



**Climate Action Advisory Board
Director's Update
November 28, 2018**

MVP Program – The MVP planning grant is wrapping up. We have completed the community workshops, a public listening session, special presentations to local groups (ConcordCAN, Newbury Court, Concord Business Partnership), and a training for local partners on how to talk about climate change. We have also been focusing on social media and online engagement through Facebook, Twitter, and the [Metroquest survey](#). These efforts will continue into 2019. Two videos are complete – on the topics of [climate resilience](#) and [electric vehicles](#) – and one on water conservation will be completed soon. These videos will be featured on the [Sustainability website](#), on TV, and through social media. The next step for MVP is to submit the final report to the state and prepare for an upcoming round of Action Grants of up to \$300,000.

Green Communities – Concord received \$116,000 in July to complete a number of municipal energy projects through the Green Communities program. Several projects are complete including the purchase of a new Nissan Leaf, XL Hybrids retrofit of a Council on Aging van, and installation of a building energy management system at 55 Church Street. Pending projects include installation of two public electric vehicle charging stations and LED upgrades to 5 town buildings. The 2018 annual report prepared for Green Communities indicates that municipal buildings have seen a 20% reduction in energy use since 2011. The next step is to identify projects for the next grant round which will open in spring 2019.

Municipal Energy Technical Assistance – Concord received \$12,500 from the Department of Energy Resources (DOER) to hire a consultant to evaluate the potential for battery storage for increased resilience at town buildings. The next step is to prepare an RFP.

National Grid Community Initiative 2019 – Concord was recently selected to participate in National Grid's 2019 Community Initiative and received a startup grant of \$1,300. This program is a year-long partnership with National Grid to promote energy efficiency in the residential sector. National Grid will provide support for marketing materials, community events, and outreach strategies. CSEC has volunteered to assist with the execution of this program. The next step is to attend the kick-off meeting and training on Monday, December 3rd at National Grid's Waltham office.

Collaborations in Concord – Kate has been working with an EV working group in town focused on increasing adoption of electric vehicles in Concord. Kate has also been collaborating on some projects with CCHS students and Peter Nichol – Rivers & Revolution students are working through Green Impact Campaign to perform energy audits for small businesses, Green Team students will do a Facebook Live event on December 5th sharing tips for reducing waste during the holidays, and on December 18th Before the Flood will be the environmental movie night selection and Kate will do a quick briefing on the MVP findings.

Beyond Concord – Kate is a member of the Urban Sustainability Director's Network (USDN) and attended the annual meeting in October in Denver. Kate recently joined the local chapter of this group, New England Municipal Sustainability Network (NEMSN). The NEMSN group meets bi-annually and includes sustainability directors from around New England. The next meeting is Friday, November 30th in Portland, Maine. Kate is also engaged with MCAN, following their work on building codes and municipal light plants. This month Kate attended a presentation by Senator Mike Barrett to a group of architects about his proposed carbon tax and will continue to follow that legislation.