

Climate Equity in Metro West

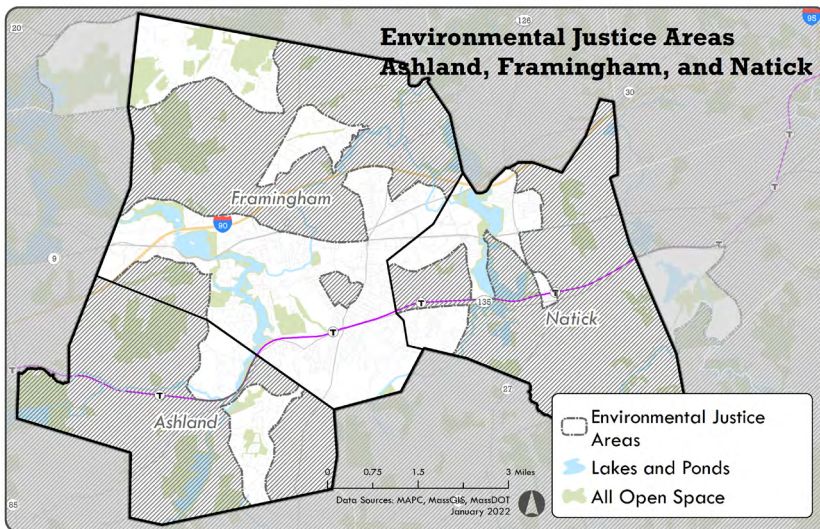
Environmental Justice Communities

Ashland, Natick, and Framingham are working together on a project with two important goals:

1. Learning from the people who live and work in Environmental Justice (EJ) neighborhoods about how they experience climate change and how we can help people bounce back from climate events
2. Building relationships with residents in these neighborhoods and community based organizations so we can work together on actions to stop climate change from getting worse.

They're calling this work the MetroWest Climate Equity Project.

EJ neighborhoods are more likely to be home to people of color, lower-income households, and people who speak English less than very well.



Why are we focusing on environmental justice communities?

Residents of communities predominantly home to people of color and low-income individuals experience the worse effects from climate change, including poor air and water quality, extreme weather, and the rising cost of essential resources. Their experience and the strategies that they have developed to cope with these impacts can lead to more effective long-term solutions.

That EJ communities face higher exposure to the harms of pollution and climate change is not by accident.

Forcing indigenous communities to leave their homes, weak workplace protections for jobs held mostly by immigrants and people of color, residential discrimination, and the siting of low-income housing near toxic facilities, highways, and within wetlands all represent decisions by institutions and government that have threatened the safety and wellbeing of these communities.

Prioritizing climate action in EJ communities and the solutions identified by those most impacted is critical to achieving a future where all people are protected from environmental harm and benefit from the transition to a greener future.



To learn more about the project, visit:

www.mapc.org/resource-library/metro-west-climate-equity/

Metro West's climate is already changing and not everyone is equally affected



What have we done to advance climate equity?

Ashland, Natick, and Framingham have been working to prevent and prepare for climate change for almost a decade. Each has also taken steps to become a more inclusive and equitable community.



Want to get involved?

Let us know how you think we can make Ashland, Natick, and Framingham healthier and stronger in the face of climate change:

- In Spring 2022, a team of resident researchers—the Community Climate Liaisons—will be talking with residents to learn about their experiences and ideas for actions.
- This summer, we will also be holding Climate Conversation public events to engage even more residents around the topic of potential climate solutions.

Email us at MWClimateEquity@mapc.org.