

# Reading Bi-Weekly Update

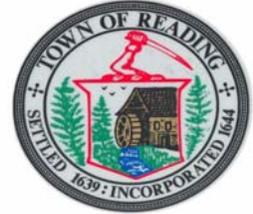
## November 6, 2014



### Reading, Massachusetts

# Climate Change

## Adaptation Report - 2014



Presented by the Reading Climate Advisory Committee to the Board of Selectmen on March 18, 2014. (See town's website under Boards, Climate Committee for copy of complete report as well as items for an emergency kit.)

The Reading Climate Adaptation Report – 2014 has been written to begin the conversation about how our community can anticipate and proactively plan for the inevitable impacts of climate change.

Reading, with a population of 24,747 (2010) living in 9,055 households, in an area of 9.95 square miles, has already experienced the results of global warming in terms of more serious storms, excessive precipitation and flooding, and high temperature and humidity. Due to continued emitting of greenhouse gases (GHGs) and the duration of these gases in our atmosphere, Reading, with some certainty, will face even more destructive results from extreme weather in the near and distant future.



**Locally, Reading must prepare for more severe storms resulting in:**

- Flooding of homes and streets.
- Longer and more frequent power outages, especially during acute heat or cold spells.
- More severe respiratory and infectious diseases.
- Food insecurity if major supermarkets face the loss of power and the temporary lack of resupply.
- Water insecurity if the distribution system suffers from impact of floods or if our source becomes contaminated.
- The disruption of sewage treatment from overflows when floods and/or inflow and infiltration overwhelm our collection system, or if MWRA's Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant were to suffer storm damage.

Fire Chief Greg Burns strongly suggests resident emergency preparedness for our town's disaster resiliency. (See town's website, click Public Safety, Fire Department, and Emergency Preparedness Guide.) The guide suggests items for an emergency kit and explains the town's emergency siren patterns.

**The committee's report covers four areas within the town:**

Natural Resources and Habitat  
Local Economy and Government

Human Health and Welfare  
Key Infrastructure

**Reading Climate Advisory Committee:**

David Williams (Chair), Joan Boegel, Gina Snyder  
Michele Benson, Laurie Ann Sylvia, Ray Porter and Ron D'Addario

**For more information on the Reading Climate Advisory Committee  
contact [daddario43@gmail.com](mailto:daddario43@gmail.com).**

**Questions:** If you have any questions about all the activity going on around town... just ask and we will find you the answer!

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