

A GRCx Event: Participatory Climate Justice Planning

GRCx is an interactive program series from the Boston Green Ribbon Commission designed to accelerate the implementation of the City's Climate Action Plan by providing high-quality, useful content on climate resilience and carbon mitigation to the Boston community.

GRCx

GREEN RIBBON COMMISSION
Climate Action
Exchange

Introductions

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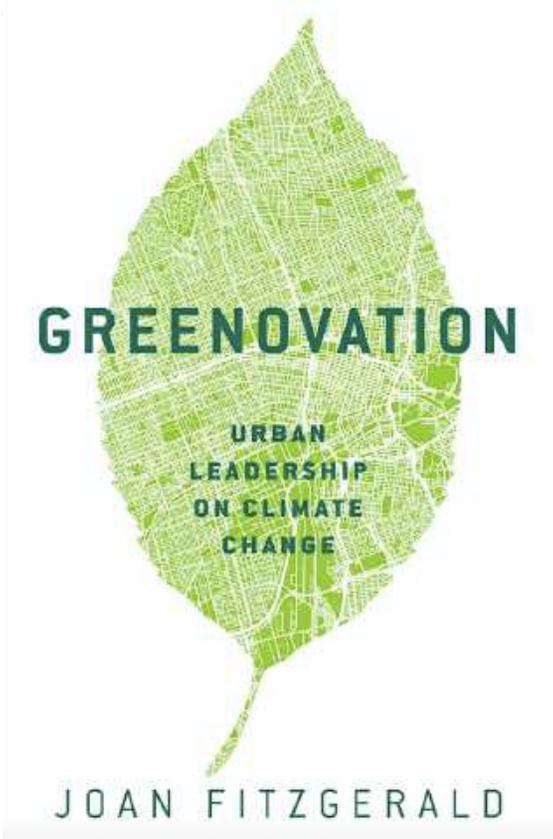


Northeastern University
School *of* Public Policy and Urban Affairs

Participatory Climate Justice Planning

Professor Joan Fitzgerald
Northeastern University





GREENOVATION

URBAN
LEADERSHIP
ON CLIMATE
CHANGE

JOAN FITZGERALD



Climate Justice Planning Requirements

- **Recognition of historical inequities and their impact on frontline communities (structural equity)**
- **Authentic participation that has residents of frontline communities co-creating goals and strategies (procedural equity)**
- **Metrics and an ongoing process for measuring outcomes**
- **Redistribution (distributional equity)**



Journal of the American Planning Association, 1969

Arnstein's Ladder of Public Participation



Spectrum of Public Participation

Source: International Association of Public Participation

	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
Public Participation Goal	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives, opportunities and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decisions.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
Promise to the Public	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision. We will seek your feedback on drafts and proposals.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work together with you to formulate solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.

Spectrum of Public Participation

Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Empower
		Baltimore	Portland Cleveland Austin	Providence (defer to) Austin?

Equity Assessment of Climate Plans

City	Plan	Absent	Isolated	Integrated	Evaluated
Austin	2015 Community Plan		X		
	2020 Climate Action Plan			X	X
Baltimore	2012 Climate Action Plan		X		
	2019 Sustainability Plan			X	X
Cleveland	2013 Climate Action Plan		X		
	2018 Climate Action Plan			X	X
Portland	2009 Climate Action Plan		X		
	2015 Climate Action Plan			X	X
Providence	2014 Sustainability Plan			X	X
	2019 Climate Justice Plan			X	X

Metrics/Measuring Outcomes

- By goals in each of the plans's areas (e.g. solar installations, energy retrofits in low-income housing; EV access in frontline neighborhoods)
- Projects started in frontline communities
- Dedicated funding streams to support projects in frontline communities
-





SUSTAINPVD

Mayor Jorge O. Elorza

Leah Bamberger, Director of Sustainability



In 1790 Samuel Slater and Moses Brown opened the first water-powered cotton-spinning factory in the United States in Pawtucket, Rhode Island, thus beginning a new age of industrialization.

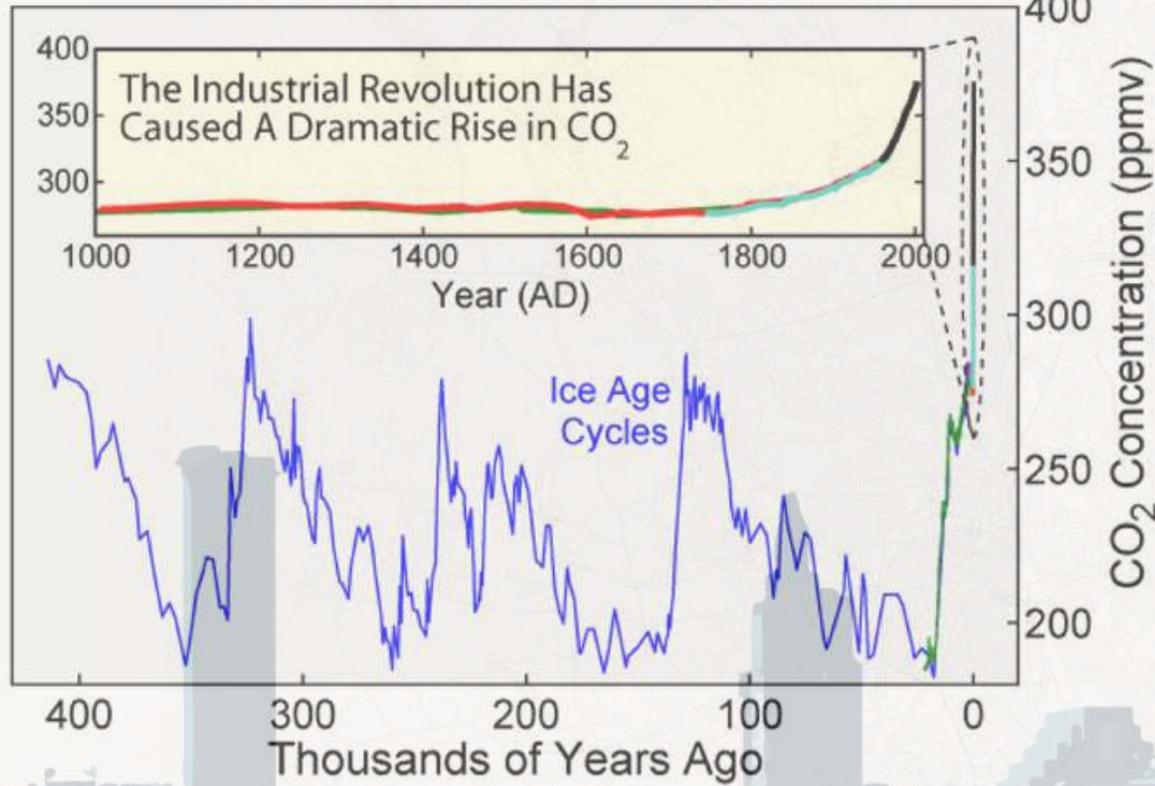


PROVIDENCE, R.I.

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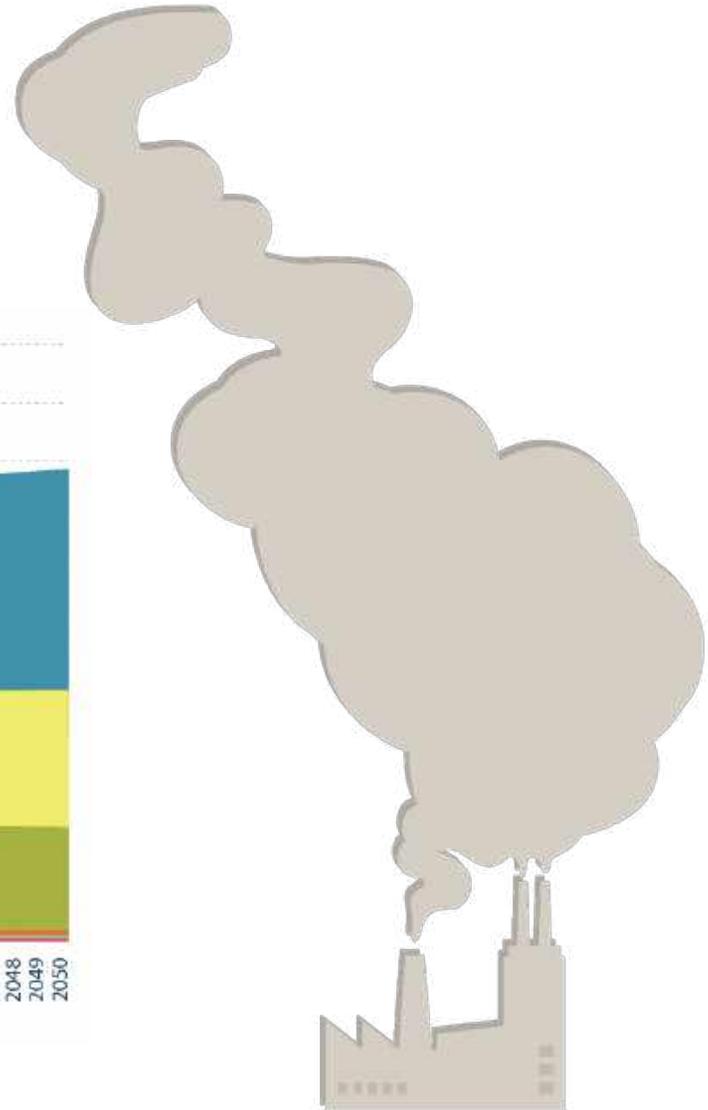
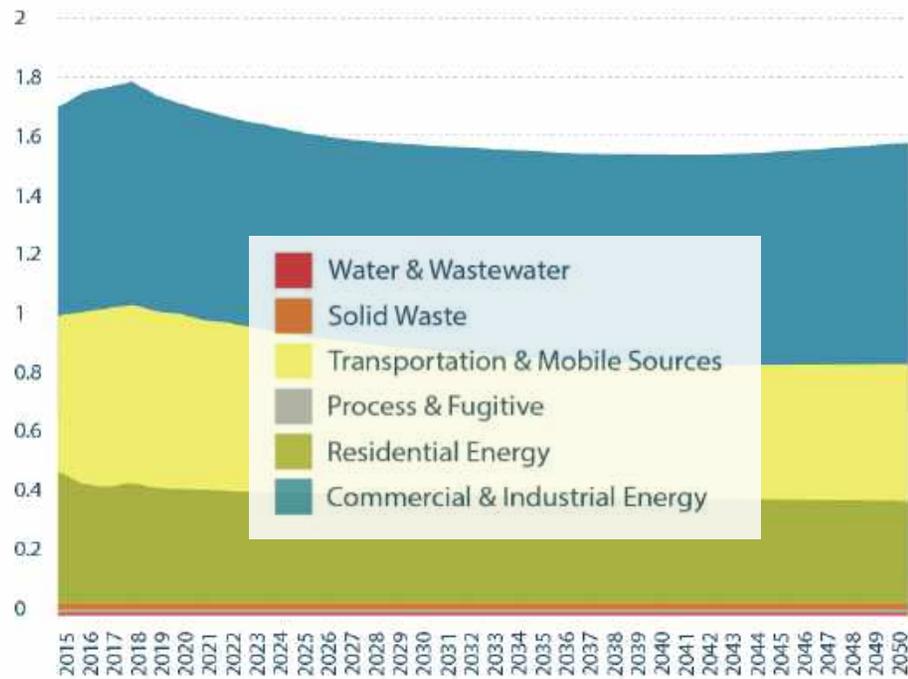


Carbon Dioxide Variations



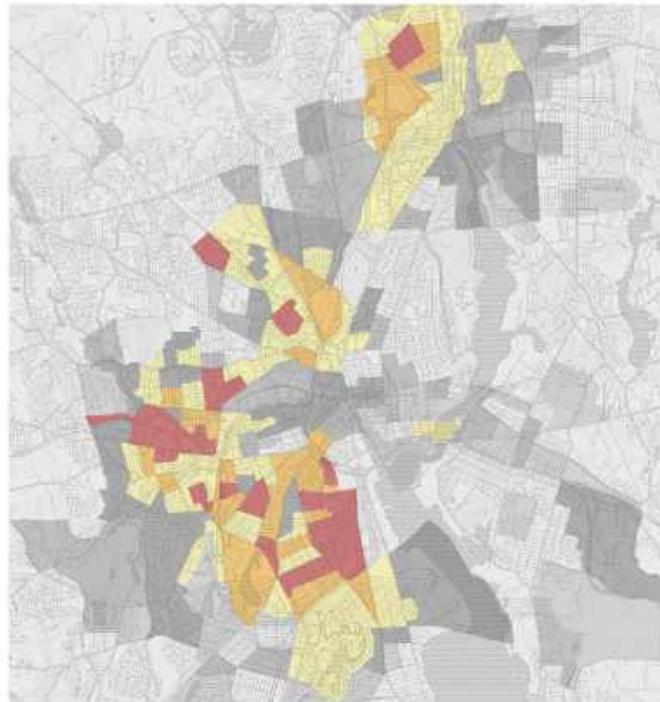
Business-As-Usual Emissions Scenario

(Million Metric Tons of CO₂e)



Environmental Justice Screening Map: Frontline Communities

Demographic Data (National Percentiles)

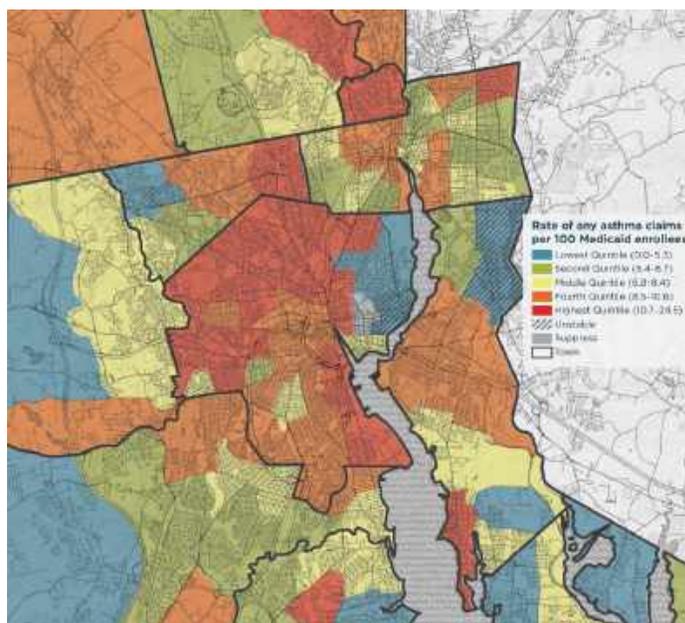


Frontline communities are communities of color most impacted by the crises of ecology, economy and democracy.

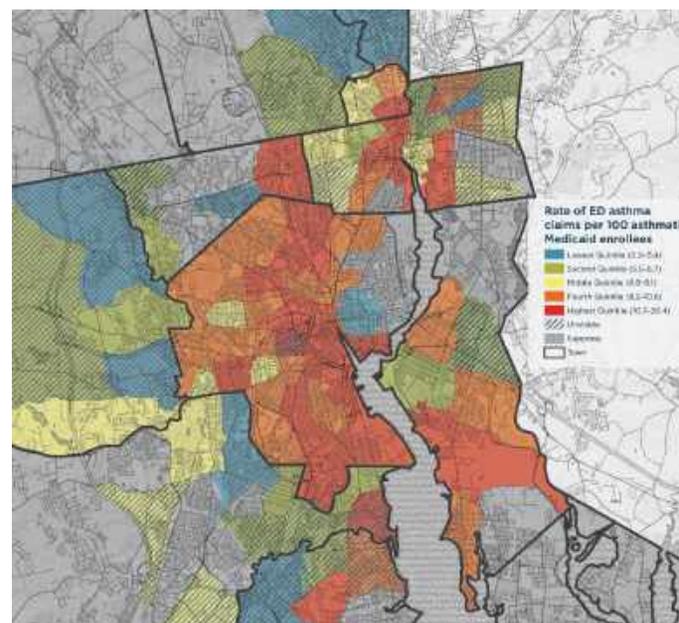
In Providence, they generally include the Indigenous, African-American, Black, Latinx, and Southeast Asian communities.

EJSCREEN identifies parts of South Providence, Washington Park, Olneyville, Manton, Silver Lake, Wanskuck, and the West End as frontline communities.

Rate of Children with Asthma in Medicaid

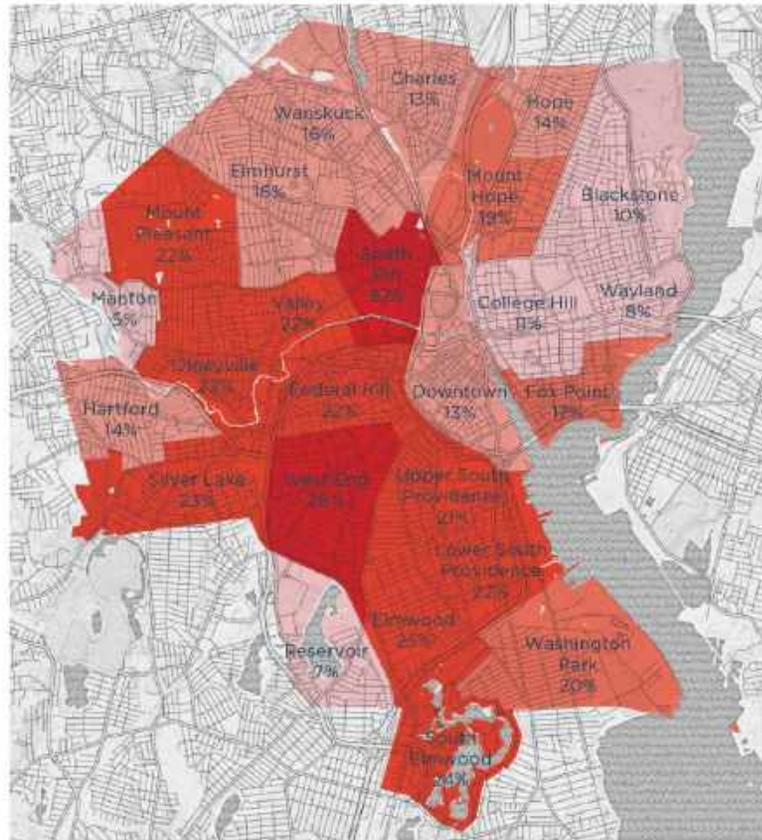


Rate of Asthma Emergency Department Visits for Children with Asthma in Medicaid



Source: Rhode Island Department of Health, with data analysis and maps produced by the Hassenfeld Child Health Innovation Institute at Brown University. Data source: Medicaid claims data for Rhode Island children, 2013-2017: insurance claims with primary diagnosis of asthma (ICD-9 493, ICD-10 J45)

Kindergarten-Aged Children Who Have Had Elevated Blood Levels in Providence, 2014



% BLL 5+

- 5%-11%
- 12%-16%
- 17%-20%
- 21%-25%
- 26%-32%

Statewide average = 12.4%

Source: Rhode Island Department of Health Lead Elimination Surveillance System, Rhode Island GIS

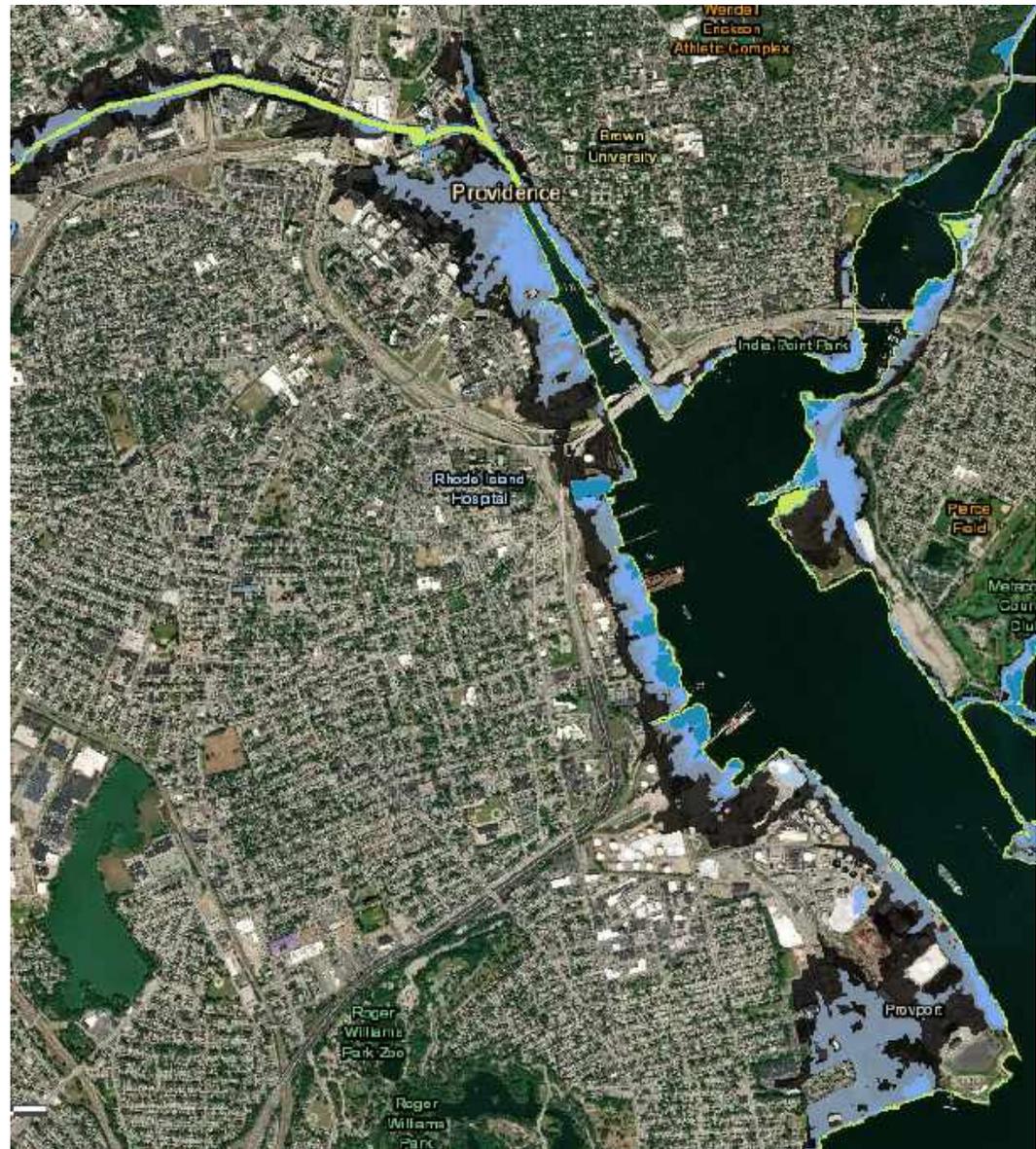
Note: The population includes the total number of children eligible to enter school in fall 2014 (born between 9/1/08 and 8/30/09) with at least one confirmed lead test. Elevated blood lead levels are defined as at least one confirmed test of 5 micrograms/deciliter or higher in the child's lifetime.

Sea-level Rise Impacts

2030: Yellow

2050: Teal

2100: Black





Targeted Universalism



Equitable Process for Equitable Outcomes

In order to create a climate plan that supports frontline communities, the Office of Sustainability partnered with the REJC to apply the Just Providence Framework – a set of principles developed by frontline community members of Providence – to the planning process



From the frontline of Providence's climate crisis

"Not every room in my house has heat! **Radiators are missing or broken.** Windows are a mess and the outside air come right through the walls. Gotta use space heaters, but can't really afford it. ... [Summer is] so hot I have to go outside. Can't even open windows in my apartment. More access to AC would make a big difference for my family."

"There are not enough places for kids to play and be near nature. Even Roger Williams Park is surrounded by highways!"

"Every time our community gets cleaned up, white folks want it and start moving us out. ... **We need to make sure we won't get kicked out before we push to make good things happen.**"

"Those huge tanks at the **Port** are just scary. They look like they could blow up anytime. Wait, I think something did a few months ago! And then nasty stuff spilled on Allens. **What are they bringing in and out of there anyway? Definitely not benefiting me, just adds to traffic pollution and make me wish I could move.**"

"Why are buses in RI so hard to use? Not enough routes and stops. Not on time. You just need a car around here, and if you can't afford one it is really difficult to get around."

Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership

Stance Towards Community	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Ignore	Inform	Consult	Involve	Collaborate	Defer To
Impact	Marginalization	Placation	Tokenization	Voice	Delegated Power	Community Ownership
Community Engagement Goals	Deny access to decision-making processes	Provide the community with relevant information	Gather input from the community	Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into process & Inform planning	Ensure community capacity to play a leadership role in implementation of decisions	Foster democratic participation and equity by placing full decision-making in the hands of the community; Bridge divide between community & governance
Message to Community	<i>"Your voice, needs & interests do not matter"</i>	<i>"We will keep you informed"</i>	<i>"We care what you think"</i>	<i>"You are making us think, (and therefore act) differently about the issue"</i>	<i>"Your leadership and expertise are critical to how we address the issue"</i>	<i>"It's time to unlock collective power and capacity for transformative solutions"</i>
Activities	Closed door meetings Misinformation Systematic disenfranchisement Voter suppression	Fact sheets Open Houses Presentations Billboards Videos	Public comment Focus Groups Community Forums Surveys	Community organizing & advocacy House Meetings Interactive Workshops Polling Community forums	MOUs with Community-Based Organizations Community Organizing Citizen Advisory Committees Open Planning Forums with Citizen Polling	Community-Driven Planning Consensus building Participatory Action Research Participatory Budgeting Cooperatives
Resource Allocation Ratios	100% systems admin	70-90% to systems admin 10-30% to promotions and publicity	60-80% to systems admin 20-40% to consultation activities	50-60% to systems admin 40-50% to community involvement	20-50% to systems admin 50-70% to community partners	80-100% to community partners and community-driven processes that ideally generate new value and resources that can be invested in solutions

Future Stories

A truly just and equitable climate action plan will only succeed if the community creates, controls and holds the vision. Using speculative fiction techniques, the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee created scenarios in a future Providence where policy has supported a transformed way for people to be connected to each other, the land, and the City's fight against climate change. Nine Stories provide different perspectives of how Providence has been transformed. The stories can be heard in English and Spanish:



English

<http://bit.ly/32R747F>



Español

<http://bit.ly/32OXHpa>

[Port Green Justice Zone Story](#)



SUSTAINPVD
MAYOR JORGE ELORZA



How to stay involved

- Connect with the Racial and Environmental Justice Committee (Facebook)
- Attend an Environmental Sustainability Task Force Meeting (Open Meeting Portal)
- Join our mailing list! (SustainPVD.com)



Equity in Climate Action Planning & Implementation

October 14, 2020
Kat Eshel & Zoe Davis





B

THE BOSTON HARBOR WITH 40" OF SEA LEVEL RISE IN A 1% ANNUAL CHANCE STORM EVENT (2070'S)



DORCHESTER

SOUTH BOSTON

DOWNTOWN

EAST BOSTON

BUILDING A RESILIENT & CARBON NEUTRAL CITY.

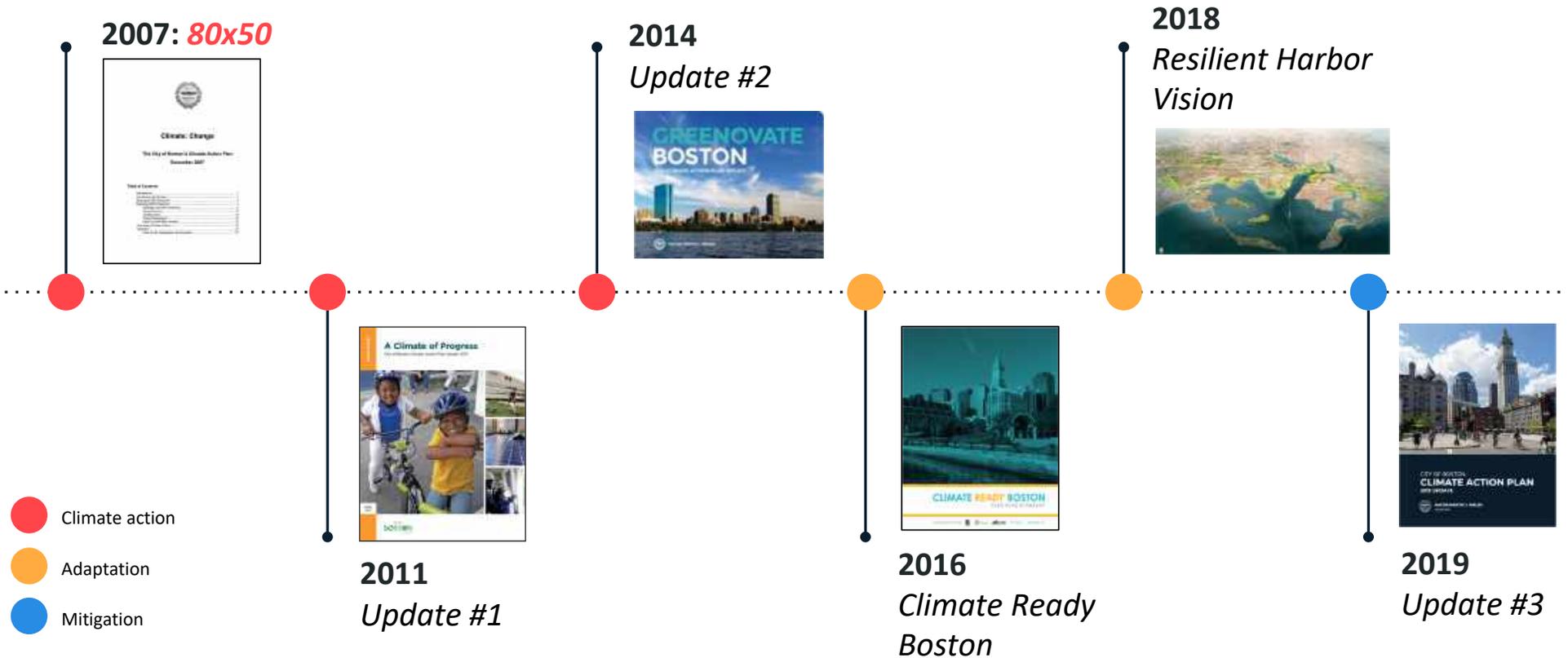


City of Boston
Mayor Martin J. Walsh



ICA

A HISTORY OF CLIMATE PLANNING AND ACTION



2014 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE



Social equity as a cross-cutting theme for implementation:

“The 2014 Update will be implemented with two guiding principles around social equity. Inspired by the environmental justice movement, the first principle holds that minority and low-income communities must not be disproportionately impacted by climate hazards. The second principle holds that benefits from climate mitigation and preparedness efforts should be shared equally among all groups of people.”

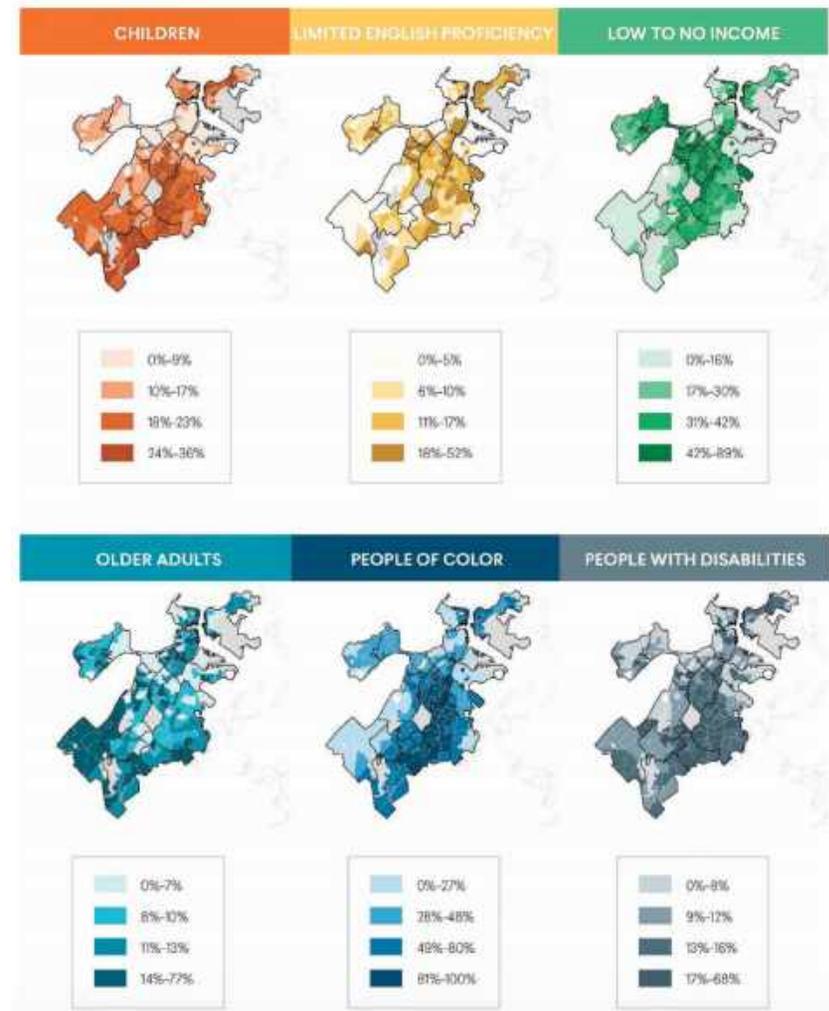


CLIMATE READY BOSTON

Social Vulnerability Assessment (2016)

Climate hazards will impact the city's people, buildings, infrastructure, environment, and economy in different ways.

- Impact of multiple hazards and vulnerabilities intersecting
- Building a spatial understanding of impact communities
- Implications for planning and implementation





CARBON FREE BOSTON (2017-2019)

Embedding equity in analysis

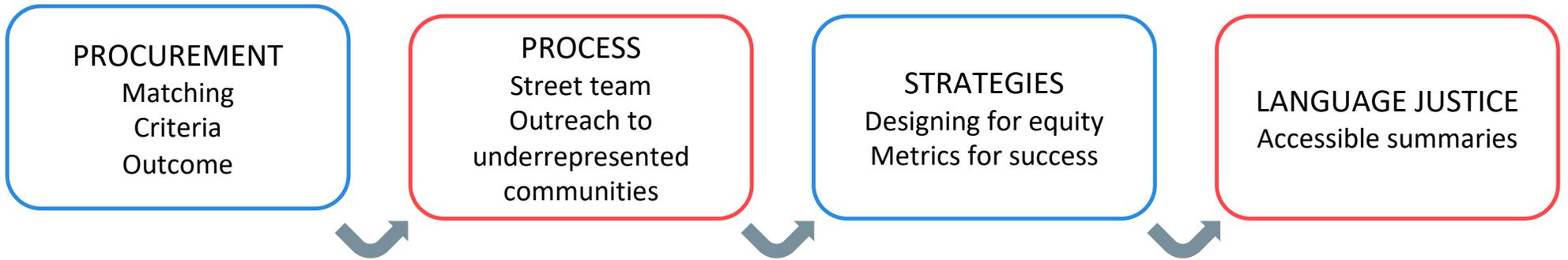
Intentional design:

1. Socially vulnerable communities have the most to gain from carbon reductions and the mitigation of future climate impacts
2. Socially vulnerable communities face the greatest risks from new action taken to reduce GHG emissions
3. Action in Boston has regional equity impacts

Questions and Considerations for Integrating Equity

Key Questions	Considerations: does the strategy/is the strategy...?	
Is it green?		
Is it GHG-free?	Reduce GHG emissions: electrification, active transport, lower non-CO ₂ emissions	Yes / No / Depends
Is it environmentally sustainable?	Use less energy or emit fewer GHGs to provide the same energy service; other environmental considerations: land and water use, pollution, etc.	Yes / No / Depends
Does it promote smart behavior?	Alter behavior or use in ways that accomplish more than GHG reductions: i.e., better timing or siting for congested resources, smarter use of resources, waste reduction	Yes / No / Depends
Is it fair?		
Is it accessible?	Available to and beneficial for all communities; addresses historical disparities and cultural differences	Yes / No / Depends
Is it affordable?	Affordable to all private residents; limits negative impacts on public sector	Yes / No / Depends
Are workforce opportunities just?	Balanced and fair in workforce and contractor diversity; addresses historical disparities	Yes / No / Depends
Who gets to decide?		
Is it inclusive?	Active and meaningful role in decision-making for impacted or socially vulnerable communities	Yes / No / Depends
Are values considered?	Decision-making processes go beyond dollars and cents to address shared values and cultural differences	Yes / No / Depends
Is it measurable?	Enable measurement of quantity and quality of service provided and community impacts in order to provide important performance feedback	Yes / No / Depends

2019 CLIMATE ACTION PLAN UPDATE



DESIGNING FOR EQUITY

- › The City of Boston will continue to build a diverse, inclusive workforce of people of color, women, recent immigrants, veterans, and young professionals.
- › Job training programs should be designed to accommodate different skill sets and educational levels and should be financially accessible to all Boston residents.
- › High-quality job opportunities in this field need to be accessible and fairly distributed. Living wages and appropriate benefits should be provided, as well as opportunities for career advancement. Wherever possible, employers should give workers a voice in formulating

policies, enforcing wage and hour rules, and protecting against wage theft.

METRICS FOR SUCCESS

- › Construction work hours on public and large private projects performed by:
 - Boston residents: 51 percent
 - Women: 12 percent
 - People of color: 40 percent
- › 50 percent of individuals who begin training go on to graduate from or complete training
- › 75 percent placement rate into jobs or additional training for individuals who complete training



BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARD (2019)

Incorporating lived knowledge and centering impacted communities

Goal: Develop a building emissions standard that minimizes harm and maximizes benefits and opportunities for Boston's frontline populations most affected by the proposed policy

Team: Facilitators, artists, advocates rooted in Boston's environmental justice communities

Approach:

- *Receive community expertise and feedback*
- *Raise awareness of potential impacts and opportunities*
- *Collaborate with and center communities that will be impacted by the policy*

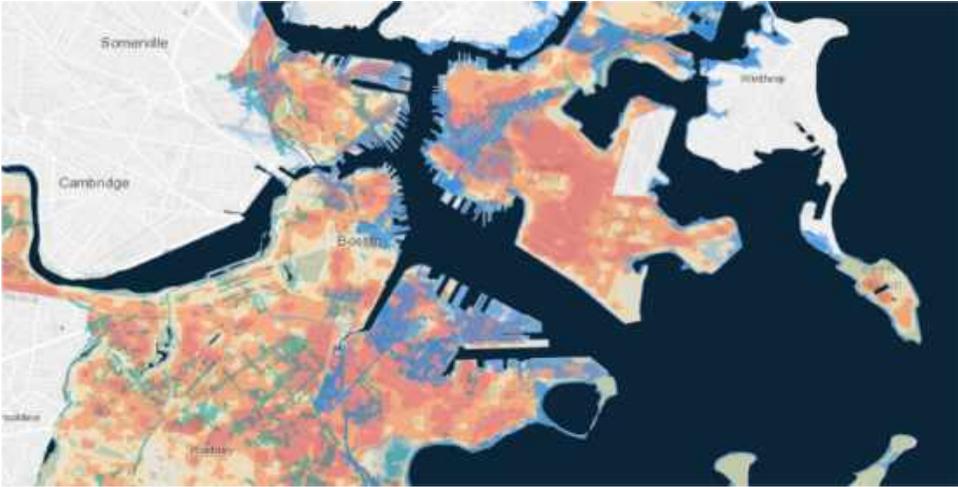




CLIMATE READY BOSTON

Preparing for climate change

Boston’s initiative to develop resilient solutions to prepare infrastructure, residents, and natural resources for the long term effects of climate change.



COMPONENTS:

Updated climate projections of the four climate hazards

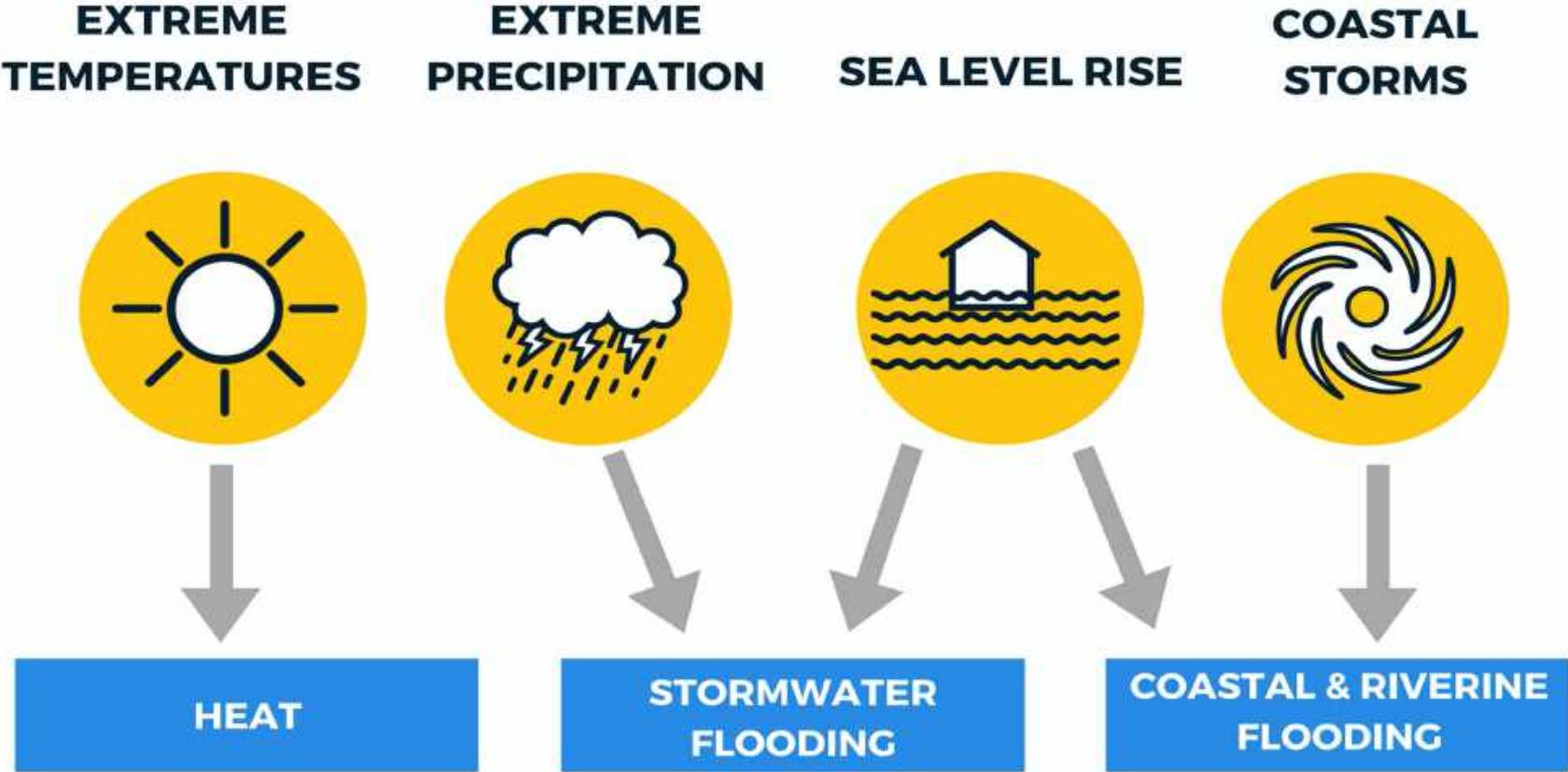
Vulnerability assessment of people and infrastructure for current and future risk

Identified focus areas at the greatest risk

Climate resilience initiatives to address identified risks

CLIMATE HAZARDS

Connecting climate projects to the vulnerability assessment hazard analysis





COASTAL RESILIENCE PLANNING

Community engagement and social resilience

Neighborhood specific planning

Develop near- and long-term risk reduction strategies for coastal flooding and sea level rise specific to neighborhood shoreline and population.

Solutions that also enhance social resilience

- *Develop strategies to equitably reduce coastal risk*
- *Enhance access, mobility, and connectivity*
- *Promote health of valuable ecosystems*

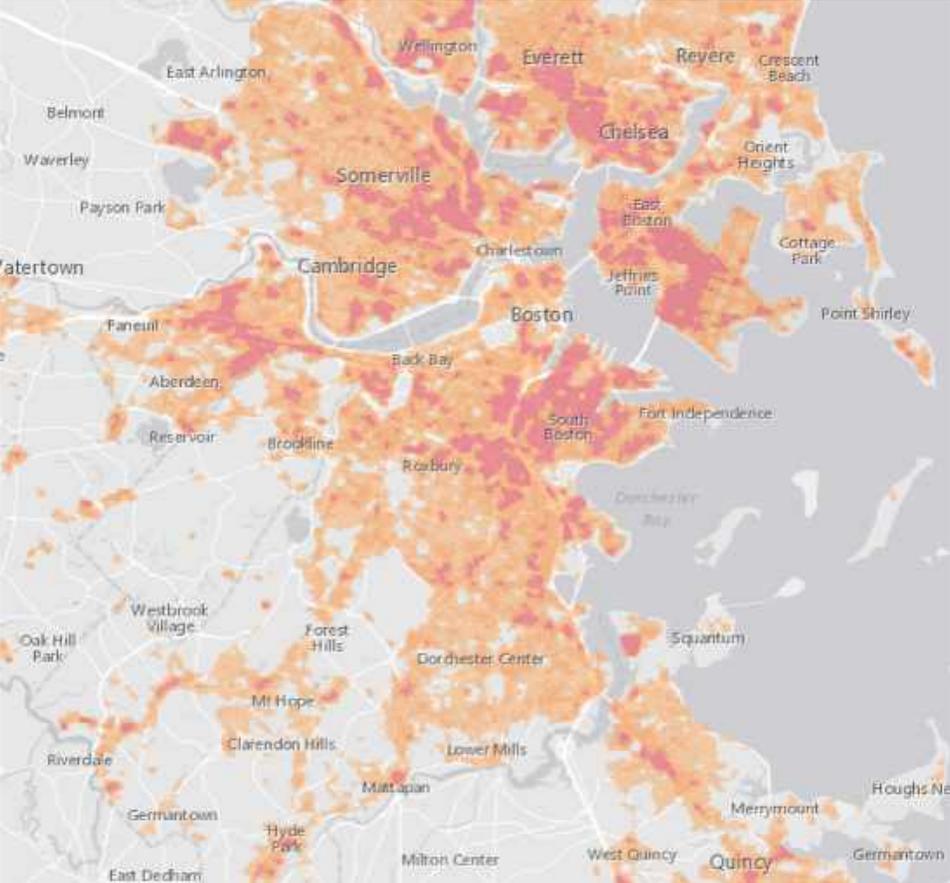
Evaluation Criteria

 EFFECTIVENESS Is the initiative effective at reducing the risk to residents, other stakeholders, and the assets they rely on from coastal flooding?	 ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC HEALTH BENEFITS Does the initiative provide benefits to, and minimize impacts on the "natural" environment?
 FEASIBILITY Can the initiative be reasonably implemented and maintain / sustain?	 SOCIAL EQUITY & QUALITY OF LIFE Does the initiative provide quality of life benefits to people (who live or work in Boston)? Are those benefits shared fairly by all?
 DESIGN LIFE & ADAPTABILITY Will the initiative be adaptable over time once it is implemented?	 VALUE CREATION Does the initiative increase the "value" of the land around it and ability to sustainably fund resilience into the future?

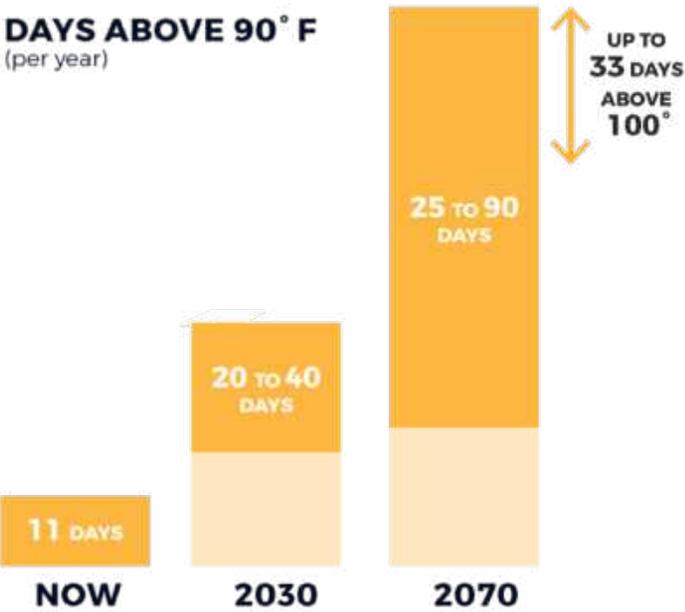


URBAN HEAT RISK AND EXPOSURE

Current and future risk



DAYS ABOVE 90° F
(per year)





HEAT RESILIENCE PLANNING

Centering social equity

Goal: Develop a citywide heat resilience strategy to prepare for the long-term impacts of urban heat. The study will identify:

- *heat adaptation strategies*
- *metrics for heat risk and reduction*
- *where strategies will have the greatest impact*
- *implementation timelines*

Approach

- Center community voices
- Focus community engagement and solution development in EJ communities
- Set the foundation of the project in social equity framework

Focus Areas:

- *Roxbury*
- *Dorchester*
- *Mattapan*
- *East Boston*
- *Chinatown*