



**Climate Action Advisory Board
Director's Update
March 27, 2019**

Sustainable Landscaping –Earlier this year, we were awarded a \$26,000 [mini-grant from MAPC](#) for a sustainable landscaping project. This project includes developing demonstration gardens on town and library 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. Kate has been working with Melissa Simoncini to secure locations for the gardens (Library, Junction Park, and CCHS) as well as to hire a consultant to facilitate the speaker series and handbook. CSEC is also planning a sustainable landscaping event on Saturday, May 18th at Willard School.

VW Funds – MassDEP is facilitating the distribution of funds from the state's VW settlement. In collaboration with the schools, Kate submitted a grant requesting funding for one new electric school bus. Kate has also submitted an application for funding toward a new electric vehicle in the town fleet through the EVIP program, another VW settlement-funded program.

Green Communities – Concord applied for another round of Green Communities grant funding, requesting the maximum \$250,000 to put toward projects to reduce municipal energy consumption. The projects in this year's application include hybrid upfits to fleet vehicles, charging stations, LED lighting, and LED streetlights.

MVP Action Grants – The state has finally released a round of MVP Action Grants. In past rounds, communities were eligible for up to \$400,000. In this round, the maximum funding is \$2 million. Kate is working with town departments to identify projects. The grant applications are due on April 19th.

Schools – Kate and Nick have been participating in a newly formed school sustainability committee, a group of sustainability advocates, teachers, and staff convened by Superintendent Hunter. The group is currently discussing sustainability goals and vision for the schools. The group plans to meet monthly.

Beyond Concord – Kate spoke at the League of Women Voter's First Friday on February 1st with Gary Clayton, President of Mass Audubon and Representative Tami Gouveia. The focus was on climate change solutions and the crowd overflowed into the hallway. The event was [recorded by MMN](#) (minute 37 until about minute 50). Kate spoke at the First Parish Church on Sunday, March 24th, to the Environmental Action Group. There has been an increase in interest from other communities in Concord's creation of a sustainability division and hiring of a sustainability director. In response, Kate has created an FAQ document, spoken to a number of interested citizens on the phone, and recently presented at an event organized by Sustainable Marblehead. She will be speaking on a similar panel in Holliston in early April. Kate also attended the Climate Leadership Conference in Baltimore, MD last week.