



Climate Change in Framingham



What is climate change? Why is it happening?

We all use energy to heat and cool our homes, power our electronics, and drive our cars. Many of these energy sources use fossil fuels, which release greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions like carbon dioxide (CO2) into the air. This form of pollution impacts our communities and the atmosphere, leading to climate change.



Climate change specifically refers to the long-term shift in temperatures and weather patterns. Shifts can be natural, but since the 1800s, human activities have intensified these changes. Climate change is contributing to unpredictable weather and increasing the presence of extreme heat, storms, droughts, and more.

How are residents experiencing climate change in Framingham? Does everyone experience climate change the same way?



More allergies, ticks, and mosquitos



Unsafe water quality in local lakes and ponds



More severe storms and weather that bring heat, waves, flooding, and high winds



Expensive groceries and food shortages

The impacts of climate change identified above are felt all across Framingham, but some community members can face higher exposure or to these hazards, or climate vulnerability.

Climate Vulnerability: characteristics that reduce our ability to adapt to or cope with climate change impacts once we are exposed. Vulnerable communities can experience the worst effects from climate change, including poor air and water quality, extreme weather, and the rising cost of essential resources.



For example, neighborhoods across Framingham may be home to residents with characteristics that make them more vulnerable to climate change impacts. We refer to these neighborhoods Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities. Massachusetts uses three demographic criteria (low-income, minority, and English isolation) to designate a community as an EJ community. EJ communities are more often impacted by pollution and climate change because of the historical disinvestment.

How can we address climate change?



Climate change will increasingly impact the health of our community, environment, and economy. Taking action to **mitigate** our contribution to climate change while working to **adapt** to the climate impacts that we are already experiencing will be critical to Framingham's future.



The **Framingham Climate Action Plan (CAP)** is in development that will be a roadmap that will help Framingham to reduce carbon emissions with equitable strategies and actions that support the long-term social resilience and economic health of the community.



Learn More and Join Us:



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