



Energy & Environmental 2025-2026 Policy Agenda

A Better City's Energy and Environment Unit 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 strategic partnership in implementing Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan, and monitor the implementation of BERDO and BEUDO, and Zero Net Carbon Zoning. At a state level, monitor the implementation of Large Building Energy Reporting and energy code updates.
 - Track climatetech that can provide decarbonization solutions across sectors.
- Continue to partner with Boston's PowerCorpsBOS Building Operations program and other programs that provide equitable workforce development pathways into large building operations in member and partner buildings.

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 strategic partnership in implementing Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan, 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, track existing regulations, and advocate for streamlined resilience permitting regulations to enable the implementation of innovative climate and community resilience solutions.
- 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 State implementation of heat-related commitments in the 2023 ResilientMass Plan. Track and support the intersection of extreme heat and air quality in policymaking.
- Track the implementation of nature-based solutions and support 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 in the development of the 3-Year Energy Efficiency Plans, and the State's Energy Transformation work through participation in its Advisory and working groups. Support 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, 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 including for large existing building retrofit projects and resilience solutions.
- 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.