



**July / August 2017 Update**

### **Project Overview**

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs are developing a fully integrated State Hazard Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Plan. While there have been efforts at the municipal level to embed climate adaptation considerations into local hazard mitigation plans, the Commonwealth is likely the first state to officially integrate these two types of plans. This new planning framework will allow the Commonwealth to address climate change and hazards in a comprehensive way while charting a course that municipalities and other states can follow.

### **Project Status**

This project was initiated in March 2017 and will extend to August 2018. Activities to date have included:

- Development of a Project Work Plan, which lays out the framework and schedule for the Plan.
- Biweekly Project Management Team coordination calls where information is shared among the project team and key issues are discussed.
- Development of a project website (<https://resilientma.com/>) to serve as a communication and information sharing tool for the project.
- Development of a Risk Assessment Methodology. Risk assessment will serve as the foundation for much of the Plan's analysis and is designed to characterize hazards, which in turn allows the Commonwealth to assess the vulnerabilities and risks they face from those hazards – both now and in the future as a result of climate change.
- Collection, review, and assessment of relevant data sources and ongoing initiatives related to climate change or natural hazards.
- Stakeholder kickoff meeting scheduled for August 2, 2017.

### **Next Steps**

The project team will continue data collection efforts and will initiate the risk assessment analysis. The team will also develop a State Agency Vulnerability Assessment Survey Tool that will assist agencies in identifying key assets, functions, missions and services/programs and assess their degree of exposure, sensitivity (factors that contribute to vulnerability) and adaptive capacity to climate change and natural hazards. The completed state agency vulnerability assessments will be fully integrated into the Plan and will enable state government to build resilience across its operations, programs, and services.

### **Questions?**

Please visit the project website (<https://resilientma.com/>) to learn more or contact us at [mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us](mailto:mitigation@massmail.state.ma.us).