

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE CITY OF BOSTON'S 2030 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has made great strides and been a model for comprehensive and justice-centered climate action planning to address both the escalating impacts of climate change and longstanding environmental inequities; *and*

WHEREAS, Over the last two decades, Boston has developed plans focused on carbon reduction from buildings, transportation, energy use, and resiliency adaptation. A Boston Climate Progress Report from 2022 evaluated the city's trajectory toward net-zero and resilience goals, spotlighting critical action points that require acceleration like equitable emissions reduction and resilience investments; *and*

WHEREAS, Additionally, in January 2025, the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks released *Boston Rising: Building a Resilient City on a Hill Through Local Climate Action*; a 19-page report that addressed the city's mobilization as a climate action model, especially amid federal rollbacks in environmental funding and regulation; *and*

WHEREAS, The report highlighted oversight of over \$33 million in environmental funding, policy achievements such as the creation of the Office of Climate Resilience, integrating environmental justice and climate science in Boston Public Schools, and workforce development in green and blue economies; *and*

WHEREAS, The report also introduced innovative municipal policy proposals and funding strategies to protect Boston from the adverse effects of climate change including a municipal level climate bank to support funding for large resiliency projects along all 47 miles of Boston's coastline; *and*

WHEREAS, Under Mayor Wu's leadership, Boston has released a 2030 Climate Action Plan. This new roadmap will guide implementation for the next five years. The plan aims to set measurable progress indicators aligned with Boston's Green New Deal, progressing toward carbon neutrality by 2050; *and*

WHEREAS, The plan also focuses on high-impact implementation actions, such as decarbonized buildings, sustainable and equitable transportation, clean energy deployment, nature-based resilience, waste reduction, healthier public spaces, and an inclusive green workforce; *and*

WHEREAS, The goals of the 2030 Climate Action Plan are to enhance existing efforts by closing gaps between current strategies, synchronizing timelines, and providing greater clarity on implementation. It plans to establish measurable benchmarks and introduce robust tracking tools to monitor progress across sectors to ensure Boston's climate initiatives move forward in a cohesive, coordinated, and accountable way; *and*

WHEREAS, Furthermore, the plan embeds climate justice at its core, ensuring vulnerable communities, like East Boston, South Boston, and Dorchester are central beneficiaries of climate investments and planning; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is highly vulnerable to sea-level rise, storm surges, and extreme heat due to its landfill-based historic development and geological subsidence. This coupled with the federal administration's attacks on environmental regulation and climate change adoption efforts creates an urgent need for the City of Boston to have a strong and effective strategic plan to protect Bostonians from environmental hazards like pollution and sea-level rise; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has a strong foundation—from the Green New Deal, Climate Ready Boston, the BERDO regulatory framework, and the city's leadership in local climate justice. However, it is key that Boston invest in deeper efforts towards decarbonization, system-wide adaptation, and equitable implementation, especially in neighborhoods that have historically bear the brunt of climate injustices; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss Boston's 2030 Climate Action Plan. Individuals and organizations including the Mayor's Office of the Environment, environmental experts, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: October 22, 2025