

Climate Resiliency: Building Tomorrow's Infrastructure Today That Will Improve Quality of Life for All

Infrastructure decisions we make today will determine the kind of world in which our children and grandchildren live

Support Legislation for Climate Resiliency and Adaptation in Response to Climate Change: HB 4438, Environmental Bond Bill: Currently before the House Committee on Bonding, Capital Expenditures and State Assets with 5/15 hearing; SB 2196, Comprehensive Adaptation Management Plan

ISSUE

Sea-level rise, heat waves, and increases in storm intensity or frequency, pose major risks to the Commonwealth, its infrastructure, its tax base, its natural resources, and its residents, businesses, and institutions. Climate adaptation-preparing for the different local environmental conditions and impacts that result from climate change-is an essential part of ensuring our resiliency. We need to consider the “triple bottom line” – *Environmental, Social and Economic factors*, and the overarching principle of *Resiliency – our ability to withstand and rebound from climate change impacts*.

KEY POINTS

- Recent coastal storms have pounded Massachusetts, but we are at risk and have dodged bullets. We have a highly developed coast line with 4.2 million Massachusetts residents living within 10 miles of the coast, 66% of the state’s total population.* Land parcels within 10 miles of the coast comprise \$750 billion of assessed property value (land and improvements), 73% of the assessed value in the state.*
- Winter storms in January and March 2018 caused severe damage throughout Massachusetts, not only along the coast. Other recent storms have caused damage in central and western Massachusetts, closing roads Route 2 and flooding communities. Vulnerable populations, such as seniors, have been impacted by extreme heat waves.
- Boston, one of most vulnerable U.S. cities to climate change impacts, is among a small number of Massachusetts municipalities and regional planning agencies to take a leadership role to develop plans for adaptation.

ACTIONS REQUESTED

- **Environmental Bond HB 4438: Ask legislators to support this bill (currently before House Bonding Committee) - Urge legislators to Support the Climate Resiliency provisions in HB 4438, to take the next steps to build upon the Commonwealth’s initial climate change adaptation efforts:**
 - Make permanent and fund the Integrated Hazard Mitigation and Adaptation Plan and the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program (MVP).
 - Be sure to include language for an Advisory Board that includes a Professional Engineer
- **Comprehensive Adaptation Management Plan, SB 2196: Thank Senators for their past support of this climate resiliency language & urge House members to support it.**
- **Invest in sustainable infrastructure, which considers both lifecycle and capital costs.**

*Data courtesy of MAPC Data Services