



# The Green Ribbon Commission accelerates Boston's progress toward a climate safe, carbon free, equitable future.

## HISTORY & IMPACT

Since the Green Ribbon Commission launched in 2010, we have worked closely with the administrations of four Boston mayors to help develop and shape the City's climate action plans and policies. Comprising many of Boston's largest organizations and most prominent business and civic leaders, our membership has risen to the challenge of helping Boston accelerate action toward its most urgent climate goals.

Co-chaired by Boston Mayor Michelle Wu and Barr Foundation Trustee Amos Hostetter, the GRC in 2023 remains focused on Boston's key climate challenges: rising seas, intense heat and rain, stormwater flooding, and a complex effort to decarbonize the city while focusing on opportunities to achieve greater equity across neighborhoods. The situation calls for strong leadership to meet a daunting set of problems involving critical interdependencies and unprecedented cooperation among City and State government and private organizations. It also means seizing opportunities for growth, constructive change, and improvement in our city.

### ***Laying a Strategic Foundation***

From the 2016 [Climate Ready Boston](#) research that comprehensively detailed the likely impacts of climate change on Boston, to the 2019 [Carbon Free Boston](#) study that outlined the city's options for strategic electrification, to the 2023 [Our Shared History](#) report that encourages policy makers and developers to avoid the mistakes of the past during a time of fundamental urban transformation, the GRC has set the table for cooperation and action. Along the way we have helped shape and encourage participation in the [ambitious agenda](#) that puts Boston in the vanguard of U.S. cities addressing the challenges of climate change. The GRC is committed to positioning Boston and Massachusetts as national leaders in the transition to a clean energy economy while creating a more equitable and vibrant city.

### ***Accessing Actionable Information***

Our sector-based and issue-based working groups – [Commercial Real Estate](#), [Cultural Institutions](#), [Health Care](#), [Higher Education](#), and [Coastal Resilience](#) – have brought together prominent leaders to share their market-based realities and weigh in on important policy directions for climate action. Likewise, via our Working Groups institutional leaders hear about emerging technical and managerial issues from the best practitioners in their fields. We provide regular opportunities for our Members to share their strategies and experiences with the Mayor, Governor, and other key policy makers as we make Boston and its institutions more climate resilient.

## GOALS

The City of Boston’s climate work has entered the implementation phase, which will see significant infrastructure and other public and private projects underway for the next several decades. The GRC’s hallmark is our ability to convene across sectors to tackle complex problems in a neutral room. The GRC is dedicated to working with the City and other partners in support of the following priorities:

- **Advance Climate Justice** – Climate justice will be acknowledged as a priority, widely understood, and measurably advanced through programs and projects that address it systemically.
- **Strengthen Climate Resilience** – The City of Boston will have the governance structure, financing mechanisms and regulatory requirements in place to manage the resilience investments needed to ensure a safe and climate-resilient Boston.
- **Accelerate Carbon Mitigation** – The City of Boston will reach its interim Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reduction targets and have in place the necessary regulatory structure to be on a pathway to carbon neutrality by 2050.
- **Encourage More Informed and Activated Residents** – Boston residents, neighborhoods, and organizations will be more proactive on climate change – informed and aware, prepared and connected, engaged and creative.

To learn more about these initiatives, please visit our website at [www.greenribboncommission.org](http://www.greenribboncommission.org) or take a look at our [five-year strategic plan](#).

## MEMBERSHIP

[GRC Membership](#) is made up of dozens of the City’s top leaders – from universities, utilities, hospitals, financial institutions, real estate organizations, and nonprofits – who are committed to organization-level climate action to meet the City’s carbon neutral targets and other climate goals. The GRC membership also includes key agency heads from the City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Members meet in person in Boston twice per year, in the spring and fall, for two-hour sessions. Personal attendance by the Member is expected, as a commitment of leadership. In the interim months, GRC staff, member staff, consultants, and other experts and stakeholders move the work forward with guidance from GRC members as needed.

### ***Anchor Institutions***

Private sector members represent large, place-based institutions and businesses that are deeply intertwined with the economy, talent, culture, and history of Boston. Most are long-term asset owners with strong reputations for leadership who understand that their future, and Boston’s, depends on viable strategies for thriving in a rapidly changing climate. As climate focused “anchor institutions,” for our city, they lead by example with an outstanding portfolio of cutting-edge low-carbon buildings, clean energy procurement strategies, sustainability cultures, and climate plans. Frequently GRC members provide policymakers with confidence to make the sometimes difficult decisions needed to achieve socially equitable resilience and carbon neutrality.

## ***Funding***

The GRC is funded by its members, most of whom make annual tax-deductible contributions to the operating budget as well as occasional contributions to special projects as they arise. While annual contributions are neither required nor construed as dues, there is a strong culture of participation among members that are in a position to be supportive. Additional support comes from foundations and individuals.

## **JOIN US**

Many cities have plans to address climate threats, but few have enlisted the support and leadership of the local business community as effectively as Boston, and few are able to articulate the opportunities as well as the risks for the future. We seek additional leaders to join our ranks. Please join us.

To learn more, visit [www.greenribboncommission.org](http://www.greenribboncommission.org) or to get involved, please contact Executive Director [Amy Longworth](#) or Deputy Director [Adam Chapdelaine](#).