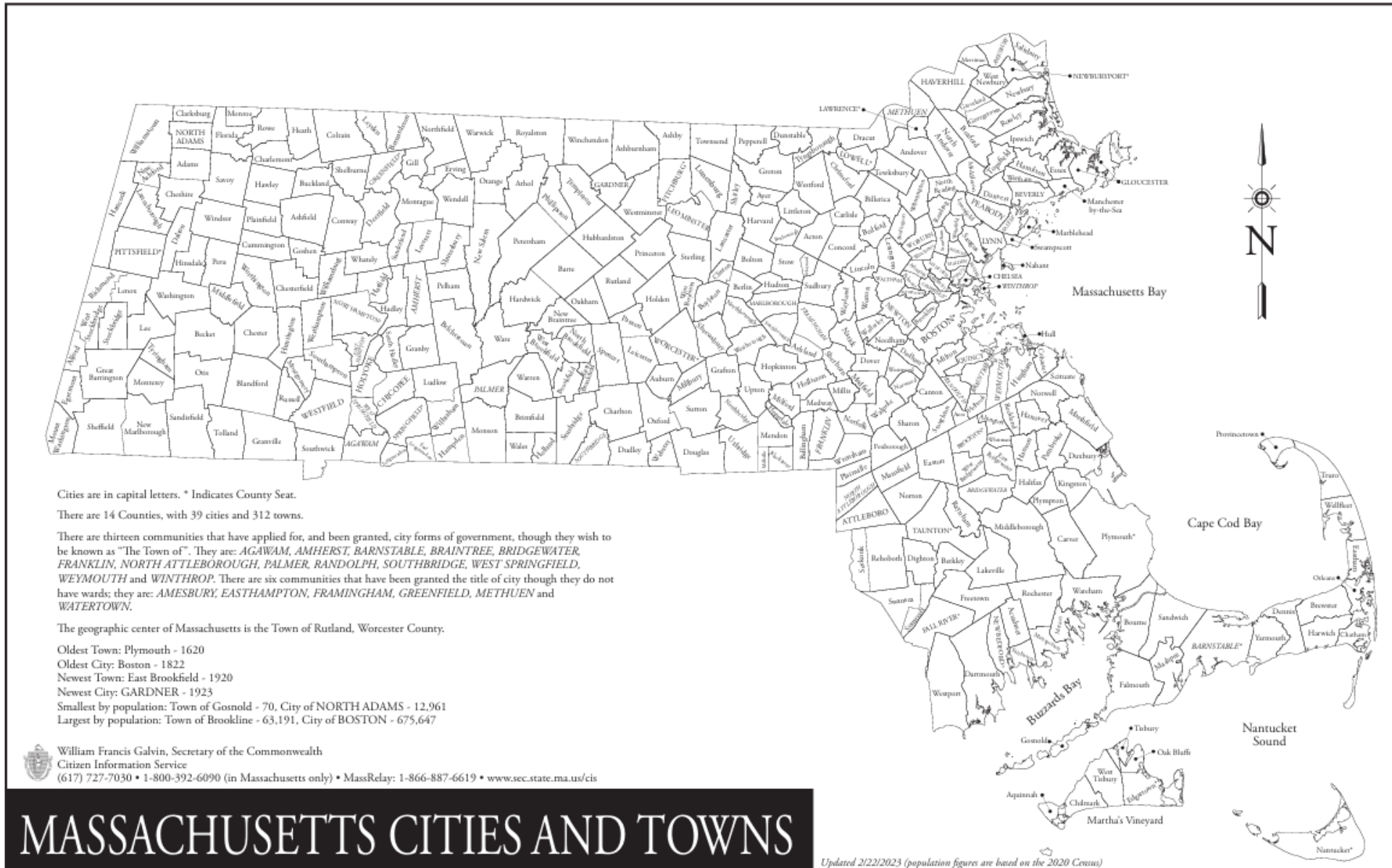
*Increase in the number of days with **'Extreme Caution' heat index***

***Health and Cognitive Effects** from Extreme Heat*

*Identify opportunities to **improve cooling standards in buildings** to address extreme heat (DPH high priority action)*

# Three Things to Know about Massachusetts:

## 3. Comprised of 351 Cities and Towns with Limited Regional Government





# Our Communities are on the Front Line

- **Communities, families and farmers** across our state are experiencing increasing severe weather:
  - 2023 saw historic floods and heatwaves
  - 2024 saw unprecedented wildfires
  - 2025 flash flooding continues
  - Thousands of homes, farms and businesses are put at risk, many destroyed
- **Threats are only growing more severe** → we must help ready communities for the future
- **The Federal Government is reducing its commitments**



*Washed out road in Leominster, CBS Boston September 2023*



*Culvert Replacement – Pepperell*

# Green Communities



## Overview

**297 of 351** Cities/Towns are Green Communities

**91%** of the population lives in a Green Community

**\$204M+** grants awarded since 2010

**\$46M** Leveraged from Mass Save

**\$30M** Annual Energy Cost Savings

**63K** tons GHG reduced annually



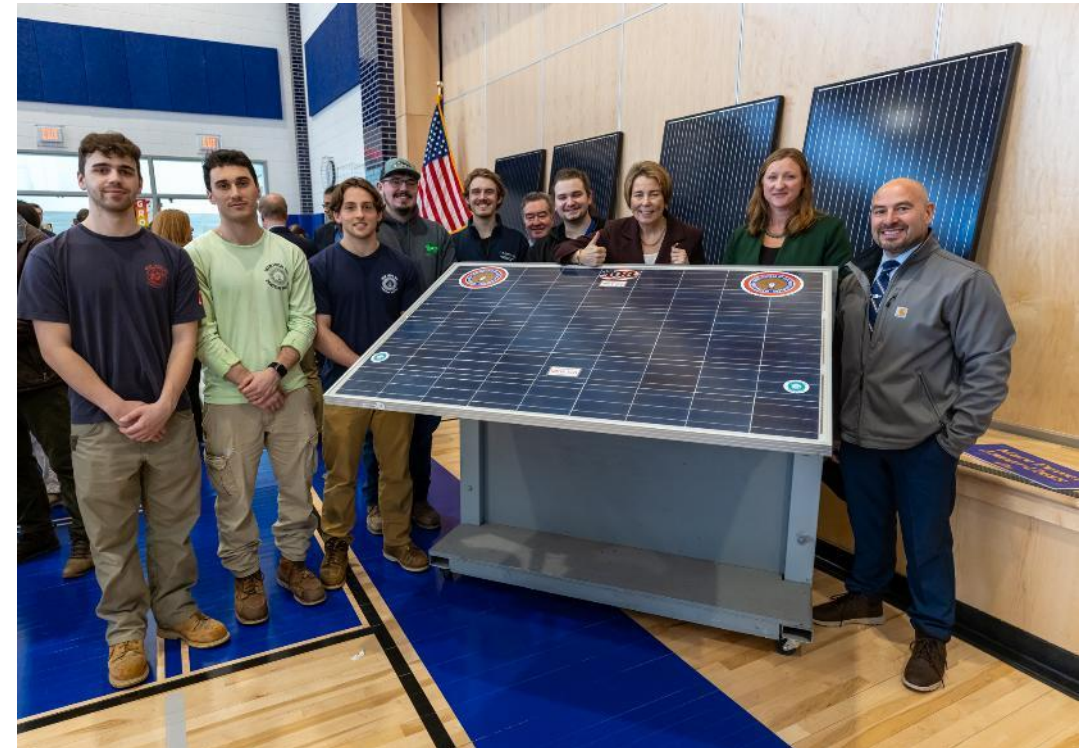
## Climate Leader Communities

Next iteration of Green Communities

Focus on capacity building and accelerating building decarbonization

### Requirements

- Establish/maintain a **local committee** to advise, coordinate, and/or lead clean energy and climate activities
- Municipal **decarbonization commitment**
- Create a **Municipal Decarbonization Roadmap** with 2030 & 2050 goals with a focus on eliminating on-site fossil fuels
- **ZEV-First** vehicle policy
- **Specialized Stretch Code** Adoption

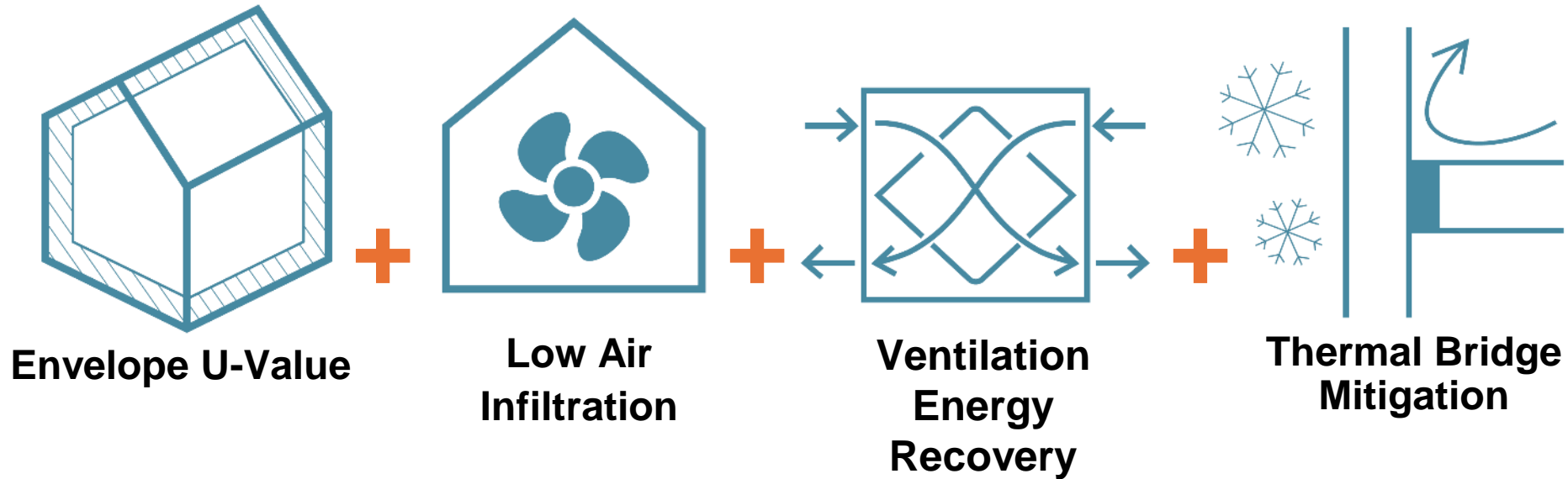


For more information please visit: [mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division](https://mass.gov/orgs/green-communities-division)



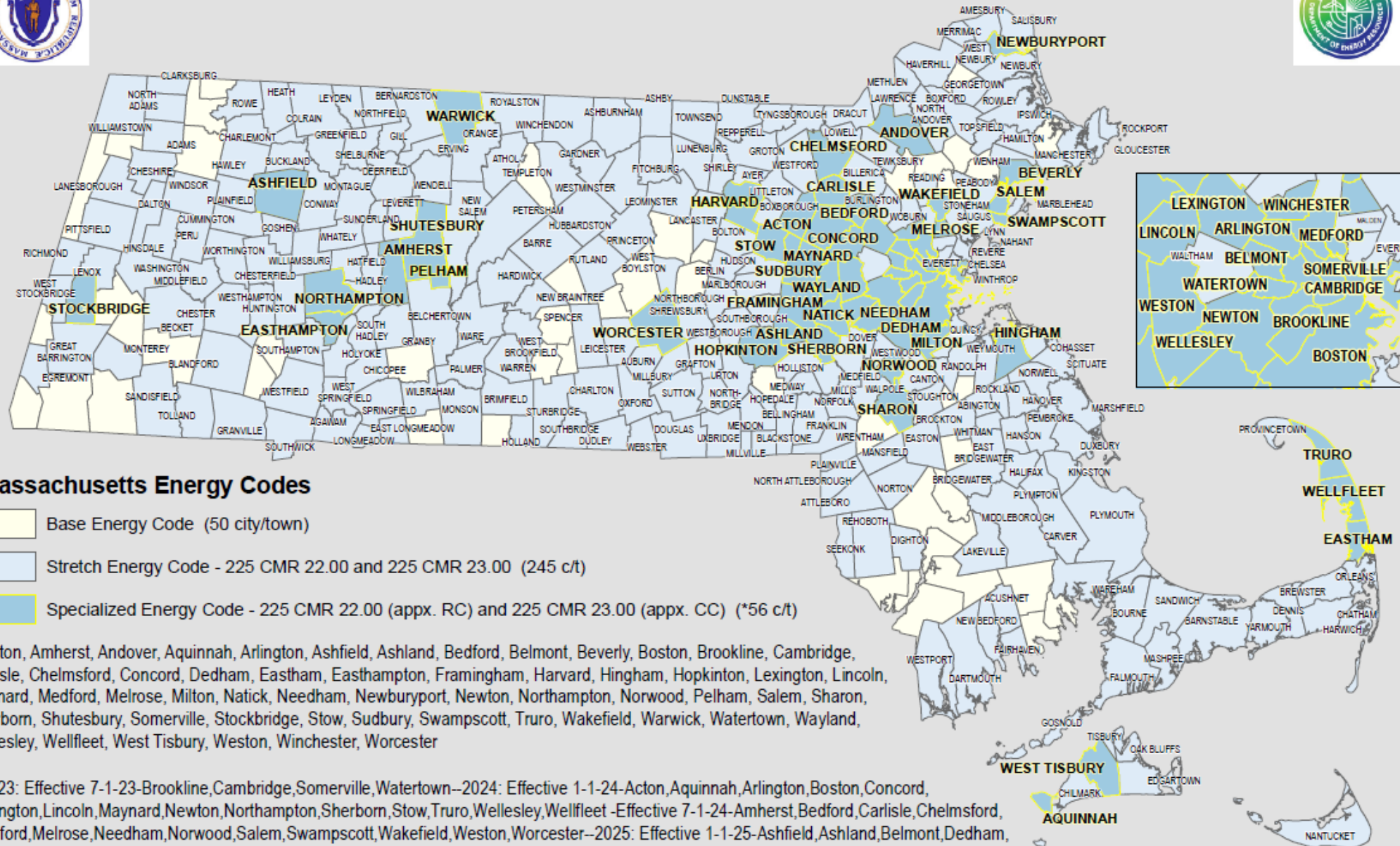


# Municipal Stretch and Specialized Energy Codes Crush Energy Demand



= **energy efficiency**, comfort, **resilience** & grid-friendly electrification

# Massachusetts Building Energy Code Adoption by Municipality





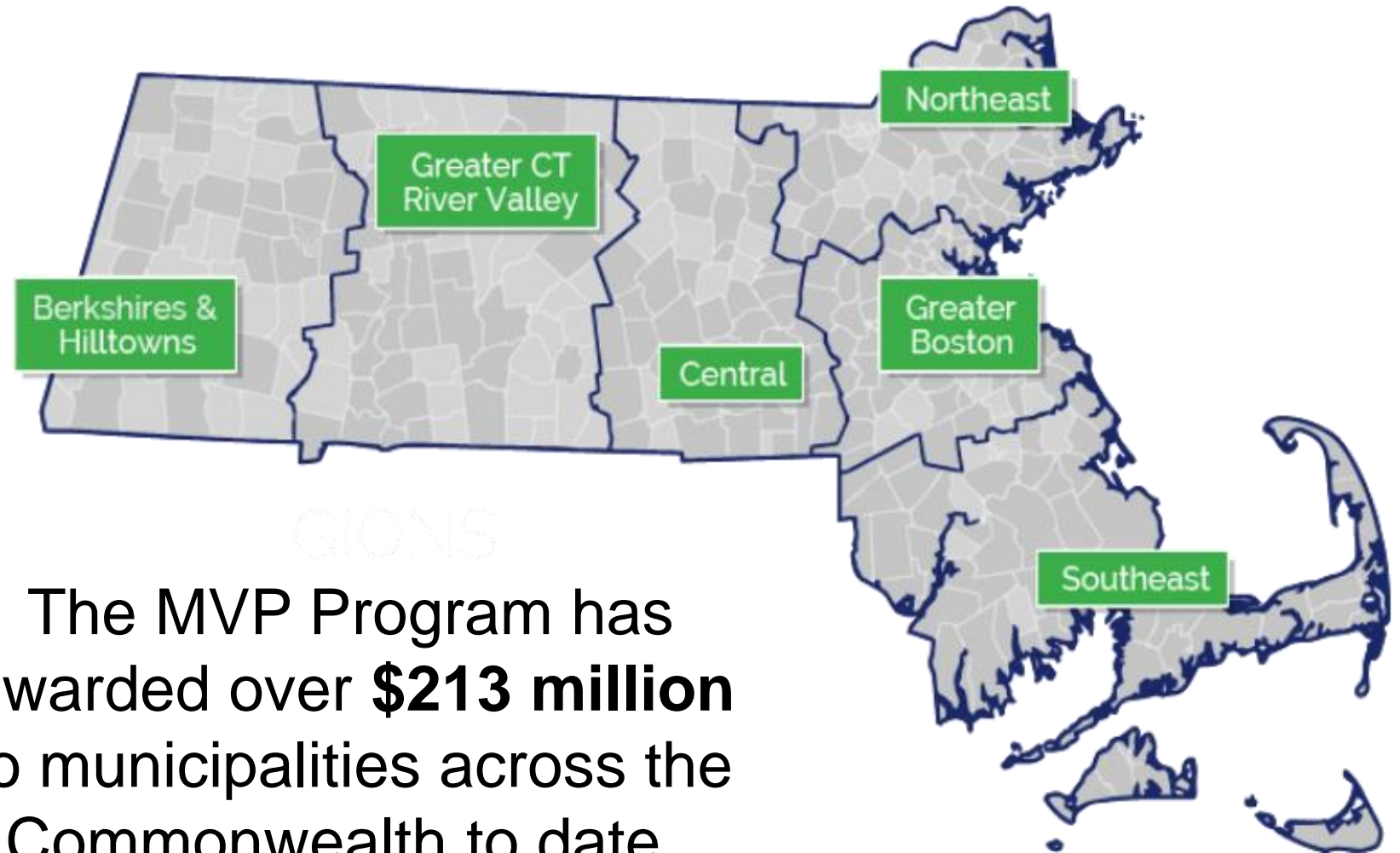
# Local Adaptation: Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP)

## MVP Planning Grant Process

99% participation  
349 communities

## MVP Action Grant Projects

FY 18: 37  
FY 19: 36  
FY 20: 53  
FY 21: 41  
FY 22: 66  
FY 23: 73  
FY 24: 79  
FY 25: 71  
FY 26: 54



The MVP Program has awarded over **\$213 million** to municipalities across the Commonwealth to date.



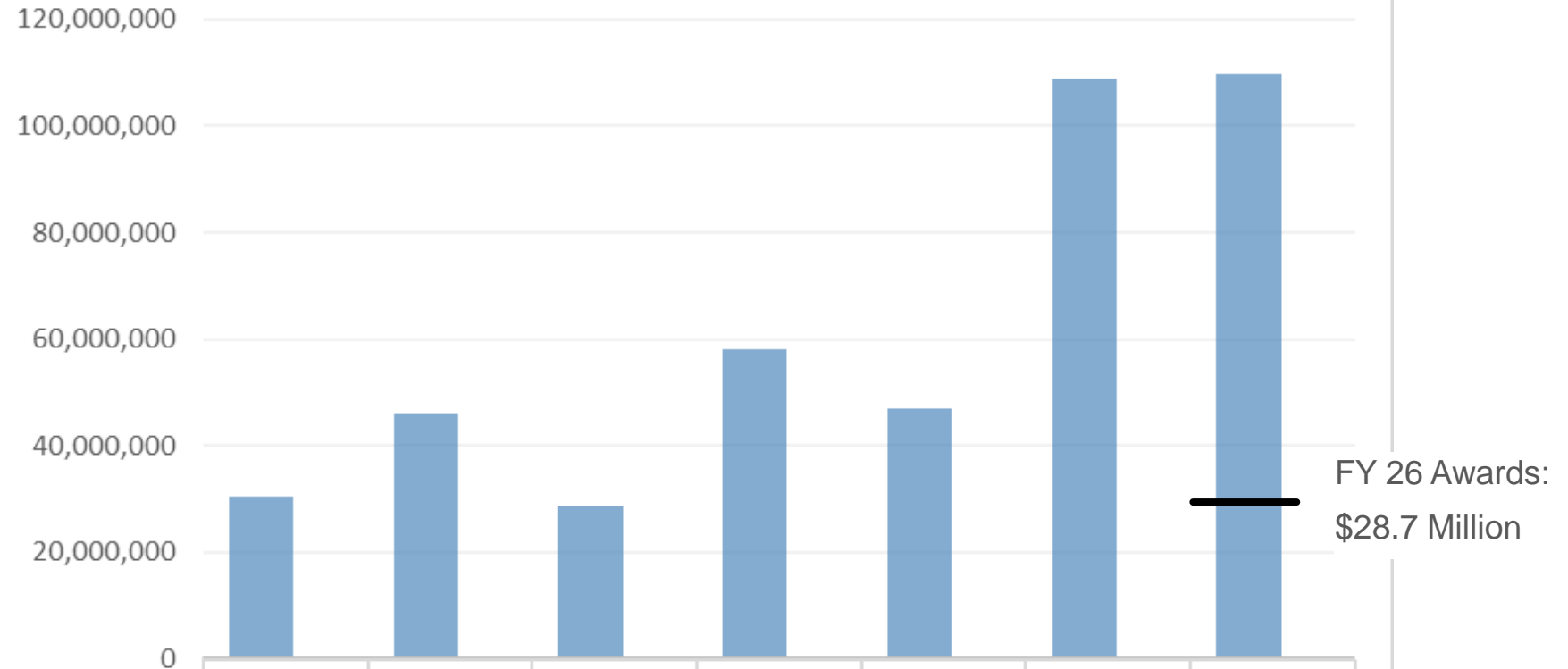
**MVP**

Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness

# Increasing Demand for Resilience: MVP Action Grant Requests Surpass Available Funds



**FY2020-26**  
**# Apps & Funding Requested Per Fiscal Year (FY)**



	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23	FY24	FY25	FY26
Total Funding Requested	30,331,331	\$46,195,077	\$28,769,549	\$58,056,863	\$47,085,290	\$108,753,73	\$109,627,19
# of Applications	111	142	92	134	112	136	157

■ Total Funding Requested

# Resilience Finance Roadmap: Building Capacity for Municipal and Regional Action



## Strategic Priority 1 Make Projects Easier to Implement

Enhancing municipal and regional capabilities, especially in disadvantaged or small communities, by reducing administrative burdens, providing standardized implementation tools, and expanding access to technical assistance and early-stage support.

## Strategic Priority 2 Streamline and Expand Access to Funding

Streamlining and aligning state-level programs to improve access, reduce administrative burden, and expand the scale and impact of public funding. This includes standardizing grant processes, coordinating program timelines, and expanding eligible uses of existing funds.

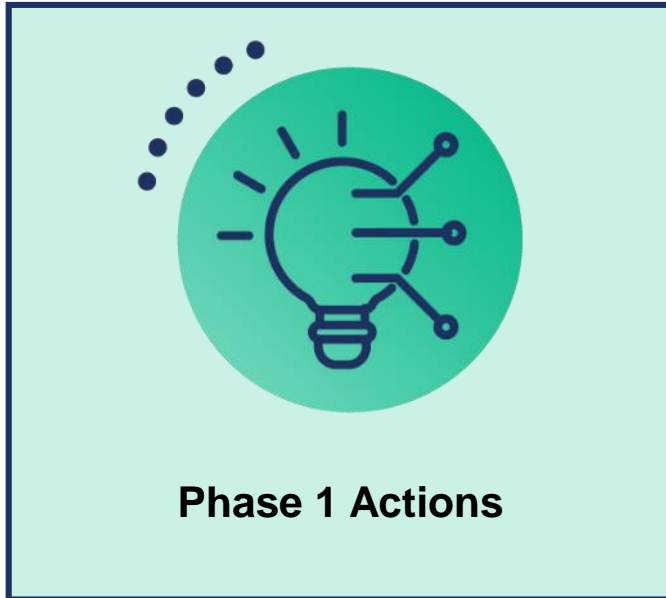
## Strategic Priority 3 Implement Financing Mechanisms

Developing scalable, long-term financing tools and pathways—such as loan funds, value capture, and outcome-based models—to ensure sustained investment in resilience and support public-private collaboration.

## Strategic Priority 4 Build Regional and Organizational Capacity

Building durable structures for statewide coordination, regional governance, and performance management—ensuring that the resilience system is accountable, adaptive, and equitable over time.

# Strategic Priority 1: Making Projects Easier to Implement

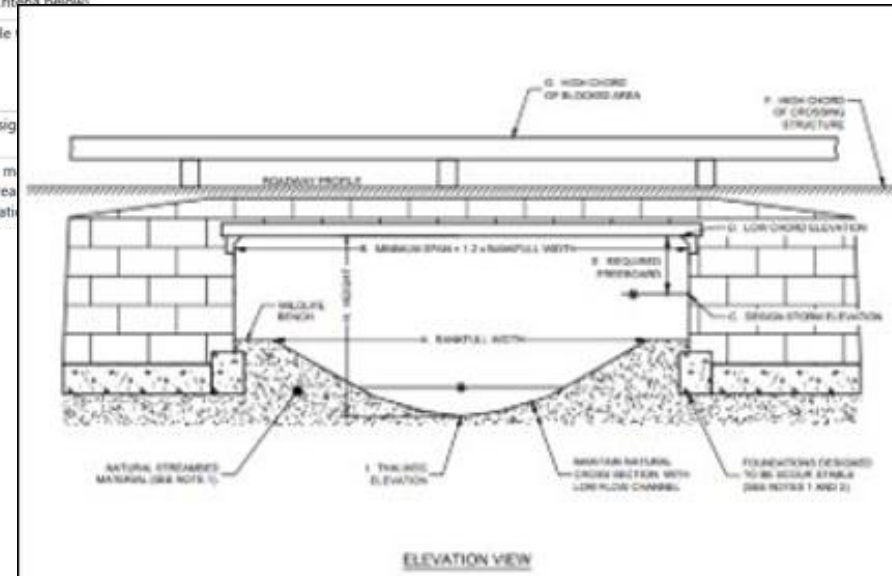


**Climate Resilience Playbook:** <https://resilienceplaybook.mapc.org/>  
**Streamline Permitting** for Nature-Based Solutions and Municipal Culvert Projects that Advance Resilience  
**Incorporate Resilience** into Building Code and Infrastructure Design

## Section 4: Design Standards

**Table 2: Overview of Road-Stream Crossing Design Standards**

Design Criteria	Optimal Standards*	Base Standards
<i>Design Approach</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>USFS Stream Simulation.</li> <li>Scaled Crossing Priority Score &gt;0.66</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>AOP Design or Modified Hydraulic Design.</li> </ul>
<i>Structure Type</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bridge, 3-sided box culverts, open-bottom or arch culverts.</li> <li>Binned Overall Geomorphic Impact Score <math>\geq 3</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pipe culvert or box culvert with embedment (see Embedment Criteria below)</li> </ul>
<i>Channel Velocities</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Velocity within the swimmable range of target species or comparable to a reference reach at bankfull flow and range of base flows (if no target species). Must also include AOP study for target species (when applicable).</li> <li>Binned Aquatic Passability Score <math>\geq 3</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Velocity comparable to bankfull flow.</li> </ul>
<i>Climate Change</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Design for sea level rise and/or increased precipitation projections based upon Hydraulic Design Table 3).</li> </ul>	
<i>Crossing Profile</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossing profile to match existing natural stream using reference reach and vertical adjustment potential (VAP).</li> <li>Binned Aquatic Passability Score <math>\geq 3</math></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crossing profile to match stream grade upstream of the crossing location</li> </ul>





## Strategic Priority 2: Streamline and Expand Access to Funding



### Environment and Climate One Stop:

<https://www.mass.gov/environment-climate-one-stop>

*A streamlined application process for multiple state-funded climate and environment resilience projects in Massachusetts*

- Applicants submit one application for multiple grants
- Programs work together to match priorities to available resources
- Applications due March 27, 2026

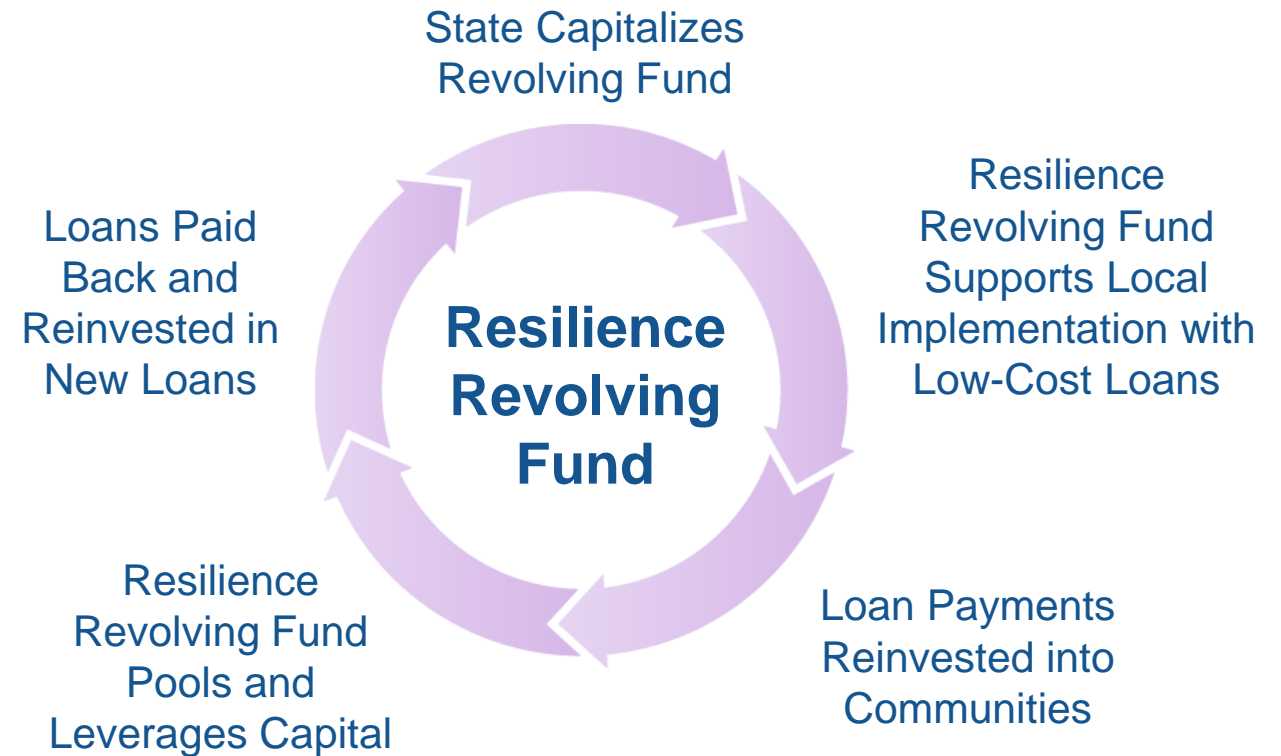


Environment & Climate One Stop

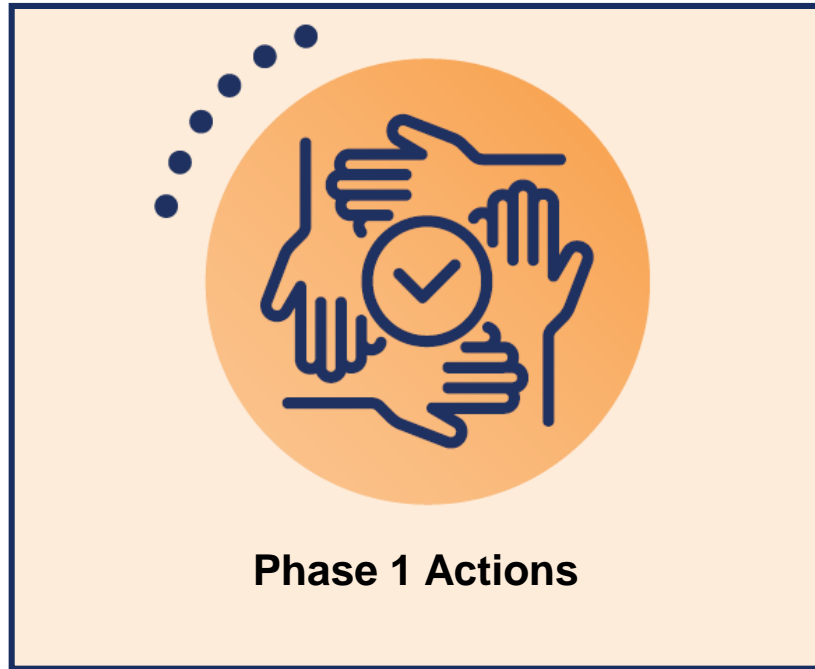
# Strategic Priority 3: Implement Financing Mechanisms



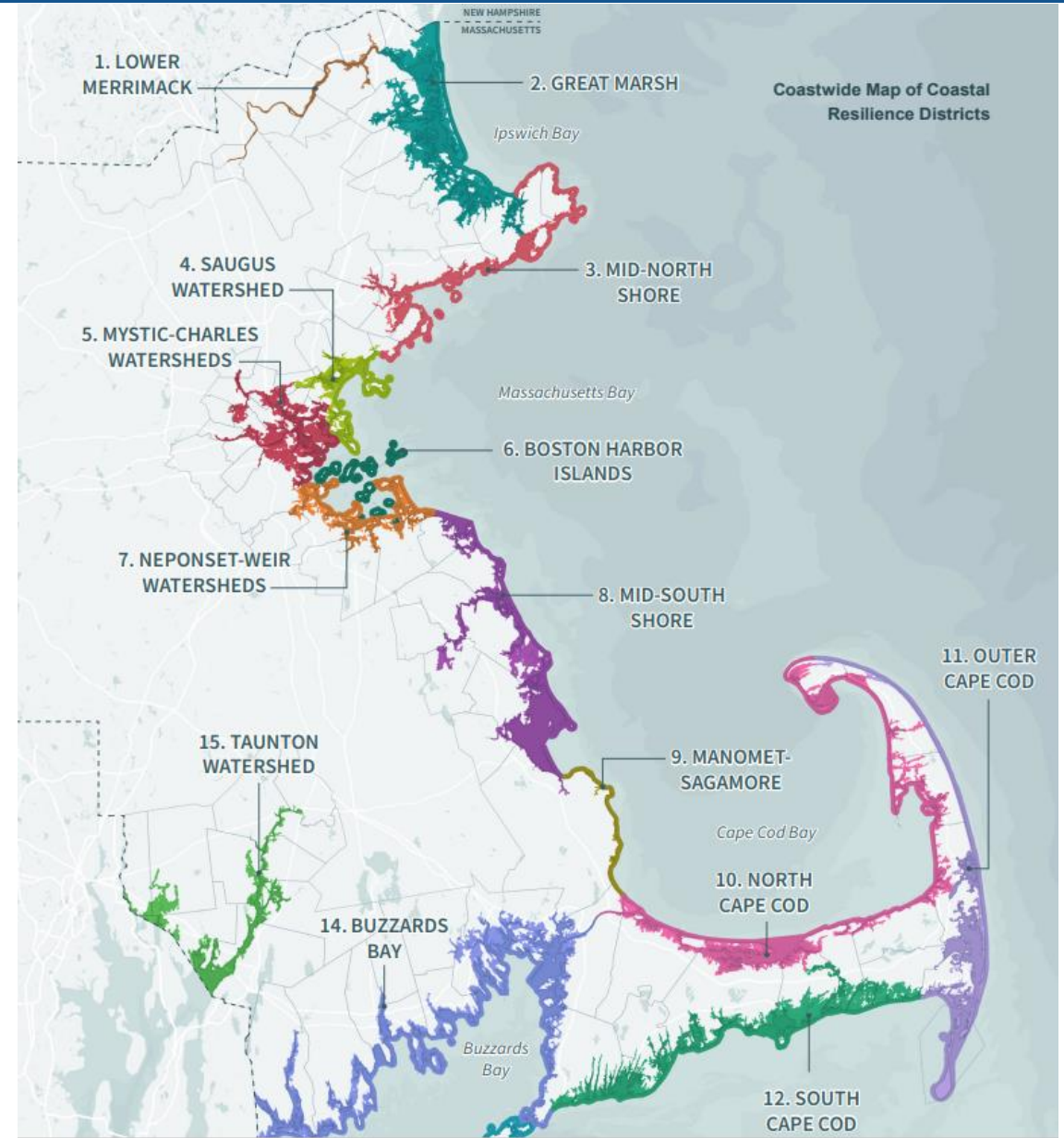
- Fund critical resilience projects with **low-interest, flexible loans**
- **Unlock investments** for under-resourced communities
- **Accelerate delivery** of climate-smart infrastructure
- **Build scale** through revolving capital system



# Strategic Priority 4: Build Regional and Organizational Capacity

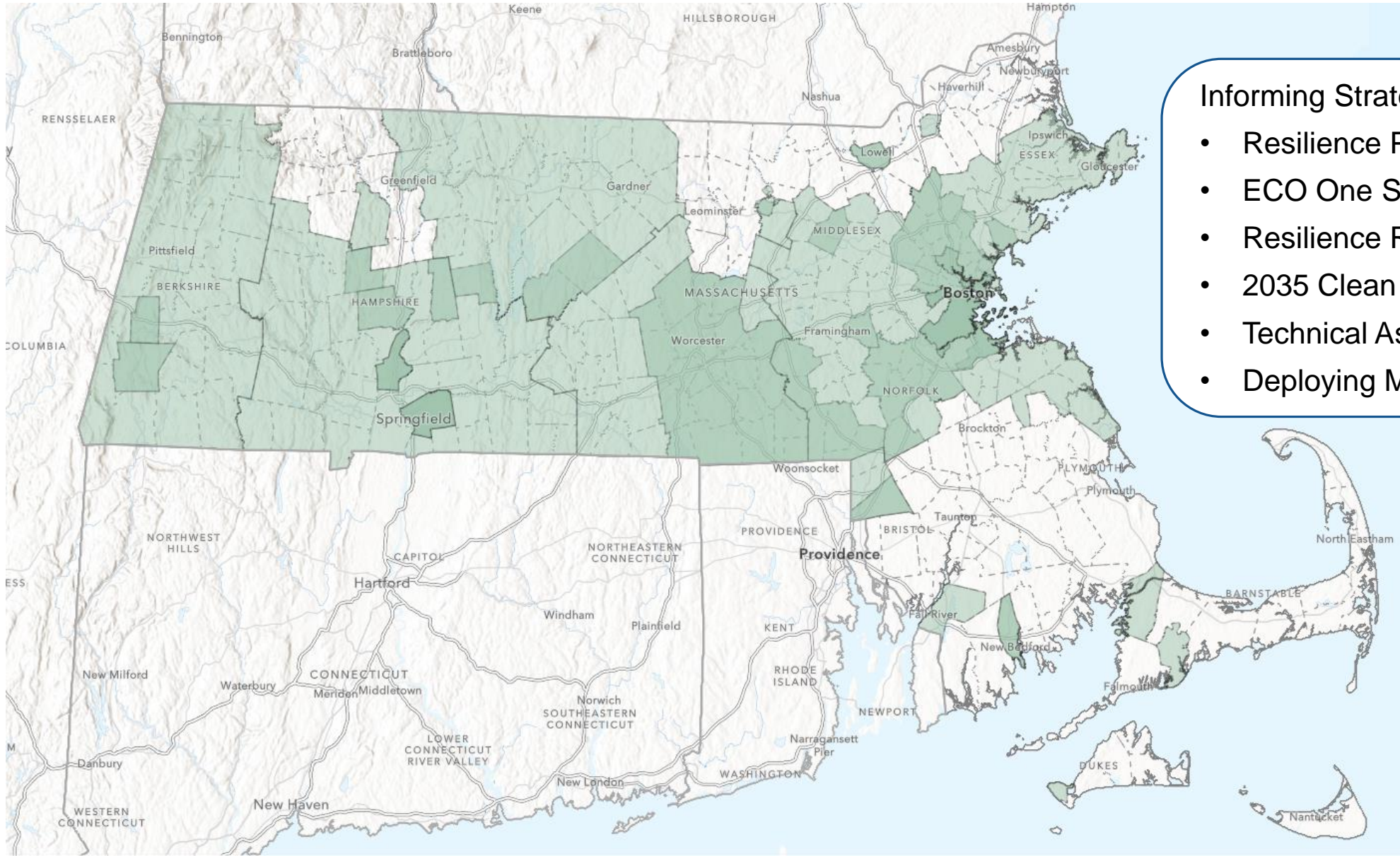


- § **ResilientCoasts:** Coastal Resilience Districts pilot
- § **MVP expanded eligibility** to RPAs
- § Evaluating options for **Regional Resilience Program**





# Launched Community Climate Advisory Council in 2024



## Informing Strategies From the Start:

- Resilience Playbook
- ECO One Stop
- Resilience Revolving Fund
- 2035 Clean Energy and Climate Plan
- Technical Assistance and Capacity
- Deploying Microgrids



# Thank you

*Springfield, MA  
Source: Adobe Stock*