

**Climate Action Advisory Board
Director's Update
December 19, 2018**



MVP Program – The final report for our MVP planning grant is complete and will be submitted to the state, and posted on the Town’s website, by the end of the month. We are wrapping up a few additional public engagement items that we will report out on in an addendum. Completing the MVP planning grant and submitting our report means we will be an MVP designated community. We will then be eligible for the next round of MVP action grants which are likely to be announced in January and up to \$400,000. Kate is working with town departments on developing a list of potential projects for our application. The state is prioritizing nature-based solutions, so that will be a focus of our application. The grant will also likely fund climate action plans, so we can also apply for funding to hire a consultant to work on Concord’s climate action plan.

National Grid Community Initiative 2019 – Kate attended the kick-off meeting for the National Grid Community Initiative earlier this month with Janet Miller and Karen Gibson from CSEC. Janet, Karen and others from CSEC have offered to help implement this program in 2019. National Grid will provide marketing materials and we are required to conduct significant community outreach through mailings, online promotion, tabling at events, and more. Our baseline goal is 169 home energy assessments over the course of the year. The program will officially kick-off in January.

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 included developing demonstration gardens in town with lawn alternatives and native plantings, as well as a sustainable landscaping speaker series and the development of a handbook for sustainable landscaping in Concord. We expect to hear back in early January. Kate also applied 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 come 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. This program is competitive, but we hope to hear back soon about whether our project was selected.

Beyond Concord – Kate attended a meeting last week of the BBRS (Board of Building Regulation and Standards). The board was listening to public testimony on [a recommendation by DOER to adopt the International Energy Conservation Code with amendments](#). The most discussed item was DOER’s recommendation that BBRS adopt a requirement for new construction to be EV-ready with most speakers in favor.

Communications and Branding – We have two new social media pages – Facebook and Twitter – dedicated to sustainability in Concord. This will be another way to engage with the community and share sustainability ideas, successes, and programs with the Town. We have some support for content generation from KLA as part of our existing contract but otherwise the accounts are managed by Kate. Additionally, Kate was interviewed by Rob Carter this week for an article in the Concord Journal, which will likely be published this week or next. Kate will also be interviewed this week for a segment on MMN (Minuteman Media Network) to be aired sometime in the next month. The theme for both is reflecting on a year in the role and looking forward to next year in sustainability.