

BIG IDEA “B” CONCEPT PAPER

Convening Federal & State Roundtables

SUMMIT GOAL:

“To launch collaborative actions from regional leaders that will make New England municipalities resilient to climate change.”

Purpose and goals of Big Idea

- State Officials and EPA convene up to several roundtables throughout New England with a cross section of state and federal agencies at each, to assist with:
 - Identifying what vulnerability tools and resources are available and should be used to help communities coordinate their vulnerability assessments;
 - Providing agencies, regional councils and municipalities with information on tools and resources available for climate change resilience planning;
 - Identifying what tools are lacking (what do the states need?) to assist in conducting vulnerability assessments and resiliency planning;
 - Foster understanding, coordination and collaboration among agencies in dealing with assessment concerns and resilience issues that may impact one or more municipalities, or whose solutions require involvement from more than one state or federal agency; and
 - Sharing positive examples of municipal activities/possible ‘regional communities of practice’.

If there is an active regional group involved with vulnerability assessment, resiliency planning or climate adaptation activities within the states, consider inviting them to the appropriate roundtable to share their observations and experiences.

Desired outcome of ‘Convening Federal and State Roundtables’

- Federal and State agencies will share their vulnerability tools and resources and identify areas of potential cooperation and collaboration in order to assist New England municipalities in more clearly preparing vulnerability assessments, which will then be used in developing climate change resilience planning efforts.
 - For each cooperative/collaborative opportunity identified, develop follow-up actions as next steps to helping municipalities become more resistant to impacts from a changing climate. Possibilities for longer term collaboration on resilience issues will also be explored.
- Federal and state agencies and staff will be identified by the Big Idea ‘B’ team and EPA staff.

Scoping actions

- We propose having up to several roundtables throughout New England. We will explore whether having a roundtable with more than one state will meet the desired goals.
- We propose that each meeting would be coordinated by its state steering committee members/Big Idea point persons, and coordinated with EPA staff. Prior to developing the

Action Plan, the roundtable concept will be discussed with the New England Federal Partners Climate Committee.

- Prior to holding the roundtable, we will contact the state to determine the specific concerns of the state to ensure that the appropriate state and federal agencies are invited to the meeting as well as to develop the agenda topics for the meeting.

Potential Partners

- New England Federal Partners, States, Federal Agencies.

Funding & Resources

- A thorough resource assessment will be completed; however, initial resource assessment indicates the crux of the resources that will be needed are for planning and executing the meetings. Implementation of actions resulting from the roundtable discussion may require funding support as well, and may require commitments from the identified state and federal agencies.

Potential Impediments & Strategies for Overcoming Them

- To ensure that the roundtables are effective, it will be important to fully understand the concerns and interests of the states. As a result, considerable time will be taken prior to the meeting to determine the specific topics that should be covered during the roundtable.

Timeline

Milestone	Target Date
Develop action plan	May 1, 2014
Hold first roundtable	July/August 2014
Evaluate lessons learned from first meeting, and plan meeting with other NE states, as appropriate	August - November 2014