



**Climate Action Advisory Board
Director's Update
January 16, 2019**

MVP Program – The [final report for our MVP planning grant](#) is complete, has been submitted to the state, and is [posted on the Town's website](#). Completing the MVP planning grant and submitting our report means we will be eligible for the next round of MVP action grants which are expected to be announced this month. In past rounds, communities can apply for up to \$400,000. Kate is working with town departments on a list of potential projects for our application in addition to applying for funds to hire a consultant to help with our climate action plan.

Grant Applications – Kate applied for a [mini-grant from MAPC](#) for a sustainable landscaping project. Working with Melissa Simoncini at water and sewer, the proposed project includes developing demonstration gardens on town properties showcasing lawn alternatives and native plantings, as well as a hosting a sustainable landscaping speaker series and the developing a handbook for sustainable landscaping in Concord. We expect to hear back this month about whether we were awarded the grant.

Summer Fellow – Our application was accepted for a partially-funded summer fellow from the [UNH Sustainability Fellowship program](#) to complete a project focused on reducing GHG emissions from the commercial sector. With 30% of Concord's emissions coming from the commercial sector, we know there are opportunities to better engage commercial entities and identify opportunities and gaps in current programs, rebates, and strategies.

Comprehensive Sustainability and Energy Committee – CSEC met last week and discussed their priorities for the year. In addition to assisting with the deployment of the National Grid Community Initiative in 2019, the committee also decided to plan a sustainable landscaping event for this spring, likely May. They plan to collaborate with other committees and sustainability groups to plan the event with the goal of promoting sustainable landscaping practices to residents.

Communications – Kate was featured in the Jan. 3rd edition of the Concord Journal ([also online](#)). Kate was also interviewed by Erin Stevens as part of the [Concord Conversations](#) series on MMN (Minuteman Media Network). The third and final video in the series produced as part of the MVP grant was released, focusing on [smart water management](#). Kate also interviewed the property manager and Executive Director of the Orchard House about their sustainability initiatives, especially the installation of a new geothermal system. This interview will be turned into a short case study and Kate hopes to produce more case studies or vignettes as examples of sustainability efforts in town.