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## **Amherst Selected to Receive Stormwater Technical Assistance from EPA Town is Just One of Six Massachusetts Communities Chosen**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected Amherst as one of just six Massachusetts communities to receive support to improve stormwater management and advance environmental justice. The Town was selected to receive in-kind technical assistance from EPA to advance environmental justice for disadvantaged communities within the Pioneer Valley (Connecticut River Watershed).

Town Manager Paul Bockelman said, “Stormwater management has become critical in the effort to prepare municipalities for the effects of climate change. This grant is focused on helping environmental justice communities, such as Amherst, expand their stormwater management tool kit.”

Beth Willson, the Environmental Scientist with the Department of Public Works added, “Town staff look forward to learning about nature-based (green) infrastructure options that will increase our resiliency to flooding caused by climate change, and improve our ability to treat stormwater to improve the water quality of our rivers and streams.”

Assistant Superintendent of Public Works Amy Rusiecki said, “We are grateful for the EPA offering funding for projects such as this technical assistance. Through this partnership, the Town will develop tangible solutions to build climate resilience.”

In its application, the DPW stated the Town was interested in learning about developing more reliable funding mechanisms to increase the number of nature-based solutions and green infrastructure implementations to reduce flooding and improve water quality in the town.

Through a series of meetings over the coming year, Amherst DPW staff will work with the EPA, the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission, and consultant Horsely Witten on incorporating cost-effective green infrastructure into the Town’s stormwater management planning.

For more information: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-selects-six-communities-improve-stormwater-management-and-advance-environmental>