



TOWN OF WINCHENDON, MASSACHUSETTS

# HAZARD MITIGATION AND MUNICIPAL VULNERABILITY PREPAREDNESS

Online Listening Session - April 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.



## How May Natural Hazards and Climate Change Affect Winchendon?

We all know about changes in the weather such as a heat wave or a sudden downpour and we hear about climate change more and more, but many people may ask:

***What does it all mean and how will it affect me, my family, and my town?***

Weather refers to short-term changes in the atmosphere. Climate, on the other hand, describes the weather over long periods of time in a particular area. Scientists and scholars use weather data to observe long-term trends, which is how we know climate change is happening. From their research, Winchendon may be affected by:

- **Increased flooding.** Flooding from sudden, intense downpours, rising rivers, and melting snow put roads and homes at risk.
- **Rising temperatures.** Overall, it will get hotter, with more more frequent and intense heat spells. This trend impacts energy usage, agriculture, quality of life, wildlife and habitats, and the health of vulnerable people. Rising temperatures, along with drought, also make wildfires more likely.
- **Extreme weather.** Extreme weather events, like thunderstorms and blizzards, may become more intense and more frequent. These events can lead to power outages, debris on roads, damage to public and private property, and harm to public safety.

The **Hazard Mitigation and Municipal Vulnerability Plan (HMP/MVP)** is intended to summarize what we know about natural hazards and climate change and how they may affect Winchendon. We focus on infrastructure, the environment, and people - especially people who might be vulnerable because of their income, age, race, ability, English fluency, or other factor. The Plan, developed by Town staff and community partners, identifies ways to prepare for potential hazards and build resiliency in the community.

At this one hour session, we will present the highlights of the plan and explain how it was developed. We will then allow the public to provide feedback, thoughts, and comments.

**zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88924762575>

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View the Plan  
at the  
[Town of Winchendon website](#)

