

## Great Barrington MVP Kick Off Meeting

July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 5:45pm

*The Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP)..*

### Description

The MVP Program provides support for cities and towns in Massachusetts to begin the process of planning for climate change resiliency and implementing priority projects. The state awards communities with funding to complete vulnerability assessments and develop action-oriented resiliency plans. Communities who complete the MVP program become certified as an MVP community and are eligible for MVP Action grant funding and other opportunities.

More information here: <https://www.mass.gov/service-details/mvp-program-information>

### Scope and Steps

- We convene a committee of core team members to plan a workshop and public listening session utilizing the Community Resilience Building (CRB) framework (described below).
- Decide who needs to be a targeted invitee to the workshop to represent community interests to the best of our ability (What are the local organizations representing people and the environment? Who works in emergency response and management? Who is responsible for local planning and regulations?).
- Gather Information from community members about impacts of weather and climate changes on their lives.
- Gather local climate change data as appropriate (some is not statistically accurate on very local scales).
- At the workshop
  - Presentation on information collected, extreme weather and natural and climate related hazards
  - Participants break into groups that have been intentionally assigned to promote diversity in ideas
  - Complete the CRB Risk Matrix
  - Come back together as a larger group to share and prioritize ideas
- Following the workshop information is cleaned up and organized
- Ideas are presented a public listening session, which can be a Select Board meeting. (Be sure community decision makers are present no matter the venue.)
- After the planning process is complete you will have a plan to implement key actions identified through the planning process.

### CRB Community Engagement Format

Community Resilience Building is a unique, “anywhere at any scale”, community-driven process, rich with information, experience, and dialogue, where participants identify top hazards, current challenges, strengths, and priority actions to improve community resilience to all hazards today, and in the future.

- Identify hazards with the greatest impact on Great Barrington
- Identify existing and future vulnerabilities and strengths
- Develop and prioritize actions for the community
- Identify opportunities to take action to reduce risk and build resilience

More information: <https://www.communityresiliencebuilding.com/>

**Timeline** (Please see timeline crosswalk handout)

## A FEW KEY TERMS FOR TODAY

**Natural Hazard** – Source of harm or difficulty created by a meteorological, environmental or geological event

**Risk** – Potential for damage, loss, or other impacts created by the interaction of natural hazards with people, structures, facilities and systems that have value to the community

**Vulnerability** – Characteristics of people, structures, facilities and systems that make them susceptible to damage from a given hazard



**Preparedness** – Actions taken to plan, organize, equip, train and exercise to build and sustain the capabilities necessary to prevent, protect against, mitigate the effects of, respond to, and recover from those threats that pose the greatest risk

**Resilience** – The capacity to withstand, recover, and adapt to stresses (ie. Invasive species, heavy precipitation/flood, tornado, climate refugee immigration, drought)

**Mitigation** – Sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to life and property from hazards; the work done up front to reduce the impacts of a hazard

**100-Year Flood Event** – Statistically speaking, a flood that has a 1% annual chance of occurring, – a town could experience 100-yr flood events in a short period of time

**100-Year Floodplain** – The area of flooding associated with a 1% annual probability of occurrence; the boundary of the 100-yr floodplain is used to assign flood risk, including by FEMA and the National Flood Insurance Program

**Climate Change** – The shift of weather patterns globally and regionally that cause local effects on temperature, precipitation, seasonal stream flow, etc.