

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF  
ADAPTATION PROFESSIONALS

# SNAPSHOT Coastal Community Resilience Grants for StormSmart Climate Adaptation

## Challenges

With more than 1,500 miles of coastline, Massachusetts coastal communities experience property and infrastructures damages, natural resource losses, and economic disruptions from coastal storms and other natural hazards. These impacts are projected to worsen and broaden with the effects of climate change.



LEAD ORGANIZATION  
**Massachusetts Office  
of Coastal Zone  
Management**

STATE  
**Massachusetts**

TYPE OF ADAPTATION  
**Restoration and  
Resilience**

[mass.gov/eea/agencies/  
czm/program-areas/  
stormsmart-coasts/grants](http://mass.gov/eea/agencies/czm/program-areas/stormsmart-coasts/grants)

### CHALLENGES

Disruptions from  
coastal storms

### CHALLENGES

Infrastructure  
damages

## Solution

### SOLUTIONS

Coastal Community  
Resilience Grant

### SOLUTIONS

Green Infrastructure  
for Coastal  
Resilience Grant

To help communities address these issues, the Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management's (CZM) StormSmart Coasts program launched the Coastal Community Resilience and Green Infrastructure for Coastal Resilience Grant Programs in 2014. These coastal resilience grant programs are open to the commonwealth's 78 coastal cities and towns as well as eligible nonprofit organizations. The programs are designed to directly support coastal communities by providing financial and technical resources for proactive efforts to address current and future coastal flooding and erosion while maintaining important natural shoreline systems.

Current grant projects involve local conservation commissions, engineering and public works departments, planning and economic development agencies, beach managers, elected officials, environmental advocacy groups, architects, coastal geologists, hydrodynamic modelers, communication and outreach specialists, and others. These diverse partnerships are helping implement on-the-ground actions and cultivate long-term support of community adaptation efforts; a critical factor in achieving climate resilience across the commonwealth and region.

# Results

In 2014, CZM awarded over \$5 million (leveraging over \$2.6 million in additional funding) to 27 different coastal cities, towns, and nonprofit organizations for the implementation of 37 adaptation projects. Examples of local projects include building and enhancing dunes and beaches using new methodologies and materials, establishing the first beach grass nurseries and ribbed mussel hatchery in Massachusetts, restoring coastal floodplain through the removal of obsolete structures, relocating and elevating critical infrastructure, assessing community-wide climate change vulnerability, and identifying other adaptation strategies to reduce risks.

Local interests are best informed of previous hazard impacts, community objectives and resident interests, and have the most direct stake in managing future storms and climate change, yet many communities have limited staff or lack the technical expertise to adapt development and infrastructure in more sustainable ways. The grant programs provide direct financial and technical support to improve local capacity to plan, design, permit, and implement an effective adaptation strategy.



RIBBED MUSSEL  
HATCHERIES

37  
ADAPTATION  
PROJECTS

BUILD &  
ENHANCE  
DUNES &  
BEACHES

27  
COASTAL  
CITIES, TOWNS  
& NONPROFIT  
ORGANIZATIONS

BEACH GRASS  
NURSERIES

\$5  
MILLION  
FUNDED

# Next Steps

As the 37 projects progress, continued capital investment will be evaluated. If future funding is secured, CZM looks to expand the grant program. In the meantime, CZM will continue to administer the current projects, evaluate outcomes, communicate best practices, and transfer approaches to other communities.

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