

# Boston Green Ribbon Commission Collaborative Climate Action Planning

Climate Justice

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# Presentation Goals

- Introduce climate justice as a key component of climate planning.
- Examine what it means to embed climate justice into your own climate plan.
- Identify opportunities to advance climate justice within and outside your institution through your organization's core work.

# Key steps from your KISS baselining worksheet

1. Understand the concept of climate justice.
2. Understand the role of your organization in your community.
3. Identify climate justice issues in your neighborhood.
4. Understand how climate justice has been integrated into climate planning in the City of Boston.
5. Identify how your organization can advance climate justice through its core work and climate actions.



# 1.

## Understand the concept of climate justice

- Climate justice is a term, and more than that a **movement**, that acknowledges **climate change** can have differing social, economic, public health, and other adverse impacts on underprivileged populations

(Yale Climate Connections, 2020).

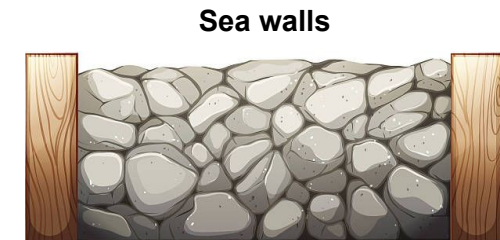
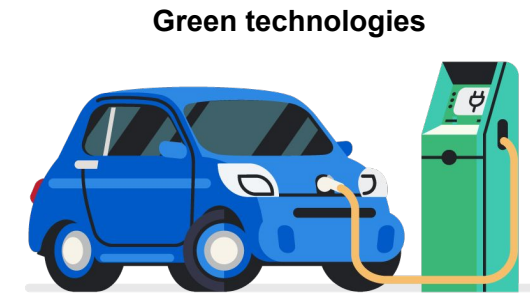
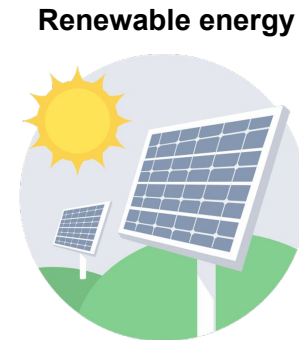
- Climate justice is a concept that views **climate change and efforts to combat it** as having ethical implications and considers how these relate to wider justice concerns

(Robinson and Shine, 2018).

- Climate justice is the mobilisation of justice with respect to **climate policy**

(Bulkeley et al., 2013).

Climate impacts can reproduce inequitable social conditions, but the solutions we implement to solve climate change, **including climate mitigation and adaptation**, can also exacerbate inequalities if policies are not designed with justice concerns in mind.



*Who has the ability to quickly recover from a natural disaster?  
Who lives in areas more exposed to heat?  
Who lives in more flood prone areas?  
Who has historically been most impacted by pollution?*

*Who has access to green technologies?  
Who has the power to participate in climate decision making?  
When we create protective infrastructure, who are we protecting?  
Who benefits from the new economic opportunities created by climate action?*

# Climate Change Threatens Homes of Boston's Most Vulnerable

Affordable housing units face greater risks from rising seas because they are usually not fortified against storms or coastal flooding

## As Temperatures Set Records, Heat Exposure Hits Some Neighborhoods Harder than Others

BU researcher says vulnerable communities experience the most dangerous effects of heat stress and heat-related illness

## Study Finds Significant Racial Disparities In Vehicular Air Pollution Exposure Around Boston

## Solar Power's Benefits Don't Shine Equally on Everyone

Racial and ethnic minorities have less access to solar power, regardless of income, highlighting the need for environmental justice

## Massachusetts' new efficiency plan puts a priority on underserved communities

*The state's latest three-year energy efficiency plan would include new provisions to increase outreach and expand program eligibility for lower-income households and residents of color.*



# 2.

What is the role your organization plays - or seeks to play - in the broader community?

1. What is the community's perception of your institution?
2. What partnerships between your community and your organization exist already?
3. What does communication look like?
4. What opportunities do you see to establish better coordination and communication?
5. What relationships do you have that you would like to strengthen?
6. What relationships are not yet established that you would like to foster?

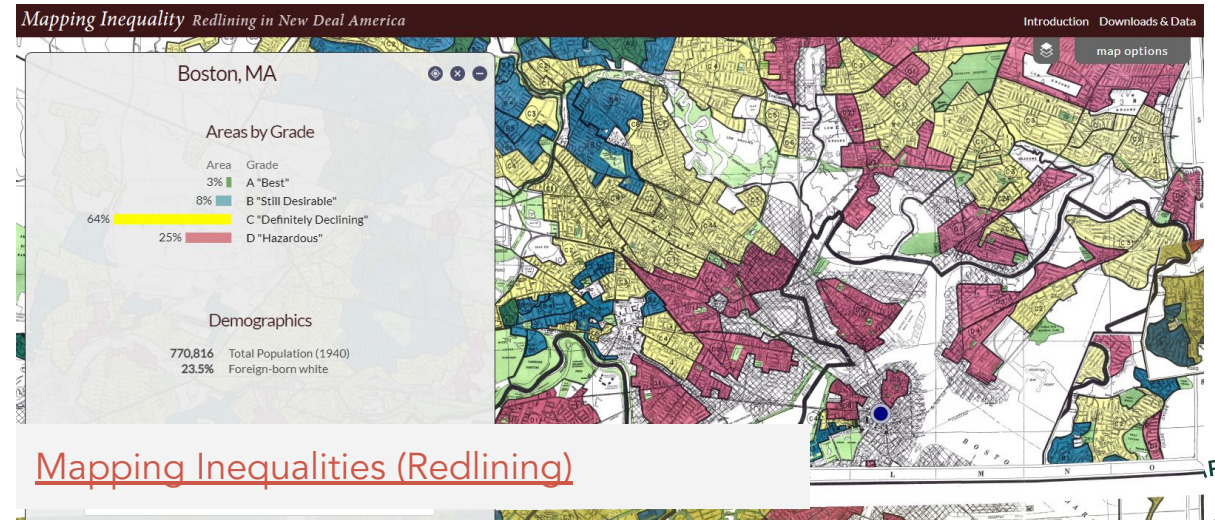
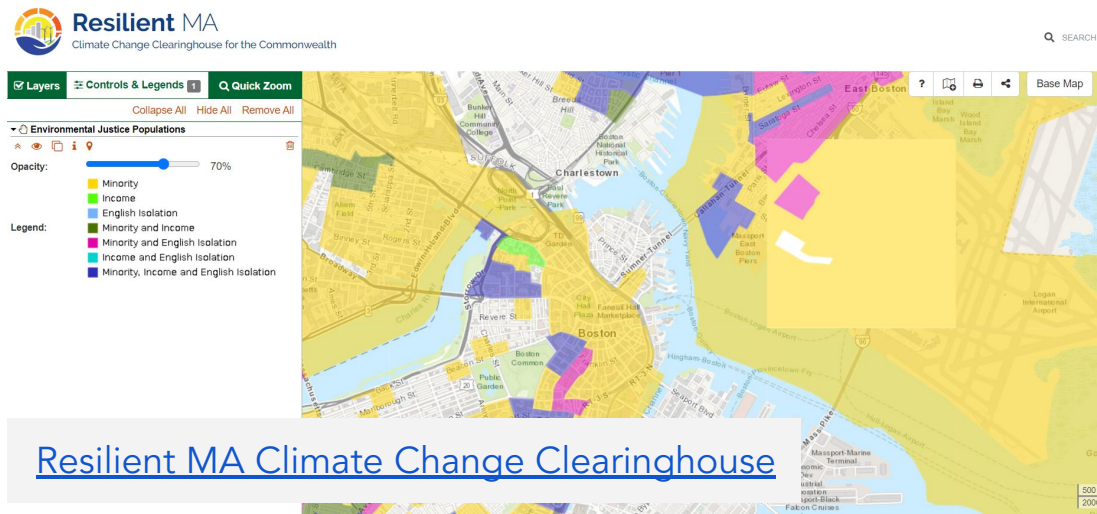
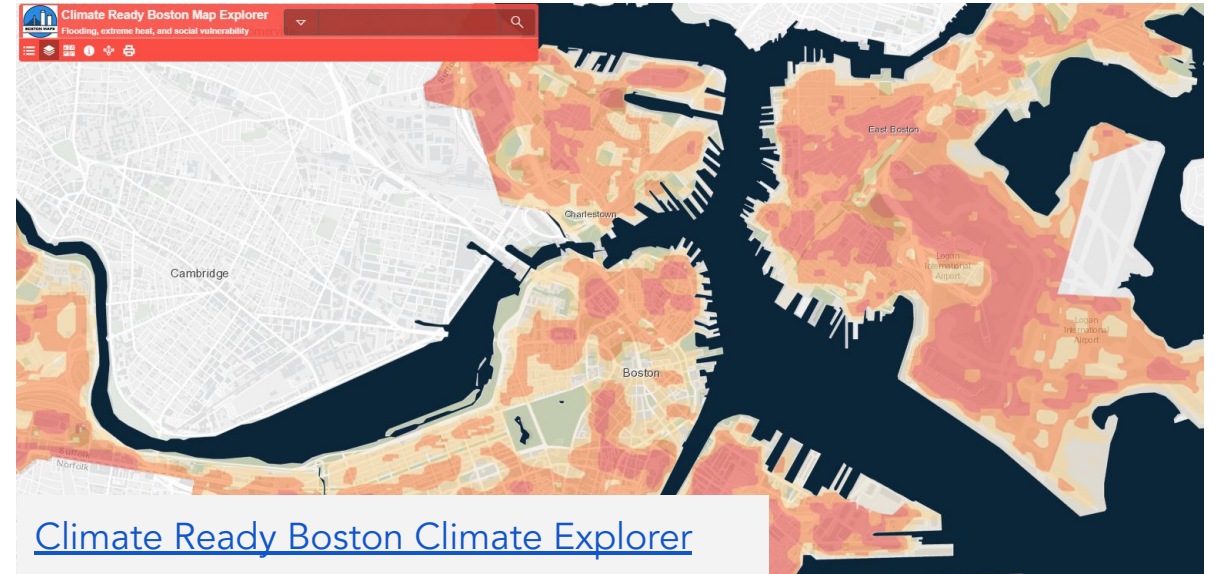
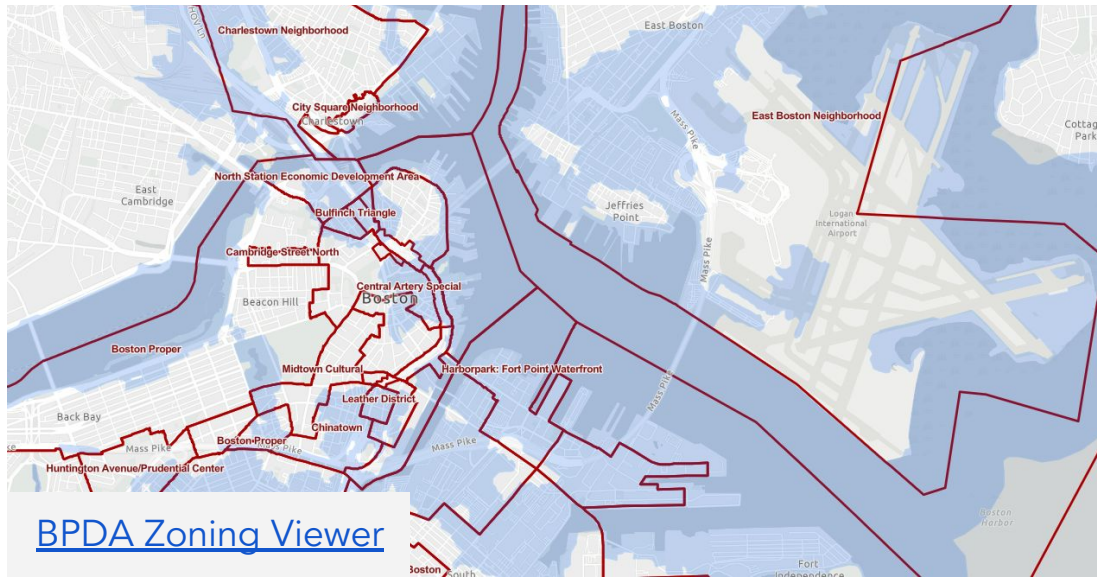
# 3.

## Identify climate justice issues in your neighborhood

- What are the most important climate change impacts that will be suffered in your neighborhood?
- Who are the vulnerable communities that you serve or that are located in your neighborhood?
- Who is most at risk?
- Who has the least resources to respond to climate change?



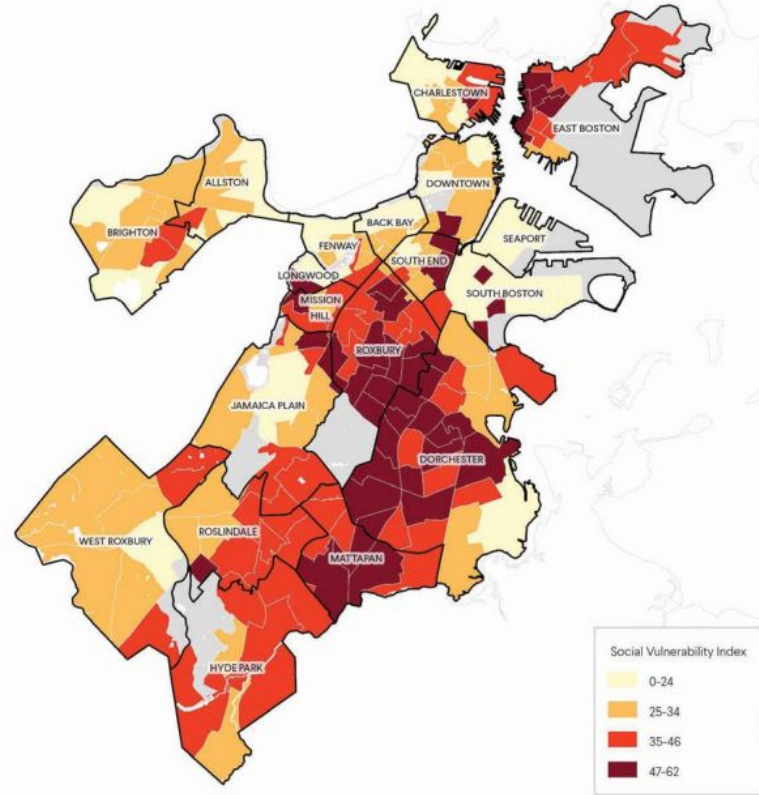
# Climate justice begins with recognizing that key groups in Boston are differently affected by climate change... and it is important to understand *why*





# 4.

## How has climate justice been integrated into climate planning in the City of Boston?



### 1. Include Socially Vulnerable Communities in Decision Making

Enables SVPs to have influence over critical decisions and processes, access to information and resources, and provides the ability to contribute more fully and effectively.

### 2. Set Priorities in the Context of Interactions Among Policies

Prioritizing the order and timing of policy implementation in ways that seek to avoid potential pitfalls is necessary to reduce negative impacts on socially vulnerable communities and all Bostonians

### 3. Focus Workforce Development Efforts on Job Quality

The benefits of job creation are enhanced by a commitment to job quality, including living wages and benefits and job health and safety standards, to ensure that workforce development is beneficial for all Bostonians

[Carbon Free Boston Social Equity Report](#)

The City of Boston is committed to simultaneously addressing racial and social equity and environmental challenges. Vulnerable groups such as communities of color and low-income neighborhoods are often disproportionately impacted by environmental shocks and stresses and are less likely to have access to the resources necessary for recovery. Climate action in Boston has two guiding principles for equity:

1. People of color and low-income communities must not be disproportionately impacted by climate hazards.
2. Benefits from climate mitigation and preparedness efforts should be shared equitably among all people.

[FY21 Climate Action Report](#)

# What climate justice principles can you bring to your own climate plan?

## Carbon Free Boston

- Careful planning to avoid unintended consequences.
- Intentional design with a clear focus on equity outcomes.
- Inclusive practices from start to finish in all decision making.

## Boston's Climate Action Plan

- People of color and low-income communities must not be disproportionately impacted by climate hazards.
- Benefits from climate mitigation and preparedness efforts should be shared equitably among all people.



# 5.

How can your organization advance climate justice through its core work and climate actions?

KIDS WANT CLIMATE JUSTICE

- Create or use existing decision-making tools to incorporate justice considerations into each of your organization’s climate actions and core activities

### THEME 3: CULTURAL PRESERVATION

**Desired Outcome:** Respecting / honoring cultural relevance and history.

SAMPLE SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS	IMPACT Does it have the ability to positively/negatively impact or have no impact on the desired outcome? Include explanation.	RECOMMENDATIONS
Does this acknowledge/respect/honor the culture, historic assets, and traditions of communities of color?		
Does this negatively impact the existing cultural structure?		
Does this increase social cohesion (engagement and connection within/to the community)?		
Other considerations?		
SUMMARY:		

#### Questions and Considerations for Integrating Equity

Key Questions	Considerations: does the strategy/is the strategy...?	
<b>Is it green?</b>		
<b>Is it GHG-free?</b>	Reduce GHG emissions: electrification, active transport, lower non-CO <sub>2</sub> emissions	Yes / No / Depends
<b>Is it environmentally sustainable?</b>	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
<b>Does it promote smart behavior?</b>	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
<b>Is it fair?</b>		
<b>Is it accessible?</b>	Available to and beneficial for all communities; addresses historical disparities and cultural differences	Yes / No / Depends
<b>Is it affordable?</b>	Affordable to all private residents; limits negative impacts on public sector	Yes / No / Depends
<b>Are workforce opportunities just?</b>	Balanced and fair in workforce and contractor diversity; addresses historical disparities	Yes / No / Depends
<b>Who gets to decide?</b>		
<b>Is it inclusive?</b>	Active and meaningful role in decision-making for impacted or socially vulnerable communities	Yes / No / Depends
<b>Are values considered?</b>	Decision-making processes go beyond dollars and cents to address shared values and cultural differences	Yes / No / Depends
<b>Is it measurable?</b>	Enable measurement of quantity and quality of service provided and community impacts in order to provide important performance feedback	Yes / No / Depends

### Theme 4: HEALTH

**Desired Outcome:** Results in increased health (physical and m

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Could this reduce ground-level ozone and improve air quality?	
Could this extend expected longevity for vulnerable populations and result in reduced disparity in expected longevity?	
Could this reduce asthma-related hospital visits?	
Could this reduce urban heat island effects?	
Could this reduce standing water in areas of inadequate drainage and resulting vector-borne diseases?	
Could this improve the walkability of communities and access to greenspaces?	
Could this reduce stress, anxiety, and depression, i.e. increase mental health?	
Other considerations?	
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[San Antonio Climate Plan](#)

[Carbon Free Boston Social Equity Report](#)



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- Leverage purchasing power to procure products and services from local, diverse and sustainable businesses that support the transition to a low-carbon economy.

- Workforce development and local hiring

- Community outreach and supporting local projects and collaborations

## Responsible procurement policy

The Natural History Museum has a vision of a future where people and planet thrive and a mission to create advocates for the planet.

It is vital that as a leading science research centre, a public institution and a charity, we uphold the responsible use of resources and inspire a future where people and planet thrive.

[London Natural History Museum](#)

The Pop District workforce comprises four cross-pollinating branches: a creative agency, a creative entrepreneur lab, a digital marketing certificate program and a youth empowerment program. Goals include matriculating 100+ program participants annually; creating \$1 million in annual income for creative talent; creating 25+ annual full-time and part-time jobs as well as “gig” work and internships; bringing on 8-10 regional and national clients; and working with a majority BIPOC/LGBTQ+/immigrant workforce. In order to provide the professional guidance and framework for these programs, The Warhol is partnering with regional creative enterprises including Built Different Creative and Look Creative.

[Andy Warhol Museum](#)



[Springfield Jazz Roots Festival](#)

Environmentalism & Social Justice

We model eco-friendly practices, provide platforms for local nonprofits to reach thousands with their work, and host public talks and performances on themes like Jazz & Justice and Resilience in Art Across Cultures.

- Transformative investments (e.g., shifting endowment dollars, divestment from fossil fuels)
- Education on climate justice and local social justice issues
- Act as a resilience hub for the city (e.g., cooling center during heat events, safe zone during flooding or extreme weather events).



[Boston University](#)

**We created the Houston Climate Justice Museum and Cultural Center with the belief that museums - both those dedicated to art and science - *too often ignored environmental justice issues and climate change.***

[Houston Climate Justice Museum](#)

**City of Cambridge to Open Cooling Center for Residents during Extreme Heat Event**

[Cambridge Public Libraries](#)

## MAIN TAKEAWAY

Your climate actions and core work have the power to bring more equity to Boston, but you have to purposefully design your climate strategies with justice in mind.

The impacts of climate change are not equally distributed in Boston. Vulnerable populations and historically marginalized communities suffer disproportionately from climate change.

Our actions to respond to climate change also generate positive and negative impacts that are not equally distributed.

As part of the Boston community, your climate actions have the power to either reproduce or challenge existing inequities in the city. What is the role you want to play?



# Questions?

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Thank You