

Read Up a Storm!

A Community Read on Climate Disruption and Water

We once took water for granted.

Plymouth is surrounded by an ocean of saltwater that presses against the land and a Subterranean interface with our precious freshwater. Sea level rise, increased demand, and climate change may very well allow saltwater to intrude into our rivers, ponds, as well as into the very water we drink.

Plymouth has received a new “Action Grant” funded through the state’s Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program. The Town of Plymouth, the Living Observatory, and the Southeastern Massachusetts Pine Barrens Alliance are part of a new community task force that is currently researching a phenomenon known as the saltwater/freshwater interface.

This task force, including more than a dozen of the region’s environmental organizations, community groups, town committees, and - we hope - a variety of community-focused businesses recognizes the importance of engaging our community to prepare for the challenges ahead.

Add your voice to the conversation by choosing one of the books on our curated list for your book club in 2022. The task force, with the Plymouth Public Library, has created a list that includes genres to satisfy every reader. If your club chooses to read one of these books, we would love to know about your experience. Scroll down/see below for a printable list of potential discussion questions or contact at the email address below if you would like a task force member to help facilitate your discussion.

In the fall we'll bring everyone together for one or more community conversations with authors and experts in the field of saltwater intrusion. The SWI Grant will include additional presentations in 2022 and 2023 on the issues effecting Plymouth and opportunities for citizens to participate in activities, including walks on nature-based solutions led by local Indigenous leaders.

To contact us: email Judy Savage savagejudym@gmail.com

For more information about the SWI Task Force, please visit our Facebook page [\(20+\) Plymouth SWI Taskforce | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthSWITaskforce) (<https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthSWIT>).

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Possible questions for your discussion:

Do you feel connected to the environment? How?

Does climate disruption matter to you? To Plymouth?

What can Plymouth do to be more ecologically sustainable?

What makes you hopeful about addressing climate change?

If we used all our technical and scientific expertise and applied our growing knowledge and understanding about the interconnectedness of all life on earth, what could the world in 2030 possibly look like?

We know from history that in times of crisis, creativity and innovation are required for achieving stability. With creativity and innovation, comes opportunity. Are there opportunities that might be available to us as a community in response to the climate crisis?

There is a Māori proverb, Hoki whakamuri kia anga whakamua, that means "walk backwards into the future". What could this moment, with its current challenges, be asking of us?

Was there a time in human history when we better understood the interconnectedness of all life on earth and lived our lives accordingly?

We also welcome your own questions and discussion methods. Whether or not you want one of us to join your discussion, we'd love to know what your thoughts on the book or books you chose to read.

What is “saltwater intrusion?”

It’s the contamination of freshwater by saltwater.

How does it happen?

There are many causes, most of them man-made:

- Overuse of available water.
- Rising sea levels due to climate change.
- Excavations that ‘open the door’ to saltwater.
- Road salts.

Should you be worried?

It can taint drinking water, ruin crops, kill off forests and when it happens its very expensive to fix. The answer is yes!

How can we fix it?

The best solution is to stop it from happening in the first place and that’s what we are trying to do in Plymouth, with the help of a state-funded MVP grant.

What can you do?

- Meet the local partners of the Plymouth Saltwater Intrusion Taskforce and learn about our effort to protect your water.
- Sign up to have your well water tested.

Interested in saltwater intrusion? Join us on our Facebook page, at:

<https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthSWIT/>



SUBTERRANEAN RESILIENCE
PLYMOUTH SALTWATER INTRUSION TASKFORCE



MVP
Municipal Vulnerability
Preparedness