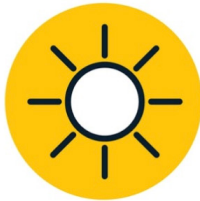


A CLIMATE READY BOSTON

Preparing Boston to face the challenge of climate change can drive equitable development and create jobs; improve transit and other community services; increase access to open space; and enhance health and security. Led by the City of Boston and the Green Ribbon Commission, Climate Ready Boston is aimed at identifying how Boston's climate is going to change, what's most at risk, and steps that can be taken to improve our community and thrive in the future. It builds on Boston's commitment to address global warming by cutting carbon and other emissions. The Climate Ready Boston report is available at (<https://www.boston.gov/environment-and-energy/climate-ready-boston>) and was developed with input from leading scientists; city, regional and state staff; utilities; and nonprofit and community organizations.

WHAT WE'RE FACING

From record snowstorms in 2015 to more frequent flooding on Morrissey Boulevard - climate impacts are here and projected to increase, affecting people, the economy, critical services, and homes and businesses. Children and older adults, people with health issues and disabilities, low-to-no income community members, people of color, and those with low English proficiency can be particularly impacted by climate disruption. Scientists agree there are three key hazards for Boston to focus on.



MORE HEAT:

Hotter summer. More frequent and extreme heat waves creating health hazards, power outages and other challenges. Winters will be warmer with cold snaps that cause frost and freeze damage.



MORE RAIN AND SNOWFALL:

Extreme rain and snow events are increasing and the trend is expected to continue disrupting transit, damaging buildings and infrastructure, and limiting access to jobs and services.



SEA LEVEL RISE:

Sea level rise is underway and accelerating. With sharp emissions reductions, the impact could be less than two feet, yet business as usual could generate much higher levels by the end of the century

INCREASING BOSTON'S CLIMATE READINESS

Climate Ready Boston outlines five key action items and recommends strategies to prepare Boston to change.



CLIMATE PROJECTIONS

Provide Boston with the latest data and tools for developing climate ready plans and policies.

For example:

Map Explorer tool (boston.gov/climate-ready)



SHORELINES

Promote a thriving and accessible waterfront through the creation of a coastal protection system

Proposed Strategies:

- Investigate opportunities to invest in local and district wide flood protections and ensure development won't limit future response options



INFRASTRUCTURE

Bolster power, water, transportation, communication and energy systems and reduce impacts through design.

Proposed Strategies:

- Update planning and design standards to reflect climate risks, and coordinate responses across infrastructure systems.
- Explore neighborhood clean energy microgrid systems that deliver power during outages, cut carbon, and generate economic opportunities
- Expand the use of green infrastructure (i.e. reduce flooding by restoring salt marshes)



BUILDINGS

Build or retrofit homes and businesses to withstand increased risks from flooding and adjust to hotter temperatures

Proposed Actions:

- Update zoning and building regulations to ready new development for impacts and explore retrofit options for existing buildings
- Prepare buildings facing the most risk and serving a public purpose
- Promote access to flood insurance



PREPARED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Involve Bostonians in identifying climate risks and innovative responses

Proposed Strategies

- Work with organizations to build awareness of climate risks and responses. Ex. Climate Ready Boston Leaders
- Help train workers for jobs in resilience. Ensure project follow hiring guidelines for local, living wage, minority and women-owned businesses
- Develop local climate resilience plans with community members that reflect neighborhood priorities

WHAT YOU CAN DO: BE A PART OF THE PLAN. TAKE ACTION!



PREPARED CITY

Host an emergency preparedness event

- Schedule a “Get Ready. Be Sage. Stay Healthy” workshop with the Boston Health Commission and learn how to prepare for emergencies that could affect your community. Contact Nancy Smith by emailing readysafehealthy@bphc.org or calling 617-343-6925.



SMART ENERGY USE

Host an energy efficiency and savings event

Making sure your home is as energy efficient as possible is one of the easiest ways to reduce your carbon footprint and save money.

- Connect your community with Renew Boston (<https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/renew-boston>), the City’s go-to energy saving program, and inform them on how to sign up for a no cost home energy audit.



GREEN AND OPEN SPACE

Host a community cleanup event

Green space is valuable to a community not only for its cultural significance and aesthetic, but also for the ecoservices it provides.

- Find the urban wilds and other green spaces in your community that could benefit from a clean up. Apply for mini grants through the Love Your Block program to help support efforts.



ZERO WASTE

Host a recycling informational event

By reusing and recycling we can collectively keep unnecessary items out of the City’s waste stream, which will save our residents money and help the environment

- Visit the City’s website to gain information on what can be recycled and how the process works in the City (<https://www.boston.gov/departments/public-works/recycling-boston>)
- Connect with Project Oscar, Boston’s 24-hour community compost pilot program (<https://www.boston.gov/environment-and-energy/project-oscar>)



PREPARED AND CONNECTED COMMUNITIES

Become a Climate Ready Boston Leader

Ensuring that your community is informed and connected on climate issues is an important step in combating climate change, and YOU can lead that effort in your neighborhood

- Sign up for the Climate Ready Boston Leaders program and you will be trained to effectively educate your network about the climate impacts Boston is facing (www.greenovateboston.org/crb-leaders)