



2021-2022 Energy & Environmental Policy Agenda

In service of A Better City's mission to ensure the equitable long-term growth, sustainability, and economic vitality of Greater Boston, the Energy and Environment Unit advocates to, and collaborates with, public-sector leaders. A Better City is dedicated to working with its members to: mitigate the progression of climate change; adapt to the impacts of climate change; and ensure an affordable, diversified, reliable, safe, and accessible supply of energy. A Better City will work to ensure the best possible design, governance, equitable financing, and implementation of City-, State, and Federal-level climate and clean energy policy, and strive to pursue our policy work in a people- and community-centered approach that promotes climate, environmental, and energy justice whenever possible. A Better City will accomplish these goals by advocating for legislative change, providing expertise to government administrators and ensuring that its members are engaged with climate mitigation and adaptation policy and climate justice opportunities through their organizations and across the Greater Boston business community.

GOAL 1: MITIGATE THE PROGRESSION OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- Promote and advance sustainability in buildings to support the City and State in meeting their stated climate goals by 2050, in a way that balances technological advancement and cost parity with decarbonization.
 - Provide insight on behalf of the Commercial Real Estate Sector as Boston enacts its 2019 Climate Action Plan update and develops BERDO 2.0 that includes a Building Emissions Performance Standard, and a Zero Net Carbon Standard.
 - Track and inform progress on the implementation of the 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan, the Next Generation Roadmap Bill, updates to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code and Building Code, and other relevant City-, State-, and Federal-level climate commitments.
- Develop and continually refine standards, metrics, financing mechanisms, and incentives to encourage a cleaner, cost-effective, and accessible energy supply through increased integration of renewables.
 - Promote advancements in renewables including offshore wind development, commercial solar energy deployment, and community solar, and identify opportunities and challenges for renewable energy procurement.
- Track and inform policy and legislative issues that relate to the establishment of a stable, reliable, and economy-wide carbon price and/or other market-based compliance mechanisms for greenhouse gas emissions reduction.

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

- Develop a coordinated strategy across the financing, governance, and implementations needs required for regional, resilient critical infrastructure and community resilience projects.
- Coordinate adaptation policy across federal, state, and city levels and promote regional collaboration.
- Develop and continually refine codes and standards, metrics, and incentives to enable investment in resilient infrastructure and adapted buildings.
- Support ongoing efforts by Climate Ready Boston's district-scale planning initiatives that include incorporating nature-based solutions into surrounding areas.
- Promote community resilience by supporting work that combats extreme heat, expands equitable clean energy workforce development, protects environmental justice communities, and prioritizes positive community health and well-being outcomes for all Greater Boston communities.
- Support the effective, transparent, verifiable, and permanent efforts for carbon removals in Massachusetts' anticipated sequestration accounting and market frameworks strategy within the 2030 Clean Energy and Climate Plan, and incorporate best practices for tools like offsets.

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

- Support grid modernization and grid capacity expansion efforts to ensure equitable access to clean, reliable, safe and affordable energy.
- Track and support the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council's 3-Year Plan for utilities, including how anticipated 3-Year Plans may interact with emerging legislation and/or future pilot programs.
- Support energy resilience through on-site renewables, micro grids, district-based energy solutions, and the exploration of tools like distributed generation, aggregation, and diverse energy portfolios.
- Promote the expansion and modernization of generation, transmission, distribution, and interconnection infrastructure systems to support increased electricity demand from electrified buildings and transportation.
- Promote the utilization of new clean energy technology and resources to stabilize and/or lower system and retail costs, including energy storage, hydrogen technology, microgrid deployment, and other needed technology.