

Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan

Draft

Summer 2025



Mayor Michelle Wu

Table of Contents

Table of Contents.....	2
Introduction.....	3
State of Climate Action.....	3
Boston's Climate Goals.....	4
All-of-Government Approach to Climate Action.....	5
How to Read this Draft.....	5
Engagement Overview.....	7
Community Partner Program.....	7
Climate Action Survey.....	7
Neighborhood Workshops.....	9
Overarching Findings.....	10
Climate Progress Made So Far.....	12
Climate Action Across The City.....	13
Looking Ahead: Building on Momentum.....	15
Visioning Boston 2030: Turning Goals into Targets.....	16
Climate Mitigation.....	16
Climate Resilience.....	19
Climate Justice Framework.....	21
What Is Climate Justice?.....	21
Understanding The Inequities.....	22
A Justice-Centered Approach.....	24
Draft Climate Justice Principles.....	25
Strategies.....	27
Buildings.....	27
Transportation.....	33
Energy.....	38
Recovery And Materials.....	42
Open Space.....	45
Combating Heat.....	48
Combating Stormwater And Inland Flooding.....	50
Combating Coastal Flooding.....	52
Combating Cross-Hazard Climate Risks.....	54
Workforce Development.....	57
Funding And Financing.....	60
Conclusion And Call To Action.....	62

Introduction

Boston's commitment to climate leadership goes back almost 20 years, beginning with its first Climate Action Plan in 2007. In 2021, Mayor Michelle Wu committed to achieving a Green New Deal for Boston, setting a bold vision to address the climate crisis with strategies that address economic, social, and racial inequities. As rising temperatures, extreme weather, and sea level rise increasingly affect our neighborhoods, the City is committed to continuing the long tradition of bold and science-based action.

The goal of the 2030 Climate Action Plan ("Plan") is to articulate a roadmap for the next five years to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build resilience to climate impacts, and ensure that the benefits of climate action are shared by all. Grounded in climate justice, the Plan should reflect the voices of communities most affected by climate change and chart a path toward a healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable future for every Bostonian.

This draft of the Plan includes a climate justice framework and strategies that will be further refined for the complete draft. The next draft will outline the key actions the City of Boston and its partners must take to achieve the City's 2030 goals for carbon emissions reduction, climate resilience, and climate justice by 2030. The Plan will define success and prioritize actions for 2030 while keeping sight of carbon neutrality and long-term resilience goals for 2050.

State of Climate Action

Boston is already facing extreme weather events linked to the impacts of climate change:

- On January 28, 2022, Boston was hit with 23.6 inches of snow in a single day, tying the city's all-time one-day snowfall record.
- Heavy rain in September 2023 caused flash flooding that shut down parts of the MBTA and swamped areas of Boston like Morrissey Boulevard in Dorchester. Looking ahead, projections show that Boston could face up to 3 feet of sea level rise by 2070, further increasing the risks to coastal neighborhoods and critical infrastructure.
- June 24, 2025, broke the record for the hottest June day on record in Boston at 102 degrees. By 2030, we could see up to 40 days over 90 degrees.

As outlined in the 2025 Boston Community Health Needs Assessment, residents are seeing the growing impacts of climate change in their everyday lives. A warming climate

means extended pollen seasons, contributing to poor outdoor air quality that can worsen asthma and other respiratory illnesses while a warmer wetter environment also means expanded season and range for insects such as ticks and mosquitos that can carry Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, Eastern Equine Encephalitis, and more. The aftermath of extreme precipitation and flooding can bring health impacts from mold growth in homes, contamination from chemical runoff, and exposure to carbon monoxide poisoning risk from running pumps, generators, and power equipment during recovery.

Secondary impacts of climate change on the health of Boston include national and global shifts in drought and rainfall impacting crop production that can contribute to food insecurity, economic impacts from shifts in tourism and other weather-related industries as well as increased utilities costs, and strain on the healthcare system.

In light of the evolving climate landscape and increasing urgency to address the impacts of climate change, it is critical that Boston regularly adapts to drive progress towards our collective carbon neutrality, climate resilience, and climate justice goals.

Boston's Climate Goals

To prevent more severe climate impacts, Boston must take bold action now to reduce carbon emissions and build resilience, ensuring that every resident is part of creating a healthier, safer, and more just future.

BOSTON'S CLIMATE GOALS	
Carbon Emissions Reduction	
Reduce community-wide carbon emissions by 50% in 2030 and 100% in 2050.	
Reduce municipal emissions by 60% in 2030 and 100% in 2050	
Climate Resilience	
Implement coastal resilience projects to close near-term flood pathways along Boston's 47-mile coastline.	
Reduce urban heat and expand cooling access.	
Minimize disruption and damage from severe precipitation	
Climate Justice	
Mitigate the impacts of climate change across all neighborhoods and prioritize resources and investments, with a focus on climate justice communities	

All-of-Government Approach to Climate Action

This draft Plan is informed by and aligned with several other City initiatives that address emissions reduction, climate resilience, mobility, and public health. These include Climate Ready Boston and the Coastal Resilience Solutions Plans, which guide flood protection efforts along the city's coast; the Urban Forest Plan, which expands and protects Boston's tree canopy; Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston, which outlines strategies to reduce heat risk; Go Boston 2030, the City's transportation plan focused on creating a more equitable, reliable, and sustainable transportation system; and the Hazard Mitigation Plan, which identifies and prepares for natural hazards citywide.

The 2030 Climate Action Plan will connect and strengthen these efforts by addressing gaps between plans, aligning timelines, and adding specificity around implementation. It will introduce clear metrics and tracking tools to measure progress across sectors, ensuring all of Boston's plans work in coordination to advance our shared climate goals.

How to Read this Draft

This draft includes a climate justice framework and strategies that will continue to evolve. These ideas are still taking shape—and they may be added to, adjusted, or removed based on what we hear from you and others in the community. The City is actively seeking your feedback at this stage, and there will be additional opportunities to engage. Over the next few months, the City will host various virtual and in-person meetings and workshops to collaboratively develop a roadmap to success. Working with our partners, we will define ownership and accountability for each action outlined in the Plan.

As a result of this work, the complete draft - expected in Fall 2025 - will outline the key actions the City of Boston and its partners must take to achieve the City's 2030 goals for carbon emissions reduction, climate resilience, and climate justice. The Plan will define success metrics and prioritize actions for 2030 while keeping sight of carbon neutrality and long-term resilience goals for 2050. After the release of the complete draft, there will be another opportunity to comment and provide additional feedback to inform the final Plan.

Accompanying this draft release is the Climate Action Plan Feedback Survey. This survey has two sections: one asks for general feedback on the Plan and its focus areas, and the other invites more detailed input on specific strategies and how they should be implemented. Whether you have five minutes or fifteen, your input will help ensure the Plan reflects the needs and priorities of Boston's communities.

Note: Throughout this document, you'll see survey questions connected to individual strategies, indicated by a 💡 icon. Answers to these questions can be submitted to the survey, linked at the bottom of every page and found here: boston.gov/cap-feedback

Follow boston.gov/climate-action-plan for the most up-to-date information.

Engagement Overview

Meaningful community engagement has been central to shaping Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan. The City has prioritized listening to residents' voices, understanding their perspectives, and working alongside trusted partners to ensure that climate strategies reflect the diverse needs of Boston's neighborhoods.

To gather broad input, the City launched a 2030 Climate Action Plan Public Survey designed to capture how residents perceive climate issues and participate in climate action. This survey established a baseline for public awareness of Boston's climate initiatives, highlighted community concerns and priorities, identified common barriers to participating in climate-friendly programs and behaviors, and helped determine preferred methods of engagement between the City and residents.

Building on this foundation, the City held six in-person neighborhood workshops. These workshops provided opportunities for residents to share their thoughts directly on the City's proposed strategies and envision how climate solutions could be implemented locally. Workshops were designed to foster dialogue and surface ideas grounded in each community's unique context.

Community Partner Program

To extend the reach of engagement efforts, the City developed a Community Partner Program. Partner organizations have played a critical role by co-hosting workshops and connecting with their networks, bringing diverse voices into the conversation, and ensuring equitable participation across the city.

We recognize that effective climate action must be grounded in trust, transparency, and partnerships with the people most affected. By facilitating inclusive dialogue, elevating resident voices, and building lasting relationships with community-based organizations, the City of Boston ensures that policies are informed by lived experience—not just data.

Climate Action Survey

The first public survey was open from April 11 - May 11, 2025, collecting 208 responses. The survey found that 88% of respondents are 'very concerned' about the impact of climate change on their community. As illustrated in Figure 1 below, respondents said their top climate crises for their neighborhoods are extreme heat, air quality, and loss of local wildlife.

What Climate Impacts Worry Your Community Most?

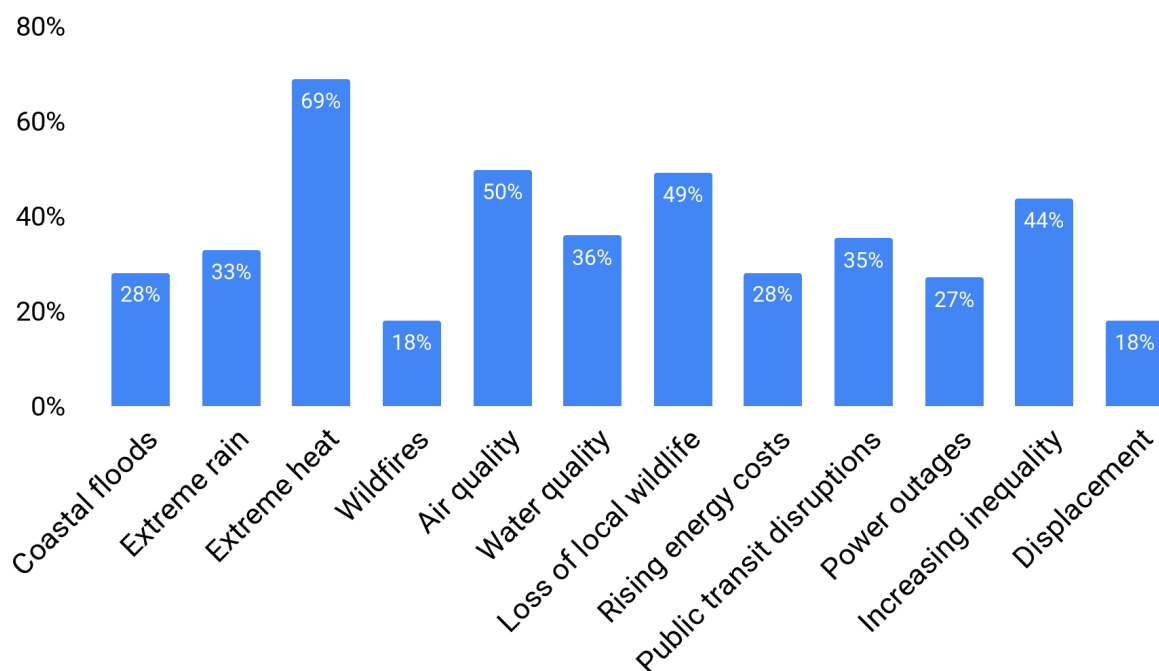


Figure 1. Public survey responses to the question, "Which climate crisis events impact your community the most/are you most worried about? Select up to 5."

When asked to describe what a climate-ready Boston looks like, participants shared the following open-ended responses, grouped by common themes:

- Better public transit: Make transit the easy choice by lowering fares, expanding routes, adding late-night service, and improving access for all.
- More green spaces: Make sure all neighborhoods have parks, trees, and green infrastructure.
- Fewer cars, safer streets: Create walkable areas and build more protected bike lanes.
- Affordable, climate-ready housing: Upgrade homes with energy improvements and protect renters from displacement.
- Climate justice: Focus on helping low-income communities and prevent green gentrification.
- Community-led solutions: Support local leaders and neighborhood-based climate projects.

Neighborhood Workshops

The neighborhood workshops were co-hosted with community partners and focused on communities that have often been underrepresented in past climate planning and where climate solutions can have the greatest positive impact. These workshops took place in Chinatown, Dorchester, East Boston, Mattapan, Roslindale, and Roxbury. The goal was to hear directly from residents about their experiences with climate impacts and local conditions, gather feedback on City-proposed strategies through interactive ranking activities, and collaboratively explore how to implement these strategies in ways that are practical, equitable, and rooted in community expertise - guided by Boston's draft Climate Justice Framework.

From these workshops, we have heard the following themes:

Theme	What we heard
Community leadership and ownership of climate action is vital.	Across neighborhoods, participants emphasized that community-based organizations are best positioned to lead neighborhood climate solutions. Participants called for more training, funding, and sustained partnerships. In addition, many stressed that lived experience must shape design, implementation, and evaluation of climate initiatives.
Transportation access is a climate justice issue.	In multiple neighborhoods, transportation access was framed as a climate justice issue. Fare-free buses, better late-night service for shift workers, and protected bike lanes were among the most supported strategies. While participants saw mode shift as important - they made it clear that it is only when paired with affordability, safety, and last-mile solutions.
Heat and public health are closely connected.	Strategies that addressed extreme heat - like shade, trees, green infrastructure, and cool indoor spaces - drew strong interest. The need for shaded social infrastructure came up as both a climate and public health priority. Participants consistently emphasized how extreme heat worsens challenges related to vulnerable populations.
Climate information must be clear and locally relevant.	Participants called for more accessible and locally relevant information about climate impacts. They shared that vague or alarmist messages are not helpful, and instead called for materials that are multilingual, culturally responsive, and specific about risks like extreme heat or flooding. They also emphasized that climate education should reach all ages, with

	schools, youth programs, and community groups playing a key role in building understanding.
Don't leave renters behind.	Participants across all workshops raised the barriers renters face in accessing energy retrofits. Many pointed out that current policies assume homeowners can make changes, leaving renters out of most solutions. Participants called for stronger regulation and incentives for landlords, especially in buildings with known housing quality issues.
Food systems and waste reduction are pathways for community-led action.	Participants pointed to food recovery, composting in schools, and better recycling as simple, effective ways to take climate action. These efforts were seen as great learning opportunities especially for young people - when connected to solutions like school gardens. Instead of seeing waste as a separate issue, many described it as part of a bigger goal: creating systems to reuse resources and strengthen community care.
Long-term investment and calls for accountability/	Participants asked for longer-term investments, not just short pilots or one-off projects. They responded positively to strategies that include a clear and measurable impact. Throughout the discussions, there was a consistent focus on accountability - especially around who benefits and how resources are shared.
Resilience through culture, connection, and joy.	Participants shared that climate resilience is not just about buildings or infrastructure - it is also about relationships, culture, and emotional well-being. They highlighted things like youth art programs, gardening workshops, and storytelling between generations as important parts of building strong, connected communities. These activities bring joy, creativity, and a sense of belonging into the center of climate action.

Overarching Findings

Community engagement so far has made it clear: Boston residents are deeply concerned about the impacts of climate change and are ready for bold, community-driven solutions. We have heard that residents want more than technical fixes - they want climate strategies that address everyday realities like housing stability, access to transit, green space, and public health. This input is shaping the next phase of the 2030 Climate Action Plan, helping the City focus on what matters most to residents while aligning bold climate action with climate justice. It is also helping to guide how strategies are implemented, and

which actions are prioritized first, ensuring that the City's efforts are both responsive and impactful.

Climate Progress Made So Far

Greenhouse gas emissions are the primary driver of climate change, released through activities such as burning fossil fuels for buildings and vehicles, managing waste, and generating electricity. Boston has made measurable progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions across sectors, driven by aggressive policies and programs that target building decarbonization, mode shift and transportation electrification, and waste reduction. The City of Boston has completed an emissions inventory every year since 2005. The most up-to-date inventory includes data up until 2022 and can be viewed at boston.gov/bostons-carbon-emissions. The 2023 inventory is expected to be released by Fall 2025.

Boston's Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2005-2022)

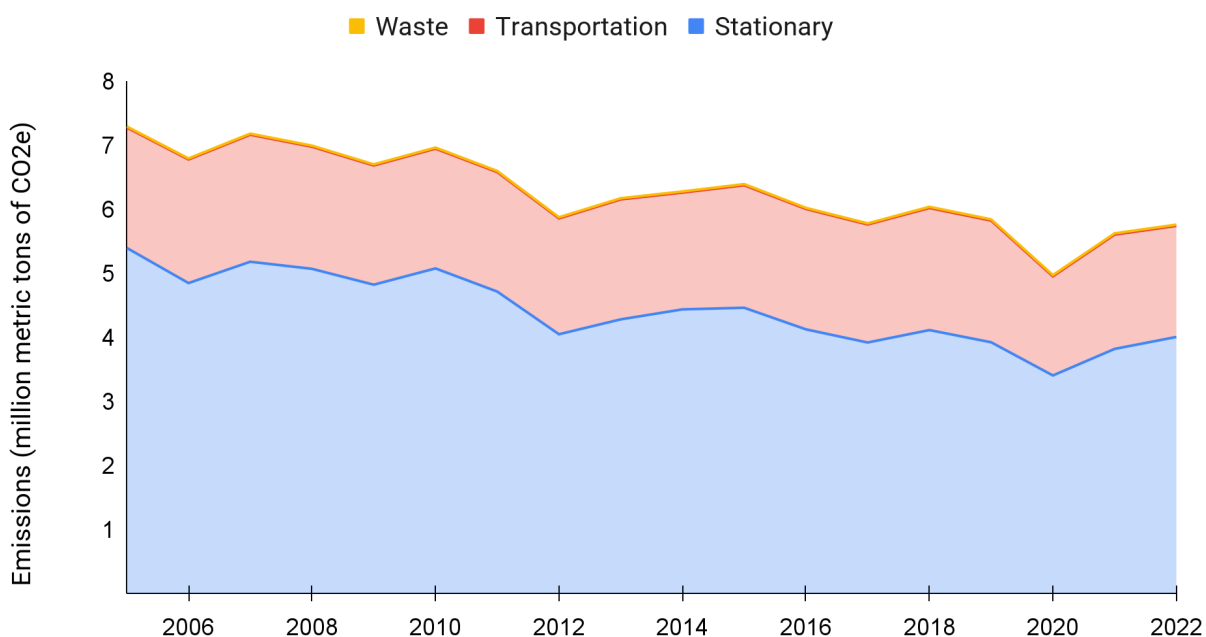


Figure 2. Boston's Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory, 2024

While reducing greenhouse gas emissions is critical to addressing the root causes of climate change, we must also adapt to the impacts we are already experiencing. Our neighborhoods and infrastructure are at increased risk due to sea level rise, more frequent extreme storms, and intensifying heat. Adapting to these risks offers an opportunity to reimagine how we build, govern, and care for each other. The 2030 Climate Action Plan responds to these challenges by prioritizing three of Boston's most pressing climate risks: coastal flooding, stormwater flooding, and extreme heat through the lens of climate justice.

Climate Action Across The City

Since the last Climate Action Plan in 2019, Boston has achieved landmark climate milestones across emissions and resilience areas of work - laying a strong foundation for reaching our 2030 carbon neutrality and resilience goals.

- **Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) 2.0:** In 2021, the City amended BERDO to accelerate emissions reductions from Boston's largest buildings. BERDO establishes emissions standards for existing residential buildings with 15 or more units and non-residential buildings over 20,000 square feet. These standards decrease over time, guiding buildings toward net-zero emissions by 2050.
- **Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District:** Adopted in 2021, the Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District put into effect the Coastal Flood Resilience Design Guidelines for new buildings, setting mandatory design flood elevations, revised height and setback rules, and limits certain uses in areas likely to flood. Projects in this area now go through a resilience review during permitting to make sure they are flood ready. This means raising living spaces, flood-proofing basements, and adding other features to reduce flood damage.
- **Fare-Free Bus Routes:** Boston's fare-free bus pilot became a national model for expanding access to public transit while advancing climate and equity goals. In 2022, the City launched the program making Routes 23, 28, and 29 fare-free until 2026. By eliminating fares on these routes, the program has reduced financial burdens for riders and improved boarding times and reliability. This made it easier for people to choose the bus over driving, cutting emissions and pollution.
- **Fossil Fuel-Free Executive Order for Municipal Buildings:** As a key step toward leading by example, Mayor Wu signed the Fossil Fuel-Free Executive Order in 2023 requiring all new municipal buildings - and major renovations - to be designed and constructed without on-site fossil fuel use. This ensures that City-owned buildings are fully electric and powered by clean energy, aligning public investments with Boston's climate goals.
- **MBTA Board of Directors Seat:** After years of advocacy from the City, the State Legislature and Governor created a permanent City of Boston seat on the MBTA Board of Directors for the first time in 2023. This marks a major milestone in advancing equitable, climate-aligned transportation by giving the City a direct role in the governance of the region's public transit system. With representation on the Board, Boston can more effectively advocate for transit investments that improve service reliability, expand access, and prioritize historically underserved

communities. Investing in more frequent and reliable bus service can help shift more people out of cars - a key strategy for reducing transportation emissions.

- **Financing Fossil Fuel-Free Housing:** As of August 2024, the Mayor's Office of Housing requires all new affordable housing projects financed with MOH funds to be all-electric and fossil fuel-free. This policy advances the City's climate and public health goals.
- **Deployables Day:** First held in fall of 2024, Deployables Day marked Boston's inaugural citywide exercise and public resource fair dedicated to temporary flood protection. This first of its kind event showcased deployable flood barriers at City Hall Plaza, Faneuil Hall, coastal MBTA stations, and waterfront buildings across the city. City staff and partners educated residents, businesses, and municipal staff on rapid- deployment of flood mitigation tools - positioning Boston as a national leader in proactive coastal resilience.
- **Climate Council:** In 2024, Mayor Michelle Wu signed an Executive Order establishing the Boston Climate Council - a cross-departmental partnership charged with coordinating the City's all-of-government climate action efforts. Focusing on switching from planning to implementation, the Climate Council is charged with responding swiftly to escalating climate impacts and delivering lasting benefits for all communities.
- **Hazard Mitigation Plan:** The City was awarded funding from FEMA to update its Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan in 2027. This 2030 Climate Action Plan will build upon previous efforts by integrating climate adaptation strategies to reduce risks from natural hazards and strengthen Boston's long-term resilience. The planning process will involve a comprehensive risk assessment, community engagement, and the identification of updated strategies and actions to reduce the impacts of climate- related hazards across Boston.
- **Net Zero Carbon Zoning:** In 2025, the City became the first in the country to require new buildings to achieve net zero carbon emissions upon opening. New buildings are also required to report on embodied carbon, which is the carbon emitted construction of a building and the manufacturing of its materials.
- **Climate Leader Awards:** In 2025, Boston established the Climate Leader Awards to recognize individuals, organizations, and businesses making meaningful contributions to climate action and environmental justice. These annual awards celebrate local leaders - ranging from community advocates to building owners - who are driving innovation, reducing emissions, and advancing equity in the city. By

uplifting these efforts, the City highlights the importance of community and business partnerships and fosters a culture of shared climate leadership.

- **Madison Park Project Labor Agreement Partnership:** In 2025, Mayor Michelle Wu signed an historic Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions and the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters for all major Boston Public Schools capital projects that create a new and expanded direct pathway for graduates of Madison Park Technical Vocational High School to good-paying, stable union jobs in the construction trades.

Looking Ahead: Building on Momentum

Boston's path to a just, resilient, and carbon-neutral future will require bold, collective action from every corner of the city - residents, businesses, community organizations, and government. This Climate Action Plan is more than a vision; it's a blueprint to accelerate climate work, close equity gaps, and deliver real, measurable progress in the years ahead. With urgency, transparency, and deep partnerships, strategies will turn into results - building a Boston where every neighborhood can thrive, and where climate solutions mean cleaner air, healthier homes, good jobs, and opportunity for all.

Visioning Boston 2030: Turning Goals into Targets

In 2030, the City of Boston should be halfway to achieving our ultimate 2050 climate goal of carbon neutrality. This means Boston is emitting half the annual greenhouse gas emissions than it was in 2005, has made meaningful progress on building community resilience to the impacts of climate change, and established a robust climate justice framework that has been adopted and is being implemented by all parts of city government.

2030 Boston is a safer place for all modes of transportation, making it easier for residents to access public transit and have multiple safe and affordable options for moving around the city. Residents will notice more public trees, green infrastructure, and other shade structures to enjoy fresher air and stay cool in all neighborhoods, particularly those who have historically suffered the most from the urban heat island effect. Renters and homeowners understand their home's energy profile and the suite of technical and financial supports that are available to improve indoor air quality and reduce their energy burden. In 2030, Bostonians will enjoy a city where families feel at home, with access to safe environments, clean air, and affordable green living.

From a public health-perspective, 2030 will objectively demonstrate a narrowing or closure of health disparity gaps through the thoughtful implementation of climate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Achieving this will require a data-driven understanding of the health impacts of climate change, the development of clear and meaningful evaluation metrics, and the implementation of targeted strategies that prioritize protection for the most at-risk individuals and communities. The next iteration of the public health section of the Climate Action Plan will be developed in close collaboration with the Boston Public Health Commission and other key departments and community partners, with a focus on identifying effective ways to track progress and ensure accountability in improving health outcomes citywide.

Climate Mitigation

Boston has set bold and ambitious climate commitments that require dramatic changes in where our energy comes from, how our buildings work, and how people and goods move around the city. In reaching carbon neutrality, it will be key to shift from fossil-fuel end uses to electrified technologies and powering that electricity with clean and renewable sources. It will also be necessary to shift to electrified or people-powered modes of transportation. Based on current emissions and historical trends, a model was

created to understand the extent of actions that need to be taken to reach Boston's climate goals.

Preliminary results, illustrated by the orange line in the figure below, suggest that the City of Boston could expect an annual emissions rate of 23 percent below 2005 baseline in 2030, if business-as-usual trends continue. The business-as-usual projection relies only on general technological advancements and consumer trends and does not include current city and state programs for reducing emissions. However, as detailed in the previous chapter, the City has been making major strides in emissions reduction and has already set several targets by 2030 to further drive emissions reductions. As shown by the blue line in Figure 3, if the City and the Commonwealth achieve one hundred percent of currently established emissions targets, we estimate emissions reductions of about 44 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and 75 percent below 2005 levels by 2050. Finally, the green line on the chart below illustrates a linearized projection for achieving our 2030 and 2050 emissions reduction goals.

Boston's Forecasted Emissions

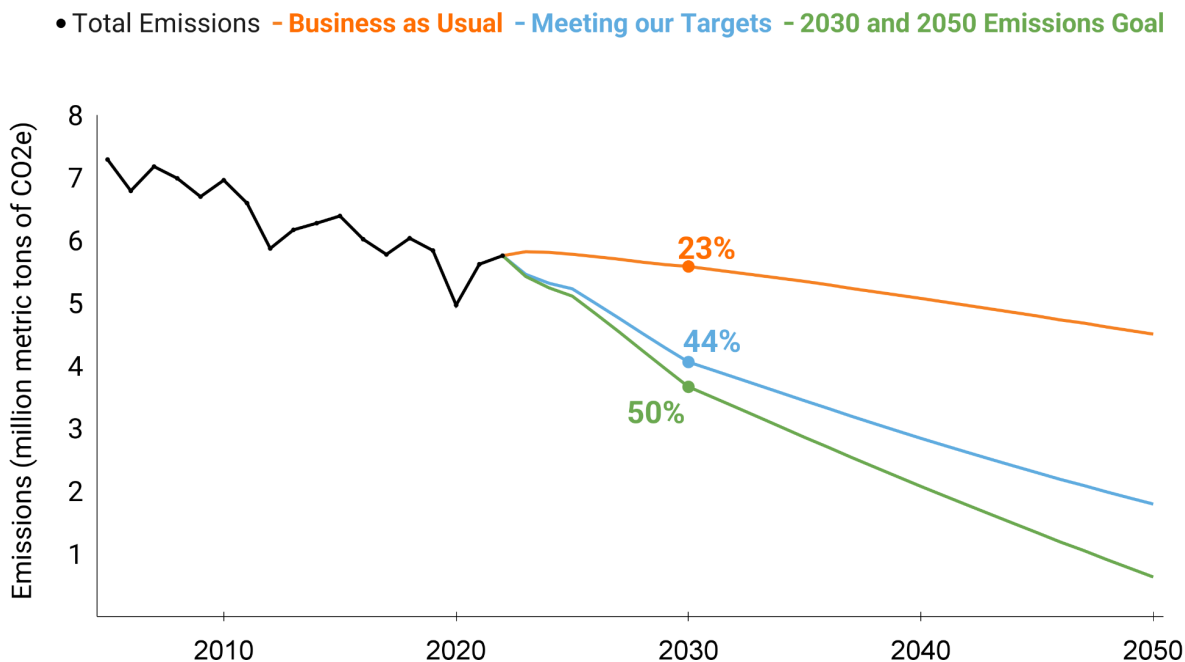


Figure 3. Boston's historical and projected greenhouse gas emissions. Percentages represent emissions reductions compared to the 2005 baseline.

To achieve our ambitious climate goals, the City must do two key things: (1) ensure the success of our already established targets to achieve the projected 44 percent

emissions reduction; and (2) define and achieve new targets to capture the remaining 6 percent of emissions.

As shown in Figure 4, the two largest sources of emissions in the City come from the buildings and transportation sectors, while the waste and wastewater sector accounts for less than 1%.

Building emissions come from the energy used in commercial, industrial large residential buildings, and small residential buildings, such as electricity, natural gas, and delivered fuels.

Transportation emissions come from an estimate of vehicle miles traveled across all vehicle types within the City, plus public transportation vehicles and off-road vehicles used at the airport and wastewater treatment plant. Emissions reported in the waste sector refer to emissions from wastewater treatment and compost only. All, or almost all, of Boston's solid waste is sent to Waste To Energy (WTE) incineration plants that feed the electricity grid, so emissions are counted as part of regional electricity generation. Additional information on Boston's community-wide emissions can be found at boston.gov/bostons-carbon-emissions.

A modeling analysis conducted for this plan used a range of criteria to project how the different large sources of emissions contribute to meeting the current targets and the additional reductions needed to meet the City's overall 2050 target. The table below articulates the existing targets included in the "Meeting Targets" 44 percent estimation and the adjusted targets to bridge the gap from a 44 percent emissions reduction to our goal of 50 percent reduction by 2030. The strategies articulated in this draft aim to enable the success of existing targets and address areas where we can realize additional emissions reductions.

Target	Meeting Existing Targets by 2030	Meeting 50% by 2030
Buildings covered by BERDO achieve a xx% GHG reduction from a 2005 baseline	60%	60%
Buildings not covered by BERDO achieve a xx% GHG reduction from a 2005 baseline	38%	45%

BOSTON'S 2022 EMISSIONS BY SECTOR

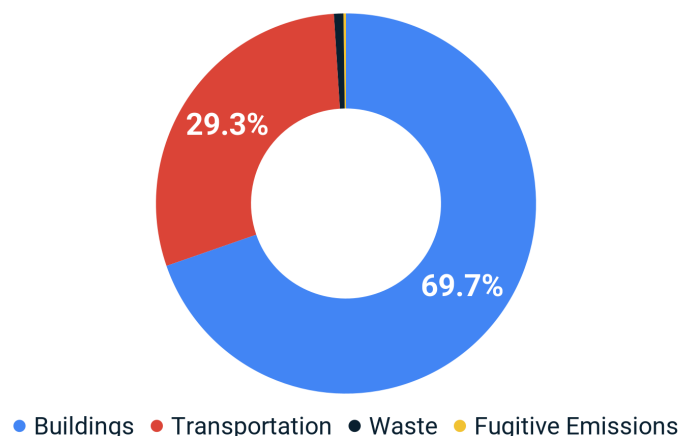


Figure 4. Boston's 2022 greenhouse gas emissions by sector.

Target	Meeting Existing Targets by 2030	Meeting 50% by 2030
<i>Buildings not covered by BERDO achieve a xx% reduction in fossil fuel use from a 2005 baseline</i>	21%	44%
<i>MBTA to electrify bus fleet and achieve a xx% reduction in GHG emissions from a 2005 baseline</i>	52%	-26% (increased ridership)
<i>Achieve a xx% volume of electric passenger vehicles</i>	18%	30%
<i>Increase the shift away from passenger vehicles by xx% (xx% mode shift away from passenger vehicles)</i>	24%	46%
<i>Achieve a xx% reduction in GHG emissions from heavy-duty diesel passenger trucks as they are replaced by electric or alternative fuel models</i>	-9%*	-8%*
Total Emissions Reductions	44%	50%

*While this change indicates an overall increase in emissions since 2005, it is a 5% and 6% decrease compared to 2022 emissions, respectively.

Climate Resilience

Sea level rise, more frequent extreme storms, and intensifying heat are increasing risks across our neighborhoods and infrastructure. These shifts threaten Boston's people, places, and economy. But adapting to the climate risks we already face also offers an opportunity to reimagine how we build, govern, and care for each other. The climate resilience goals for the Plan respond to these challenges by prioritizing three of Boston's most pressing climate risks: coastal flooding, stormwater flooding, and extreme heat through the lens of climate justice. Boston's strategies for mitigating hazards include a combination of targeted capital investments, improved data systems, updated design standards, and expanded partnerships. It builds upon the foundational work of Climate Ready Boston (2016) and subsequent plans, incorporating recent initiatives such as the eight neighborhood-level Coastal Resilience Solutions Plans, the Urban Forest Plan, Boston Heat Resilience Plan, and recommendations from the recently created Office of Green Infrastructure.

As the City shifts from planning to implementation, the Office of Climate Resilience (established in 2024) is primarily tasked with accelerating this progress while ensuring that all Bostonians benefit from resilience investments. Actions are guided by a commitment to inclusion and equity, recognizing that climate risks are not distributed evenly across communities. Metrics of success will consider both physical outcomes—such as reduced flooding or cooler streets—and social outcomes, such as improved access to climate-resilient public spaces and more equitable resource distribution.

Climate Justice Framework

What is Climate Justice?

Climate justice is a social movement and guiding framework that recognizes climate change as an issue of social justice. While lacking a universal definition, advancing climate justice starts by acknowledging at least three key factors:

1. Climate change affects everyone, but it disproportionately burdens the most vulnerable and underserved communities.
2. Climate action is not always positive for everyone. Climate programs can also produce benefits and burdens that are not equitably distributed.
3. With intentional design, we can use climate action to repair historic inequities and reduce disparities.

Working towards climate justice means recognizing the past and ongoing harms that continue to shape our built environment and way of life, while continuously advancing efforts to build a more just society for Bostonians and our environment.

Climate justice and environmental justice

Climate justice has evolved directly out of the environmental justice movement. For over five decades, environmental justice scholars and advocates have documented how people of color and historically marginalized populations have been disproportionately exposed to environmental hazards, denied environmental benefits, and excluded from decision-making processes. Climate justice expands on the environmental justice movement by highlighting how injustices and structural issues such as environmental racism are also manifested through climate change and climate policy across geographies and at multiple scales

Identifying climate justice communities in Boston

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts defines environmental justice populations as areas where one or more of the following criteria are true:

- The annual median household income is 65% or less of the statewide annual median household income.
- Minorities make up 40% or more of the population.
- 25% or more of households identify as speaking English less than "very well".

- Minorities make up 25% or more of the population and the annual median household income of the municipality in which the neighborhood is located does not exceed 150% of the statewide annual median household income.

Under this definition, over 80% of Boston's residents live in an environmental justice neighborhood. While this is a helpful first step in identifying vulnerable communities in our city, a new definition of **climate justice communities** for Boston may be needed to allow for a more nuanced analysis of the socioeconomic realities faced by Bostonians and map the intersection of multiple energy, climate, and environmental factors.

Understanding the Inequities

Climate change affects everyone, but it disproportionately burdens the most vulnerable communities.

In Boston, as in many U.S. cities, historical policies and systemic inequities have placed minority, immigrant, low-income, and other historically marginalized communities in areas that are more vulnerable to flooding, extreme heat, poor air quality, and other climate hazards.

Boston is a city shaped by segregation, disinvestment, and systemic discrimination. Our residents are now majority people of color, yet Boston remains one of the most racially segregated cities in the country. Neighborhoods like Mattapan, Roxbury, and East Boston continue to face higher rates of chronic disease, lower life expectancies, greater energy burdens, and fewer environmental protections than wealthier, whiter neighborhoods.

Data reflects this stark reality. For example:

- **People of color in Boston are at higher risk of developing chronic diseases:** Black Bostonians face a 37% higher rate of heart disease mortality than White Bostonians. Asthma-related emergency visit rates are nearly ten times higher in Mattapan than in West Roxbury. Mattapan has the shortest life expectancy (77.3 years) in Boston, while Back Bay has the longest life expectancy (82.8 years).

Health significantly impacts people's vulnerability to climate change and their ability to adapt and respond to extreme weather events. Boston's persistent health disparities mean that people of color in our city are also more vulnerable to increasing temperatures and persistent air pollution.

- **Boston residents face a high cost of living, especially among renters:** 65% of Boston residents are renters and half of these are considered "rent-burdened". This

means that half of Boston's renters are paying more than 30% of their income on rent and utilities.

This means that renters also have less resources to access cleaner technologies such as solar panels and EVs or to respond to unexpected climate events such as heat emergencies and flooding events. In other words, social and economic injustices are intrinsically related to people's ability to access green and healthy housing, affordable and renewable energy, and a clean and resilient environment.

- **Green space is not distributed equitably across the city:** Boston neighborhoods that are home to people of color and immigrant communities have less green space and tree canopy coverage than more affluent, White neighborhoods. Dorchester, East Boston, and Mission Hill all have less than 20% tree canopy, compared to the citywide average of 27%.

This means that certain Bostonians are also more likely to live in areas with a higher Urban Heat Island Index, increasing their exposure to increasing temperatures and exacerbating health problems. Less green space also means more exposure to flooding events, and less opportunities for healthy recreation and community building.

These conditions are not coincidental. From redlining and urban renewal to exclusionary zoning and unequal access to energy programs, racist policies have created unequal foundations for Boston's built environment, creating significant disparities across neighborhoods. Today's climate risks - including extreme heat, flooding, poor air quality, and displacement - compound these injustices and threaten to widen existing disparities even further.

Climate action is not always positive for everyone. Climate programs can also produce benefits and burdens that are not equitably distributed.

Like many other public policies and programs, climate action can distribute resources, reorganize the built environment, and impact infrastructure with inequitable consequences across communities. This means that even well-intentioned policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and address climate risks have the potential to exacerbate persisting racial, economic, and social injustices, or even create new ones.

For instance, while climate action has resulted in the expansion of cleaner technologies such as solar panels and EVs, access to these technical solutions and their enabling infrastructure is often uneven. Across the U.S., access to rooftop solar is directly impacted by income, race, and levels of English proficiency. Similarly, low-income communities across the country are less likely to have access to public EV infrastructure.

Climate efforts will increasingly change our built environment and reshape the ways that we live, work, and play in Boston. Decisions to expand green spaces, increase coastal protections, decarbonize buildings, and improve transportation networks can reproduce historical patterns of injustice if policy efforts continue to drive exclusion over inclusion, prioritize removal over staying-in-place, and reinforce racial and economic hierarchies over equity.

With intentional design, we can use climate action to repair historic inequities and reduce disparities.

Climate action also brings opportunity if done right. Climate solutions can help reduce air pollution, lower energy burdens, create green jobs, and improve health outcomes and quality of life. Efforts to mitigate and adapt to climate change can also expand access to nature, housing stability, and safer streets. These benefits must be distributed equitably, not just to those who can afford to opt in.

To move forward, Boston must acknowledge its history and work to repair harm. This includes valuing local and Indigenous knowledge, investing in the networks of care that already exist in our neighborhoods, and ensuring that communities most affected by injustice are leading the way on solutions.

A Justice-Centered Approach

A climate justice lens guides us toward a just transition - one where the shift to clean energy, healthier buildings, and green infrastructure also addresses rent burden, energy insecurity, and public health gaps. It means investing in communities, not displacing them. It means creating climate policy that builds power in the places that have long been denied it.

As Boston accelerates climate action in the years ahead, we must do so with commitment to justice, repair, and inclusion so that every resident benefits from a healthier, more resilient future. To date, our engagement has intentionally centered communities that have historically been excluded from citywide climate action planning. In the final Climate Action Plan, we will identify strategies that deliver the greatest climate justice benefits and develop clear metrics to measure progress in advancing our climate justice framework.

To advance our vision to center climate justice in all climate policies, programs, and efforts, the City of Boston has developed the first citywide climate justice principles that will guide the City and our community partners to integrate equity across all climate efforts, acknowledge past harms, and advance a more equitable Boston.

Draft Climate Justice Principles

The following principles represent the just futures that the City of Boston and community partners strive to create for all Bostonians through our shared climate work. While these principles set aspirational goals for Boston, they should not be seen as an endpoint. Rather, these principles reflect the **continuous process** of reflection, recognition, learning, listening, and correcting that climate justice requires. These principles set the standard to reimagine the ways that we act on climate change and measure success.

Bostonians have repeatedly voiced their priorities. Bostonians are asking for affordable and safe transportation options that mitigate climate change. They want protection from extreme heat and public health issues. Bostonians want improvements to the built environment that benefit and protect low-income residents, renters, and affordable housing. Bostonians welcome climate action but want to be able to stay in place and experience its benefits.

Across all these solutions, Bostonians want actions that are locally contextualized, relational, culturally responsive, and intergenerational. Our residents not only want technical solutions. They want policies that reinforce community care, dignity, and social resilience. This calls for climate action that is community-driven and responsive to peoples' lived experiences.

Finally, Bostonians want policies and programs that are tied to accountability mechanisms and impact metrics that communicate success and setbacks transparently.

As part of this feedback period, we welcome additional input on the clarity of the vision and principles, their alignment with community priorities, and the ways in which they can guide real-world implementation of justice-centered climate efforts, including tools or actions that are needed to put them into practice across City departments and communities.

A HEALTHY CITY Improving everyone's health and quality of life	Our climate work will contribute to healthier communities with access to affordable housing, affordable and renewable energy, fulfilling jobs, affordable and safe transportation options, and a clean and resilient environment. Our climate work will prioritize those who are most exposed to the impacts of climate change and other health factors.
A FAIR CITY Sharing benefits and burdens in a fair way	Our climate work will minimize disparities by distributing benefits fairly and avoiding unfair burdens on individuals and communities who have been and continue to be affected by environmental and social policies.

AN INCLUSIVE CITY Bringing everyone along	Our climate work will recognize our history and seek to benefit everyone, especially those who have benefited less from climate action.
A CARE-FULL CITY Caring for our people and our city	Our climate work will take care of people and promote healing, resilience, empowerment, opportunities, and connection across our communities.
A SHARED CITY Knowing and doing together	Our climate work will honor and integrate local and Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices, fostering the co-creation of climate action.
A GREEN CITY Respecting our environment and fostering connections with nature	Recognizing that we share Boston with nature, our climate work will respect, protect, and enhance connections with our ecosystems and wildlife.

Strategies

The strategies covered in this draft of the Plan includes related actions the City considers essential to its success and are categorized by the following:

- **CONTINUE, GROW, AND SCALE:** Existing City of Boston initiatives that will be maintained, enhanced, or expanded.
- **START:** Newly proposed strategies designed to address gaps in emissions reduction or climate resilience efforts that the City of Boston is actively looking to launch or initiate.
- **EVALUATE AND EXPLORE:** Emerging opportunities the City will assess for feasibility and potential future implementation.

BUILDINGS

Buildings make up almost 70% of Boston's emissions - reducing these emissions is key to meeting our climate goals and creating a healthier, more resilient city.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy B1:

Expand support structures for implementing the City's Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO).

- ➔ **EQUITABLE EMISSIONS INVESTMENT FUND:** The City will expand the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund, funded by BERDO Alternative Compliance Payments and provides grant opportunities for emissions reduction projects that directly benefit environmental justice communities, by expanding eligibility and seeking additional funding sources. This will help decarbonize the large multi-family, affordable housing, and condominium buildings subject to BERDO by 2030.
- ➔ **BUILDING DECARBONIZATION ADVISOR PROGRAM:** The City will continue to hire experts to help building owners subject to BERDO with decarbonization planning services, technical assistance, and funding support.
- ➔ **EXPAND EDUCATIONAL AND OUTREACH EFFORTS:** The City of Boston will expand educational workshops and other outreach engagements in neighborhoods across the city to support building owners in understanding availability and eligibility for incentive programs and navigating compliance pathways.

 **Survey question:** What would make it easier for you or others in your community to make improvements in your home and buildings that save you energy and money?

Strategy B2:

Lead by example to reduce GHG emissions and prioritize healthy, high-performing environments in all municipal buildings.

- **RESTRUCTURE RENEW BOSTON TRUST:** Transition Renew Boston Trust's focus on efficiency to conduct holistic facilities condition assessments, develop decarbonization plans, and prioritize municipal building upgrades that reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- **GROW THE CITY'S DEMAND RESPONSE PROGRAM:** The City will expand existing demand response program participation into a comprehensive municipal program to increase the number of municipal buildings enrolled in Eversource and ISO-NE Demand Response Programs and ensure the appropriate staff at each facility understand how to respond during peak demand events.
- **EXPAND GAS STREET LAMPS CONVERSION:** The City will continue work to phase out its remaining gas-powered streetlamps and replace them with modern, energy-efficient LED fixtures that match the character and aesthetic of historic neighborhoods. Building upon successful conversion efforts in historic neighborhoods like Bay Village, the City aims to expand this initiative.

Strategy B3:

Expand building decarbonization support for small buildings.

- **COMMUNITY FIRST PARTNERSHIP:** The City of Boston has been awarded grant funding through the Mass Save Community First Partnership to support local outreach, marketing, and coordination to increase Mass Save program participation in Environmental Justice communities that have historically been underserved by the program.
- **INCENTIVIZE GAS-TO-ELECTRIC STOVE CONVERSIONS:** The City of Boston will build on a pilot project currently facilitating the transition from gas to electric stoves for public housing in Dorchester. The City, together with housing and utility partners, will seek funding and responses to support additional stove replacements, with the goal of improving indoor air quality, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and promoting healthier, more energy-efficient homes—particularly in communities disproportionately impacted by pollution and energy burden.

💡 **Survey question:** If you live in a small home or building (<15 units), have you benefitted from Mass Save?

💡 **Survey question:** Would you be interested in switching from a gas stove to an induction stove (electric) if funding was available?

Strategy B4:

The City will expand current initiatives that support low-income and affordable housing building decarbonization efforts by increasing access to private funding and broadening outreach and education.

- ➔ **SUPPORT AFFORDABLE HOUSING PRESERVATION AND DECARBONIZATION THROUGH THE BOSTON ACQUISITION FUND:** Launched in 2024, the Boston Acquisition Fund (BAF) is a public-private revolving loan fund designed to preserve affordable housing and prevent displacement. The City of Boston will explore opportunities to expand the Fund's impact by prioritizing buildings financed through the BAF for decarbonization efforts. This strategy targets naturally occurring affordable housing, enabling the City to acquire properties and accelerate the transition of units away from fossil fuels.
- ➔ **SUPPORT LARGE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION THROUGH TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE:** Launched in 2023 with funding from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), the Large Building Energy Retrofit program was created to support decarbonization efforts in large residential buildings. This project showed that large affordable housing buildings face complex technical, financial, and logistical challenges in decarbonization, highlighting the need for more comprehensive technical assistance. To address this gap, by early 2026 the City of Boston will develop a detailed plan to provide technical support for building assessments, design specifications, and construction. Given evolving federal funding opportunities, the City will evaluate and finalize this plan by early 2026 to ensure effective and targeted support for decarbonizing large affordable housing.

-Start-

Strategy B5:

Equitable distribution of Mass Save funds.

- ➔ **IMPLEMENT, EXTEND, AND EXPAND THE BOSTON ENERGY SAVER PROGRAM:** The City has partnered with Eversource, National Grid, and community-based organizations to launch the Boston Energy Saver program to streamline energy efficiency and building decarbonization efforts for small residential, commercial, and nonprofit buildings. Boston Energy Saver directs Mass Save funding to

communities that have historically paid into the program without realizing much of the available incentives. As part of the Boston Energy Saver expansion, the City will work to coordinate key City departments and programs that are supporting marketing, outreach, and delivery, such as the Mayor's Office of Housing's HomeWorks Green Loan Program. When the current Mass Save program ends after 2027, the City will have the opportunity to negotiate for additional funding and increased technical support.

Strategy B6:

Establish a Restaurant Decarbonization Task Force.

- **CONVENE STAKEHOLDERS TO IDENTIFY CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR DECARBONIZING RESTAURANTS:** Decarbonizing restaurants is challenging due to their heavy reliance on gas for cooking, high upfront costs to transition to electric appliances, and space constraints for electrification upgrades. These barriers are especially difficult for small or tenant-operated businesses without strong incentives or technical support. To this aim, the City of Boston aims to create a task force with representatives from the restaurant industry to discuss overcoming barriers to electrification of commercial cooking systems.

 **Survey question:** Reducing emissions from restaurants is challenging due to their heavy reliance on gas for cooking, high upfront costs to transition to electric appliances, and space constraints for electrification upgrades. If you own a restaurant, what would help you transition from gas to electric cooking?

 **Survey question:** As a customer, would you be more inclined to support restaurants that commit to clean energy and healthier indoor air?

Strategy B7:

Advocate for additional state funding for large building decarbonization projects.

- **COLLABORATE WITH STATE PARTNERS TO INCREASE AVAILABLE FUNDING:** The City of Boston has received grants from the Commonwealth to support large building decarbonization, including the Affordable Housing Decarbonization Grant Program in 2023, which funded electrification efforts at Hano Homes in Allston and the Mildred C. Hailey Apartments in Jamaica Plain. The City will continue to advocate for additional Commonwealth funding to expand large building decarbonization projects.

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy B8:

Develop a loan product for residents at risk of displacement.

- **SUPPORT HOUSING STABILITY THROUGH ACCESSIBLE FINANCING FOR BUILDING UPGRADES:** Seek private and non-profit partners that can explore the creation of an accessible loan product tailored to residents at risk of displacement due to rising housing costs, energy burdens, or building upgrades. This financial tool could help stabilize households by covering expenses related to energy efficiency improvements, electrification, or other upgrades, while incorporating safeguards to prevent rent increases or involuntary moves.

Strategy B9:

Leverage collective purchasing of technical services in large affordable building decarbonization.

- **COORDINATE BULK PURCHASING TO LOWER COSTS AND STREAMLINE RETROFITS:** The City of Boston will explore models for bulk contracting of technical services - such as energy audits, building assessments, and design or engineering support. By coordinating demand and using the City's convening power, we can lower costs, reduce the administrative burden for building owners, and create streamlined, replicable pathways for building retrofits across the city.

Strategy B10:

Rental and Housing Green Labeling Program.

- **PROMOTE HEALTHIER, MORE EFFICIENT HOMES THROUGH A VOLUNTARY GREEN LABELING PROGRAM FOR RENTED AND OWNED PROPERTIES:** Design and implement a voluntary green labeling program for rented and owned properties that highlights energy efficiency, indoor air quality, and climate resilience features. The program would provide clear, accessible information to renters and homebuyers, helping them make informed decisions while recognizing property owners who invest in sustainable upgrades. Labels could be integrated into listing platforms and tied to incentives, technical assistance, or financing options to encourage broad participation and drive demand for healthier, more efficient housing across Boston.

 **Survey question:** The “Rental and Housing Green Labeling Program” is a draft idea for a new way to recognize homes that are healthier and more climate-friendly. Homes with a ‘Green Label’ could meet certain standards - like being well-insulated, using efficient

electric heating and cooling, or running on clean energy. If this program were to exist, would you be more or less likely to rent a home or apartment that has a 'Green Label' showing it is safer, healthier, and climate-friendly?

💡 **Survey question:** What types of information would you want included in a 'Green Label' for a home or apartment?

Strategy B11:

Advance permitting reform to support building decarbonization.

- ➔ **STREAMLINE PERMITTING TO ACCELERATE BUILDING DECARBONIZATION IN NEW DEVELOPMENT:** Continue ongoing permitting reform efforts with a focus on identifying and implementing changes that specifically facilitate building decarbonization. The City will work across departments to reduce permitting barriers and explore expedited pathways for projects that align with Boston's climate and resilience goals.

💡 **Survey question:** Have you (or someone you know) experienced any permitting challenges when trying to make energy upgrades to a building in Boston?

TRANSPORTATION

Boston is committed to creating a transportation system that is safe, accessible, and affordable.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy T1:

Encourage transit use with improvements to affordability, convenience, and accessibility.

- **FARE-FREE BUS ROUTES:** The City of Boston seeks to expand the pilot program by making bus routes 23, 28, and 29 fare-free by securing sustainable funding beyond the current end date of March 2026 and incorporating additional routes. This will reduce barriers to taking transit, thereby reducing VMT and emissions.
- **IMPROVE ACCESS TO IMPROVED FAIRMOUNT LINE SERVICES AND OTHER REGIONAL RAIL SERVICES:** The City of Boston will improve access to Fairmount Line stations and other Regional Rail stations, enabling more Boston residents to access these services, thereby reducing VMT and GHG emissions. The City will work with the MBTA on strategies to improve service frequency on rail lines serving Boston, particularly the Fairmount Line.
- **BUS STOPS AND SHELTERS:** The City of Boston will seek to improve the quality, accessibility, and dignity of bus stops and bus shelters to make transit a more attractive option, thereby reducing VMT and GHG emissions.
- **COMMUTER RAIL FARE POLICY:** The City of Boston will continue urging Zone 1A Commuter Rail fares for all Boston stations and will work with the MBTA to explore strategies for improving Commuter Rail fares regionally with the goal of encouraging more ridership on rail lines serving Boston.
- **PROVIDE BUS PRIORITY:** The City of Boston will work with the MBTA in coordination with Bus Network Redesign to implement bus priority in strategic corridors throughout the City. Strategies include dedicated bus lanes, queue jumps, camera enforcement, and Transit Signal Priority (TSP). This will improve transit reliability and reduce travel times, encouraging more trips by transit, thereby reducing Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) and GHG emissions.

Strategy T2:

Encourage walking, biking, and other forms of active transportation by improving safety, ease, and comfort for everyone on Boston streets.

- **CONTINUE DELIVERING ON SPEED-REDUCTION STRATEGIES:** As part of the City's Vision Zero goal to eliminate traffic fatalities and severe injuries, street design will prioritize traffic-calming measures to reduce vehicle speeds. These measures

may include right-sizing streets, narrowing travel lanes, installing speed humps or raised intersections, adding curb extensions or neckdowns, constructing pedestrian islands, or installing chicanes. This will create a safer, more comfortable environment to encourage more trips by biking, walking, and other forms of active, sustainable transportation, thereby reducing VMT and GHG emissions.

- **EXPAND INFRASTRUCTURE, INCENTIVES, AND PUBLIC TRAINING TO ENCOURAGE SAFE BIKING:** The City of Boston will continue to connect and expand its cycling network and infrastructure, including the All Ages and Abilities network, secure and convenient bike parking, and the Bluebikes system. Additional incentives could make it easier to own electric bikes, such as continued discount bike share memberships and access to on-bike training.
- **EXPAND SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL:** The City, through the Safe Routes to School Task Force co-led by Boston Public Health Commission and the Streets Cabinet, will work with Boston Public Schools to ensure that every school has the opportunity to participate in the Boston Safe Routes to School Program and the In-school Youth Cycling Program.
- **EXPAND CAR-FREE, PEDESTRIANIZED, AND OPEN STREETS:** Building on the success of Boston's Open Streets and Tactical Neighborhood Plazas Programs, the City will pursue opportunities to increase the number and frequency of car-free streets, pedestrian plazas, low-volume shared streets, and other public spaces, creating more vibrant, safe, and accessible public spaces for pedestrians.

Strategy T3:

Facilitate the transition to electric-zero emission vehicles by leading by example with municipal fleet and improving public access to charging infrastructure.

- **INCREASE PUBLICLY AVAILABLE CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE CURBSIDE AND IN MUNICIPALLY OWNED PARKING LOTS:** The City is working to ensure that every resident is within a five-minute walk of a publicly accessible charging station by expanding charging availability in municipal lots and at curbside stations. The City will also expand public-private partnership opportunities to provide publicly available electric vehicle charging facilities in privately-owned lots. This will reduce barriers to EV use and encourage adoption, thereby reducing GHG emissions.

 **Survey question:** Where would you most want to see new EV charging stations?

Strategy T4:

Orient land use planning towards vehicle miles traveled (VMT) reduction.

- **PLAN FOR DENSITY NEAR TRANSIT AND ZONE FOR WALKABILITY:** The City will work to coordinate land use plans with transportation plans to align density with transit, bike, and pedestrian investments and capacity. Plan for mixed-use neighborhoods with community assets and resources that reduce the need to drive for essential trips.
- **CONTINUE WORK TO REVISE TRANSPORTATION DEMAND MANAGEMENT (TDM) MEASURE AND PARKING REQUIREMENTS:** The City will continue to improve the TDM implementation and encourage parking reform to reduce the need for car-reliance. The City will also update bicycle and EV parking guidelines to keep pace with evolving trends and technologies.
- **ESTABLISH VMT AS A TRANSPORTATION IMPACT METRIC:** The City will include VMT analysis in development review processes to reduce the need for car reliance and set appropriate thresholds that support the City's climate goals.

-Start-

Strategy T5:

Find new opportunities to accelerate zero-emission vehicle adoption with a particular focus on hard-to-decarbonize sectors such as medium/heavy-duty vehicles.

- **ADOPT A ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE (ZEV) PURCHASING POLICY:** The City will develop and implement a ZEV purchasing policy for all future vehicle acquisitions, with limited exceptions for specialized equipment and/or when no viable alternatives currently exist.
- **DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT SAFETY SPECIFICATIONS:** Create and implement Direct Vision, Right Sizing, and safety specifications for all new vehicle purchases, using Safer Fleet Transition guidelines that are developed and periodically updated based on research by Volpe Transportation.
- **DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES:** The City will increase availability and access to educational resources that help residents, businesses, and fleet operators understand the benefits of electric vehicles, available incentives, and the process of transitioning to ZEVs. The City will collaborate with residents who have experience owning or leasing electric vehicles to provide resources including workshops, multilingual outreach materials, online tools, and partnerships with community organizations to ensure information is accessible, relevant, and equity centered. This will reduce informational barriers to ZEV use and encourage adoption, thereby reducing GHG emissions.

- **ESTABLISH A SUSTAINABLE LOGISTICS PLAN AND TASK FORCE:** The City will identify possible strategies for reducing emissions from last-mile delivery vehicles operating in Boston. The task force will bring together representatives from City departments and agencies, logistics companies, small businesses, environmental organizations, and community stakeholders to identify barriers, explore incentives, and recommend policies that support the transition to zero-emission delivery fleets and the reduction in GHG emissions, while minimizing impacts on traffic, safety, and climate justice communities.
- **DESIGNATE PRIORITY PICK-UP AND DROP-OFF ZONES FOR ELECTRIC TRANSPORTATION NETWORK COMPANIES (TNC) VEHICLES:** The City will establish dedicated pick-up and drop-off areas for electric vehicles operated by TNCs, such as Uber and Lyft, to encourage the transition to zero-emission vehicles within the ride-hailing industry. These priority zones can be strategically located in high-traffic areas to reduce emissions and improve local air quality.

💡 **Survey question:** Strategies that target reducing emissions from last-mile delivery, such as from large heavy-duty trucks transporting goods to businesses, can also help reduce idling and improve local air quality. What concerns, if any, do you have about delivery trucks in your neighborhood?

💡 **Survey question:** Would you support designating loading zones specifically for electric delivery trucks if it meant fewer emissions and idling?

Strategy T6:

Advocate for a sustainable financing plan.

- **ADVANCE SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING THROUGH REGIONAL AND STATE COLLABORATION:** Collaborate with MassDOT, the MBTA, the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization, and the State legislature to develop a sustainable financing plan for transportation that will incentivize trips by transit, walking, biking, and other sustainable modes, reducing VMT and GHG emissions.

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy T7:

Strategic parking management.

- **MAXIMIZE USAGE OF CURBSIDE AND OFF-STREET PARKING TO SUPPORT EV ADOPTION AND PEDESTRIAN SAFETY:** The City of Boston will develop a strategic parking management plan to encourage non-vehicle transportation and electric

vehicle charging infrastructure. The City is in the process of mapping curb usage across the city which will inform a plan for strategic usage of curb space to further incentivize electric vehicle adoption and pedestrian access.

Strategy T8:

Explore first mile/last mile transit services to key destinations and neighborhood resources.

- **CONSIDER FIRST/LAST MILE TRANSIT TO REDUCE CAR TRIPS AND EASE CONGESTION:** The City will evaluate the feasibility of establishing bus routes connecting residents and tourists to key destinations and key resources around the city and possible funding sources. This service would improve mobility for visitors, reduce reliance on car trips (particularly single-occupancy vehicles) for neighborhood residents and tourists, and help alleviate congestion-related emissions both downtown and in neighborhood centers.

 **Survey question:** First/last mile transit services help fill the gap where public transit does not have service, connecting residents to key resources and tourist areas and reducing the need for cars. Where would you like to see a first/last mile transit service in Boston?

Strategy T9:

Explore public-private partnerships for EV charging infrastructure.

- **CONDUCT A MARKET ANALYSIS TO INFORM HOW TO ENCOURAGE PRIVATELY-OWNED, PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE EV CHARGING:** The City will conduct a market analysis to assess the business case to encourage privately-owned, publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure on private property (e.g. under-utilized parking lots). This analysis will inform a planning and economic development strategy which may include public-private partnerships, an incentive program, or another city-managed process for matching interested landowners with EV charging companies.

ENERGY

Removing fossil fuels from the grid is essential for a reliable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy E1:

The City will increase the amount of renewable energy supplied to Boston's electric grid.

- **BOSTON'S COMMUNITY CHOICE ELECTRICITY:** Continue monitoring the administration of Boston Community Choice Electricity and identify opportunities for improvement: The Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program is a municipal aggregation initiative that enables the City of Boston to procure electricity on behalf of its residents and businesses, offering them more affordable and renewable energy options while aiming to meet the city's climate goals. The City will continue administering the program, actively seeking opportunities to enhance its effectiveness. This includes advocating for policy changes, such as eliminating the megawatt-hour (MWh) cap, to expand access to clean, affordable energy for all residents and businesses.
- **INCREASE OFFSHORE WIND ENERGY PROCUREMENTS:** The City of Boston will continue to pursue opportunities to participate in the state procurement of offshore wind energy and advocate for greater municipal involvement in the renewable energy and storage procurements occurring at the state level. While the City has entered into agreements to decarbonize a large portion of its electricity consumption, the changing Federal support for renewable energy requires the City to develop a refreshed renewable energy strategy to meet the goal of 100% carbon-free electricity for City operations by 2030.
- **IMPROVE THE PERMITTING PROCESS FOR ROOFTOP SOLAR ON RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS:** Find opportunities to streamline and simplify the permitting process to accelerate the installation of rooftop solar systems on residential properties, making it easier and faster for homeowners to adopt renewable energy solutions.

 **Survey question:** Boston's electricity program (Boston Community Choice Electricity) gives residents access to renewable energy. Which improvement would make you more likely to participate in or support the program?

-Start-

Strategy E2:

Develop a renewable energy procurement strategy for large- to medium-sized property owners.

→ **PILOT SHARED RENEWABLE ENERGY PROCUREMENT FOR BERDO BUILDINGS:**

The City will pilot a shared procurement platform or framework to support property owners interested in participating in a joint procurement for large-scale power purchase agreements for large-scale renewable energy.

Strategy E3:

Determine priority sites for future energy infrastructure siting.

- **ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SITING AND UTILITY PLANNING:** To meet growing energy demand and support an equitable clean energy transition, Boston will need additional electrical infrastructure, such as substations and distributed energy resources like solar. The City is conducting technical analyses and engaging communities to identify site suitability criteria and is working with utilities to develop a more equitable framework for infrastructure development, coordination, and long-term planning.

 **Survey question:** Energy infrastructure includes the systems and equipment that produce, deliver, and store energy. Do you feel there are adequate resources available to participate and comment on the process of siting energy infrastructure in your neighborhood, such as substations, battery energy storage system facilities, etc.?

Strategy E4:

Develop standards for small clean energy consolidated applications.

- **CONSOLIDATED PERMITTING:** The City will develop criteria and processes for evaluating consolidated permitting applications for small clean energy infrastructure facilities, including small clean generation, storage, and small transmission and distribution infrastructure.

Strategy E5:

Develop safety and emergency response criteria for battery energy storage systems.

- **ORGANIZE A COORDINATED, CITYWIDE EFFORT FOR BESS EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** The City is developing evaluation criteria for battery energy storage systems (BESS) and determining the appropriate safety and emergency response

criteria for the development of BESS across the city. This effort involves several offices and departments across city government to ensure a collective understanding and coordinated approach for assessing BESS projects.

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy E6:

Develop a holistic, citywide energy plan to guide a just transition to a clean, resilient, and affordable energy system.

- **EXPLORE THE ROLE OF BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS:** The citywide energy plan will include the role that various sizes of battery energy storage systems will likely play in the future energy grid, how such systems will be sited, and assess the public health impacts of such infrastructure.
- **EVALUATE OPPORTUNITIES TO FURTHER DRIVE SOLAR DEVELOPMENT:** The citywide energy plan will include the role of various renewable energy technologies, including low-income community shared solar and canopy solar systems.
- **EXPLORE THE ROLE OF DISTRICT ENERGY:** The citywide energy plan will identify opportunities for thermal energy networks, including ocean-based thermal systems, and other district energy systems to support non-electrified heating and cooling decarbonization. This includes developing a thermal energy map to identify areas with strong potential for district energy and guide future planning and investment.
- **PLAN FOR BOSTON'S TRANSITION AWAY FROM GAS INFRASTRUCTURE:** The City will explore strategies to assist with responsibly winding down gas infrastructure development to prevent stranded costs and assets, support careers of existing gas workers, and determine potential to repurpose gas infrastructure for clean energy. This includes coordinating with utilities, regulators, labor organizations, and other interested stakeholders to ensure a just and equitable energy transition, and neighborhood groups to explore neighborhood-level pilot opportunities.

 **Survey question:** Which parts of the citywide energy plan are most important to you?

 **Survey question:** What specific ideas or technologies should Boston explore as part of its plan for a resilient, clean energy grid? Examples could include rooftop solar, battery storage, virtual power plants, neighborhood-scale microgrids, etc.

Strategy E7:

Consider opportunities to expand the Smart Utilities Program.

➔ **EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO EXPAND ENERGY FEASIBILITY ASSESSMENTS:**

The Boston Smart Utilities Program requires new developments over 1.5 million square feet to conduct district energy feasibility assessments and, if viable, develop a plan to promote sustainable, resilient, and equitable energy infrastructure. The City will consider opportunities to expand the current program and extend the same or similar criteria to existing buildings.

RECOVERY AND MATERIALS

Boston is committed to building resilient food systems and creating a circular economy.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy R1:

Expand strategies to ensure nutritious, culturally relevant food reaches communities, contributing to a food system with less waste.

- **CONTINUE FOOD RECOVERY INITIATIVES:** The City of Boston developed a Food Recovery Assessment to evaluate Boston's food recovery landscape and identify strategies to scale efforts, reduce surplus food waste, and better meet community needs. Informed by input from residents, food recovery organizations, and food-generating businesses, the report outlines actionable recommendations the City and its partners will advance in the coming years. In 2021, the Environmental Protection Agency estimated that each year U.S. food loss and waste embodies approximately 170 million metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent GHG emissions, equal to the annual emissions of 42 coal-fired power plants.
- **EXPAND THE GOOD FOOD PURCHASING PROGRAM:** Boston Public Schools has been a leader in implementing the Good Food Purchasing Program, using its food procurement power to prioritize nutrition, equity, and sustainability in school meals. The City of Boston will continue evaluating opportunities to expand the Good Food Purchasing Program by identifying additional City departments, institutions, or vendors that could adopt the framework; deepening partnerships with local food producers and worker organizations; and aligning procurement practices with values-based goals around health, equity, sustainability, animal welfare, and local economies.
- **SUPPORT THE EXPANSION OF FOOD FORESTS:** Food forests transform vacant, City-owned lots into locally run, public edible parks. The City will continue supporting the work of the Boston Food Forest Coalition as they aim to open 30 food forest parks by 2030.

 **Survey question:** What (if any) barriers are you experiencing to accessing more nutritious, culturally relevant in your neighborhood?

-Start-

Strategy R2:

Reduce embodied carbon during deconstruction of existing buildings and renovations.

- **PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO BUILDINGS UNDERGOING DECONSTRUCTION OR RECONSTRUCTION:** Deconstruction is the careful disassembly of buildings to salvage materials for reuse, while reconstruction refers to the process of repairing or rebuilding an existing structure with updated efficiency and embodied carbon standards. These practices reduce construction waste, lower emissions, and support climate-resilient design. To encourage wider adoption, the City will provide technical assistance to building owners navigating these processes.

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy R3:

Consider a Deconstruction Ordinance.

- **PROMOTE MATERIAL REUSE AND WASTE REDUCTION THROUGH DECONSTRUCTION OF OLDER BUILDINGS:** This ordinance would require that all buildings constructed before a certain year undergo a materials analysis and be deconstructed rather than demolished, in order to recover reusable materials, reduce construction waste, and support a circular economy.

 **Survey question:** Deconstruction means carefully taking apart a building so the materials can be reused. Reconstruction is the process of fixing or rebuilding a structure to meet updated energy efficiency standards and lower carbon impact. What concerns or ideas do you have about requiring buildings to be deconstructed for material reuse instead of being demolished and sent to a landfill?

Strategy R4:

Tackle embodied carbon by leveraging Net Zero Carbon Zoning.

- **REDUCE EMISSIONS FROM CONSTRUCTION BY ADDRESSING EMBODIED CARBON IN NEW DEVELOPMENT:** In early 2025, Mayor Wu announced the approval of an amendment to the City's zoning code to include Net Zero Carbon Zoning, which now requires most new large buildings to emit net zero carbon emissions from the day they open. Net Zero Carbon Zoning also requires small and large projects to report on embodied carbon and large buildings to conduct an embodied carbon life cycle assessment. The embodied carbon data collected

through Net Zero Carbon Zoning will be used to develop new guidelines and standards to further decrease the carbon footprint for new development in the City.

 **Survey question:** Embodied carbon is the total amount of carbon that's emitted when making and transporting building materials - like concrete, steel, glass, and wood - and during the construction process itself. As part of the Net Zero Carbon Zoning adopted by the City of Boston in early 2025, the City is exploring ways to collect and use embodied carbon data from new buildings. What should the City focus on when doing this?

OPEN SPACE

Open and green spaces are essential for improving public health, enhancing urban resilience, and providing equitable access to nature for all residents.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy 01:

The City will strengthen tree policies to protect existing canopy, expand tree planting, and ensure long-term maintenance.

- **GROW THE BOSTON TREE ALLIANCE:** The Boston Tree Alliance is a collaborative initiative with Mass Audubon and a coalition of community-based organizations to expand and maintain Boston's urban tree canopy, particularly on privately owned land in environmental justice neighborhoods.
- **URBAN TREE CANOPY EXPANSION:** The City will advance the goals of Boston's Urban Forest Plan by investing in targeted planting initiatives and prioritizing tree care in underserved areas.

 **Survey question:** The City of Boston has various programs and partnerships that help support our urban tree canopy, such as the [Boston Tree Alliance](#) and the [Public Tree Ordinance](#). To build on this progress, how should the City work with residents, businesses, or community groups to grow Boston's tree canopy?

Strategy 02:

The City will expand open and green space through strategic land use planning.

- **PURSUE NEW LAND ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITIES CITYWIDE:** The City of Boston acquires land to expand public access to open space, grow the urban tree canopy, and conserve green space. To advance these goals, the City will continue to identify and pursue strategic land acquisition opportunities - particularly in areas that lack sufficient green space or face heightened climate risks.
- **SITE CLIMATE RESILIENCE DEPLOYABLES NEAR PARKS:** The City of Boston will prioritize locating climate resilience deployables - such as cooling stations and flood protection infrastructure - near parks and open spaces to enhance community resilience and support emergency preparedness during extreme weather events like heat waves and flooding.
- **IDENTIFY ADDITIONAL LANDS FOR THE URBAN WILDS PROGRAM:** Boston's Urban Wilds Program protects and manages natural areas across the city - such as woodlands, wetlands, and meadows - to preserve biodiversity, support climate

resilience, and provide access to nature in urban neighborhoods. The City will continue to expand and strengthen the program by exploring opportunities to acquire additional land and protect these valuable ecosystems for future generations.

- ➔ **REFINE THE SPACES FOR YOU PROGRAM:** The City will continue to refine the Greening While Growing program to deliver high quality, publicly accessible open space through Article 80 development review.

💡 **Survey question:** How should the City prioritize acquiring new land for green and open space?

💡 **Survey question:** How should the City make climate resilience deployables (like cooling stations or flood barriers) most useful to your community?

-Start-

Strategy O3:

Implement a pilot program for extended lighting for parks along key corridors.

- ➔ **ENHANCE SAFETY AND COMMUNITY ACCESS WITH EXTENDED PARK LIGHTING:** The City will identify parks and corridors that would benefit from extended lighting into the evening, enhancing safety and enabling residents to enjoy green spaces for longer periods. This initiative supports increased community use, promotes public well-being, and fosters vibrant, accessible neighborhoods.

Strategy O4:

Make it easier for residents to enjoy our parks system.

- ➔ **IMPROVE RESERVATION EXPERIENCE AND EVENTS PERMITTING IN PARKS:** The City is focused on ensuring residents are able to use our parks for a wide range of activities, whether it be for Little League games and practices to hosting vibrant community events open to the public. Through updates to the permitting and reservation system, the City will create a better civic experience for all residents.

💡 **Survey question:** Have you ever tried to reserve or host an event in a Boston park? What worked and what could be better?

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy O5:

Enhance green space for long-term sustainability.

- **USE GREENER MAINTENANCE TECHNIQUES IN OUR PARKS:** The City will learn from current open space practices of civic and institutional partners to identify new methods of green space management that could be adopted by the City. Potential opportunities include expanding the electrification of our Parks equipment, such as mowers and blowers, especially for our recreational fields. These improvements will support the City's climate goals while also providing benefits for our workforce. Additionally, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department will consider updates to horticultural policies and protocols so we can ensure best practices in native plantings, increasing biodiversity, and increasing stormwater management.
- **MAKE PARKS ACCESSIBLE:** The Boston Parks and Recreation Department manages over 2,200 acres of public open space. To ensure all residents can easily find and enjoy these spaces, the City will consider auditing existing park maps and related information to enhance accessibility for all users.

 **Survey question:** What would help you better find and use Boston's park spaces?

COMBATING HEAT

Heat is already the deadliest weather-related threat in Boston – and it is getting worse. In addition to expanding the urban tree canopy through open space strategies, the City will increase access to cooling and implement targeted interventions to reduce urban heat and protect public health.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy H1:

Expand the City's extreme heat interventions.

- **EXPAND COOLING RESOURCES AND INFRASTRUCTURE IN PUBLIC SPACES:** To support the health of Boston residents during extreme heat events, the City will strengthen its year-round interventions in public spaces. This includes expanding publicly available cooling infrastructure such as splash pads, misting stations, and cooling centers, as well as refining and promoting heat safety guidance.
- **PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT FOR HEAT RESILIENCE IN CRITICAL PRIVATE SPACES:** The City will increase support for private facilities that serve vulnerable populations, including childcare centers and schools. This may include offering technical assistance to assess and improve indoor cooling capabilities and helping staff implement best practices to keep occupants safe during extreme heat.

-Start-

Strategy H2:

Establish worker protections.

- **DEVELOP HEAT PROTECTION INTERVENTIONS FOR WORKERS:** The City will develop policies, training and programs to ensure there are appropriate heat illness prevention plans for its relevant workforce and contractors.

Strategy H3:

Expand the cooling toolkit.

- **EXPLORE INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS TO ENHANCE PUBLIC COOLING:** The City will explore, implement, and evaluate new methods to provide shade and lower temperatures on public streets and public spaces. The current toolkit relies heavily on important interventions such as tree planting and green roofs on bus shelters. There are places, however, where those interventions may not be ideal or could be complemented with other approaches such as pavement types or roofs that reflect more heat or shade structures along sidewalks.

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy H4:

Advocate for maximum indoor air temperature standards and utility shut-off protections.

- **SAFEGUARD RESIDENTS AT HOME DURING EXTREME HEAT EMERGENCIES:** The City of Boston will work with property owners and advocate for effective state-level policies that establish a maximum indoor air temperature threshold to ensure residents have safe living conditions during extreme heat. This strategy also includes pursuing a utility shut-off moratorium during heat emergencies, which would temporarily prohibit utility companies from disconnecting essential services and recognize access to cooling as a critical public health need in a warming climate.

💡 **Survey question:** How concerned are you about extreme indoor heat where you live during the summer?

💡 **Survey question:** If you rent your home, have you faced challenges staying cool in the summer? What kind of support would help?

COMBATING STORMWATER AND INLAND FLOODING

Boston's stormwater management system, much of it built over a century ago, was not designed for today's rain intensity or future conditions. Looking ahead, Boston plans to reduce the risk of stormwater flooding by transforming our stormwater infrastructure, as well as our streets, parks, and property throughout Boston.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy S1:

Refine the Stormwater Program.

- **INCENTIVIZE STORMWATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES ON PRIVATE PROPERTY:** In 2024, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) created a new stormwater program, designed to encourage and support property owners to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff from their properties. Over the next five years, we will continue to refine the elements of that program to reduce stormwater flood risk.

 **Survey question:** What would make you more likely to take steps to reduce stormwater runoff on your property (like adding rain gardens, permeable pavement, or rain barrels)?

Strategy S2:

Complete more green infrastructure projects in our streets and parks.

- **ACCELERATE GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DEPLOYMENT IN PUBLIC SPACES:** The Streets Cabinet, BWSC, and the Parks Department have made significant investment in green infrastructure citywide. Over the next five years, the City will accelerate the implementation of green infrastructure to enhance climate resilience across all neighborhoods.

-Start-

Strategy S3:

Establish a citywide green infrastructure standard.

- **BUILD OFF OF GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN GUIDELINES:** The City has released design guidelines for integrating green infrastructure into streets, providing planners with tools to incorporate climate resilience into the public right-of-way. Building on this guidance, the City will develop and establish a

citywide standard that prioritizes green infrastructure and permeable surfaces as the default approach for municipal projects.

Strategy S4:

Complete the citywide inundation model.

- **USE THE UPDATED INUNDATION MODEL TO PRIORITIZE AND ADVANCE THE DESIGN OF HIGH PRIORITY STORMWATER PROJECTS:** BWSC will publish a citywide inundation model and site assessment matrix to identify the most flood-prone inland areas and determine what interventions will be most effective in protecting people and communities. Drawing from this analysis, the City will advance the design of the next set of priority flood-risk reduction projects.

COMBATING COASTAL FLOODING

With over 47 miles of coastline and much of its land built on former tidal flats, Boston is highly vulnerable to sea level rise and storm surge. To address this risk, the City is advancing projects outlined in Climate Ready Boston to protect communities, infrastructure, and natural areas through proactive coastal adaptation and strategic investments.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy C1:

Complete the US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study to close long-term flood pathways.

- ➔ **COMPLETE THE US ARMY CORPS STUDY BY 2028:** The Coastal Storm Risk Management (CSRM) study builds on Climate Ready Boston's coastal resilience plans and will recommend measures that are eligible for direct federal investment. The six-year study is estimated to be completed by 2028.

 **Survey question:** What are your biggest concerns or priorities for protecting Boston's coastline from flooding?

Strategy C2:

Advance the design and permitting of the capital projects needed to close the most significant near-term flood pathways.

- ➔ **ACCELERATE CRITICAL FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING:** The City of Boston will prioritize the design and permitting of key infrastructure projects aimed at blocking or redirecting the most significant flood pathways identified through detailed modeling and community input.

-Start-

Strategy C3:

Reduce NFIP flood insurance costs by joining FEMA's Community Rating System.

- ➔ **JOIN FEMA'S COMMUNITY RATING SYSTEM (CRS):** By joining FEMA's CRS, the City of Boston can demonstrate its commitment to flood risk reduction while helping lower flood insurance premiums for residents and businesses and encourage proactive floodplain management practices. The City can also engage

with residents and work with community organizations to raise awareness about flood insurance options and broader strategies for managing flood risk.

 **Survey question:** If you have flood insurance, what challenges or benefits did you encounter during the insuring process?

 **Survey question:** What would help you or your community better understand and access flood insurance options?

Strategy C4:

Implement deployable flood protection strategies.

- **REDUCE IMMEDIATE FLOOD RISK:** As the City proceeds with longer term transformation of its coastline, the City will implement deployable flood protection, where possible, to reduce the immediate flood risk in neighborhoods. This includes projects that are led by the City focused on neighborhoods, as well as projects led by property-owners focused on buildings and facilitated with technical assistance from the City. Implementation includes both construction and a fully supported operations plan.

Strategy C5:

Protect and expand existing coastal resilience projects.

- **ADVOCATE FOR FEDERAL SUPPORT OF COASTAL RESILIENCE PROJECTS:** The City of Boston is actively advancing projects that protect our coastline and will continue this work while also engaging in targeted advocacy efforts to shape the policy and practices of federal partners, such as FEMA, to better serve Boston's coastal communities.

COMBATING CROSS-HAZARD CLIMATE RISKS

Many of our resilience strategies have an impact across multiple climate risks. Advancing those will help our residents and communities through a variety of extreme weather events.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy X1:

Expand the City's climate data network.

- **ENHANCE DATA PARTNERSHIPS:** In partnership with a variety of institutions, the City has been expanding its network of sensors collecting climate data. This information can help support real time monitoring, short term forecasting, long term modeling, and project evaluation. Over the next five years, the City will further grow and refine this network with partners.

💡 **Survey question:** Which types of climate data would you find most helpful for your community?

Strategy X2:

Empower residents through emergency trainings and engagement.

- **BUILD ON EMERGENCY RESPONSE PROGRAMS:** Building on its Ready Boston outreach, its Alert Boston platform, and its Community Emergency Response Team training, the Office of Emergency Management will continue to grow programs and policies to sign up residents for communication alert systems and empower residents to support themselves and the neighbors before, during, and after extreme weather events.

-Start-

Strategy X3:

Retrofit basement-level and coastal residential units for flood resilience.

- **PROTECT VULNERABLE HOMES FROM FLOODING THROUGH TARGETED RETROFITS:** Bostonians living in basement units and in our floodplains, many of whom are also renters, are particularly vulnerable to flood risk. To address this, the City of Boston will work with partners to assess and advance a targeted retrofit initiative to lower that risk.

 **Survey question:** Do you live in a basement-level unit that is prone to flooding? If so, what actions have you taken to manage or prevent flooding?

Strategy X4:

Support Community Resilience Hubs.

- **EMPOWER TRUSTED COMMUNITY SPACES TO PROVIDE SUPPORT DURING CLIMATE EMERGENCIES:** The City will develop programs to support community institutions and organizations to serve as resilience hubs, complementary to the City's network of cooling centers and emergency shelters.

 **Survey question:** What services should community resilience hubs provide during extreme weather events?

 **Survey question:** What factors or features would encourage you to visit a community resilience hub?

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy X5:

Explore climate tech partnerships.

- **STRENGTHEN AND SCALE INNOVATIVE RESILIENCE SOLUTIONS:** To improve the quality, lower the cost, and speed the delivery of the City's resilience programs and projects, the City will explore new partnerships with the climate tech and broader research and innovation community.

Strategy X6:

Explore an update of the Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District.

- **UPDATE THE COASTAL FLOOD RESILIENCE OVERLAY DISTRICT (CFROD):** CFROD establishes zoning requirements for large new construction and major redevelopment in areas vulnerable to coastal flooding, ensuring that buildings are designed to withstand future sea level rise and storm surge. This work helps reduce flood damage, protects residents and infrastructure, and promotes long-term climate resilience in Boston's most at-risk neighborhoods. With feedback from the community, the City will explore updating CFROD to align with evolving flood data and resilience goals and protect a wider range of properties.

- **EVALUATE ADDITIONAL ZONING AND REGULATORY CHANGES THAT PROMOTE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PRACTICES:** Building off of CFROD as a potential zoning model, the City will explore how extreme heat, and inland flooding can be lessened in new private and public construction.

WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

About 160,000 workers in 45 different occupations will be needed over the next 25 years to design, build, and operate Boston's green economy. The Office of Worker Development will support workforce pathways and develop online tools to help Boston residents explore green career opportunities and training providers expand their programming to ensure they are preparing workers with the skills and credentials needed to be successful.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy W1:

Expand the Boston Climate Jobs Alliance (BCJA).

- **INCREASE PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PATHWAYS:** Through the BCJA, the Office of Workforce Development is working with the Boston Water & Sewer Commission and PowerCorps Boston to build a registered pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathways to jobs in water utilities. The City will explore opportunities to expand this work and form new partnerships to address additional climate challenges, including electrification.
- **DOCUMENT EMPLOYER MODELS FOR WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT:** The BCJA will train at least 645 people and place 484 in more than 1,200 jobs committed by 13 employers in family-sustaining, coastal, and climate resilience occupations by August 2028. In its initial phase, the City will document employer models for workforce development training through evaluations of registered apprenticeship programs, "learn and earn" models and cooperatives, for effectiveness and scalability.
- **PROVIDE WRAPAROUND WORKFORCE SERVICES:** Trainees from the BCJA will receive wrap-around services including stipends and free childcare to support a sustainable workforce.

Strategy W2:

Create green pathways for young people.

- **EXPAND THE BOSTON YOUTH CLIMATE CORPS:** Through a summer 2025 pilot, the Boston Youth Climate Corps is partnering with six youth organizations to serve 200 young people. Participating youth will get hands-on experience with at least 30 hours of paid work, build technical and leadership skills through mentorship and training, and explore green career opportunities through site visits and workshops. The program will grow and expand in 2026-2030.

Strategy W3:

Continue PowerCorpsBOS.

- **SUSTAIN AND EXPLORE OPPORTUNITIES TO GROW POWERCORPSBOS TO TRAIN AND CONNECT YOUNG ADULTS WITH GREEN CAREERS:** PowerCorpsBOS, a 10-month Green Industry “earn and learn” Workforce Development Program created in June 2022, provides young adults with training, career readiness support, and connections to employers in the green industry. Since its founding, the program has served and graduated five cohorts (127) students, consistently maintaining high graduation rates at about 75%. In the most recent cohort, 87% of graduates entered a green job upon graduation. PowerCorps serves approximately 60 participants per cohort/year.

-Start-

Strategy W4:

Develop a toolkit of resources to grow and support Boston’s green workforce.

- **BUILD AND CONNECT BOSTON’S GREEN WORKFORCE WITH TAILORED CAREER RESOURCES:** The Office of Workforce Development will develop a Green Jobs Career Navigator linking local training opportunities to 45 green economy occupations with information for job seekers including links to training programs, support services, and information about job quality.
- **EQUIP TRAINING PROVIDERS WITH A CLEAR GUIDE TO GREEN JOB SKILLS:** The Office of Workforce Development will create an online Green Skills Guide for training providers listing the skills needed for each core green occupation.

 **Survey question:** What types of career information or resources would be most useful to you when exploring green job opportunities?

Strategy W5:

Expand the use of project labor agreements.

- **BOOST SKILLED TRADES WORKFORCE THROUGH PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS:** Building on the recent Project Labor Agreement (PLA) with the Greater Boston Building Trades Unions and the North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters, the City plans to expand PLA use to meet workforce needs. With 63% of the 160,000 workers required in the trades - including electricians, carpenters, plumbers, and skilled workers like linespeople and electric vehicle technicians - Boston is increasing its capital budget under Mayor Wu’s

administration to speed up major school construction projects through the Long-Term Facilities Plan.

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy W6:

Explore opportunities to leverage procurement and policy tools to support good jobs in the City's climate initiatives.

→ LEVERAGE CITY POLICIES AND PROCUREMENT TO GROW QUALITY GREEN

JOBS: The City will continue to explore opportunities to use procurement and policy tools to drive the creation/support of good jobs and an expanded labor market, for example:

- ◆ Use PLAs to create pathways to good jobs and support union apprenticeship programs
- ◆ Enhance and update enforcement of the Boston Residents Jobs Policy
- ◆ Drive good green jobs through engagements with employers.
- ◆ Expand pre-apprenticeship and apprenticeship programs inside and outside the Trades.
- ◆ Continue to invest in clean energy projects and resilience projects that provide high quality job
- ◆ Develop a list of approved, vetted BERDO contractors for building decarbonization retrofits and construction.

Strategy W7:

The City will continue to explore and expand on opportunities to address barriers to accessing green jobs training programs.

→ REMOVE BARRIERS AND EXPAND ACCESS TO GREEN JOBS TRAINING

PROGRAMS: Potential City approaches include expanding ESOL instruction to support non-English speakers, improving communication about good green job opportunities to reach target audiences, easing access to childcare for participants, and providing stipends and “earn and learn” opportunities to make training more accessible and financially feasible.

 **Survey question:** What are the biggest barriers you or others face when trying to access green jobs training programs?

FUNDING AND FINANCING

Sustaining climate efforts depends on reliable funding and financing. Particularly amid uncertain federal support, Boston will pursue innovative funding models to meet its climate goals.

-Continue, Grow, and Scale-

Strategy F1:

Explore public-private partnerships to accelerate high-impact climate action.

- **PARTNER WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR TO SCALE URGENT AND EQUITABLE CLIMATE SOLUTIONS:** As Boston approaches key climate deadlines and the impacts of climate change intensify, the City will seek to establish new public-private partnerships that unlock resources, innovation, and capacity to advance high-impact projects. These collaborations will play a critical role in reducing emissions, scaling resilience efforts, and delivering equitable climate solutions across our neighborhoods and communities.

-Start-

Strategy F2:

Create a climate budget.

- **MAINSTREAM CLIMATE GOALS INTO THE ANNUAL BUDGET:** Climate budgeting is a governance system that mainstreams climate commitments and criteria into cities' budgetary decision-making processes and policies. To align the City of Boston's annual budget with the priorities outlined in the Climate Action Plan, the City will develop a climate budget that tracks climate-related spending and ensures our investments make progress toward our emissions reduction and resilience goals.

 **Survey question:** What information would you want to see included in the City's climate budget reports?

-Evaluate and Explore-

Strategy F3:

Consider conducting a resilience revenue raising study.

- **EXPLORE LONG-TERM FUNDING OPTIONS TO SUPPORT LARGE-SCALE CLIMATE RESILIENCE PROJECTS:** Implementing Climate Ready Boston's resilience

plans along Boston's coastline relies on securing long-term funding sources in the billions for design, construction, and maintenance of major infrastructure. To prepare for this need, the City of Boston may conduct a revenue study to evaluate potential local, state, federal, and private funding mechanisms that can sustainably support large-scale climate adaptation projects. Innovative funding mechanisms that the City can consider learning from include the newly announced Housing Accelerator Fund that will help kickstart housing production.

 **Survey question:** What factors should the City consider when deciding how to raise revenue for climate resilience projects?

Strategy F4:

Consider an accelerator fund for climate work.

- **EXPLORE A LOCAL CLIMATE ACCELERATOR FUND TO FILL FINANCING GAPS AND SCALE IMPACT:** To meet the scale and urgency of Boston's climate goals, the City of Boston will seek to work with the Massachusetts Community Climate Bank, the nation's first green bank focused on providing low-cost financing for building energy efficiency and electrification upgrades, and other partners to identify financing gaps. Based on this work, the City and partners may explore the creation of a local accelerator fund to provide flexible, targeted support for high-impact climate initiatives.

 **Survey question:** What types of projects or initiatives should a local climate accelerator fund prioritize supporting?

Conclusion and Call to Action

This draft is an invitation—for ideas, for dialogue, and for collective action. As we work toward a full Climate Action Plan in Fall 2025, your feedback is essential to shaping strategies that are ambitious, effective, and grounded in the realities of Boston’s diverse communities.

The draft climate justice framework and strategies included here are not final. They are starting points that will evolve based on what we hear from you. Whether you weigh in on a specific strategy or share broader thoughts on the City’s direction, your input will help us prioritize actions that advance carbon reduction, resilience, and justice—now and for generations to come.

Please take a few moments to complete the Climate Action Plan Feedback Survey: boston.gov/cap-feedback. Your voice matters, and this is your chance to help shape a more sustainable, equitable future for Boston.

Follow boston.gov/climate-action-plan for the most up-to-date information.