

Climate Justice at Anchor Institutions

April 10, 2024



GRCx



Agenda

- 9:30 Program Description & Introductions
- 9:35 Overview of Clean Power Prescription
- 9:50 Northeastern's Climate Justice Scope Work
- 10:05 A Look into MIT's Food Justice Work
- 10:20 Moderated Discussion & Q&A

Speakers & Panelists



**Anna Goldman, MD,
MPH, MPA**
Medical Director of Climate
and Sustainability at
Boston Medical Center and
co-founder of Clean Power
Prescription



Leah Bamberger
Executive Director of
Climate Justice and
Sustainability Hub,
Northeastern
University



Susy Jones
Senior Sustainability
Project Manager, MIT



Azanta Thakur
Administrative
Coordinator and Project
Manager, Boston Green
Ribbon Commission –
Moderator



Clean Power Prescription Pilot Program at BMC Health System

**Anna Goldman MD, MPA, MPH, Medical Director of Climate
and Sustainability**

April 3, 2024

Boston Medical Center
HEALTH SYSTEM

Introduction to Boston Medical Center Health System

616

bed
academic
medical center

Largest
safety net

hospital in
New England

1.2M

annual patient
visits

7 in 10

BMC patients
identify as
BIPOC

Principal
teaching

affiliate of Boston
University School
of Medicine

750K

member
health plan

Largest trauma and
**emergency
services**

provider in New
England

Nearly
10K

employees

Sustainability is Core to our Mission





**SUSTAINABILITY
IS ~~NOT~~
HEALTHCARE**

***REWRITING* HEALTHCARE**



Energy Insecurity at Boston Medical Center

- “Thrive Screening” is a screening tool to assess social determinants of health
 - We screen all patients seen in primary care, pediatrics, and the emergency department
- In 2022, more than 6500 patients screened positive for energy insecurity
- In 2023, providers wrote letters to prevent utility disconnection for more than 1340 patients
- The average low income family in Massachusetts spends 10% or more on home energy costs.¹

	Within the past 12 months, you worried whether your food would run out before you got money to buy more.	Sometimes true / Never true
	Is this an emergency, do you need food for tonight?	Yes / No
	Do you have trouble paying for medicines?	Yes / No
	Do you have trouble getting transportation to medical appointments?	Yes / No
	Do you have trouble paying your heating or electricity bill?	Yes / No
	Do you have trouble taking care of a child, family member or friend?	Yes / No

Origin Story: A Community Solar Program at Boston Medical Center?





Clean Power Prescription: Program Details

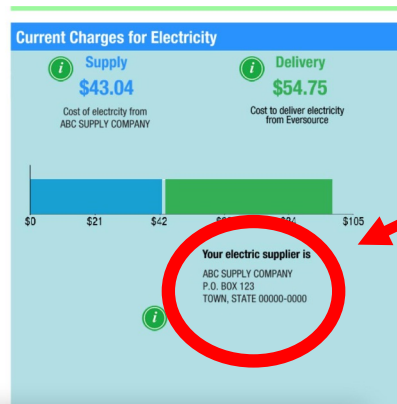
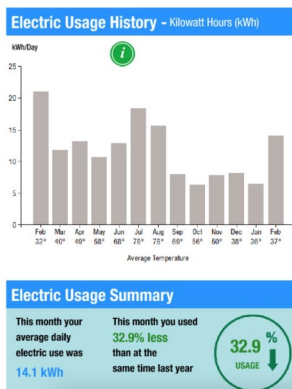
- Pilot Program launched in October 2023
- 356 kW solar array on the roof of a BMC administrative building generates solar electricity
- Electric bill credits are generated and are then applied directly to patients' electricity bill for a period of 12 months.
 - Households will receive a total of \$600 in credits per year, averaging \$50 per month.
 - To be eligible, patients must live in the Northeastern Massachusetts load zone and have Eversource as electricity provider.
- Pilot program is being run through our the WellSense Complex Care Management Program
- Enrollment goal: 80-100 households

Community Partnerships to Improve Energy Efficiency and Affordability

Patients are referred to **Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD)** Energy Division when they enroll in Clean Power Prescription. Patients will be offered:

- Low-Income Heating Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Discount electric rate
- Home energy efficiency upgrades
- Home weatherization
- Free Air Source Heat Pump installation (if they currently have oil or propane heat)

We will also assist patients get out of “competitive supplier” contracts, which can significantly increase electric bill costs without providing any tangible benefits.



Energy supplier is shown here on an Eversource bill

Clean Power Prescription: Vision & Values

- Anti-Poverty Program
- Engages historically-marginalized community in the effort to fight climate change
- Takes a step toward a more “Just Transition” as we decarbonize our economy
- Leverages Inflation Reduction Act subsidies to address environmental Justice
- Future goals:
 - Get more solar build to expand the Clean Power Prescription using IRA subsidies and external partnerships
 - Spread this model to other institutions
 - Consideration of cooperative ownership models





Questions?

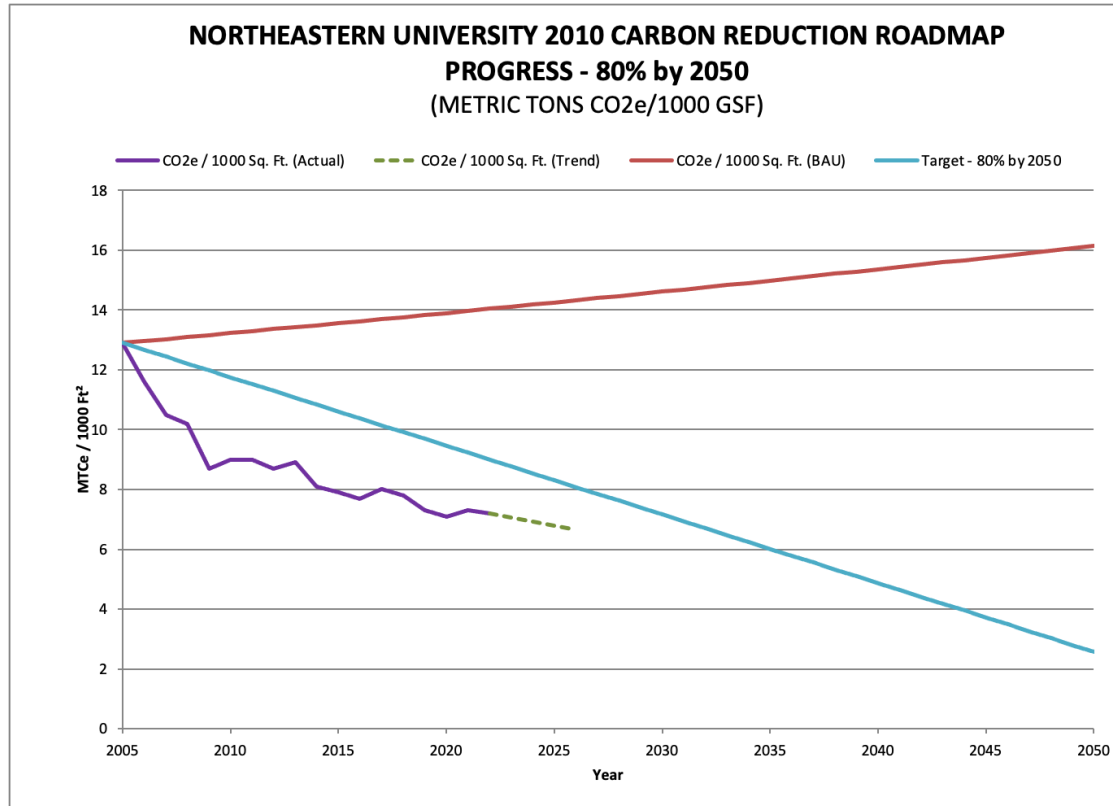
Anna.Goldman@bmc.org



Climate Justice and Sustainability Hub

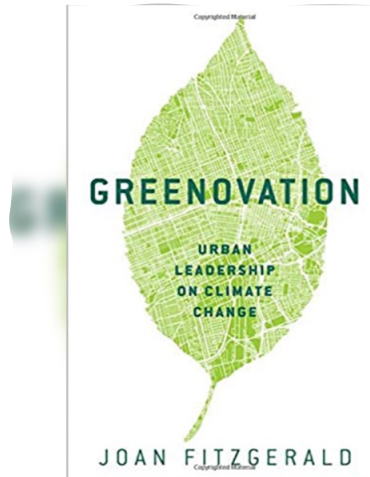
Connecting people, campuses, and communities to advance climate solutions and a just transition.

“Environmental sustainability is an issue of local, national, and global significance. The consequences of inaction would be shared by all humanity. Therefore, [...] Sustainability will factor into all of our decisions and plans for new services, building designs, and product choices.” – President Aoun, 2007



77% of students surveyed said that information about a college's commitment to the environment would affect their decision to apply to or attend the school. - Princeton Review's 2022 College Hopes & Worries Survey

- 300+ sustainability-related courses
- Half of those conducting research at NU are engaged in sustainability research



ton Herald



ery: Councilor, professor work to create arts through Roxbury

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Northeastern's plan for a 25-story dorm on the edge of Roxbury poses a test for Janey

By [Tim Logan](#) and [Milton J. Valencia](#) Globe Staff, Updated May 6, 2021, 11:59 a.m.

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I'VE SEEN
PEOPLE EVICTED
SO STUDENTS
CAN HAVE
HOUSING

HOUSE STUDENTS
WITHOUT
DISPLACING
COMMUNITY
MEMBERS!





Climate Justice

"Climate justice is an approach to climate action that redresses the legacies of exploitation and injustice that have resulted in sharply unequal vulnerabilities to climate risks, both locally and globally. Climate justice action requires transformative systems-level changes that integrate multiple kinds of knowledge linking technological and social innovation in ways that prioritize social, racial, and economic equity." – *Climate Justice Action Committee's Report to the Faculty Senate: March 2022*



Climate Justice Action Plan

Accountable to those who are most impacted by climate injustice in Boston

Participants share a foundational knowledge of structural oppression and climate justice

Identify climate justice priorities and concerns of those most impacted

Develop Vision, Goals and Strategies

Ensure CJAP meets accountability goals



Steering Committee

- Alternatives for Community & Environment (ACE)
- Boston Ujima Project
- New England United for Justice
- Reclaim Roxbury
- Thom S. Carlson Corp – NU Contractor Services
- NU Students
- NU Office of DEI
- NU Office of City and Community Engagement
- NU CJ+S Hub
- NU Social Impact Lab
- NU Planning, Real Estate, and Facilities

Trainings – March 2023

- Structural oppression
 - Main concepts of structural oppression, with a focus on the history of racism and anti-blackness in the United States
- Environmental Justice
 - Collective understand of environmental justice so we can work together towards just solutions



Community Conversations and Surveys – Spring 2023

DATES

APRIL 12
6-8:30PM

APRIL 26
6-8:30PM

MAY 10
6-8:30PM

MAY 17
6-8:30PM

NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY CLIMATE JUSTICE ACTION PLAN

CALLING ALL BOSTON RESIDENTS!

Help create Northeastern university's priorities around climate justice!
Join a community conversation this spring.

RSVP REQUIRED

REGISTER: WWW.TINYURL.COM/CJAP-CONVERSATION

ACE
Alliance for Community Engagement

ONE SQUARE WORLD

N
Northeastern University

ROXBURY
INNOVATION CENTER

RECLAIM ROXBURY

- Focused questions on experience in Boston
- Used the four elements to connect to the environment
- Ideal day in Boston?
- Biggest struggles/obstacles?
- Relationship to NU

Co-creating Solutions - Fall/Winter '23/'24

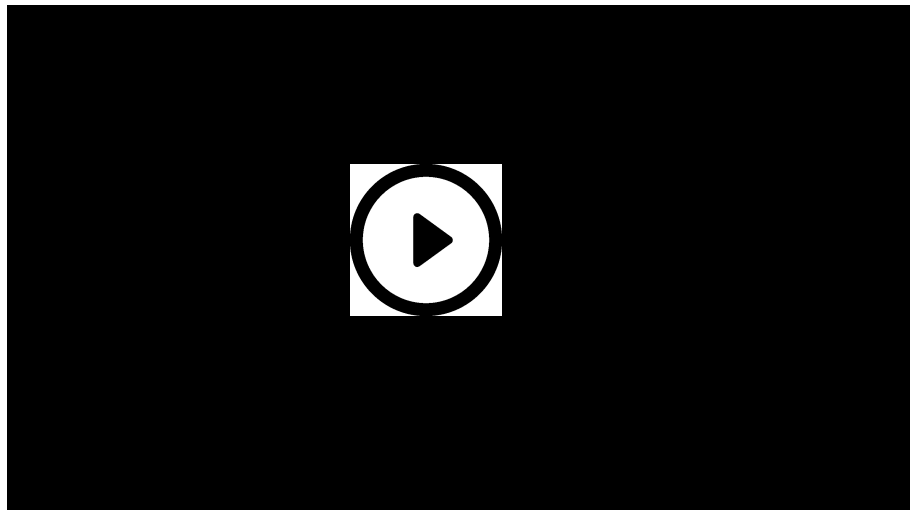
Campuses will be models of sustainable, healthy, interconnected, and just communities.

Contribute to building a just and regenerative economy, both locally and globally

Enact just research and academic practices that advance equitable solutions to the climate and intersecting crises

Build equitable relationships with local communities to model place-based justice and sustainability in action.

- Eliminate greenhouse gases from campus, improving local air quality
- Lower Northeastern's transportation pollution and congestion.
- Expand living options for students
- Expand training and hiring of local people, including youth.
- Support socially-responsible local and minority-owned businesses.
- Invest resources in the local economy, housing, and community well-being.
- Increase local access to campus resources
- Collaborate with community-based organizations on climate justice research



Final Community Conversation – March 2024

Building on a foundation of impact



Questions?



Follow us on
Instagram



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Field to campus

Incorporating food justice into our
purchasing and climate goals at MIT



 **Susy Jones**
Senior Project Manager
**MIT Office of
Sustainability**

MIT Office of Sustainability

Seeking solutions across scales



MIT's sustainable food vision and goals



We envision a campus food system where everyone has access to **healthy, affordable, and culturally meaningful food** in an environment designed for social connection, sustainability, equity, and innovation.

Guided by the goals of MIT's climate action plan, *Fast Forward*, we are working to lower our climate impact in line with scientific and culinary expertise.

Monitor and
reduce beef
on menus



Increase
food
recovery
channels



Reduce
greenhouse
gas food-
print by 25%



Use the
campus as a
testbed for
innovation



campus
climate
action

Built on commitments



Fall 2019

New England Food Vision Prize from Kendall Foundation

July 2020

MIT makes renewed commitment to supplier diversity, in accordance with president's call to "increase MIT's purchasing and contracting with minority-owned businesses, including Black-led enterprises"

Winter 2021

Ideation for Launchpad with MIT staff, students, & CWK

May 2021

Fast Forward climate plan, food goals, & Imperative of Justice

Summer 2023

Food Prize pivot



MIT Launchpad – MIT x Commonwealth Kitchen



Partnering with small, local food businesses to scale

- CWK holds the contract and manages entrepreneurs
- Submits viable entrepreneurs for each launchpad based on menu production needs – students vote on concepts
- Communal model of shared storage, refrigeration, and equipment
- MIT invests in preparing the food kiosks, equipment, furniture
- Proof of Concept other institutions can adopt



campus
climate
action

New England Food Vision Prize – 2023 Pivot

“Field Fritter Initiative”:

A Collaborative Plant-Based Protein Strategy to Increase Purchase and Use of Locally Produced, Climate-Friendly, and Culturally-Meaningful Foods by Institutional Dining Teams

MIT & Commonwealth Kitchen

With: Babson, Boston College, Brandeis, Boston University, Emanuel, Northeastern, Providence College and more

MIT

**campus
climate
action**



We set out to...

Increase dollar amount and volume of locally-grown, locally produced food, and build a values-aligned regional food ecosystem that prioritizes local, diverse, ethical and sustainable sourcing. Via:

- Recipe testing and refinement within the campus testbed
- Fine tuning supply chain and manufacturing processes
- Creating a scalable distribution plan for area colleges
- Managing food safety and quality control
- Developing and integrating local partnerships and educational/research opportunities
- Good jobs at the farm, food business, and processor levels



Why yellow peas?

Ecological, human, and economic health benefits



- Used as cover crop for building soil health – or as dual cash/cover crop, when viable markets exist
- Healthy, protein, nutrient-dense food
- Healthcare Without Harm launched pilot to build and promote market for yellow pea falafel in Boston hospitals
- This project scales to college campuses

Engaging farmers in Maine and beyond



Aurora Mills & Farm

Linneus, Maine

Sara Williams, Co-owner



"We farm in a regenerative way. So we don't use any chemical inputs, even if they are organically approved. Our only inputs are cover crops...

And the pea, they're also beautiful, they flower. So we increase biodiversity – more pollinators – and there's also better water infiltration"



Farming and climate change



Farmers

“Any farms that remain, those farmers are brilliant. They're soil scientists, they're business people, they're accountants, they're mechanics. It's a really, really humbling field.”

Resiliency

“We're bringing back the local grain infrastructure. We have water. Not everywhere in the US is going to have water. So you want infrastructure to exist here. In our region, if something happened, I could mill and process grain for the whole state if I need to.”

Climate impacts

“Climate change affects farms in every way. This year was pretty awful. We had too much moisture. And then the smoke, certain crops failed. The buckwheat failed because it just didn't have enough photosynthesis. There wasn't enough sun, it just rained every day. There was no summer. And then there was smoke in the sky from the Canadian wildfires that shielded out the sun, less photosynthesis, less yield.”

CommonWealth Kitchen

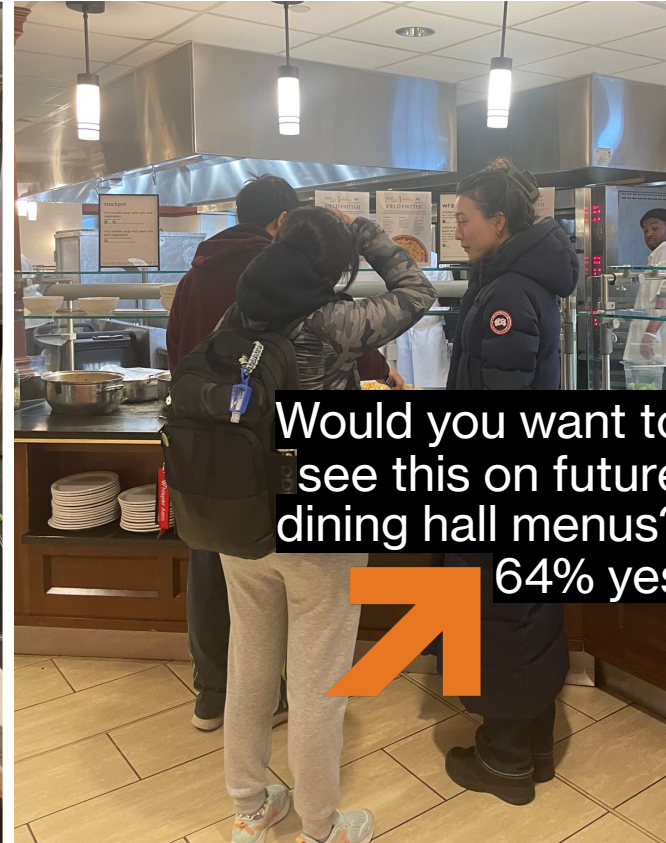
Urban food production in Dorchester, Mass.



CWK's manufacturing kitchen helps small businesses grow, farmers use surplus crops, brings jobs to the city, increases local food, and more...

Engaging students

Yellow Pea Fritter Tomato-basil Wrap: with shredded cabbage, carrot, roasted red pepper, baby spinach, and banana pepper with orange green chili relish, orange and lime juice



Engaging campus chefs & manufacturing team

Fritter 2.0 Workshop at
CommonWealth Kitchen in
January 2024



“Much better
product from the
original – excellent
texture, held up
better”



What comes next

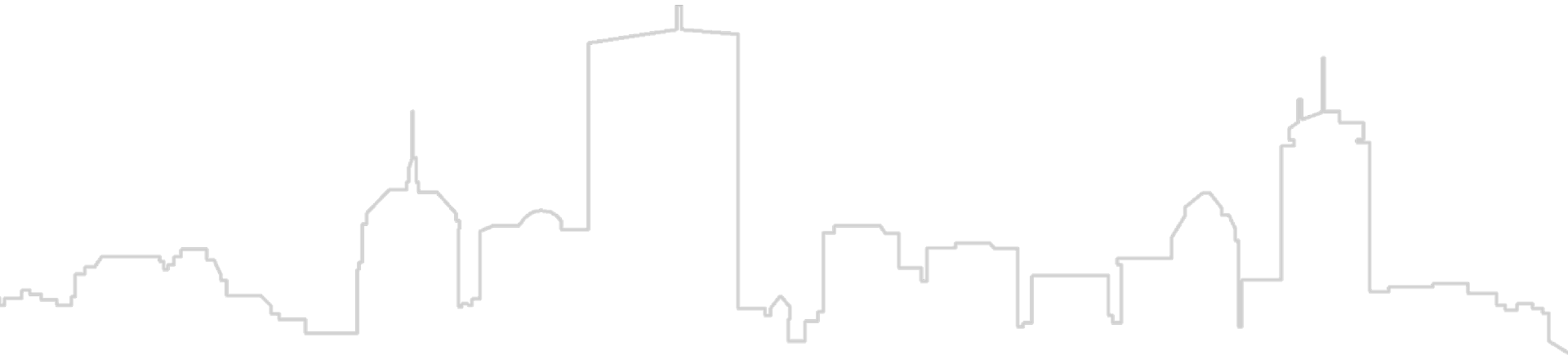


- Menu integration and feedback
- *Distribution:* Paul Marks, Costa, Farm Fresh Rhode Island [more soon]
- Projected sales volume set to triple with new higher ed and others
- New partnerships
- Research and education?
- **Playbook** coming this summer – join us!
- MIT – surplus + food recovery

Thank you!

Susy Jones
susyj@MIT.edu

Moderated Discussion and Q&A



Thank You



Questions? Reach out to Azanta Thakur
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