

## **Twenty Eight Things You Can Do – as a MUNICIPALITY -**

### **to Decrease Your Input to and Get Ready for a Changing Climate**

#### **To decrease contribution to climate change:**

1. Make your municipality walkable and bikeable (including access to transit).
2. Transition to fuel efficient vehicles in your fleet. Support carpooling and transit use for your staff and encourage walking or biking to work to stay healthy!
3. Avoid allowing/encouraging sprawl in your land use planning.
4. Consider making your municipality a Tree City and explore adding green infrastructure like street trees. Encourage residents to have more tree cover in their yards.
5. Use energy efficiently – buy energy star products (light bulbs & appliances), turn off and unplug electronics when not in use. Consider this for streetlights as well.
6. Weatherize municipal buildings and use drapes for the windows (keeps heat in winter, keeps sun/heat out in summer)
7. Introduce local initiatives including increased efficiency in all buildings and your local businesses.
8. Purchase clean/renewable energy sources from your electricity provider, or install a renewable energy system.
9. Waste less – set up re-use rooms for office supplies and other goods and compost kitchen scraps.
10. Recycle – recycling 1 aluminum can saves enough energy to power a TV or computer for 3 hours!
11. Use rain barrels to collect water from roof tops to use for plants and outdoor clean up.
12. Support locally produced food to reduce transportation and support your local economy.
13. Know Your Footprint – calculate your carbon footprint on-line (many free on-line calculators) and support local energy committees.
14. Use your Voice - Tell your community members, friends, family, network and other elected officials that climate change matters to you and encourage action.

#### **To prepare for the impacts from climate change:**

1. Initiate community conversations to support preparedness in your town.
2. Pay attention to warnings for strong storms.
3. Have a community preparedness plan for emergencies or storm events (include pets!) such as, heating and cooling centers with back-up generators, areas to re-charge cell phones etc...
4. Encourage residents to be prepared to be without electricity (keep jugs for water, non-perishable food and batteries on hand).
5. Know community members and neighbors who are dependent on electricity for health reasons (i.e. oxygen) and have neighbor-to-neighbor support available and in place.
6. Introduce local initiatives including back-up power for municipal buildings and local gathering points accessible by walking. Support culvert maintenance, tree removal etc... to ensure that there are safe areas even if roads are washed out and power is down.
7. Conduct vulnerability assessments to understand which parts of your community are subject to flooding, washouts, and other weather related impacts. Consider up scaling infrastructure for higher rain events the next time your community is working on infrastructure in those areas.

8. Use your hazard mitigation plan as a place to start identifying hazards and areas to focus mitigation efforts.
9. Use your capital improvement plan to set aside funds for mitigation efforts as well as repairs after storm damage.
10. Explore ways to limit development, protect important parcels of land and preserve tree cover on steep slopes – and look at classifying more slopes as steep.
11. Encourage community members to do regular tick checks after being outside and be aware of early warning signs of Lyme disease and other vector borne diseases.
12. Work with your local agricultural and climate-dependent businesses (e.g. ski resorts, maple syrup producers, farmers) to have business continuity plans and explore adaptation strategies.
13. Plan for the impact of vectors like diseases and pests (e.g. Ash trees should not be allowed as street trees and or for landscaping due to the Emerald Ash Borer).
14. Work with local health agencies in case of epidemics or extreme weather conditions.