



## **Gloucester, Mass. Hires City's First Sustainability Coordinator**

*Coordinator leads response to climate change, long-term energy goals & resiliency projects*

**Gloucester, Mass. (FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE)** — Mayor Greg Verga recently announced the hiring of Gemma Wilkens as Gloucester's first Sustainability Coordinator, following a competitive recruitment process. Ms. Wilkens has a Master of Science in Geographic Information Science (GIS) and a Bachelor of Arts in Economics from Clark University, Worcester.

Ms. Wilkens currently fulfills the role of Staff Planner in the city's Planning Division and has been instrumental in several recent sustainability initiatives. Notably, she led the development of the city's Climate Action Plan (CARP). Throughout this planning process she surveyed residents, hosted public meetings, and worked with experts to identify the highest priority challenges and most feasible solutions to put the city on track to meet long-term energy, climate, and resiliency goals. The CARP will serve to set priorities for the Sustainability Coordinator position.

Ms. Wilkens also headed up the Gloucester Energy Challenge, reaching out to Gloucester residents to connect them with incentives and services to make their home more efficient, reduce emissions, and save money, along with several other sustainability efforts within the city.

In announcing the fulfillment of the Sustainability Coordinator position Mayor Verga said, "As a coastal community, Gloucester faces real challenges with the changing oceans and threats of climate change. Since taking office, creating and filling the Sustainability Coordinator role has been a major priority of mine. Gemma will bring a much-needed vision to the City's work collaborating with departments, boards, and community members to evaluate projects and initiatives through a sustainability and resiliency lens. I am looking forward to working with Gemma and continuing our work to think critically about our future and response to climate change."

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### **About The City of Gloucester, Massachusetts**

America's oldest seaport, the City of Gloucester, is known throughout the world as an authentic, working waterfront community, a place of spectacular natural beauty, and home to a diverse population of approximately 30,000 residents. Its sharp focus on economic development has helped build its reputation as the ideal location to live, work, and play. An important center for the fishing industry, Gloucester is also proud of its vibrant cultural life and rich art heritage. Gloucester is a destination for thousands of visitors who visit the harbor and its beaches during the summer months. The City will be celebrating its 400th Anniversary in 2023.

For more information, please visit: [www.gloucester-ma.gov](http://www.gloucester-ma.gov)