

**RESILIENT WATERTOWN CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLAN- ACTION STATUS AS OF JAN 2024**

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

	Action	Plan Element	Timeframe	Status as of January 2024
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	ongoing	New position of Environmental Planner added, hired Katie Swan November 2022; Energy Manager position made full time, hired Silas Fyler; funded part-time Energy Advocate position through a Mass Save Community First Partnership grant, hired Ryan Hamilton September 2023 but he left January 2024 so we are re-hiring that position.
CC 2	Strategy CC2: Create an overarching Resilient Watertown Outreach & Education Campaign	n/a	ongoing	consultants providing monthly social media content and website maintenance; WE3C launched an Outreach Working Group to oversee and augment all engagement activities; Resilient Watertown Newsletter launched Sept 2023; WE3C working group working on a revamp of the Resilient Watertown website
CC 3	Strategy CC3: Develop assistance mechanisms and resources for renters and landlords (regarding energy efficiency, EV charging, etc.)	n/a	ongoing	working with KLA to add to Resilient Housing Resource Center webpage; Mass Save Community First Partnership grant will fund Energy Advocate position's efforts to inform renters and landlords of programs available to them and assist them in the process
CC 4	Strategy CC4: Collaborate regionally with other communities and entities	n/a	ongoing	participating in Resilient Mystic Collaborative and Charles River Climate Compact; joined MAPC Metro Mayors Coalition and attending climate-related meetings; participating in Multi-town gas leaks working group; participating in statewide Building Electrification Accelerator
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	ongoing	0
CC 6	Strategy CC6: Encourage and require sustainable, climate-resilient development patterns	n/a	ongoing	Comprehensive Plan update references this need; Goal 1 is to "be a leader on municipal sustainability and managing climate impacts." Comprehensive zoning and development regulation review and overhaul forthcoming. Watertown Square planning process launched Sept 2023.
BE 1.1	Expand and strengthen the existing solar ordinance	Buildings & Energy	medium	0
BE 1.2	Investigate commercial PACE and other financing programs	Buildings & Energy	short	0
BE 1.3	Outreach campaign for WEC and rooftop solar	Buildings & Energy	short	in 2022 WE3C completed multiple social media and paper copy drops on Watertown Electricity Choice and programs that provide heating / heating system repair (i.e. LIHEAP Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) along with Mass Save rebate and weatherization information. we have continued with social media along with Farmer's Market & Faire On the Square tabling.
BE 2.1	Adopt the state stretch code	Buildings & Energy	medium	City Council unanimously approved the Specialized Opt-In stretch code on 10 Jan 2023 City Council meeting. Watertown is one of the first two adopters of the Specialized Stretch Code in the State with this becoming effective July 10th, 2023. Building Department has undergone training.
BE 2.2	Enact fees for residential gas hookups to promote electrification	Buildings & Energy	medium	0
BE 2.3	Promote workforce development and training programs for net zero construction	Buildings & Energy	medium	

BE 2.4	Work with municipalities to eliminate fossil fuels (home rules etc)	Buildings & Energy	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	medium	0
BE 3.1	Investigate and support development of geo-microgrid pilot programs	Buildings & Energy	long	City Hall complex under evaluation for ground source heat pump system
BE 3.2	outreach campaign for heat pumps in residential homes	Buildings & Energy	short	0
BE 3.3	Incentivize transition to heat pumps	Buildings & Energy	short	Energy Advocate has been assisting residents interested in heat pumps
BE 4.1	Enact a BEUDO/BERDO	Buildings & Energy	medium	WE3C Net Zero working group is working on a draft ordinance.
BE 4.2	Provide technical assistance for clean energy, energy efficiency, and financing activities	Buildings & Energy	medium	Energy Advocate is helping residents access energy efficiency incentives through Mass Save. More capacity is needed for clean energy and financing.
BE 4.3	Upgrade major municipal facilities to net zero	Buildings & Energy	long	study of city hall, library, and parker building is underway. Net-zero high school construction to begin soon. Letter of intent to install solar on middle school roof.
BE 4.4	Develop a bulk procurement and purchasing program to support smaller commercial properties with deep energy retrofits	Buildings & Energy	medium	0
BE 4.5	Incentivize large grocery stores and buildings with significant refrigeration to get certified in EPA GreenChill program to reduce HFCs	Buildings & Energy	short	0
TM 1.1	install bike and ped-only infrastructure for protected and off-street connections	Transportation & Mobility	medium	bike path connection thru Arsenal Park being constructed as part of Phase B renovations; Taylor Street segment of community path is complete; Charles River path connection behind 580 Pleasant and rink completed; Mount Auburn St complete streets redesign starting construction; off-street path along Howard/Bacon Streets complete; Watertown Square plan considering additional bike/ped facilities; Galen St bike/ped facilities nearly complete; Coolidge Ave bike/ped path under construction and wayfinding work in progress; safety improvements to crossing along Watertown-Cambridge Path at Arsenal Way being completed
TM 1.2	collaborate regionally to increase and improve pathways for bikes and peds	Transportation & Mobility	medium	Continued coordination with MBTA on incorporating bike/ped infrastructure within their projects, particularly along Arsenal, Pleasant, and in the Squares
TM 1.3	increase use of transit, bike and ped travel through outreach, incentives, policy changes	Transportation & Mobility	long	comprehensive plan suggests parking maximums; acquired easements along arsenal st for 6 new bus shelters; expansion of bikeshare and TMA thru new developments. Expansion of transit options including carshare, carpool/vanpool, and shuttles in coordination with TMA and new development projects. Expansion of bikeshare stations in progress for 2024 season. Bicycle parking zoning regulations under study for improvement
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	long	0
TM 1.5	Implement bus prioritization projects such as dedicated lanes and signal priority	Transportation & Mobility	medium	Watertown and MBTA in discussion about locations and options for bus prioritization including dedicated bus lanes, transit signal priority, all-door boarding
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	long	Received ARPA funds for a study for City-supported local transit, including microtransit. Also submitted MassDOT Transit Innovation grant application for a microtransit project in partnership with TMA
TM 2.1	Create and implement EV roadmap	Transportation & Mobility	short	GIS layer of all existing EV chargers has been created; planning to put map of public chargers on city website. Fleet electrification and charging infrastructure study launched: DPW has developed a fleet replacement schedule based on end-of-life, cost, market availability, etc. Staff has conducted initial identification of "low hanging fruit" opportunities for additional municipal charging locations. Developing RFP for consultant help on feasibility and phasing of more challenging areas/gaps in service

TM 2.2	Transition all city-owned, leased, and contracted vehicles to electric, including school bus, garbage truck, and maintenance fleets	Transportation & Mobility	long	DPW has created inventory and replacement schedule for all its vehicles. need police and fire to do the same.
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	medium	part of charging infrastructure study
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	medium	0
TM 2.5	increase availability of charging stations on municipal property	Transportation & Mobility	medium	Hosmer & Cunniff School chargers online (7 heads), 2 new chargers installed for shuttle buses at old Police Station, Howard Street parking lot chargers in process, several locations submitted for Eversource Make-Ready grants - Spring Street (Municipal lot) Nichols Ave & the John Ryan ice rink, along with the Parker Building are being evaluated. partnering with Witricity to create a demonstration site for wireless EV charging. 3 chargers installed at Howard St parking lot. 1 installed at Lowell School.
TM 2.6	Incentivize homeowners and landlords to install EV chargers	Transportation & Mobility	long	part of charging infrastructure study
NR 1.1	Incorporate pocket parks into all neighborhoods lacking green space	Natural Resources	long	currently thru private dev: watertown mall is example. also a priority for watertown square plan according to public input
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	medium	specialty landscape maintenance bid has been proposed by parks supervisor; City and advocates working on a microforest demonstration project at the Lowell School
NR 1.3	acquire more open space and create open space on private property	Natural Resources	long	Walker Pond acquisition; CPC application for passive and active space improvements submitted fall 2023. Open space being designed into several ongoing redevelopments, including Watertown Mall and 66 Galen St complex.
NR 1.4	Establish equitable and accessible natural-habitat corridors along water bodies, trails, and utility easement areas, and protect existing ones	Natural Resources	medium	WCG group focused on removing invasive plant species along Watertown-Cambridge Greenway in 2023
NR 2.1	establish a tree ordinance	Natural Resources	medium	DPW and advocates are working together on a refined draft to be submitted to City Council
NR 2.2	outreach program to increase awareness of urban forest's role in climate change and mitigation	Natural Resources	short	new annual bare-root tree giveaway program; city social media tie-ins planned for spring and fall. Tree warden also working on informational tags for all newly planted street trees. Senior Environmental Planner speaking at Trees for Watertown annual meeting.
NR 2.3	increase tree plantings and prioritize plantings in areas at risk for urban heat impacts	Natural Resources	medium	The City of Watertown Planted 162 trees during the Fall 2022 planting season, along with giving residents 65 'bare root' trees for planting on their property. Tree inventory has been completed, which includes all existing street trees along with areas well suited for new plantings. DCR Urban and Community Forestry Challenge grants were awarded to complete this effort. planted 360 street trees in 2023, plus continuation of the resident tree give away program. also received a \$240K grant from rep katherine clark for stormwater tree trenches and a \$100,000 IRA grant for street trees. Establishing a young tree training program to help shape new trees and prepare them for a strong and healthy future.

NR 3.1	outreach and education on regenerative landscaping	Natural Resources	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.
NR 3.2	Utilize school gardens and community gardens as nature-based landscaping demonstration sites	Natural Resources	medium	ACR Garden Intern program, summer '23 and summer '24 (planned)
NR 3.3	update regs to require native plants/de-emphasize lawn species	Natural Resources	short	DCDP staff are reviewing potential changes and will likely fold into a larger code reform effort (tied to outcomes of comprehensive plan update)
NR 4.1	Expand and accelerate existing Green Stormwater Infrastructure (GSI) policies and management programs for public projects	Natural Resources	medium	installed approx. 25 tree trenches in 2023
NR 4.2	Promote and/or incentivize the incorporation of green stormwater infrastructure into existing large impervious areas	Natural Resources	long	0
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	medium	0
IW 1.1	Create a bulk purchasing network for compostable and environmentally friendly goods among the commercial and industrial sectors	Infrastructure & Waste	medium	0
IW 1.2	outreach campaign on reducing consumption across all categories	Infrastructure & Waste	medium	Annual recycling mailer and additional mailers to be sent to all residents 2024. Recycle Coordinator "office hours" at the farmer's markets—potential for more of these in other location. Billboard campaign to promote compost program in summer 2023. New recycle tote informational stickers to be added to all totes in 2024. Trash and Recycling Ordinance will be introduced to Council in 2024 with phased-in changes and education to ensure compliance.
IW 1.3	Create an organics recycling program	Infrastructure & Waste	short	Watertown has enrolled 2,700 residents (initial budget was for 1500), has incorporated composting into the schools, plus drop off bins at the recycle center for organic waste composting.
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	short	0
IW 1.5	Investigate opportunities to pursue a circular economy in Watertown or within the Metro Boston region	Infrastructure & Waste	medium	Textile recycling implemented, approximately 1,900 pounds per month are being diverted from the trash stream, almost 95% of that is reused or recycled. Added fees for large burnable items this has reduced this trash stream. Cardboard compactor is being added to recycling center in order to free up space for a swap shop. looking into establishing re-usable takeout container program.
IW 2.1	require all major new and upgraded infrastructure to incorporate resilient design guidelines	Infrastructure & Waste	medium	0
IW 2.2	Review and enhance current infrastructure maintenance systems and protocols to align with the needs of a changing climate	Infrastructure & Waste	medium	connected to health vulnerability assessment and with livewell neighborhood group concept
IW 2.3	Advocate for removal of Watertown Dam	Infrastructure & Waste	long	City Council voted to send a letter of support for removal of the dam to the DCR; Charles River Watershed Association accepted an invitation to table at Faire on the Square 2023 to do additional advocacy on the topic. CRWA also hosting a tour for City staff with DCR Commissioner, Fish and Game, and local reps in Sept 2023.

IW 2.4	investigate back up power/microgrid/battery options for public bldgs	Infrastructure & Waste	medium	battery storage installed at Hosmer School
PH 1.1	outreach campaign about climate preparedness	Public Health & Preparedness	short	Health Department continues to inform and educate the public on issues such as COVID, Flu Shots, tick and mosquito born infectious diseases along with emergency preparedness prior to and during climate related weather emergencies.
PH 1.2	Actively recruit volunteers to participate in the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) program	Public Health & Preparedness	short	0
PH 2.1	complete a climate change and health vulnerability assessment	Public Health & Preparedness	medium	technical assistance proposal submitted to MAPC Jan/Feb 2024
PH 2.2	mitigate existing and prevent new urban heat islands	Public Health & Preparedness	medium	Forestry and DCDP working to focus new tree plantings in heat island areas for 2023.
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	medium	working to ID additional opportunities for community gardens on public property. ARPA funds were awarded for a food equity coordinator as well as additional money for farmers market, food pantry, and community fridge.
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	medium	0
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	medium	0
PH 3.3	launch a "sign up" campaign to ensure equitable access to communication resources	Public Health & Preparedness	short	advertised WatertownAlert system at farmer's market and Faire on the Square
PH 3.4	Enhance emergency info on city website	Public Health & Preparedness	short	IT has continually updated the City Website to enhance the user experience and to streamline information retrieval. 311 service launching.
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	medium	0
PH 4.2	Enhance the Live Well Watertown coalition and its programs	Public Health & Preparedness	medium	Live Well Watertown is working with Riverside neighborhood group to pilot new concepts; developing a toolkit for local neighborhood groups to use.