

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE [DATE]

Colrain and Charlemont Seek Paid Climate Activists

The towns of Colrain and Charlemont are seeking six community members to help the towns plan for climate change. The six positions will be paid a stipend and will be responsible for leading community conversations about residents' climate-related challenges and how the towns can help.

The two towns have received a grant from the Massachusetts Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to help protect their communities from the impacts of climate change. The funding, which comes from the state's Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program, will support the towns to gather input from those most negatively affected by extreme weather and other climate-related dangers. The input gathered will help the towns identify future projects that will strengthen neighborly connections while preventing or managing the harsh realities of the changing climate.

A group of leaders representing key committees in both towns, known as the core team, has come together and conducted research on who might suffer most as a result of climate change. The team determined that they would like to hear more about the challenges faced by seniors, renters, people with low incomes, farmers, seasonal workers, and youth. The core team is seeking six new members who have strong ties to these communities, who are passionate about improving the environment, and who are excited to talk to their friends and neighbors about how they are affected by climate change.

Those who join the core team in this capacity will be known as community liaisons, and will receive a stipend of about \$3,300 for their participation between December 2025 and July 2026, with the possibility of additional funding following that. People selected for this role must live or work in Colrain or Charlemont, must commit to attending regular team meetings for the full eight-month period, and must be willing to get out and talk to their neighbors about their climate-related challenges. All community liaisons, along with the rest of the core team, will receive training to help them develop effective strategies for preventing and managing climate change. All core team members will also review existing research, conduct community outreach, and collaboratively decide how to spend about \$75,000 worth of grant funds on a project that will help protect the towns' most vulnerable residents from climate-related disasters.

People who have the qualities being sought and who would like to serve on the Colrain/Charlemont Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness team as a community liaison should fill out an application at <https://rebrand.ly/CLAppColChar>. For questions or more information about this opportunity, contact Diana M. Parsons, Town Administrator for Colrain at (413) 624-6306 or bos@colrain-ma.gov or Sarah Reynolds, Town Administrator for Charlemont at 413-339-4335 extension 8 or administrator@townofcharlemont.org.