



METRO MAYORS CLIMATE MITIGATION COMMITMENT

In May 2015, the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition (MMC) adopted the Metro Boston Climate Preparedness Commitment. The Commitment created the Metro Boston Climate Preparedness Taskforce to guide regional climate decisions in a collaborative manner. The Taskforce supports coordination among the existing and planned climate resiliency and mitigation efforts of the communities in metro Boston.

Now, we, the 14 cities and towns of the Metropolitan Mayors Coalition, pledge to build on and expand our climate leadership.

We pledge, both collectively and independently, to be leaders in the crusade not only to prevent the worst impacts of climate change, but also to pioneer paths forward that create a better tomorrow.

We pledge that this collaboration shall include the development of new efforts and the expansion of existing programs and policies that curb greenhouse gas emissions in our communities.

We pledge to integrate an equitable, low-carbon, smart-growth framework into planning, program development, and project reviews for municipalities and the region at large.

Inspired by the Paris Climate Accord signed by more than 190 countries at the United Nations Conference of Parties 21 in December 2015, we commit to demonstrating visionary leadership that is coupled with local innovation and economic development.

We pledge to work together, to set measurable and complementary targets, and to drive an impactful low-carbon agenda, while using our actions to protect and uplift marginalized and disadvantaged populations.

BY 2020, we commit that each municipality will develop and/or update a local climate mitigation plan AND implement at least three (3) climate mitigation actions between the date of adoption and 2020 from the list included herein.

BY 2050, we commit that the region will achieve NET ZERO/Carbon-Free status.

2020 CLIMATE MITIGATION ACTIONS

Buildings

Action 1 Amend the municipal zoning code to require that all large-scale building projects meet a minimum Certified Green Building Standard (e.g. LEED Silver or Gold, Living Building Challenge, or comparable).

Action 2 Establish a streamlined and fast-tracked permitting process as well as reduced or eliminated fees for new construction and major renovations that include renewable energy or energy efficiency features.

Action 3 Adopt a Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (e.g. Boston's BERDO or Cambridge's BEUDO) for Large Buildings and Institutions.

Action 4 Adopt the Stretch Energy Code.

Transportation

Action 5 Adopt Complete Streets policies and plans and implement projects in smart-growth locations.

Action 6 Expand the placement of electric vehicle and/or hydrogen fuel cell charging stations throughout the municipality, and obtain at least three (3) non-fossil fuel vehicles for municipal functions.

Action 7 Incentivize Transit-Oriented Development (TOD), maximizing the potential of TOD by establishing and continuing to enhance zoning and land-use measures consistent with the scale and character of high-density, mixed-use development inclusive of affordable housing.

Action 8 Expand alternative transportation infrastructure and programs that encourage biking and walking (e.g., implementing a bike-share program, expanding walking trails).

Action 9 Adopt a green fleet policy for new and replacement municipal vehicle acquisition.

Renewables

Action 10 Enroll in a Community Electricity Aggregation program community-wide that expressly includes the addition of new renewable energy generation to the local electric grid, i.e. via new local renewable installations or the purchase of additional MA Class I RECs.

Action 11 Establish a streamlined and expedited permitting process as well as reduced or eliminated fees for renewable energy system installations.

Action 12 Support a community-wide outreach program that incentivizes renewable energy system installations in residential, nonprofit, and small commercial sectors (e.g., Solarize or Thermalize programs).

Energy Efficiency

Action 13 Retrofit streetlights to efficient LEDs community-wide.

Action 14 Facilitate a partnership between the electric and gas utilities in your municipality to streamline energy efficiency audits by combining electric and gas audits for the non-residential sectors, and promote these audits in the small business and non-profit communities.

Action 15 Implement a plan for addressing natural gas pipeline leaks in your municipality in an accelerated and coordinated manner.

Action 16 Enter into an MOU with utility(ies) to advance energy efficiency and renewable efforts and facilitate data sharing

Municipal Facilities

Action 17 Conduct an updated energy audit of all municipal facilities and implement energy conservation measures where needed, or implement a retro-commissioning program of facilities in which upgrades were enacted within the last 5 years.

Action 18 Adopt a Certified Green Building Standard (e.g., LEED Silver or Gold, Living Building Challenge) as the design and construction minimum for the renovation and new construction of all municipal facilities.

Action 19 Install additional renewable energy generating or energy storage technologies (e.g. solar arrays, lithium ion battery storage, geothermal heat pumps) on public land and buildings.

Action 20 Implement a routine load-shedding program whereby peak demand energy use is reduced and operational changes are instituted (e.g. higher AC set points in summer, consolidated facility use during off-hours) to lessen overall energy demand year-round.

Waste

Action 21 Implement a community-wide zero-waste plan while expanding recycling programs and participation in waste reduction activities.

Action 22 Implement an organics-diversion program in commercial and residential buildings.