

CLIMATE READY BOSTON PROGRESS

This tool identifies progress toward implementation for the 5 layers, 11 strategies, and 39 initiatives recommended in the Climate Ready Boston Outline of Actions and will be updated regularly. It includes a summary graphic and details on progress for each initiative in a table format.

Across the City, we recognize the importance of tracking our progress and being transparent. This tool is the first iteration to improve those efforts in climate resiliency.

PROGRESS SUMMARY



PROGRESS DETAILS

LAYER 1: UPDATED CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

[Strategy 1: Maintain up-to-date projections of future climate conditions to inform adaptation.](#)

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
1.1: Launch the Greater Boston Panel on Climate Change and require periodic updating of Boston-specific climate projections.	NOT STARTED	The Environment Department (Environment) plans to reconvene the Boston Research Advisory Group (BRAG) within 5 years of the release of the first BRAG report (i.e., by 2021).
1.2: Create updated local flood maps to support planning, policy, and regulation.	IN PROGRESS	The Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) will release new maps with the updated Climate Change Checklist . (Fall 2017)

LAYER 2: PREPARED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

[Strategy 2: Expand education and engagement of Bostonians on climate hazards and action.](#)

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
2.1: Expand Citywide Climate Readiness Education and Engagement campaign.	IN PROGRESS	Greenovate launched the Climate Ready Boston Leaders Program in summer 2017. The first cohort was made up of 100 applicants representing every neighborhood in Boston.
2.2: Launch a Climate Ready Buildings Education Program for property owners and users.	NOT STARTED	Helpful resource: A Better City's Building Resilience Toolkit .
2.3: Conduct an outreach campaign to facilities that serve vulnerable populations to support preparedness and adaptation.	IN DEVELOPMENT	The Boston Public Health Commission is launching an effort to develop Continuity of Operations plans for facilities and community organizations that provide social services after emergencies. (June 2018)
2.4: Update the City's heat emergency action plan.	NOT STARTED	
2.5: Expand Boston's Small Business Preparedness Program.	NOT STARTED	Helpful resource: Cambridge preparedness resources for businesses .

Strategy 3: Leverage climate adaptation as a tool for economic development.

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
3.1: Identify resilience focused workforce development pathways.	NOT STARTED	
3.2: Pursue inclusive hiring and living wages for resilience projects.	IN PROGRESS	The Boston Jobs and Living Wage Ordinance applies to service contracts with the City valued at or above \$25,000 with companies that employ at least 25 full-time employees.
3.3: Prioritize use of minority- and-women-owned businesses for resilience projects.	IN PROGRESS	Mayor Walsh issued a 2016 Executive Order to ensure that minority and women entrepreneurs are afforded fair and equitable opportunities when competing for City contracts.

LAYER 3: PROTECTED SHORES*Strategy 4: Develop local climate resilience plans to coordinate adaptation efforts.*

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
4.1: Develop local climate resilience plans in vulnerable areas to support district-scale climate adaptation.	IN PROGRESS	Environment launched neighborhood-level climate resilience planning in East Boston and Charlestown (report in Fall 2017). The next project will be for the Fort Point Channel and South Boston Waterfront (starting Fall 2017). The Parks Department (Parks) and Environment are leading another effort in Dorchester Bay through the Joe Moakley Park planning process.
4.2: Establish local climate resilience committees to serve as long-term community partners for climate adaptation.	IN PROGRESS	Greenovate launched the Climate Ready Boston Leaders Program . Environment is also partnering with Neighborhood of Affordable Housing in East Boston on the ClimateCARE program .

Strategy 5: Create a coastal protection system.

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
5.1: Establish Flood Protection Overlay Districts (FPOD) and require potential integration with flood protection.	IN DEVELOPMENT	The Climate Ready East Boston and Charlestown project report (Fall 2017) will propose what a FPOD could look like for these two areas. This will then be evaluated by BPDA .
5.2: Determine a consistent evaluation framework for flood defense prioritization.	IN DEVELOPMENT	Environment is testing preliminary evaluation criteria. This is being done through the Climate Ready East Boston and Charlestown project and the harbor-wide flood protection study.
5.3: Prioritize and study the feasibility of district-scale flood protection.	IN PROGRESS	Environment , in collaboration with BPDA and others, is starting this effort through the Climate Ready East Boston and Charlestown project. The next project will be for the Fort Point Channel and South Boston Waterfront (Fall 2017).
5.4: Conduct a harbor-wide flood protection system feasibility study.	IN PROGRESS	University of Massachusetts Boston is conducting an initial feasibility assessment on a harbor-wide flood protection system. (December 2017)

LAYER 4: RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE*Strategy 6: Coordinate investments to adapt infrastructure to future climate conditions.*

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
6.1: Establish an Infrastructure Coordination Committee (ICC).	IN DEVELOPMENT	Environment is developing a preliminary work plan for the ICC, which will be a continuation of Climate Ready Boston's Infrastructure Advisory Group.
6.2: Continue to collect important asset and hazard data for planning purposes.	COMPLETE (ONGOING)	
6.3: Provide guidance on priority evacuation and service road infrastructure to the ICC.	NOT STARTED	

Strategy 7: Develop district-scale energy solutions to increase decentralization and redundancy.

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
7.1: Conduct feasibility studies for community energy solutions.	IN DEVELOPMENT	BPDA plans to start a feasibility study for the Raymond L. Flynn Marine Park . (Fall 2017)

Strategy 8: Expand the use of green infrastructure and other natural systems to manage stormwater, mitigate heat, and provide additional benefits.

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
8.1: Develop a green infrastructure location plan for public land and rights-of-way.	IN PROGRESS	Parks is creating a design and implementation guide for priority sites for green infrastructure. (December 2017) Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) is developing designs and cost estimates for green infrastructure in three Boston tributary areas. (October 2017)
8.2: Develop a sustainable operating model for green infrastructure on public land and rights-of-way.	NOT STARTED	
8.3: Evaluate incentives and other tools to support green infrastructure.	IN DEVELOPMENT	BWSC supports green infrastructure through site plan review requirements. They are exploring partnerships with external groups on other incentives and tools.
8.4: Develop design guidelines for green infrastructure on private property to support co-benefits.	IN PROGRESS	BWSC is creating a design manual. (2018-2019)
8.5: Develop an action plan to expand Boston's urban tree canopy.	IN DEVELOPMENT	Parks is conducting the Boston Parks Urban Tree Canopy Study. (December 2017)
8.6: Prepare outdoor facilities for climate change.	NOT STARTED	
8.7: Conduct a comprehensive wetlands inventory and develop a wetlands protection action plan.	NOT STARTED	

LAYER 5: ADAPTED BUILDINGS*Strategy 9: Update zoning and building regulations to support climate readiness.*

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
9.1: Establish a planning flood elevation to support zoning regulations in the future floodplain.	IN DEVELOPMENT	BPDA established a planning flood elevation for evaluating new projects in the updated Climate Change Checklist . (Fall 2017)
9.2: Revise zoning code to support climate ready buildings.	IN DEVELOPMENT	The scope of work for the upcoming South Boston Waterfront project refers specifically to developing zoning code recommendations for that area.
9.3: Promote climate readiness for projects in the development pipeline.	NOT STARTED	
9.4: Pursue state building code amendments to promote climate readiness.	NOT STARTED	
9.5: Incorporate future climate conditions into area plans.	IN PROGRESS	The final drafts for BPDA's Dot Ave and JP/Rox plans include recommendations for preparedness and resiliency. Climate is also a primary goal for the new Glover's Corner plan. Climate Ready Boston is a core pillar of Imagine Boston 2030 , Resilient Boston , and Go Boston 2030 .

Strategy 10: Retrofit existing buildings.

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
10.1: Establish a Resilience Audit Program for property owners.	NOT STARTED	
10.2: Prepare municipal facilities for climate change.	IN PROGRESS	The City's insurance company, FM Global, is assessing the flood vulnerability of some high-risk municipal buildings.
10.3: Expand back-up power at private buildings that serve vulnerable populations.	NOT STARTED	Completed in 2016, the Boston Community Energy Study identifies districts that are suitable for community solar projects.
10.4: Develop toolkit of building retrofit financing strategies.	NOT STARTED	

Strategy 11: Insure buildings against flood damage.

INITIATIVE	STATUS	PROGRESS
11.1: Evaluate the current flood insurance landscape in Boston.	IN DEVELOPMENT	The evaluation will be part of the City of Boston's Community Assistance Visit with FEMA during Fall 2017.
11.2: Join the NFIP Community Rating System.	NOT STARTED	
11.3: Advocate for reform in the National Flood Insurance Program.	NOT STARTED	