



2025 Energy & Environment Policy Agenda

A Better City's Energy and Environment team engages A Better City members and colleague organizations on climate and clean energy policy and climate justice opportunities, and works with them to advocate for policy change, provide technical expertise to government administrators, and support and partner with community-based organizations and community leaders, across the Greater Boston business community. Our work strives to design and implement city, state, and federal climate and clean energy policies that center frontline environmental justice communities, enable public-private partnerships for climate solutions, and that promote climate, environmental, and energy justice whenever possible.

GOAL 1: MITIGATE THE PROGRESSION OF CLIMATE CHANGE & SCALE UP DECARBONIZATION OF THE BUILDING SECTOR

- Promote and advance the decarbonization of buildings to support the City and State in meeting their statutory climate goals by leveraging the expertise of A Better City's membership and promoting alignment across building policies and jurisdictions.
 - Provide input as Boston updates its Climate Action Plan for 2026-2030, and monitor the implementation of BERDO and BEUDO, the Opt-In Stretch Energy Code, and Zero Net Carbon Zoning. At a state level, monitor the implementation of Large Building Energy Reporting and stretch code updates.
 - Track the opportunity for climatetech to provide decarbonization solutions across sectors (ex. low-carbon building materials).
- Continue to partner with the City of Boston in the PowerCorpsBOS Building Operations program that provides pathways into large building operations in member and partner buildings and pursue expansion opportunities of this successful model.

GOAL 2: ADAPT TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE & PROMOTE CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

- Promote adaptation policies across federal, state, and city levels with a focus on critical infrastructure and community resilience by ensuring collaboration across jurisdictions and by applying lessons learned from communities at the forefront of climate hazards.
 - Provide input into Boston's Climate Action Plan update for 2026-2030, the City's coastal resilience planning, the U.S. Army Corps Coastal Storm Risk Management Study, and ongoing implementation of Boston's Heat Plan, 20-Year Urban Forest Plan, and stormwater management. At a state level, monitor and support the 2023 ResilientMass Plan implementation and emergency management protocols, Coastal Zone Management's Designated Port Areas resilience regulations, and support efforts to accelerate and improve resilient permitting backlogs and, when needed, amend existing regulations.
- Support the implementation of community-based heat resilience solutions to protect vulnerable communities, critical infrastructure, and the regional economy from extreme heat by sharing best practice recommendations for regional heat policies and protocols across jurisdictions and supporting the implementation of heat-related commitments in the 2023 ResilientMass Plan.
- Track the implementation of nature-based solutions, including ongoing conversations for carbon removals in Massachusetts, and how urban spaces can be leveraged for nature-based solutions for carbon, community, and nature co-benefits.

GOAL 3: PROMOTE THE DECARBONIZATION, RELIABILITY, AFFORDABILITY, AND RESILIENCE OF OUR ENERGY SUPPLY

- Support ongoing efforts to accelerate the equitable, reliable, and affordable decarbonization of Massachusetts' energy supply and support energy transformation at the city, regional, and state levels.
 - Support and advise the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council's 3-Year Plan for utilities and monitor the development of the Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse, the State's Energy Transformation work through participation in its Advisory and working groups, the grid modernization and grid capacity expansion efforts, accelerated



clean energy siting and permitting, and ongoing efforts to address interconnection backlogs.

- Support energy resilience through diversification of Massachusetts' energy portfolio, commercial solar energy deployment, on-site renewables, energy storage, smart grid technology, micro grids, district-based energy solutions, community solar, networked geothermal, and the exploration of innovative solutions like waste heat recovery.

GOAL 4: SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT, EXPANSION, AND IMPLEMENTATION OF EQUITABLE CLIMATE FUNDING AND FINANCING

- Support the expansion of financing, both public and private, for the Massachusetts Community Climate Bank, and continue to advocate for similar financing models to be applied to large existing building retrofit projects, particularly for hard-to-decarbonize buildings.
- Promote the development and implementation of equitable decarbonization and adaptation funding and financing opportunities that can be distributed regionally, work across climate mitigation and adaptation, leverage public and private capital, and promote community benefits whenever possible.
 - Track the statewide economic analysis underway of the investments needed to achieve Massachusetts' Clean Energy and Climate Plan commitments, as well as resilience commitments consistent with the implementation of the 2022 MA Climate Assessment and 2023 ResilientMass Plan and support next steps for statewide climate funding and financing.