INAUGURAL BOSTON CLIMATE PROGRESS REPORT

Research Presentation
November 3, 2022
BOSTON HAS MANY CLIMATE PLANS
Boston is on track to miss its 2030 community emissions target by approximately 5 years due to a collective inability to implement big changes over the past decade.

An inequitable transition looms due to a legacy of past harm and a lack of a comprehensive strategy for addressing it.

Current governance structures and funding levels are failing to meet the growing resilience need.
BOSTON IS BEHIND ON ITS CLIMATE GOALS

And so is the rest of the world...

Climate Pledges Are Falling Short, and a Chaotic Future Looks More Like Reality

Copenhagen’s dream of being carbon neutral by 2025 goes up in smoke

City of Vancouver not on track to meet climate targets: report

Energy
California Risks Missing Its Climate Targets. Here’s How It Can Get On Track And Add Billions In Economic Growth.
STRUCTURE
OF THE
REPORT

3......Goals

12......Outcomes

4......Big Lifts

9......Barriers

PROGRESS ON GOALS

1. Net Zero Emissions
   - Low Carbon Electricity
   - Electrified Mobility
   - Equitable Housing and Mobility
   - Electric and Resilient Buildings
   - Greater Integration of Energy Systems
   - Targeted Use of Fuels
   - Reduced Waste and Sustainable Energy Recovery
   - Sustainable Carbon Dioxide Removal
   - Preserved and Enhanced Natural Carbon Stock
   - Protected Coastline
   - Prepared for Extreme Weather
   - Repair of Past Harms

PROGRESS ON OUTCOMES

1. Electrify Boston's Small Buildings

2. Local Energy Planning

3. Building a Resilient Coastline

4. Neighborhood Climate Justice

BOSTON’S BIG LiftS
LOCAL ACTION ONLY GOES SO FAR

Electrify Boston’s Small Buildings

2021 Heat Pump Installs 100
2021 Gas Furnace Replacements 1,000+
Annual Heat Pump Install Target 10,000

Local Energy Planning

The development of local energy resources has been challenged by state law

Building a Resilient Coastline

Most coastal land is privately held and difficult to influence

State Electrification Industrial Policy Signal

Expand City of Boston Planning Powers and Capacity

Develop Process for Engaging Communities and Property Owners Early

Market & Workforce Development
CONFLICTING GOALS

Electrify Boston’s Small Buildings

Significant tradeoffs among building owners, tenants, utilities and society

Local Energy Planning

The benefits and tradeoffs of new infrastructure are not well understood by everyone

Building a Resilient Coastline

City, state and federal regulation can conflict and challenge project permitting

Gas Transition Planning

Improve Data

Develop Processes That Ensure Positive Outcomes for Communities Hosting Energy Infrastructure

Create Statewide (or other) Governance Agency to Coordinate and Finance Coastal Resilience
Reparative planning acknowledges the role urban planning has played in oppressing Black people and other people of color and seeks to undo past harms.
BOSTON’S BIG PIVOT POINT IS HERE NOW

- Green New Deal Agenda in City Hall
- New Governor & Collaborative Opportunities
- Climate & Equity Goals Converging
- Major State & Federal Climate Legislation
- Public & Private Sector Ready to Act
THE BIG PIVOT REQUIRES ALL HANDS ON DECK

GOVERNMENT

Neighboring Municipalities
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
City of Boston
Utilities (Eversource, National Grid, MassSave)
District Energy Systems (MATEP, Vicinity)
Higher Education & Cultural Institutions
Commercial Real Estate
Health Care
Social Influencers
Neighborhoods
Residents & Commuters
ISO-NE States
Federal Government
Residents

PRIVATE SECTOR

Community Organizations
Climate and Justice Organizations