

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF MAYOR MICHELLE WU

**An Order Establishing
the Boston Climate Council**

WHEREAS: Climate change presents significant health, environment, and economic challenges; and,

WHEREAS: Climate change is driven by the increased concentration of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere, primarily from human activities such as burning fossil fuels; and,

WHEREAS: Most of Boston's greenhouse gas emissions come from our buildings and transportation systems, making the decarbonization of the built environment a critical strategy for significantly reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and,

WHEREAS: Shifting the energy system from reliance on fossil fuels to clean energy sources is critical to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving air quality, alleviating energy burden, and promoting energy security and resilience; and,

WHEREAS: Boston is already experiencing the effects of climate change, including rising sea levels, increased temperatures, and changing precipitation patterns, which pose a significant health and safety risk to all residents; and,

WHEREAS: These threats are felt disproportionately in low-income and minority communities; and,

WHEREAS: A transition to a low-carbon economy presents opportunities for job creation, growth, and innovation; and,

WHEREAS: Multiple City departments are involved in efforts to decarbonize the built environment, transform energy systems, and enhance resilience; and,

WHEREAS: A new convening body will facilitate cross-departmental collaboration, strategic planning, and effective implementation of climate programs and policies, ensuring an all-of government delivery and accountability system for the City's efforts to combat climate change; and,

WHEREAS: The City has committed to being carbon neutral by 2050;

THEREFORE:

Pursuant to the authority invested in me as chief executive officer of the City of Boston by St. 1948, c. 452, s. 11, as amended, and every other power hereto enabling, I, Michelle Wu, Mayor of Boston, hereby order and direct as follows:

Article 1: Formation and Composition

The below-listed City officials shall form the Boston Climate Council. These officials shall meet for the purpose of developing coordinated implementation strategies that accomplish the City's greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets, mitigate the impact of climate change and build resilience against climate-related impacts. The Climate Council will be co-chaired by the Chief Climate Officer and Green New Deal Director for the City of Boston and be comprised of the following City officials (or their designee) whose cabinets are tasked with driving climate action across the City:

- Chief Climate Officer (Co-Chair),
- Green New Deal Director (Co-Chair),
- Administrator of the Boston Housing Authority,
- Chief of Community Engagement,
- Chief of Emergency Preparedness,
- Chief Financial Officer,
- Chief of Housing,
- Chief of Operations,
- Chief of Planning,
- Chief of Streets,
- Chief of Worker Empowerment,
- Executive Director of the Boston Public Health Commission, and
- Executive Director of the Boston Water and Sewer Commission

The officials listed above, and any additional mayoral designees, shall comprise the Boston Climate Council and are hereby instructed to coordinate in carrying out the responsibilities outlined in the Articles below.

In order to execute the responsibilities outlined in the Articles below, the Co-Chairs shall regularly convene the Climate Council. At the discretion of the Co-Chairs, the Climate Council shall include regular participation from other City leadership and experts on particular climate related themes and topics who will serve as advisors to the Climate Council. The Climate Council shall convene at a minimum every month from September 2024 to December 2025 with subsequent regular meetings until 2030. The Climate Council may meet more frequently at the discretion of the Co-Chairs.

Article 2: Responsibility to Update Boston's Climate Action Plan

In order to ensure the City's climate priorities are aligned in scope and purpose across City departments, the members of the Climate Council shall assist in the development of the City's Climate Action Plan update. The Climate Council shall identify existing and potential programs, policies, and initiatives and deliver a Climate Action Plan update that provides a comprehensive and data-driven strategy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions across all sectors, develop green workforce development opportunities, and

identify adaptation and resilience strategies. The Climate Action Plan update shall establish interim goals and objectives through 2030, which are strategically designed to guide the City toward achieving carbon neutrality by 2050 and resilience to climate hazards built on a foundational imperative of climate justice.

Article 3: Responsibility to Drive Implementation of the Climate Action Plan

In order to achieve the goals and objectives set forth in the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Council shall lead and drive implementation of the programs and policies outlined in the Climate Action Plan and other relevant climate policies as appropriate. The members of the Climate Council shall coordinate intra- and cross-departmental efforts, seek and allocate necessary resources, establish clear timelines, and monitor progress against goals and key performance metrics.

Article 4: Responsibility to Provide Progress Updates

In order to ensure the City works towards achieving its climate goals as laid out in the Climate Action Plan, the Climate Council shall track progress at minimum on an annual basis on the City’s public-facing Green New Deal Dashboard and its future iterations.

SIGNED THIS ____ DAY OF October, 2024

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston