

The Vineyard Way: Connected to Our Past, Committed to Our Future

Implementing the Vineyard Climate Action Plan



We acknowledge that the land and water addressed in this climate action plan is the traditional land and water of the Wampanoag People. We acknowledge their reverent stewardship of the natural world, of which we are all a part. With deep respect for the Wampanoag community, we strive in this plan to nurture the natural environment that sustains us all.



Climate Action Plan (CAP) Recap

- 20-year regional plan
- Over 100 residents participated in plan development
- Local consultant, locally driven
- Six Thematic Planning Areas
- Over 200 actions
- Each action has a lead organization responsible for implementation
- Climate Action Week
- Steering Committee (now CAP Community Coordinating Committee that meets monthly for updates and collaboration)





Land Use, Natural Resources, and Biodiversity



Transportation, Infrastructure, and Waste



Public Health and Safety



Economic Resilience

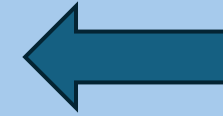


Food Security



Energy Transformation

Six Thematic Planning Areas



Land Use, Natural Resources and Biodiversity

Fostering Ecosystem Resilience

Eel Grass Mapping
Updated Vegetation Maps
Plant Local MV
Conservation Summit
Climate Action Fair 2024

A MA Municipal Vulnerability
Preparedness (MVP)
Program grant

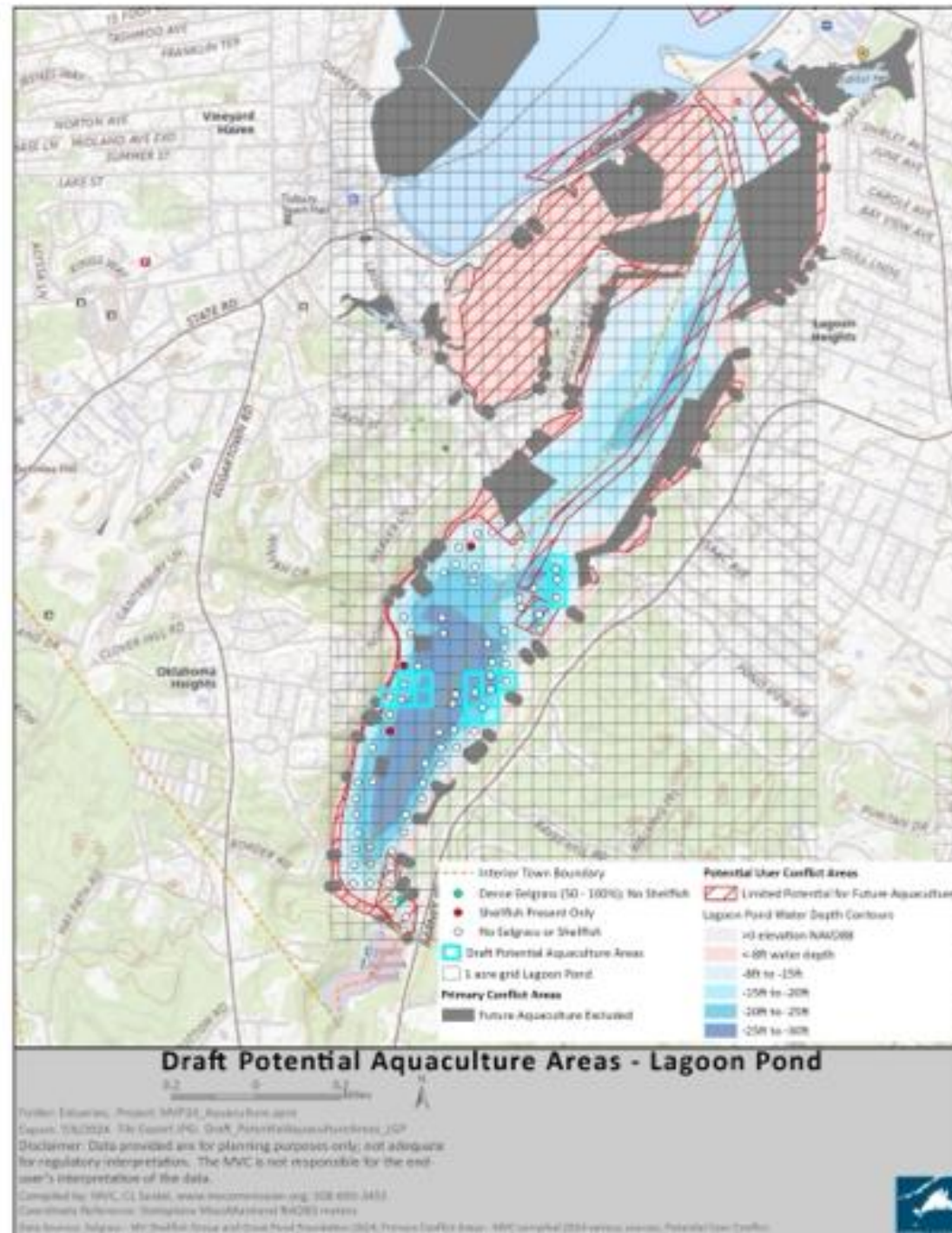


Eel Grass Mapping

To identify potential aquaculture sites

- Lagoon Pond
- Sengekontacket Pond
- Lake Tashmoo

To help guide towns and potential aquaculturists



Aquaculture:

Traditional local food source

Shellfish filter pond water

Local jobs

Food Security
Goal #1, Objective #4

Updated Nantucket and Vineyard vegetation maps

Nantucket Conservation
Foundation
Linda Loring Nature
Foundation
Nantucket Islands Land
Bank
Nantucket Land and
Water Council
The Trustees

LUNRBIO
Goal #1, Action 1.2

Detailed Vegetation Communities	
Arable Farmland	TERRESTRIAL Coastal Forest/Woodland (in deciduous woodlands)
Cranberry Bog	TERRESTRIAL Forest Seep Community (in deciduous woodlands)
Impervious (buildings and parking lots, but not surfaced roads)	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Forest/Woodland (in deciduous woodlands)
Manicured Grasses	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Juniper Woodland/Shrubland (in coniferous woodlands)
Roads (surfaced)	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Forest/Woodland (mixed woodlands)
Roads / Tracks (unsurfaced)	TERRESTRIAL Pitch Pine - Oak Forest/Woodland
Open water (ponds, streams, rivers etc, but not Salt Ponds)	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Erosional Cliff Community (shrublands)
ESTUARINE Coastal Salt Pond Community	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Juniper Woodland/Shrubland (in shrublands)
ESTUARINE Marine Intertidal Gravel/Sand Beach Community	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Pitch Pine Woodlands on Dunes (in shrublands)
ESTUARINE Marine Intertidal Rocky Shore Community	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Shrubland
ESTUARINE Salt Marsh	TERRESTRIAL Pitch Pine - Scrub Oak Community (may be > 25% pitch pine)
PALUSTRINE Red Maple - Black Gum Swamp	TERRESTRIAL Sandplain Heathland (in shrublands)
PALUSTRINE Red Maple Swamp	TERRESTRIAL Scrub Oak Shrubland
PALUSTRINE Highbush Blueberry Thicket	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Beach Strand Community
PALUSTRINE Shrub Swamp	TERRESTRIAL Cultural Grassland (in regular salt spray)
PALUSTRINE Level Bog	TERRESTRIAL Maritime Dune Community
PALUSTRINE Deep Emergent Marsh	TERRESTRIAL Sandplain Grassland
PALUSTRINE Interdunal Marsh/Swale	TERRESTRIAL Sandplain Heathland (herbaceous and open, not dominated by trees or scrub)
PALUSTRINE Shallow Emergent Marsh	TERRESTRIAL Cultural Grassland (inland from regular salt spray)
PALUSTRINE Coastal Plain Pondshore Community	Other



Vegetation Detailed Classification 7/31/2024 Nantucket

Project funded by the State of
MA Municipal Vulnerability
Program FY24 - MVP Action
Grant MV Eco-Resilience Task 2.0
Vegetation interpreted from aerial
photos acquired in early Spring of
2023 (MassGIS/USGS).
Classification follows the MA
Division of Fisheries and Wildlife's
Classification of the Natural
Communities of MA March 2020.

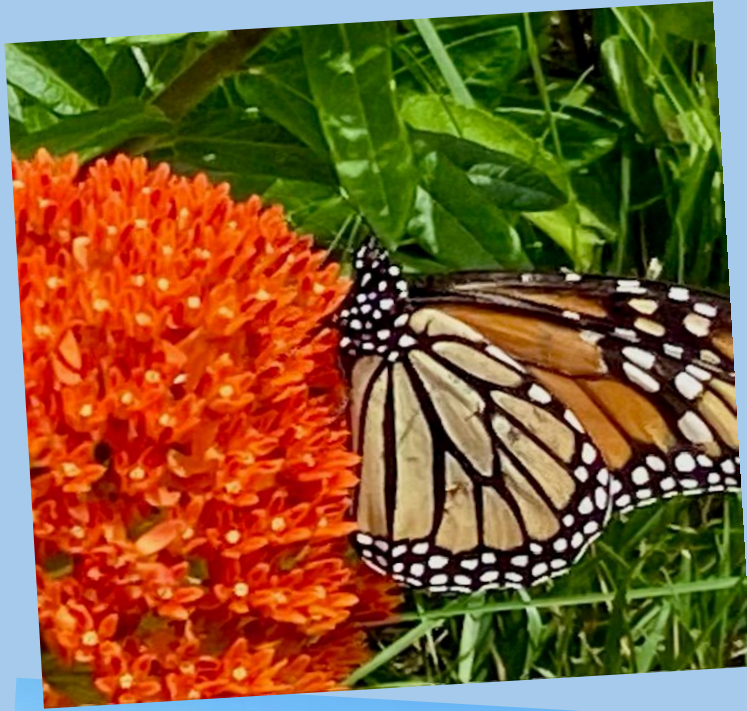


Disclaimer: Data and map provided for
planning purposes only. The data are not
adequate for boundary determination or
regulatory interpretation. Neither the
MVC nor the NCF are responsible for how
these data or map are used or interpreted
by the end user.

Data are subject to future revisions as
these draft vegetation classifications are
subjected to additional remote
classification analysis and on-site ground-
truthing to verify habitat designations. As
such, these data are not for regulatory use
or analysis prior the completion of the
ground-truthing.

Compiled by: MVC - CL Seidel, 7/31/2024
Data: Vegetation - TIC, MVC, NCF 2024; Place Names
- ESRI Firefly Basemap
Projection: State Plane, MA Island, NAD83, m
Folder: Vegetation_Mapping, MVP_VegMaps.aprx;
Export: ACK_VegDetail.pdf
Original in color





Plant Local MV

Focus Groups

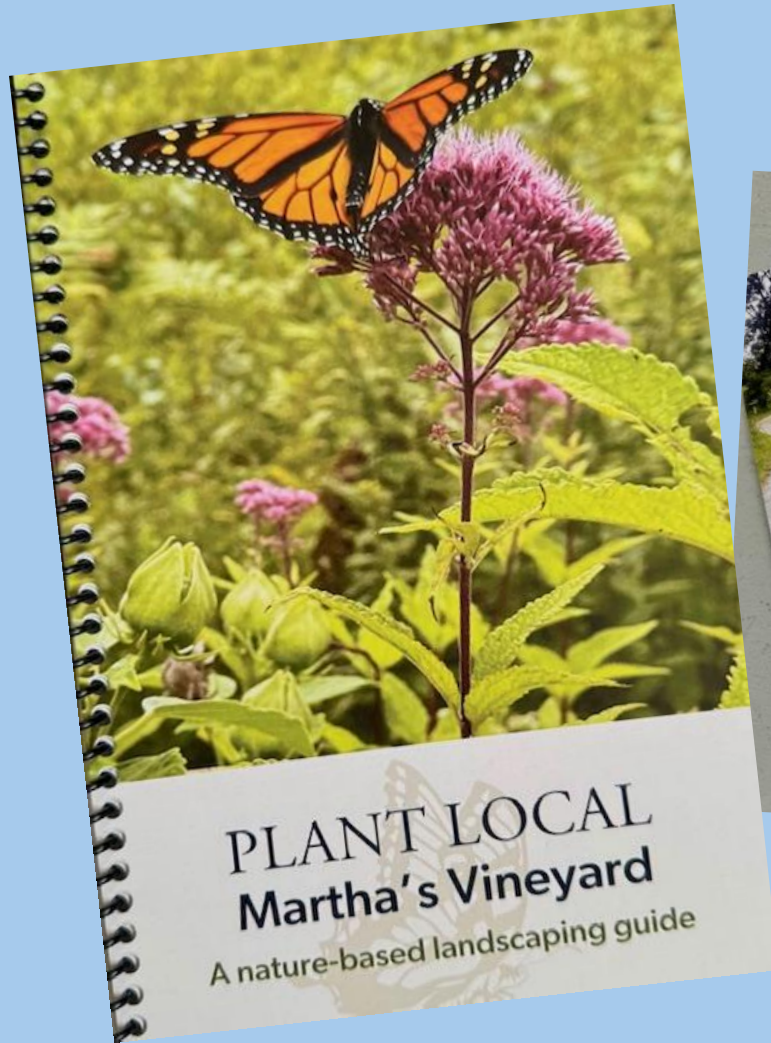
What are the barriers to using native plants and decreasing lawn size?

Focus Groups: landscape companies, homeowners, nurseries, Wampanoag tribal members

- Homeowners like neat, orderly landscapes
- Landscape designers don't use native plants
- It's difficult to educate clients
- Not enough sources of native plants
- Green lawn aesthetic
- Unaware of native plant beauty
- Not enough information about values of native plants

Plant Local MV

Education Campaign



www.thevineyardway.org

Plant Local MV Booklet
Brochures
Nursery pop-ups

Collaboration:
Biodiversity Works
Vineyard Conservation Society
Polly Hill Arboretum
MV Commission

LUNRBIO
Goal #1, Action 2.1

Top 20 Native Plants

The following pages introduce you to our top 20 local native plants for Martha's Vineyard. These plants were chosen for their ecological benefits, growth characteristics, ease of care, beauty, and availability at local nurseries. Sample planting guides using these top 20 native plants are provided in the pages that follow the plant descriptions.

Perennials:

Blue flag iris
Cardinal flower
Joe-Pye weed
New England aster
Orange butterfly weed
Red columbine
Seaside goldenrod
Swamp milkweed
Swamp rose-mallow

Iris versicolor
Lobelia cardinalis
Eutrochium dubium
Symphyotrichum novae-angliae
Asclepias tuberosa
Aquilegia canadensis
Solidago sempervirens
Asclepias incarnata
Hibiscus moscheutos

Grasses:

Little bluestem
Pennsylvania sedge
Switchgrass

Schizachyrium scoparium
Carex pensylvanica
Panicum virgatum

New England Aster *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae*



Description:

Height: 1 - 4 feet

Spread: 2 - 3 feet

Light: Part shade

Soils: Moist

Blooms: August - November

Benefits

- Native wildflower species
- Great plant for rain gardens
- Great for pocket meadows
- Host plant for Pearl Crescent



Nectar Source



Host Plant



Seed Source



Pocket Meadow



Drought Tolerant

Plant This, Not That:

Arrowwood | Burning bush



Arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*) adds plenty of seasonal interest to any landscape. Creamy white flowers appear in late spring, bundled into lovely flat-topped clusters. Blue-black berry-like drupes follow the flowers in summertime, ripening completely in early fall. As fall marches on, the lustrous dark green leaves turn fall shades of yellow, glossy red, or reddish-brown. Looking for a larger statement piece in your yard, arrowwood viburnum should be on the list.



Burning bush or Winged euonymus (*Euonymus alatus*) (banned shrub) This shrub can form dense thickets that prevent native species from growing. It produces an enormous amount of seed annually, which it spreads widely, making its spread unmanageable. While birds eat the fruit, it is not as nutritious as native plants.

Bayberry | Privet



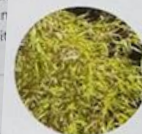
Bayberry (*Morella pensylvanica*) is a shrub that will retain some leaves during winter. The berries are used in bayberry candles. They remain on the plant through winter, and they are an important reserve food source for red-bellied woodpeckers, bluebirds, warblers as other berries run out over winter. Bayberry branches loaded with fruit are a fragrant indoor decoration.



Privets (*Ligustrum* sp.) easily escape adjacent areas, where they can form thickets that shade out and take the place of native herbaceous plants. The shady thickets that are unsuitable for native seedlings. The leaves protect plants from leaf-eating insects, including native herbivorous species.

Problem Plants (Avoid or Remove)

When you remove or avoid purchasing these invasive plants, you are protecting the local flora and interdependent fauna that define the island's unique character.



Bamboo

Bamboo spreads invasively and is very difficult to control. It crowds out native species and becomes a monoculture. Please enjoy your bamboo in pots indoors.



Japanese silvergrass

(*Miscanthus sinensis*) (banned plant)

Planted widely for its toughness and durability, this popular ornamental grass has escaped cultivation and threatens our globally rare sandplain grasslands. Spread by seeds, as well as by birds using it for nesting material, this popular grass has become a problem in numerous states over the last 20 years.



Common and Japanese barberry

(*Berberis vulgaris*, *B. thunbergii*) (banned shrub) Shrubs that grow in full sun to full shade. Birds relish the red fruits, which help them to spread along roadsides and disturbed woodlands. These two species will hybridize with the same results: abundant fruits that help it spread through native habitats. This plant promotes tick abundance.



Creeping myrtle, a.k.a. periwinkle

(*Vinca minor*) is often used as an ornamental plant for its evergreen foliage and blue, purple, or white flowers. However, it can spread quickly by sending out trailing branches that root in moist soil, crowding out and smothering other plants. Creeping myrtle can also limit the growth of new saplings and inhibit the natural succession process in forests.

A Bonus - MVC Native Plant Pollinator Garden



- Practicing what we preach
- Site located on a main road
- Biodiversity Works Natural Neighbors Program design
- Signage



Conservation Summit

- Review vegetation maps
- ID priority wildlife corridors to protect biodiversity and resilience to climate change
- ID areas for collaboration
- ID priority sites for protection

21 conservation practitioners



Maximum Disturbance

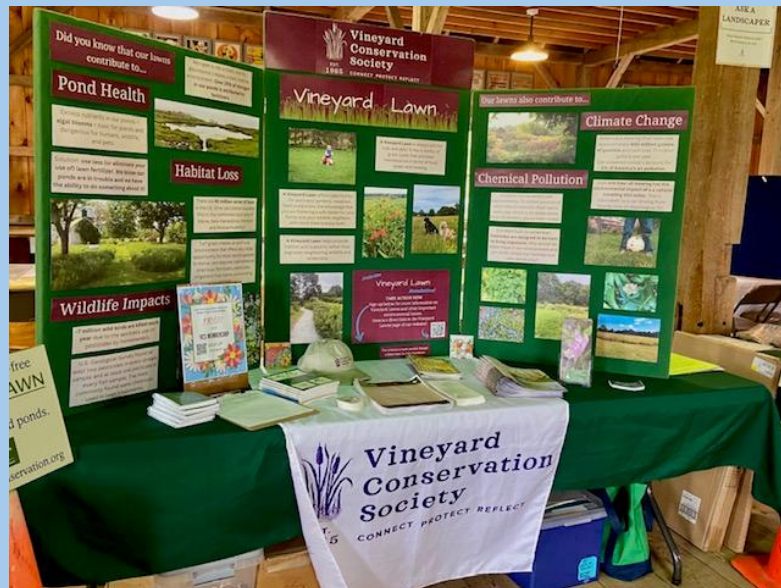
By 2025, a maximum % disturbance per acre is established for all new development over one acre, except for the purpose of restoring native habitat

Each town adopts regulations for maximum disturbance

CAP Community Coordinating Committee subcommittee is developing regulations

2024 Climate Action Fair

- Over 40 booths
- Portuguese translators
- Biochar demonstration
- Plant Local MV panel discussions
- Wildfire panel discussion



CLIMATE ACTION THE VINEYARD WAY CONNECTED TO OUR PAST COMMITTED TO OUR FUTURE	AÇÃO CLIMÁTICA O JEITO DO VINEYARD CONECTADOS AO NOSSO PASSADO COMPROMETIDOS COM O NOSSO FUTURO
CLIMATE ACTION FAIR	FEIRA DE AÇÃO CLIMÁTICA
SUN MAY 19	DOM 19 de MAIO
12-4pm @ West Tisbury Agricultural Hall	12-16h @ Feira Agricultura de West Tisbury
LEARN WHY & KNOW HOW TO TAKE ACTION THAT BUILDS OUR ISLAND'S RESILIENCE	APRENDA POR QUE E SAIBA COMO TOMAR MEDIDAS QUE AUMENTEM A RESILIÊNCIA DA NOSSA ILHA
Natural Lawns & Native Plants ~ Composting Biochar Demonstration ~ Health & Wellness Energy Transformation ~ Climate Jobs Upcycling & Crafting ~ Aquaculture Coastal Resiliency ~ Emergency Preparedness	Grama Naturais e Plantas Nativas ~ Composto Demonstração Biochar ~ Saúde e Bem-Estar Transformação Energética ~ Empregos Climáticos Preparação de Emergência Aquicultura ~ Resiliência Costeira



Land Use, Natural Resources and Biodiversity

Priority Action

Salt marsh health assessment and migration mapping



Salt marshes have superpowers!

Transportation, Infrastructure and Waste

Floodplain Protection

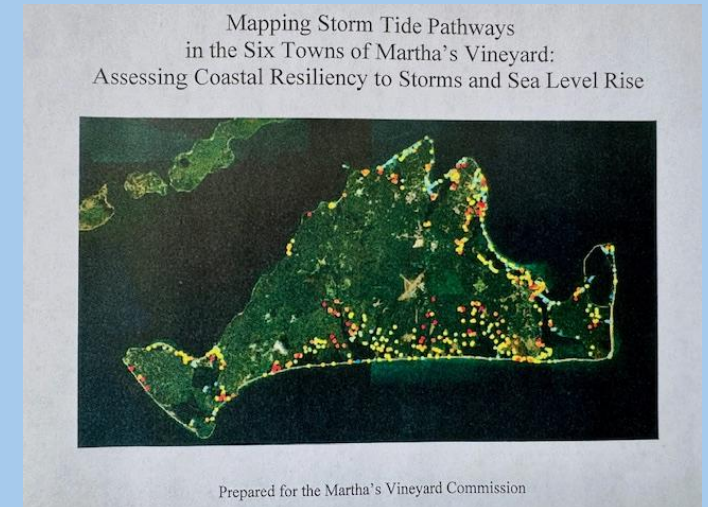
Updating Bylaws

- Working with town Planning Boards, Conservation Commissions and Climate Committees to update Floodplain Overlay District Bylaws and Wetlands Protection Bylaw
- Working with Shannon Hulst and Cape Cod Commission to help towns use model bylaws to guide updates

Goal:
Updated FPOD and Wetlands Bylaws at 2026 Annual Town Meetings

LUNRBIO/TI&W
Goal #1 Actions 2.7, 3.2

StormTide Pathways maps for guidance



716 Vineyard pathways,
where water will begin (or
has begun) to flow inland for
a given elevation

Transportation, Infrastructure and Waste

Priority Action

What to do about flooding of coastal roads?



TI&W
Goal #1, Action 2.4
Overarching Goal #1

Priority Action

Overarching Goal #1

Objective: By 2025, a collaborative framework for land use decision-making is developed that builds environmental and socioeconomic resilience.

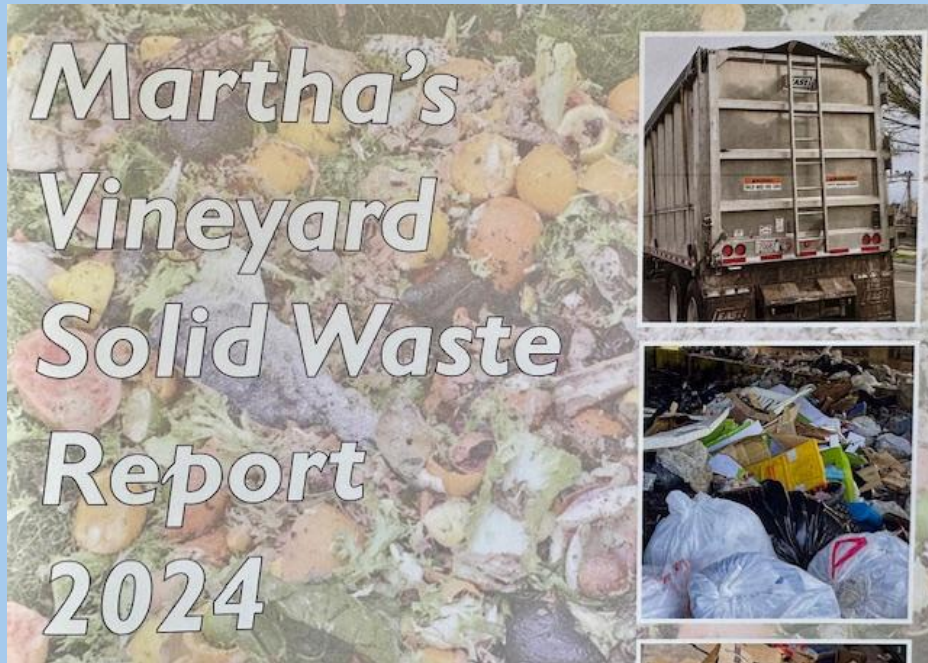
Framework planning to include assessments of the environment, transportation, and economy

Seeking funding for framework and use of framework to plan for three vulnerable sites



Transportation, Infrastructure and Waste

Solid Waste Report and Task Force



In 2023, an estimated 2,110 trucks went off-Island with waste and recyclables, or the equivalent of about 260 freight boats.

How do we reduce waste?
How can we reduce costs?

Public Health and Safety

Public Health

- Surveyed health care professionals on climate/health knowledge
- Climate/health education at MV Hospital grand rounds
- Webinars: Air pollution, PFAS
- Tick educational materials in English and Portuguese
- Island CERT training (Community Emergency Response Team)

PH&S

Goal #2, Objectives 2 & 3, and Actions 1.3, 1.4

Public Safety

Priority Actions

Full-time regional emergency manager

Island-wide Emergency Preparedness, Response and Recovery Plan

PH&S

Goal #1, Objectives 2 and 3

Food Security

MV Public Food Forests

Goal: Public perennial food forests in each Island town

- Create design for Aquinnah food forest (site already determined)
- Identify potential sites for food forests in the other towns
- Develop a public toolkit to support food forest establishment

A MA Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program grant



Food Security

MV Agricultural Society - Island-wide standards for climate-friendly farming, **Goal#1, Actions 2.1., 2.2**

SNAP/HIP and Fresh Connect accepted at Farmer's Market, **Goal #1, Actions 3.1, 3.2**

MV Fishermen's Preservation Trust seafood cookbook for local seafood marketing; grant to donate over 5,000 pounds of fish to Island Food Pantry
Goal#1, Objectives 5 and 6

MV Tick Program – venison donation program, **Goal #2**

MV Shellfish Group – partnering with The Nature Conservancy on an oyster aquaculture and restoration project, **Goal #1, Action 4.3**



Economic Resilience

Priority Action

Report on Economic Impacts of
Climate Change on Martha's
Vineyard

Economic Impacts Report:

- Climate change impacts to Island economy
- Cost of doing nothing
- Financial incentive for leaders to act
- Data tool for grant applications

Economic Resilience
Goal #1

ACE MV – local employer needs
assessment survey and Planning and
Capacity Building grant for on-Island
clean energy job training (MA Clean
Energy Center)



Economic Resilience
Goal #1, Actions 3.1, 3.2,3.3

Overarching Goal #2: Reliable and Sustainable Sources of Funding

Climate Adaptation Fee Committee



Overarching Goal #3: A Team of Climate Change Professionals (Island-wide)

MV Vision Fellowship

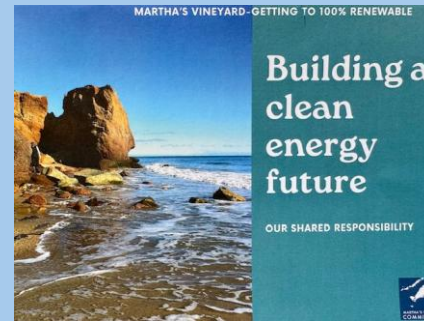
MVC Fellows



Biochar

Develop a demonstration project to evaluate the potential value of biochar in sequestering carbon and benefitting soil restoration, biodiversity, wildfire management, and water quality

LUNRBIO
Goal#1 Action 2.6



Energy Planner

Implement CAP Energy Transformation actions

CAP Thematic Area
Energy Transformation



Climate Communications Specialist

Hire a Climate Communications Specialist to conduct strategic communications that support CAP goals and objectives

Overarching Goal #3
Action 1.2

Equity (A CAP Guiding Value)

MVP 2.0

- MVC received a grant to guide the MVP 2.0 process for the six towns
- Keeps towns eligible for MVP action grants
- Review climate resilience priorities from original MVP project
- Focus on equity, vulnerable populations
- \$50,000 in seed money for each town to help implement and equity-based priority project



Low income
Non-English speaking
People with existing health conditions
Older adults
People who work outdoors
First responders
People living in areas of high climate-related events (floods, wildfire)

Climate Action Plan Lessons




Challenges

Every action has a lead but:

- MVC is lead for too many
- Leads move on
- Coordinating with six towns
- Emergency Management planning
- Funding
- Capacity (staffing - all organizations, towns)

GOAL #1 By 2040, we have in place the framework to adapt economy with the diversification, resilience, and sustainability to meet the Island's challenges and opportunities from

Objective 1:
By 2030, an Island-wide vision for a sustainable and resilient future economy is established. (Some actions support Overarching Goal 1)

Actions	Lead	Co-Benefits/ Collaborators
Action 1.1 An economic sub-committee of the Climate Action Task Force is established.		  
Action 1.2 Create a set of climate impact scenarios to be widely distributed and discussed among business/industry, government, and public.	Martha's Vineyard Commission	
Action 1.3 Evaluate business vulnerabilities and options for addressing new economic conditions.	Martha's Vineyard Commission	
Action 1.4 With other working groups, develop a collaborative long-term vision and land use decision-making framework that builds environmental and socioeconomic resilience.	Martha's Vineyard Commission	
Action 1.5 Conduct an education campaign to build understanding and commitment to likely climate impacts and necessary action.	Martha's Vineyard Commission	
Action 1.6 Island-wide vision for a sustainable and resilient future economy.	Martha's Vineyard Commission	

Climate Action Plan Lessons

Rewards

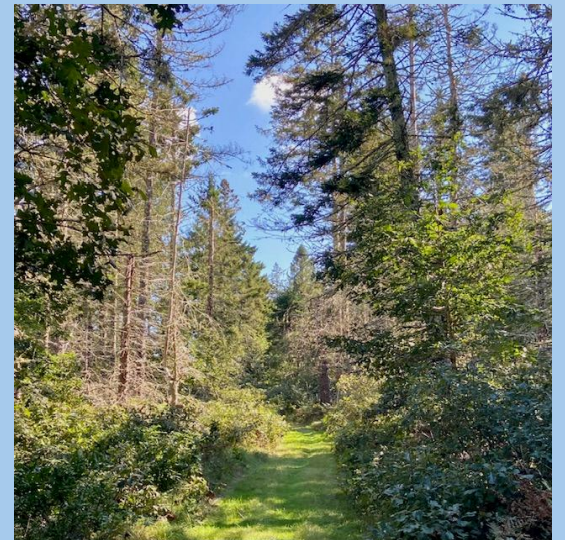
- Collaboration with Island non-profits
- A strong working relation with the MVP program
- Successful community engagement: Climate Action Fair, Climate Communications Specialist
- Building relationships with local and regional organizations
- CAP CCC Committee – towns, Tribe, NAACP, County, MVC, staying connected, collaborating



It's Not Just the Climate Action Plan

Island-wide Climate Action

- Leaf blower regulations (Vineyard Conservation Society)
- MV State Forest Task Force (MVC)
- Emergency access to MV Hospital study (Oak Bluffs/MCZM grant)
- Updated Edgartown Harbor Plan (Edgartown/MVC/MCZM)
- Oak Bluffs Climate Adaptation Study (Oak Bluffs)
- Raise Menemsha docks (Chilmark)
- Up-Island Watershed Management Plan (MVC)
- The Great Ponds Series, 3 documentaries (Circuit Films and VCS)
- Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah) Climate Adaptation Plan
- Oak Bluffs Tree Stewards – planting trees in recreational green space



Wampanoag Voices: Enriching the Climate Conversation

Panel Discussion
Nature Pause
Q & A
Intentions

Stillpoint
3 – 5 pm
Sunday, June 22, 2025
20 Stillpoint Meadows Road
West Tisbury

Space is limited – please preregister at
durkee@mvcommission.org





**“Stop burning fossil fuels and move
to higher ground.”**

**Jeff Goodell, author
*The Water Will Come***

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Vineyard Climate Action Plan
www.thevineyardway.org

