



## **Committee on Climate and Energy Report**

The Climate and Energy committee convened in the Council Chambers on May 20, 2025, at 5:15pm. The purpose of the meeting was to hear a presentation on our continuing 6-month update of the Climate Action Plan. Present at the meeting were Councilor Palomba, chair; Councilor Bays (by zoom), vice chair; and Councilor Airasian, secretary. A full list of in person and zoom attendees is listed as attachment C.

The meeting was called to order at 5:15

### Outreach and Education Updates

Laurel Schaub began her presentation (attachment A) mentioning there is a big push to advocate for less energy consumption. They are busy with outreach including renter/landlord surveys. She feels holding real estate agent focus groups as well as collaborating regionally with other communities will provide a great opportunity for education and outreach. There is a plan to have a sustainable street tour, where anyone can come and tour a street with sustainable technologies in order to showcase them and explain the benefits. On May 10, the inaugural Eco Fest was held at the Commander's Mansion. With over 20 vendors participating, games, food and speakers, it was considered a great success and hopefully an event to build on.

### Building and Energy Updates

Sylas took over and spoke about several updates. He first mentioned that staff is working to strengthen the existing Solar Ordinance. In addition, Staff is developing a new solar brochure and info page on the city website. The Economic Development team is working with Somerville and Cambridge to generate an event focused on attracting climate-tech companies. He noted that Watertown was also certified by Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a Climate Leader Community. Of which, there are only 19 other communities to hold that certification.

### Transportation and Mobility Updates

66 Galen Street has added a new Bluebike station. There is also a new shared-use path connecting 99 Coolidge with Arsenal St. Staff continues to coordinate with DPW on the complete street projects. The city is increasing coordination with Newton on overlapping bike/ped infrastructure along our boundary area. Staff is also in active

discussions with MBTA about increased Charlie Card vending and bus stop improvements.

The city started charging 25 cents per kWh for use of city owned charging stations and income gathered is earmarked for future sustainable goals.

#### Natural Resources Updates

The area near Hawthorne St has been identified as a possible spot for a micro park. City Staff hosted an abutter meeting to hear thoughts from neighbors. A bid has been issued for an Urban Wildlife Management Plan for Whitney Hill that focuses on long term plans for the park. The Walker Pond ecological study is wrapping up and a community meeting and survey is expected this summer. DPW Superintendent plans to conduct a tree canopy loss analysis. Having this information will make for better data when forming a Tree Ordinance.

#### Infrastructure and Waste Updates

On April 19 an Earth Day event promoted curbside composting and material recycling. With curbside composting enrollment at 3,100, composting has also begun at the Middle School. Now all schools have composting programs. In order to establish a circular economy in Watertown, the Swap Shop pilot program will open at the recycling center on June 7 and be open every first Saturday of the month moving forward.

#### Public Health and Community Preparedness Updates

There has been collaboration with Forests for Watertown to spread awareness of urban heat island. In conjunction with MAPC and WHA, staff has applied for a Thriving Communities Grant to develop micro-resilience hubs in existing neighborhoods.

In conclusion to the many updates mentioned here and additionally in the attachment, there were some “next steps”. These include, an on-street Charging Program study, Tabling at summer events, Green Street construction on Templeton and Dexter and a Climate and Health Vulnerability study due in late May/June.

Anthony Palomba,  
Chair

Caroline Bays,  
Vice Chair

John M. Airasian,  
Secretary



# *Resilient Watertown* Climate & Energy Plan: Implementation Update

Watertown City Council Subcommittee on Climate and Energy  
May 20, 2025

**Laurel Schwab**

Sustainability Manager

**Silas Fyler**

Asst. Director for Energy Management



*Watertown was certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Energy Resources as a Climate Leader Community on Friday, May 2, 2025.*



# Agenda

1. Introduction
2. Strategy and Action Updates as of May 2025
3. Next Steps



# Plan Elements and Organization



- Each Plan Element follows the structure:
  - Goal: what we want to accomplish; broad statement
    - Strategy: How we will accomplish it as a general approach
      - Action: Specific activity that will be undertaken
      - Action
      - Etc.
- Each Plan Element has quantifiable metrics for tracking our progress
- For every Action we identify a lead entity, cost magnitude, timeframe, and contribution to mitigation, resilience, or both



# Tracking Our Progress

- Interim progress report at the 3-year implementation milestone (summer 2025)
- Some metrics will be tracked/updated annually, others every 5 years (data availability constraints)

Buildings and Energy						
Metric	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline	2030 Target	2050 Target	
Percent of income spent on energy for household within 0% to 30% of AMI	%	2018	16	8	2	
Enrollment in Watertown Electricity Choice	%	2019	82	82	100	
Enrollment in Watertown Electricity Choice (100% renewable option)	%	2019	3	3	100	
Potential solar capacity	Number of rooftops	2019	3209	4256	6700	
Installed solar capacity	kW	2021	4521	33600	112000	
Estimated total solar electricity	MWh	2021	5360	38400	128000	
Commercial energy use intensity (EUI), For buildings >5,000 sf	MMBtu/sq. ft.	2023				
Number of gas/oil heated residential properties	Number of gas/oil Res	2019	9625	5775	0	
Number of gas/oil heated commercial properties	Number of gas/oil Com	2019	521	312	0	
Transportation and Mobility						
Metric	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline	2030 Target	2050 Target	
Residents who use sustainable mode (bike, walk, transit) to travel to work	%	2013-2017	2	5	6	
Roads rated at a 4 or 5 stress level	# of miles	2018	6.9	3.5	0	
Total electric vehicles	%	2020	7	54	100	
Population within a 1/2 mile radius of a public EV charging station	%	2021	23	100	100	
Number of publicly accessible EV charging stations	#	2021	17	575	1050	
Natural Resources						
Metric	Unit	Baseline Year	Baseline	2030 Target	2050 Target	
Open space per person	acres/1,000 people	2020	3.25	5	10	
Tree canopy coverage	%	2016	21	23	27	
Impervious surfaces	%	2016	57	55	50	
Public Trees in Good Health	%	2018	84	90	100	
Public Trees Sites Occupied	%	2018	49	75	100	
Area (sf) of school gardens and community gardens	sf	2021	20350	24000	30000	

Example of metric tracking spreadsheet



# Cross-Cutting Strategy Updates

CC3: Develop assistance mechanisms and resources for renters and landlords (energy efficiency, EV charging, etc.)

Energy Advocate developing a renter and landlord survey and planning real estate agent focus group(s)

On-Street EV Charging Feasibility Study will increase availability of charging infrastructure for renters

CC4: Collaborate regionally with other communities and entities

Watertown City Manager, along with 16 other communities, signed the MAPC Metro Mayors 2025 Climate Commitment, on the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the original commitment.



*Boston-area Mayors and Managers, MAPC leaders, and Senator Ed Markey pose with the signed Metro Mayors Climate Compact.*



# Outreach & Education Updates

- CC2: Create an overarching Resilient Watertown Outreach & Education Campaign (Actions BE1.3, BE3.2, TM1.3, NR2.2, NR3.1, NR3.2, NR4.3, IW1.2, PH1.1, PH3.3)



Marketing poster for Watertown's inaugural Eco Fest, held May 10, 2025.

## New since November 2024:

- Hosted Watertown's inaugural Eco Fest, May 10 2025 at the Commander's Mansion
- Engaged HomeWorks as our Home Performance Contractor for Mass Save outreach; weekly tabling at Home Depot and other locations, other one-off events
- Hosted in-person and virtual informational sessions on Mass Save incentives and heat pumps (December, April, and May; more forthcoming)
- Planning a Sustainable Street Tour to showcase sustainable technologies in local homes, May 31 2025
- Planning an invasive plant removal "party" with Watertown Community Gardens, June 2025

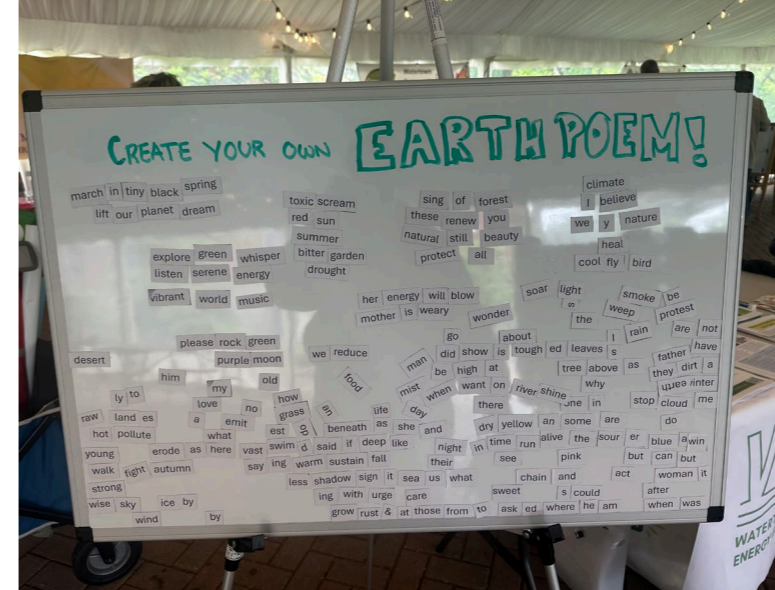
## Other ongoing items:

- Monthly issues of Resilient Watertown newsletter and adherence to themed social media calendar
- Periodically updating publicly available pollinator garden map and giving free yard signs to residents who elect to be placed on the map (as well as Life-Friendly Garden Tour hosts)
- Collaborating with partners to execute Mayor's Monarch Pledge actions
- Coordinating with WE3C, Stormwater, Bike/Ped, and Solid Waste Advisory Committees, Live Well Watertown, Watertown Pollinator Pathways, Trees for Watertown, etc.



# Outreach & Education: Eco Fest!

20 vendors +  
 5 City comms/orgs +  
 5 community orgs  
 2 speaker sessions  
 Hatch Makerspace  
 Museum of Science  
 And more!





# Buildings & Energy Updates

**BE 1.1: Expand and strengthen the existing solar ordinance**

Staff working on a draft update that will include battery energy storage systems as part of the ordinance

**BE 1.3: Outreach campaign for WEC and rooftop solar**

Staff developing new solar brochure and informational page on City website

**BE 2.3: Promote workforce development and training programs for net zero construction**

Staff submitted letter of support for a grant application by WHS to MassCEC for a clean energy workforce training program

Economic Development team is working with Somerville and Cambridge and The Alliance for Climate Transition (ACT) on events focused on attracting climate-tech companies. First event is on "Clean Energy Code Compliance," May 2025

**BE 3.2: Develop and implement a targeted outreach campaign focused on promoting heat pumps for residential homes**

Eco Fest featured a panel discussion on "Heat Pumps 101" by Loie Hayes of Green Energy Consumers Alliance

Applied for a MassCEC grant to fund a Heat Pump Coach program (in collaboration with MassEnergize)



# Buildings & Energy Updates

BE 4.1: Enact a Building Energy Use Disclosure Ordinance with a reporting requirement

Draft was submitted to Council early 2025 and had first hearing in March. Conducting focus groups with building owners.

BE 4.2: Provide technical assistance for clean energy, energy efficiency, and financing

HomeWorks HPC conducting Mass Save outreach, home energy assessments, and troubleshooting

Energy Advocate has recruited 10 Heat Pump Ambassadors (non-experts who have installed heat pumps in their homes) and 1 Energy Coach (engineering professional) to utilize at community meetings/events

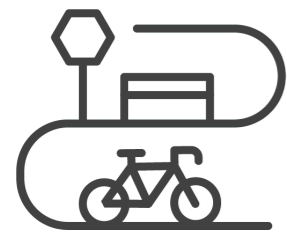
BE 4.3: Upgrade major existing municipal facilities to achieve net zero energy performance

Watertown was certified by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Department of Energy Resources as a **Climate Leader Community**- one of the first 19 such designees. Qualifies us for certain state grant funds.

The City is pursuing a goal of 100% green electricity purchased for City buildings by 2035. This is 15 years earlier than the State mandate of 2050.



HomeWorks staff tabled at Eco Fest to sign residents up for home energy assessments.



# Transportation & Mobility Updates

TM1.1: Install well-shaded bike/ped-only infrastructure, especially in densely developed areas and areas of high traffic volume

New Bluebikes station installed near 66 Galen St

New shared-use path connecting 99 Coolidge development with Arsenal St

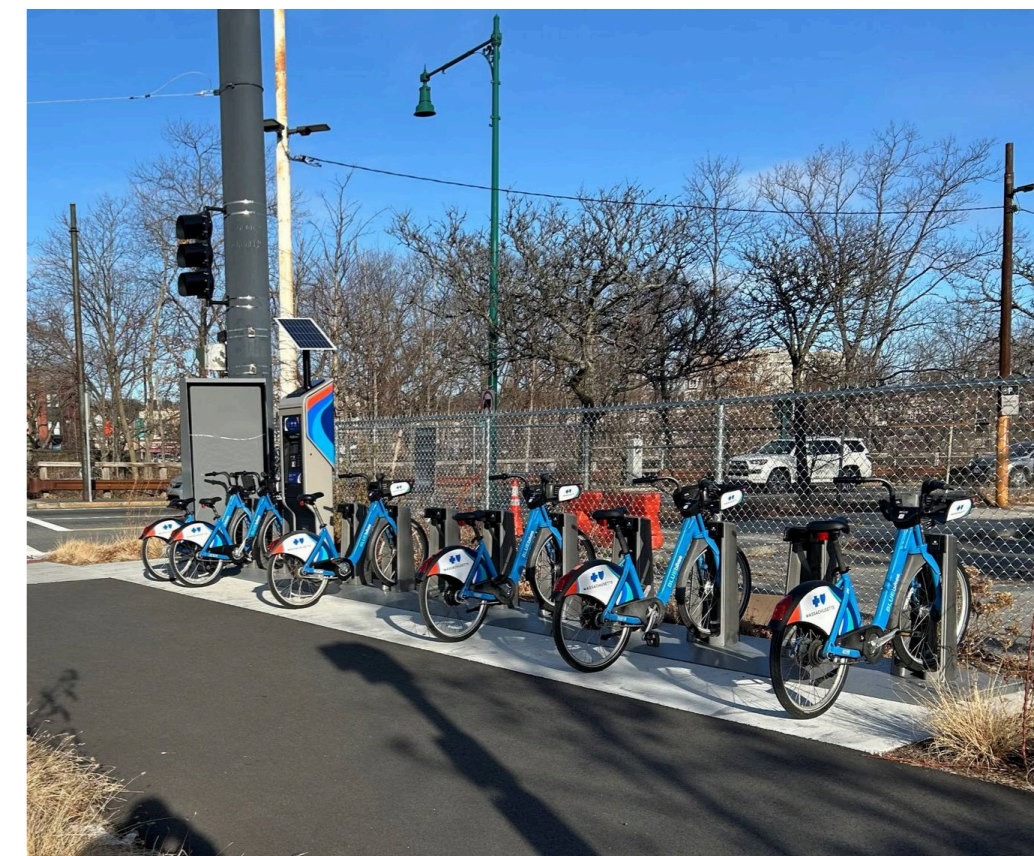
Coordinating with DPW on prioritization of future Complete Streets projects

TM 1.2: Collaborate regionally to increase and improve pathways for bikes and pedestrians

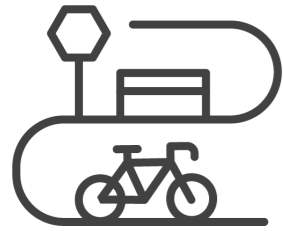
City is increasing coordination with City of Newton on overlapping bike/ped infrastructure & projects along our boundary area

TM 1.3: Increase use of transit, bike, and pedestrian travel through outreach, incentives, and policy changes

TDM monitoring is underway and will inform an update to the regulations to more closely align with Climate Plan goals



*Galen St Bluebikes station, installed January 2025*



# Transportation & Mobility Updates

TM 1.4: Work with MBTA to improve accessibility of routes, stops, and CharlieCard purchasing stations, and electrification of the bus fleet

Staff is in active discussions with MBTA about increased Charlie Card vending, bus stop improvements (e.g. new T stop design guidelines), and upcoming route changes (short-term and Bus Network Redesign).

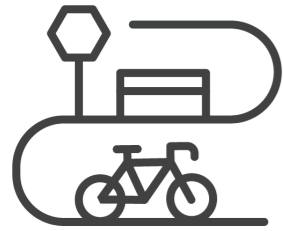
TM 1.6: Develop an integrated, publicly accessible electric transit system that connects to MBTA

Mobility Study launched January 2025 with Stantec & Journey as consultants.

In discussions with Watertown TMA and City's shuttle operator about improving existing WATConnector (microtransit) service.



Senior Transportation Planner, Zeke Mermell, takes the wheel of the Pleasant Street Connector e-shuttle during Eco Fest.



# Transportation & Mobility Updates

TM 2.1: Create and implement EV roadmap

Signed MOU with MAPC for no-cost technical assistance on guidance for adding EV charging infrastructure to existing multifamily buildings

MassCEC On-Street Charging Program underway to identify on-street charging locations and define applicable technologies, costs, etc. Public survey coming soon.

TM 2.2: Transition all city-owned, leased, and contracted vehicles to electric, including school bus, garbage truck, and maintenance fleets

Watertown Police Department is set to receive its first 4 Evs (with accompanying fleet-only charging infrastructure at the station)




TM 2.5: Increase availability of charging stations on municipal property

The City started charging 25 cents per kWh for use of City-owned EV charging stations. The fees will help offset the cost of installing future EV charging stations.

## Update on Watertown's EV Charging Stations



Beginning on May 1, 2025, the City of Watertown will require users of the City owned EV charging stations to pay for the electricity used to charge their vehicle.

-  The rate will be \$0.25 per kWh.
-  Income gathered will go towards the City's sustainability goals in the future.
-  Fully charged vehicles that remain plugged in will receive an "idle charge" (see post details).



*City of Watertown social media post detailing new charging policy*



# Natural Resources Updates

NR 1.1: Incorporate pocket parks into neighborhoods lacking green space

Tufts UEP Masters Program Field Projects students completed a feasibility and design study of new small-scale public spaces

City staff hosted an abutter meeting for the Hawthorne St "micro-park" to get consensus on design, May 2025

NR 1.2: Promote biodiversity improvements to existing and new parks and open space

DPW now has a specialty landscaping contractor to maintain green infrastructure BMPs and pollinator gardens

City recently issued a bid for an Urban Wild Management Plan for Whitney Hill Park. It will focus on long-term plans for the park, including invasive species management, trail maintenance, etc.



*Tufts UEP students and Watertown staff on a site visit of potential pocket park locations.*



# Natural Resources Updates

NR 1.3: Acquire more open space and create open space on private property

Walker Pond project: site conditions and ecological study wrapping up; community meeting and a survey expected summer 2025

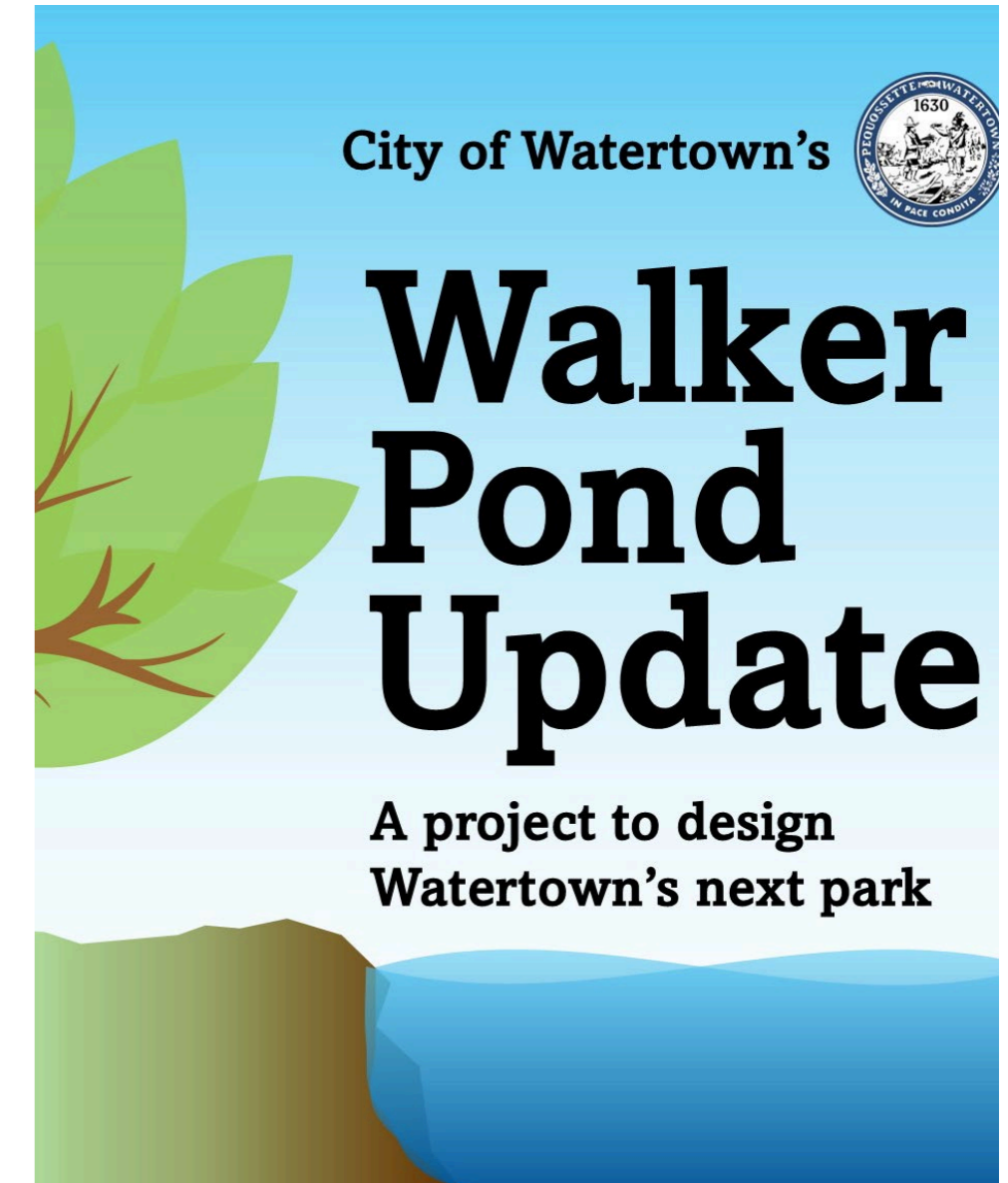
NR 2.1: Establish an enforceable tree ordinance

New DPW Superintendent plans to conduct a tree canopy loss analysis and regulatory impact assessment before proceeding with ordinance

NR 2.3: Increase tree plantings and prioritize plantings in areas at risk for urban heat impacts

Completed planting of 100 trees funded by US Forest Service Grant

Acquired a \$100k grant from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to add trees to environmental justice designated areas of Watertown



*Watertown social media recently shared a process update for Walker Pond.*



# Natural Resources Updates

NR 3.2: Utilize school gardens and community gardens as nature-based landscaping demonstration sites

The summer garden internship wasn't able to be funded/organized for summer 2025, but staff will work with new WPS Garden Coordinator to restart it next year

NR 4.1: Expand and accelerate existing Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) policies and management programs for public projects

MVP Grant Project "Community Greening Program Phase 2" is underway (Sep 2024-June 2026). Phase 2 will see construction on Templeton Pkwy and Dexter Ave (fall 2025) and completion of 100% designs for Cottage St and Ralph Piteri Terrace. As part of this project our consultants are also developing a BMP monitoring and maintenance protocol for all GSI installations on public property.



*Stormwater flooding documented on Templeton Parkway, May 2025*



# Infrastructure & Waste Updates

IW 1.2: Outreach campaign on reducing consumption across all categories

April 19<sup>th</sup> Earth Day recycling event promoted curbside composting, paper shredding, and materials recycling (as well as a tree giveaway)

IW 1.3: Create convenient and free organics recycling program

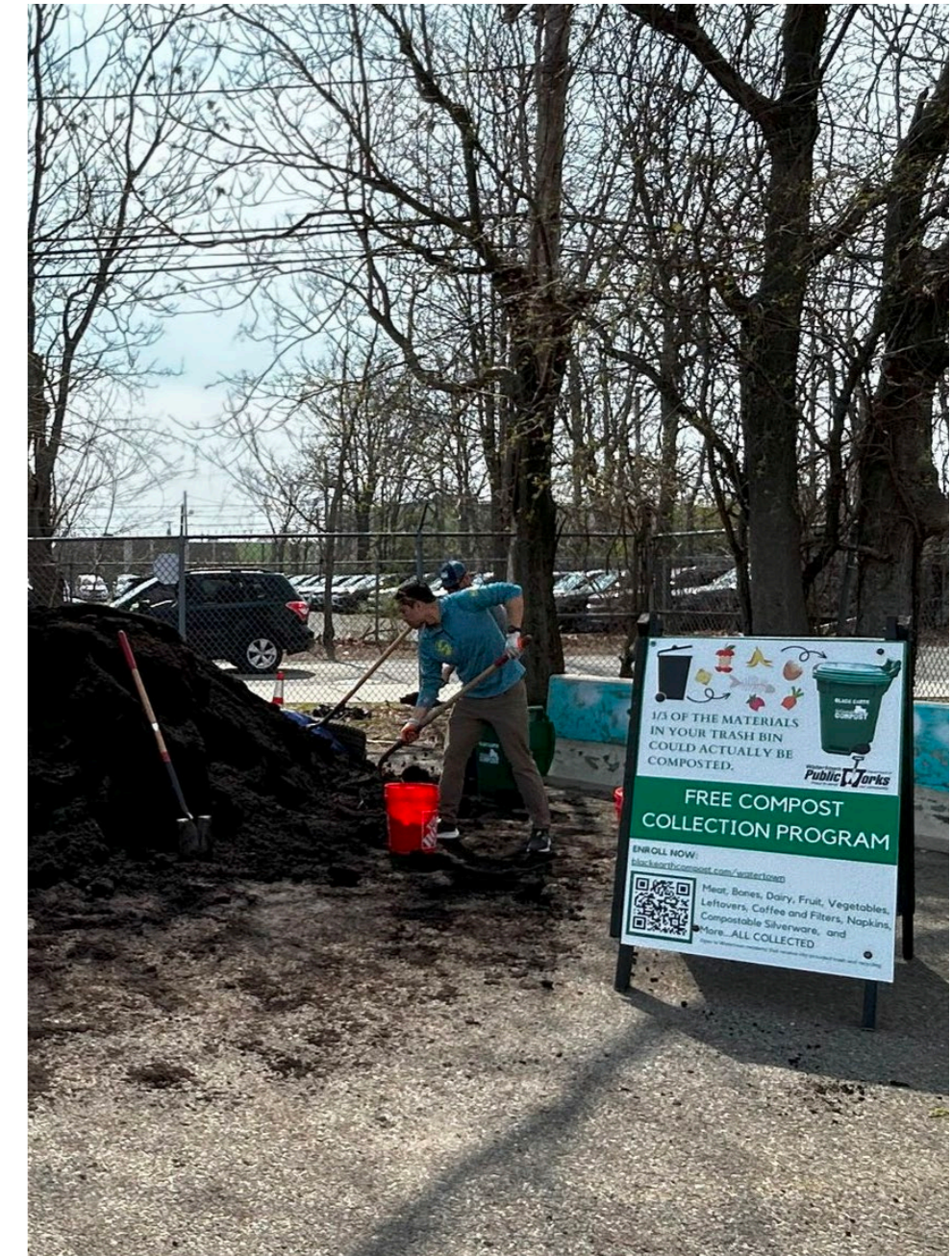
Curbside compost enrollment around 3,100 (not including May 2025 numbers)

Composting has begun at the Middle School; all schools now have back-of-house and cafeteria user composting programs

IW 1.5: Investigate opportunities to pursue a circular economy in Watertown or within the Metro

Swap Shop pilot program will open at the Recycling Center on June 7<sup>th</sup> and be open every first Saturday of the month (except July, which will be held 7/12) through October

"Skip the Stuff" ordinance being drafted at request of Council (re: single-use items for food takeout and delivery)



*Watertown residents were able to pick up free compost soil at the Earth Day event.*



# Public Health & Community Preparedness Updates

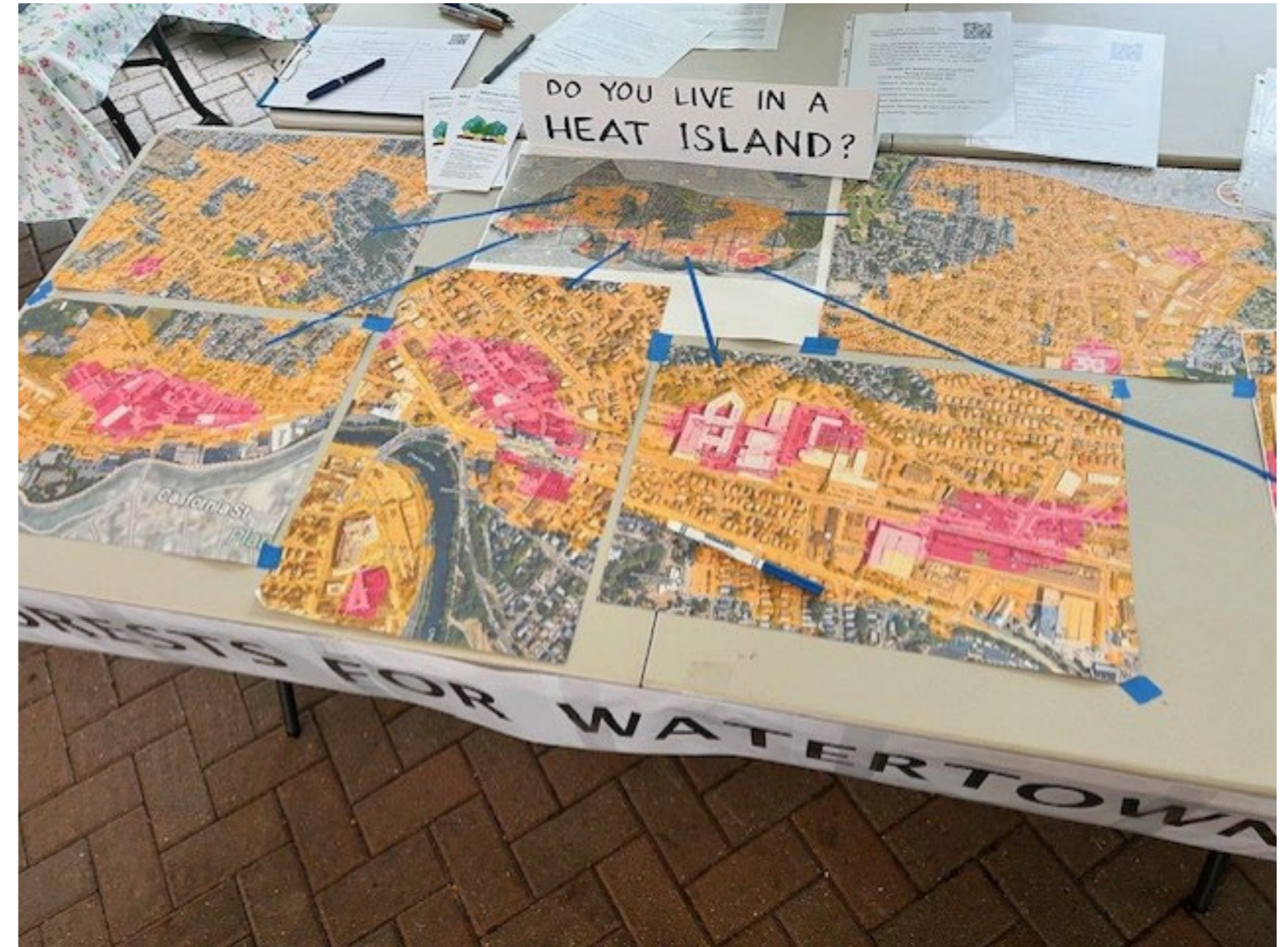
PH 2.1: Complete and climate change and health vulnerability assessment

MAPC readying draft report for internal review later this month

PH 2.2: Mitigate existing and prevent new urban heat islands in Watertown

Collaborating with Forests for Watertown to spread awareness of urban heat islands

Special attention being paid to co-locating seating and shade in playground construction projects



*FFW's table at Eco Fest featured a mapping display of Watertown's heat islands.*



# Public Health & Community Preparedness Updates

PH 4.1: Establish a network of resilience hubs that provide resources and that are easily accessible throughout the community

Staff applied for a Thriving Communities Grant in collaboration with MAPC and WHA to develop a small number of micro-resilience hubs at existing neighborhood assets. Unfortunately the Federal Administration unlawfully rescinded the grant funding, which had been authorized by Congress.

PH 4.2: Enhance the existing Live Well Watertown coalition and its programs to incorporate neighborhood connections to nature and to each other

First "Build Your Community Network" event held April 2025; follow-up sessions are being planned. The goal is to spread the importance of social connectivity for community resilience.

**Build Your**  
**WATERTOWN**  
**COMMUNITY**  
**NETWORK**

**Tuesday, April 29, 2025**  
**6:30 doors open, program 7-8:30 pm**  
**Watertown Free Public Library**

A Live Well Watertown initiative  
in collaboration with Watertown's Community Engagement  
Specialist and Watertown Community Conversations

Marketing graphic for the first in a series for Build Your Community Network.



# Next Steps

On-Street Charging  
Program study due in  
Sept 2025

Tabling at Farmers  
Market, Faire on the  
Square, and other  
summer events in  
planning stage

MVP Green Streets  
construction on  
Templeton and Dexter,  
Sept/Oct 2025

Climate and Health  
Vulnerability Study due  
late May/June 2025

## Attachment B

### RESILIENT WATERTOWN CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLAN- ACTION STATUS TRACKER

Timeframe Key
short: less than 1 year to complete
medium: 1-3 years
long: 3-5 years

Action	Plan Element	Lead Entity	Timeframe	Cost Magnitude	Status	
CC 1	Strategy CC1: Add staff capacity and resources to the Energy Manager's Office, the DPW Forestry Division, and the Department of Community Development and Planning	n/a	DCDP	ongoing	n/a	creation of new Sustainability Team within DCDP headed by Sustainability Manager (Laurel Schwab); hired a full-time Energy Advocate and full-time Sustainability Planner; added support to Energy Managers office
CC 2	Strategy CC2: Create an overarching Resilient Watertown Outreach & Education Campaign	n/a	DCDP	ongoing	n/a	utilizing comprehensive outreach calendar for 2025 with monthly themes; launching annual eco fest event
CC 3	Strategy CC3: Develop assistance mechanisms and resources for renters and landlords (regarding energy efficiency, EV charging, etc.)	n/a	DCDP	ongoing	n/a	homeworks targeting landlords with letter spring 2025; developing a renter and landlord survey and follow-up meetings with realtors; on-street EV charging study will facilitate increase of EV charging infrastructure for renters
CC 4	Strategy CC4: Collaborate regionally with other communities and entities	n/a	DCDP	ongoing	n/a	Watertown City Manager, along with 16 other communities, signed the MAPC Metro Mayors 2025 Climate Commitment, on the 10th anniversary of the original commitment.
CC 5	Strategy CC5: Explore establishing a Transportation Infrastructure Fund with funding from developers and the City to implement recommendations of this Plan	n/a	DCDP	ongoing	n/a	
CC 6	Strategy CC6: Encourage and require sustainable, climate-resilient development patterns	n/a	DCDP	ongoing	n/a	zoning overhaul launch anticipated 2025
BE 1.1	Expand and strengthen the existing solar ordinance	Buildings & Energy	DCDP	medium	\$	Working on an updated draft proposal to include Battery Energy Storage Systems as part of Solar Ordinance.
BE 1.2	Investigate commercial PACE and other financing programs	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	short	\$	Municipal Policy Analyst creating intial memo of research
BE 1.3	Outreach campaign for WEC and rooftop solar	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	short	\$	developing solar FAQ webpage and brochure
BE 2.1	Adopt the state stretch code	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$	<b>complete-</b> adopted Jan 2023 and in effect as of July 2023
BE 2.2	Enact fees for residential gas hookups to promote electrification	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$	Waiting for outcome of 10-municipality DOER pilot banning new gas hookups; DOER will be comparing results to the municipalities that adopted the specialized stretch code.
BE 2.3	Promote workforce development and training programs for net zero construction	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$	submitted letter of support for grant application by WHS to MassCEC for a clean energy workforce program; econ dev staff working with cambridge and somerville on a climate tech readiness project
BE 2.4	Work with municipalities to eliminate fossil fuels (home rules etc)	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	long	\$	Multi-town gas leaks initiative is tracking legislation
BE 2.5	Use Whole Building Life Cycle Assessment as condition for granting permits and set progressively tighter standards	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$	
BE 3.1	Investigate and support development of geo-microgrid pilot programs	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	long	\$\$\$	supporting Green Newton's exploration of a geothermal microgrid project on the watertown-newton border
BE 3.2	outreach campaign for heat pumps in residential homes	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	short	\$\$	EA has recruited 10 Heat Pump Ambassadors and 1 coach so far; will continue to host Heat Pump workshops and educational opportunities; heat pump talk and vendors at eco fest; applied for a MassCEC grant to fund a Heat Pump Coach program
BE 3.3	Incentivize transition to heat pumps	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	short	\$\$	
BE 4.1	Enact a BEUDO/BERDO	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$	submittal to Council December 2024; referred to ordinance subcommittee jan 2025; staff conducting focus groups with building owners.
BE 4.2	Provide technical assistance for clean energy, energy efficiency, and financing activities	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$\$	EA providing support to residents and small businesses; HomeWorks conducting Mass Save outreach, home energy assessments, and troubleshooting.

BE 4.3	Upgrade major existing municipal facilities to achieve net zero energy performance	Buildings & Energy	DPB	long	\$\$\$	The City has been awarded by DOER the designation of "Climate Leader Community". This will allow for new grant opportunities to work on decarbonizing the city. The City is continuing forward with the electricity purchased for city owned buildings to be 100% green by 2035. This is fifteen years earlier than the State mandate of 2025. At present the City is buying 20% more green electricity than the State mandate.
BE 4.4	Develop a bulk procurement and purchasing program to support smaller commercial properties with deep energy retrofits	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$	EA following up with Mass Save and partners to assess effectiveness of this concept
BE 4.5	Incentivize large grocery stores and buildings with significant refrigeration to get certified in EPA GreenChill program to reduce HFCs	Buildings & Energy	Energy Mgr	short	\$\$	EA following up with Mass Save and partners to assess effectiveness of this concept
TM 1.1	install bike and ped-only infrastructure for protected and off-street connections	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP/DPW	medium	\$\$\$	Safe Streets for All grant awarded for education on street safety, Safe Systems Approach-infrastructure & quick-build projects; bike parking ordinance adopted for Watertown Square; ongoing coordination with DPW on complete streets, community path, and Watertown-Cambridge Greenway; Bluebikes stations installed at 99 Coolidge & near 66 Galen; new shared-use path connecting 99 Coolidge with Arsenal Street. Mobility Study currently analyzing for upcoming recommendations for additional bike/ped infrastructure. Upcoming coordination with DPW on future Complete Streets prioritization. Upcoming closer look at Watertown Bike-Ped Plan to itemize upcoming bike/ped implementation recommendations.
TM 1.2	collaborate regionally to increase and improve pathways for bikes and peds	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	medium	\$	coordination with other communities on Western Ave, Newton Corner, and Bluebikes network planning. Ramping up of coordination with City of Newton on overlapping bike/ped infrastructure & projects along our boundary area.
TM 1.3	increase use of transit, bike and ped travel through outreach, incentives, policy changes	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	long	\$\$	Expansion of bikeshare stations in discussion for 2025; TDM monitoring is now taking place and will inform a regulation update to better align with climate plan goals
TM 1.4	Work with MBTA to improve accessibility of routes, stops, and CharlieCard purchasing stations within Watertown, and electrification of the bus fleet	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	long	\$	In active discussions with various MBTA divisions to increase Charlie Card vending, stop improvements (e.g. new T stop design guidelines), and for upcoming route changes (short-term and Bus Network Redesign).
TM 1.5	Implement bus prioritization projects such as dedicated lanes and signal priority	Transportation & Mobility	DPW	medium	\$\$\$	current coordination with DPW and MBTA on traffic synchronization/AI
TM 1.6	Develop an integrated, publicly accessible electric transit system that connects to MBTA and other points of interest not accessible by MBTA, including on-demand transportation options	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	long	\$\$\$	mobility study launched jan 2025 with stantec & Journey. In discussions with Watertown TMA and our shuttle operator about improving our existing WATConnector (microtransit) service.
TM 2.1	Create and implement EV roadmap	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	short	\$\$\$	MAPC assisting with guidance for existing multifamily buildings; City was selected to receive technical support from MassCEC to produce a feasibility study for on-street charging opportunities (currently underway)
TM 2.2	Transition all city-owned, leased, and contracted vehicles to electric, including school bus, garbage truck, and maintenance fleets	Transportation & Mobility	DPW/purchasing	long	\$\$\$	City Council adopted a Zero Emission Vehicle First (ZEV) policy as part of Climate Leader Communities process for DOER. Just under 5% of city fleet are EVs. Police Dept recently purchased its first 4 EVs and will have fleet-only charging at the station.
TM 2.3	Support the development of Multi-Use Parking Arrangements to develop EV charging at places of worship and other organizations with large parking lots in residential neighborhoods	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	medium	\$	conducting precedent research
TM 2.4	Develop an outreach and incentive campaign to those with a vehicle over 10 years old to promote and incentivize EV purchase	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	medium	\$\$	
TM 2.5	increase availability of charging stations on municipal property	Transportation & Mobility	Energy Mgr	medium	\$\$\$	City has implemented a charge fee for EV Chargers to help offset cost of adding more EV chargers.

TM 2.6	Incentivize homeowners and landlords to install EV chargers	Transportation & Mobility	DCDP	long	\$\$\$	promoting state rebate
NR 1.1	Incorporate pocket parks into all neighborhoods lacking green space	Natural Resources	DCDP	long	\$\$	Tufts UEP Masters Program Field Projects students conducted a feasibility and design study of new small-scale public spaces; Hawthorne St micro-park meeting/design process underway
NR 1.2	Promote biodiversity improvements to existing and new parks and open space by codifying existing DPW planting and maintenance practices and strengthening requirements for private development	Natural Resources	DCDP/DPW	medium	\$	DPW now has a specialty landscaping contractor to maintain green infrastructure installations and pollinator gardens; City recently issued a bid for an Urban Wild Management Plan for Whitney Hill Park. It will focus on long-term plans for the park, including invasive species management, trail maintenance, etc. (approved by Con Comm)
NR 1.3	acquire more open space and create open space on private property	Natural Resources	DCDP	long	\$\$\$	Walker Pond project: site conditions and ecological study wrapping up; community meeting and a survey expected summer 2025
NR 1.4	Establish equitable and accessible natural-habitat corridors along water bodies, trails, and utility easement areas, and protect existing ones	Natural Resources	DCDP/DPW	medium	\$\$	WCG applied for mass trails grant jan 2025
NR 2.1	establish a tree ordinance	Natural Resources	DCDP	medium	\$	DPW Superintendent wishes to conduct tree canopy loss analysis and regulatory impact assessment before proceeding with bill
NR 2.2	outreach program to increase awareness of urban forest's role in climate change and mitigation	Natural Resources	DCDP	short	\$	embedded in our outreach calendar strategy (Feb month is tree theme)
NR 2.3	increase tree plantings and prioritize plantings in areas at risk for urban heat impacts	Natural Resources	DPW/Forestry	medium	\$\$	Completed planting of 100 trees funded by US Forest Service Grant; Acquired a \$100k grant from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to add trees to environmental justice designated areas of Watertown
NR 3.1	outreach and education on regenerative landscaping	Natural Resources	DCDP	medium	\$	City Manager signed Mayor's Monarch Pledge to promote pollinator species; DCDP doing associated comms/outreach and coordination with groups such as Watertown Community Gardens, who have formed a coalition called Watertown Pollinator Pathways. Volunteer-supported pollinator garden installations on public property occur each spring and fall, led by DPW. staff created a publicly accessible pollinator garden GIS map layer and yard signs for residents.
NR 3.2	Utilize school gardens and community gardens as nature-based landscaping demonstration sites	Natural Resources	WPS	medium	\$	summer garden internship wasn't able to be organized for summer 2025, but the school district has a new garden coordinator and we're looking forward to working with her to restart it next year.
NR 3.3	update regs to require native plants/de-emphasize lawn species	Natural Resources	DCDP	short	\$	DCDP staff reviewing all regs/policies that need to be updated or augmented as part of comprehensive zoning update (forthcoming); green score
NR 4.1	Expand and accelerate existing Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) policies and management programs for public projects	Natural Resources	DPW	medium	\$	City was awarded a nearly \$1M MVP Action Grant for Phase 2 of the Community Greening Program, which adds green infrastructure to neighborhood streets in areas most vulnerable to climate impacts (heat and flooding). Phase 2 will see construction on Templeton Pkwy and Dexter Ave. As part of this project our consultants are also developing a monitoring and maintenance protocol for all public GSI installations.
NR 4.2	Promote and/or incentivize the incorporation of green stormwater infrastructure into existing large impervious areas	Natural Resources	DPW	long	\$\$	conducting precedent research
NR 4.3	Enhance incentives and ongoing education related to individual actions such as rain barrels, planting strips, and de-paving private residential properties	Natural Resources	DPW	medium	\$\$	Watertown Pollinator Pathways is encouraging residents to populate their planting strips via a new brochure
IW 1.1	Create a bulk purchasing network for compostable and environmentally friendly goods among the commercial and industrial sectors	Infrastructure & Waste	DCDP	medium	\$	conducting precedent research
IW 1.2	outreach campaign on reducing consumption across all categories	Infrastructure & Waste	DPW	medium	\$	April 19th Earth Day recycling event promoted curbside composting, paper shredding, and materials recycling (as well as a tree giveaway)
IW 1.3	Create an organics recycling program	Infrastructure & Waste	DPW	short	\$\$	current enrollment at about 3,000 residents; student and back of house composting now conducted at all schools
IW 1.4	Establish an Environmentally Preferable Purchasing policy (EPP) that focuses on reducing consumption, particularly of single use items within municipal government	Infrastructure & Waste	Purchasing	short	\$	Drafting a Sustainable Procurement Policy and guidelines

IW 1.5	Investigate opportunities to pursue a circular economy in Watertown or within the Metro Boston region	Infrastructure & Waste	DPW	medium	\$	Swap Shop pilot program will open at the Recycling Center on June 7th and be open every first Saturday of the month (except July, which will be held 7/12) through October; "Skip the Stuff" ordinance being drafted at request of Council (re: single-use items for food takeout and delivery)
IW 2.1	require all major new and upgraded infrastructure to incorporate resilient design guidelines	Infrastructure & Waste	DPW	medium	\$	conducting initial research
IW 2.2	Review and enhance current infrastructure maintenance systems and protocols to align with the needs of a changing climate	Infrastructure & Waste	DPW	medium	\$	
IW 2.3	Advocate for removal of Watertown Dam	Infrastructure & Waste	DCDP	long	\$	one of the expert pairings installations is focused on dam removal (CRWA is science entity in the pairing)
IW 2.4	investigate back up power/microgrid/battery options for public bldgs	Infrastructure & Waste	DPB	medium	\$\$\$	
PH 1.1	outreach campaign about climate preparedness	Public Health & Preparedness	Health	short	\$	september is preparedness theme on outreach calendar
PH 1.2	Actively recruit volunteers to participate in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program	Public Health & Preparedness	Health	short	\$	investigating feasibility
PH 2.1	complete a climate change and health vulnerability assessment	Public Health & Preparedness	Health	medium	\$	assessment is underway in coordination with MAPC via a technical assistance grant; final report expected spring/summer 2025
PH 2.2	mitigate existing and prevent new urban heat islands	Public Health & Preparedness	DCDP	medium	\$\$\$	Open Space staff working with DPW and Schools to prioritize shade/cooling options for school playgrounds and park redesigns; coordinating with Forests for Watertown to spread awareness of heat islands in Watertown
PH 2.3	Continue to enhance access to local food by expanding resources and support for food pantries and community fridge programs, community gardens, and the Farmers' Market for those who are food insecure	Public Health & Preparedness	Health	medium	\$\$	Community Wellness PM is working to establish a food access working group with state org support
PH 3.1	Identify and reduce structural barriers (e.g., internet access, language and cultural barriers, cognitive and/or physical disabilities, social isolation, access to services and emergency information) that prevent individuals and neighborhoods from taking care of themselves during and after extreme weather	Public Health & Preparedness	Health/DCDP	medium	\$\$	will be conducted as part of Climate and Health Vulnerability Assessment
PH 3.2	Require all commercial building owners to rebroadcast and post Watertown Alert announcements to building occupants in English and Spanish	Public Health & Preparedness	DCDP	medium	\$	
PH 3.3	launch a "sign up" campaign to ensure equitable access to communication resources	Public Health & Preparedness	Health/IT	short	\$	
PH 3.4	Enhance emergency info on city website	Public Health & Preparedness	IT	short	\$	complete
PH 4.1	Establish a network of resilience hubs that provide resources (e.g., cooling, phonecharging, pantry) that are easily accessible throughout the community	Public Health & Preparedness	Health/Fire	medium	\$\$	applied for a Thriving Communities Grant to pilot micro-mobility hubs but funding was rescinded by federal administration so we are actively seeking other grant opps that would fit
PH 4.2	Enhance the Live Well Watertown coalition and its programs	Public Health & Preparedness	DPH	medium	\$\$	First "Build Your Community Network" event held April 2025; follow-up sessions are being planned. The goal is to spread the importance of social connectivity for community resilience.

## **Attachment C**

In Person – Jeanne Trubek, Deborah Peterson, Ernesta Kraczkiewicz, Mia Kania, Katie Swan

Online – Brian Hebeison, Carol Bates, David Stokes, Fangxue, Jolly Tager, Larry Raskin, Wall