

YOUTH LEADERS FACILITATION GUIDE

Every Bostonian has a role to play in making our city a healthy, thriving, and innovative city in a changing climate. *Greenovate Boston* connects community members to climate planning efforts as well as to programs and resources that support taking action at home, work, school, and around your neighborhood. Climate change will impact all facets of society and require all community members to use their expertise to prepare Boston. Community members must lead the actions taken against climate change, as they are the experts of their own communities. *Greenovate Boston* aims to expand the accessibility of the Leaders program by creating dialogues specific to Boston's most vulnerable populations. With climate changes long term impact on society, it is imperative to prepare the Youth to take leadership and continue the climate work.

At the Youth Leaders workshop, community concerns are raised, captured, and shared with the *Greenovate Boston* team to inform climate action planning, and participants identify the steps they can take to help advance climate solutions. After these gatherings, Youth leaders in partnership with the *Greenovate* team make themselves available to answer questions and/or find programs and resources that can help attendees implement their personal and/or neighborhood action plans.

The following guide offers tips for how to facilitate dialogue on climate action. It is designed to supplement the notes offered in the *Greenovate Youth Leaders workshop*.

GETTING STARTED – Here are some general tips on how to approach a *Greenovate Youth Leaders* dialogue:

- **Create a dialogue.** Engaging in dialogues helps people process risk and provides a format for exploring solutions. Speak to what you know from experience. Be authentic and confident in your discussion. As a member of the community, what talking points do you think people care most about? Minimize presentation time and maximize participant interactions. Create the space for honest, organic communal conversation. Take special attention to important points/takeaways.
- **Tailor the approach.** The sample agenda, presentation and facilitation approach should be customized based on the youth leader and the type of neighborhood or group being engaged. Be mindful and intentional with the words and colloquialisms you use. Make sure to be personable and knowledgeable about the concerns of the community you are speaking to. Put yourself in your audience's shoes.
- **Prioritize solutions.** It is important to provide some facts about climate change impacts; however, focus on what is being done to tackle the problem and how people can contribute. Encourage creativity when coming up with the solutions. Don't be afraid to have tough conversations.

- **Climate change expertise is not required.** The goal of the gathering is to foster a conversation and facilitate action, not give a science lesson. If you want to include more detailed information about climate change projections and planning efforts than what is provided, the *Greenovate* team can direct you to the resources. A member of the *Greenovate* team will be at the gathering to help answer questions and can connect you with leaders who can offer guidance.

DIALOGUE STRUCTURE - This agenda provides a framework for a three hour dialogue. Group exercises can be expanded and the agenda modified.

Agenda

Section One: Introduction – Why We Are Here (20 min) Slides 1 - 5

- Youth leaders introduction
- Youth Leaders workshop summary and agenda review
- Participant introductions
- Session Plan overview

Section Two: Why Action is Needed (20 min) Slides 7 -17

- Cutting carbon matters (Carbon Free Boston findings)
- Climate change impacts (sea-level rise and more extreme coastal storms, heat waves, and rain events)
- Boston Projections (example of sea-level rise projections)
- Public health impacts
- People aren't affected equally (social/economic factors)

Section Three: Community Feedback (25 min) Slide 18

- In groups of three, participants discuss and then report back on the climate change impacts they are most concerned about and why.

Section Four: Climate Action: What you can do (25 min) Slides 20 - 31

- Prepared City – citywide and neighborhood strategies to address climate change impacts
- Smart Energy City – programs to shift to clean electricity, increase energy efficiency, and becoming carbon free by reducing emissions from buildings, electric power, transportation and waste
- Mobile City – programs to increase biking, walking, and EV use.
- Zero Waste City – efforts to reduce carbon emissions from waste
- Connected City – active engagement through *Greenovate Boston* and the *Greenovate Leaders Program*

Q & A/Break (15 min)

Section Five: Action Plan (45 min) Slide 33

- Participants discuss ideas and steps they can take as individuals/group.

- In small groups, they share and refine their equity and action ideas towards engagement/programming for youth.
- Groups report back and the youth leader helps identify where support is needed to advance individual and collective actions.

Section Six: Next Steps & Meeting Conclusion (10 min) Slide 34-36

- The youth leader outlines next steps including what they and/or the City can do to help implement individual action plans and group projects.
- Highlight the City departments that support youth engagement.
- Encourage attendees to submit action ideas to Greenovate Boston if interested in pursuing them.

FACILITATION TIPS – This section includes tips for presenting climate change impacts and action information and for facilitating the interactive portions of the dialogue.

Introduction – Why We Are Here

- ***The Greenovate Challenge - Facilitator & Attendee Introductions (slide 3)***. Kick off the session with a story about why you care about climate change and/or how it has impacted your life, and why you were motivated to become a Youth leader to help raise awareness and motivate action. Feel free to personalize the slide with your photo and/or image from your neighborhood.
- ***The Greenovate Challenge - Greenovate and Youth Leaders Program Introduction (slide 4)***. Emphasize that *Greenovate* is how to connect to what the City is doing and the youth leaders reach out to their networks and help increase awareness and action. Highlight the focus of the leaders program on Boston's most vulnerable populations including people of color, elderly, youth, homeless, women.
- ***Session Plan (slide 5)*** – Break down how the time at the gathering will be spent. Next, have participants introduce themselves (name, motivation to attend) either to the group as a whole or in pairs if the group is large. Model a concise introduction and stick to 10 minutes for participant introductions.

Why Action is Needed

- ***Cutting Carbon Matters (slide 7)*** - Use this time to educate the participants on what climate change is and what contributes to it. It is easy to assume that all participants have the same working knowledge about climate change, but that most likely is not true. Use this time to explain what climate change in relation to the context of the presentation. Don't necessarily get bogged down in the science. Speak about it as you are setting the situation for participants to think about it in a cause and effect scenario. Also, use this time to highlight the findings of Carbon Free Boston and to educate participants where the majority of our emissions come from. Most will probably be surprised to see the breakdown.

- **What We Are Facing (slide 8)** – The talking points in the presentation aim to convey the relevance of climate change impacts, rather than detail all the ways in which Boston will be affected. If you want to expand the presentation to include more information about impacts, there are additional slides and fact sheets available at <https://www.boston.gov/departments/environment/greenovate-boston-leaders-program>. Avoid over emphasizing the threat because it can generate fatalism. Many Bostonians are already concerned and want to know what can be done. You can refer participants to *Climate Ready Boston* for more information about climate impacts and responses. If they have specific questions, ask for names, emails, and requests to be written down and that you and/or the *Greenovate* team will follow up.
- **More Hot Days (slide 9)** – Sea-level rise provides a clear example of why cutting carbon and other GHG gases is critical to avoiding some of the anticipated impacts of climate change. Projections are based on emission scenarios and as you can see with sea-level rise, the more we emit the higher the water will be.
- **Heat Island Exposure (slide 10)** – The graphic on this slide shows where efforts to address climate change need to particularly factor in the needs of the young and elderly, those facing health challenges, low income community members and people of color. You can offer context by pointing out the trends in your neighborhood.
- **Increased Precipitation (slide 11)** – Emphasize the drastic increase in precipitation from today to 2100. Think about the impact that six inch precipitation will have on Bostonians. How would this movement of water affect residents? Where might the water accumulate? What effect would that have on the neighborhood? Use this conversation to brainstorm these questions as a group.
- **Stormwater Flooding (slide 12)** – Highlight the areas where there's a greater concentration of impact from stormwater flooding. Identify the neighborhoods that will be the greatest impacted out loud. This will help attendees visualize the scope of the impact.
- **Sea Level Rise (slide 13)** – Sea-level rise provides a clear example of why cutting carbon and other GHG gases is critical to avoiding some of the anticipated impacts of climate change. Projections are based on emission scenarios and as you can see with sea-level rise, the more we emit the higher the water will be.
- **Flooding Along the Coast and Rivers (slide 14)** – Flip through the projected flooding along the coast and rivers. Highlight the change and which neighborhoods will be most impacted.
- **Impacts Are Here. Time To Prepare. (slide 15)** – Emphasize that climate change is already affecting Bostonians. Use personal anecdotes and experiences to highlight the felt sensation of climate change.

- **People Aren't Affected Equally (slide 16)** –The graphic on this slide shows where efforts to address climate change need to particularly factor in the needs of the young and elderly, those facing health challenges, low income community members and people of color. You can offer context by pointing out the trends in your neighborhood. *Spend more time examining the Youth concentration slide.*
- **Climate Change & Public Health (Slide 17)** - Climate change is a public health concern. People depend on clean air and water, reliable food sources, and a stable climate to be healthy. Though addressing climate change, we have the opportunity to simultaneously improve people's health. By improving air quality, we decrease the risk of respiratory complications, by expanding our tree canopy, we decrease heat related illness, and through flood prevention measures, we decrease the risk of harm to our critical health infrastructure.

Discussion

- **Community Feedback (slide 18).** Quickly ask for any questions and then outline how the small group discussions will work. For example, “We will be breaking into groups of three to discuss our concerns about the impacts of climate change and following the discussion, I'll be outlining what the City is doing and some ways we can take part in climate action. We will then spend the last part of our time together developing action plans.”
- Ask people to move into groups of three to answer: *What climate change impacts are you most concerned about and why?* Ask that each group select a notetaker. Give the groups 10-15 minutes to discuss. Provide a reminder to summarize the discussion and get ready to report back. Allow up to 10 minutes for report back. If you have a lot of participants, there won't be enough time for all groups to share so select a few to volunteer. In the last 5 minutes, gather the notes and let folks know the input will be used to inform planning efforts. Point out people can learn more about climate risks via *Climate Ready Boston*.

Climate Action

- **Climate Action (slide 20-22)** - Provide a short overview of the programs that make up Greenovate Boston that you will be covering in terms of what the City is doing and what you can do as individuals or as a group.
- **Prepared City – What the City is Doing (slide 23)** – *Climate Ready Boston* is the program to advance efforts to prepare for climate impacts. You can explain all of the strategies listed in the slide notes or highlight the one or two that are most relevant to your group. If you want to go into more detail about a particular neighborhood plan, there is information for East Boston, Charleston and South Boston on the *Climate Ready Boston* webpage and the *Greenovate* team can help with tailoring your presentation. In case questions come up about the development, design and zoning actions, the City has adopted a *Climate Resiliency and Preparedness* checklist that is used when reviewing large development projects to ensure increased temperatures, sea level rise, and flooding are being addressed; has

developed guidelines for on-shore flood protections that will supplement the City's existing design standards and is creating a "flood resilience zone" is being created to guide the use of and development in the area in the city most vulnerable to flooding so that future climate change impacts are anticipated and planned for (i.e. building to prepare for 40 inches of sea-level rise). When it comes to heat and health, the City of Boston is updating its plans for responding to extreme heat events, creating a public health heat strategy, and expanding efforts to educate community members about how to respond to heat waves. Urban wilds can be found in Brighton, Charleston, Dorchester, East Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Mission Hill, Roslindale, Roxbury and West Roxbury. For more details, visit <https://www.boston.gov/environment-and-energy/urban-wilds-initiative>. The City holds regular clean up events at urban wild parks which are listed on the Greenovate event page.

- **Prepared City – What You Can Do (slide 24)** – Updates on neighborhood plans and notifications about events are available on the *Greenovate* website and email list.
- **Smart Energy City – What the City is Doing (slide 25)** – Boston is working with other cities to scale renewable energy through collective buying power and is increasing energy efficiency through the *Renew Boston* program. The Municipal Energy Aggregation working group has been meeting to make sure that the program is introduced in an equitable way. *Carbon Free Boston* has developed strategies to reduce emissions which will inform the update to the *Climate Action Plan*. To become carbon neutral Boston must help shift the electrical grid to clean power, run buildings and transportation on electricity, upgrade our existing buildings to be highly efficiency, and build our new buildings at a net zero energy standard. We are currently updating our *Climate Action Plan* to decide what steps the city can take in the next 3-5 years to address these critical actions. Steps the City can consider include promoting district heating and cooling systems, micro-grids, rooftop solar, and community produced and owned power; making improvements in building design and retrofits, energy systems and efficiency; and increasing electric vehicle use.
- **Smart Energy City – What You Can Do (slide 26)** – The emphasis of should be from a youth's perspective in around energy efficiency and renewable energy. List off the actions from the slide and brainstorm actions that you can think of. Youth encouraging and educating their parents on Community Choice Energy and Mass Save benefits are important. Also, including schools and teachers in the conversation is also powerful. Point attendees to the resources on the *Mass Save* website for renters, homeowners, landlords and businesses to save energy and money. Greenovate can assist with acquiring information and resources.
- **Mobile City – What the City is Doing (slide 27)** – The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) is responsible for public transit, not the City of Boston, and is therefore not included in strategies under this action item. MBTA is addressing the vulnerability of the Blue Line in its planning efforts. Boston

Transportation Department is one of our closest partners in our Mobile City work! Talk about Go Boston 2030. Examples with GB2030 like Vision Zero.

- **Mobile City – What You Can Do (slide 28)** - The emphasis of should be from a youth's perspective on active transportation. List off the actions from the slide and brainstorm actions that you can think of. Encourage greater usage of public transportation, biking, and walking. Share information around electrical vehicles. Boston Bikes offers a wide range of resources from maps of bike routes to bike repair and new rider workshops. Attendees can participate in *Complete Streets* efforts by visiting the program's website and signing up for alerts.
- **Zero Waste City – What the City is Doing (slide 29)** - Reducing emissions from waste is a key pillar of *Carbon Free Boston Report* that was released in January of this year. It is being advanced through the City's *Zero Waste* initiative which is looking at ways to expand recycling, food waste collection, material reduction, reuse, and repair. *Carbon Free Boston* and *Zero Waste* will both feed into the update to the *Climate Action Plan*. Zero waste means that as much solid waste is reduced and reclaimed to the point that essentially none is left to be burned or landfilled.
- **Zero Waste – What You Can Do (slide 30)** - List off the actions from the slide and brainstorm actions that you can think of. Highlight what the youth can do around Zero Waste in their schools, homes, after school facilities, and community centers. The City offers subsidized backyard composting and worm bins. There are five Project Oscar community composting sites where people can drop off food waste. They are located in Jamaica Plain, East Boston, North End, City Hall, and Brighton. The East Boston site, now located near Maverick station, will be moved to a new location. You can hand out the summary of things that can be recycled/cannot be recycled as a resource. Information about Fix-It Clinics can be found on the Fix-It Clinic Facebook page. People can connect to Love Your Block via the City of Boston's website. The city is also going to be piloting a curbside compost program.
- **Connected City (slide 31)** – Quickly mention *Greenovate Boston* and the *Greenovate Boston Community Leaders* as these *Connected City* programs were described in the introduction. Highlight the opportunities available from *Greenovate Boston*: *cleaning up an Urban Wild & a Street*; *leading a climate action*; *hosting an equity dialogue for your community*; *volunteering for the environment department*. All actions are accessible to community members to participate in.

Action Plan

- **Action Plans (slide 33)** – Let participants know they are going to dive into developing action plans. Explain that they are going to start by creating a personal plan with steps they can take as an individual (i.e. biking, making energy efficiency improvements at home, starting a food waste collection program at work, etc.). Walk through the list of action and ask if there are any questions. **Give people 5-10 minutes** to identify the actions they can commit to and to add any ideas for actions

they can take that are not on the list provided. The facilitator will hand out the Climate Action feedback form to the attendees.

- **Ask everyone to move into groups of three.** Have participants share their action plans and encourage people to add to them based on the group discussion. **Allow 10 minutes for this.**
- For the next 10 minutes, ask the participants to brainstorm in their small groups what they might do collectively. They need to select a note taker and to leave time for summarizing ideas at the end to share back with the larger group. If you are hosting your facilitated dialogue at your church, school, place of work, neighborhood association, etc. focus the discussion on what people can do together to take action within that organization. You may choose to drop the collective action component and add more time to the personal action planning if your group is not connected through an organization and/or are unlikely to work together to advance climate action or do the opposite and spend all of their time developing collective action plans.
- Take the last 10 minutes of this section to ask volunteers to share some of the individual actions they are going to take. Ask for a raise of hands from others who checked off the same action. Next have some of the small groups report back on their collective action ideas. Write the idea on a flip chart/whiteboard, ask for additions and then poll participants for the ideas they like the most. If there is time at the end, ask questions such as “What actions are you most excited to take on?”, “What actions seem most difficult and what would help you move forward?” The Facilitators will collect the Climate Action Feedback Forms from all of the attendees.
- Make sure to take notes, collect action feedback forms, and take pictures. Please share these documents with Greenovate Boston at Greenovate@Boston.gov.

CONCLUSION

- **Next Steps (slide 34)** - Following the action plan discussion, engrain in attendees to follow through with the actions they've discussed. Encourage attendees to take leadership in preparing their fellow youth for the impacts of climate change. If they need assistance/support for actions, encourage them to send their action plan to Greenovate Boston.
- **Youth Resources (slide 35)** - Highlight the departments that provide resources to youth. Each provide an opportunity for youth to further leadership opportunities. Each opportunity presents a great opportunity for more engagement around climate action. The emphasis should be on how interconnected all matters are and engaging with the City is a great first step to taking climate action.
- **Let's Greenovate Boston (slide 36)** - In the last 5 minutes of the meeting, thank participants and let them know you and the Greenovate team are available to help answer any questions/locate resources, etc. and that you will be emailing the

group in a month to see how things are going with implementing action plans. If there is energy in the group to move forward on a collective project then clarify what the next step will be (i.e. sending an email to set a follow up meeting to explore further).