

## **What are the Expert Work Groups?**

UMass Extension is coordinating ad-hoc expert work groups that can form around climate change adaptation initiatives in Massachusetts depending on need, interest, and available expertise. The Work Group topics reflect areas that require collaboration and sharing of expertise across organizations to be successful.

Work groups are made up of experts who are actively working or have capacity to work on the topic. They are led by a representative from an organization actively working on the topic in Massachusetts. The work group leader will invite experts to join and identify potential members with help from other experts and collaborators. These work groups will likely draw expert members from a variety of sources, including Massachusetts Ecosystem Climate Adaptation Network (Mass ECAN - a community of practice for climate adaptation practitioners and researchers interested in ecosystem resilience and natural resources conservation). Potential users of work group outputs may also provide feedback and suggestions to the work group leader.

The work group will decide what to tackle together depending on the current state of adaptation science and practice on the topic.

Potential work group activities include:

- Increase coordination and identification of gaps to create strategic research agendas
- Conduct research and synthesize current science/knowledge
- Conduct vulnerability assessments for species, ecosystems or specific natural resources
- Create adaptation actions or plans to address specific vulnerabilities
- Identify standards and practices that would better promote and facilitate climate change adaptation
- Identify and address impediments or barriers to research, demonstration projects or adaptation practices
- Compile or create resources to advance adaptation on the topic, such as best practices
- Collaborate to seek funding or realize demonstration or implementation projects, including planning and monitoring efforts

Status as of 2018: We anticipate 2 to 3 new work groups in 2018 growing out of the interest generated at the Mass ECAN 2017 conference and the needs identified by practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers.