



MAYOR DAVID J. NARKEWICZ

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Northampton Awarded \$400,000 Climate Vulnerability Grant Seeks Public Input at Tuesday June 5 “Resilient Northampton” Forum

Mayor David J. Narkewicz announced today that the City of Northampton has been awarded a \$400,000 grant to address climate vulnerability. The Baker-Polito Administration awarded \$5 million in Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program grants to 34 communities to help them prepare for climate change and build resilience. Northampton received the largest single grant in the state, which will pay for the design of green infrastructure to catch stormwater before it reaches stormwater pipes, floodplains, and areas of local flooding.

The grant, which follows a previous \$20,000 MVP planning grant, is part of the city’s ongoing climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. Residents are invited to the city’s “Resilient Northampton” public forum at 7:00 PM, Tuesday, June 5, 2018, to provide feedback on climate vulnerabilities and solutions, including ideas on this most recent award. The forum will be held at the Northampton Senior Center located at 67 Conz Street, Northampton.

The city began the planning process, with the help of outside consultants, by working with city departments and a broad spectrum of community stakeholders. That process resulted in a draft vulnerability assessment. The vulnerability assessment identified designing with nature for stormwater as a top priority, and was the basis of the grant application that resulted in the \$400,000 grant. This process continues, with Tuesday’s forum, and will help identify additional actions and a framework. The City is committed to create plans that guide immediate action.

The City is kicking off a comprehensive ***Climate Resiliency and Regeneration Plan*** with the climate vulnerability process. The goal is to create a comprehensive framework that will cut across the city, effecting multiple boards and departments.

Climate resiliency, or climate adaptation, helps us be ready for climate change that will be happening regardless of how aggressively we can cut our greenhouse gas emissions. The city is already working to plant new trees that can withstand warmer temperatures, monitor southern mosquitoes moving north, preserve land to species migrations, plan stormwater systems for more intense rain storms. The planning process will help create a more comprehensive framework in all of these areas.

Climate regeneration, or climate mitigation, helps us reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and restore a healthy environment. The city is already active in reducing energy use in buildings, transportation, electric usage, and landfill gases. The planning process will help us create a more comprehensive framework to guide us to eventual full decarbonization.

Mayor Narkewicz has asked the Office of Planning & Sustainability to oversee the climate planning process, working with many city departments, including Central Services, Health, Public Works, Fire Rescue, Police, and Emergency Dispatch.

More information about the state grant award is available at:

<https://www.mass.gov/news/baker-polito-administration-awards-5-million-in-grants-to-address-climate-change-impacts>