



Climate Justice in Boston

What it Means, Community Feedback
and Ways Forward

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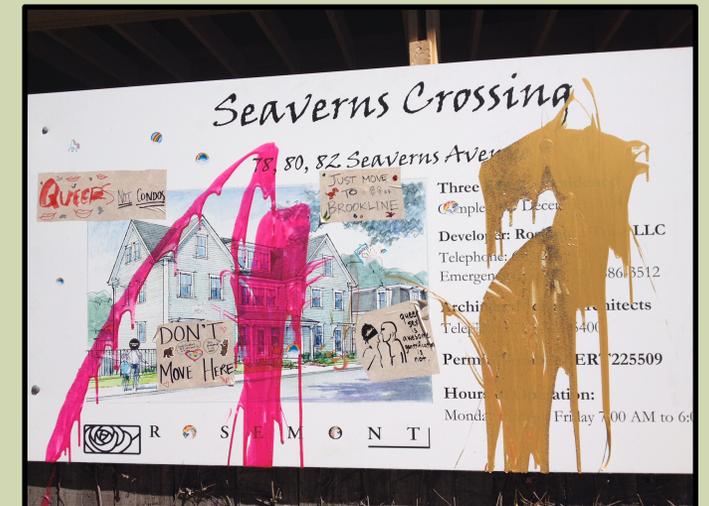


Overview

- What is Climate Justice?
- What constitutes Vulnerability?
- What does the community say?
- What are the recommendations?
- Takeaways



Boston Nature Center Solar Panels



Anger over Luxury Development, JP

What is Climate Justice?

Climate Change: Instigator of Corrosive Disadvantage

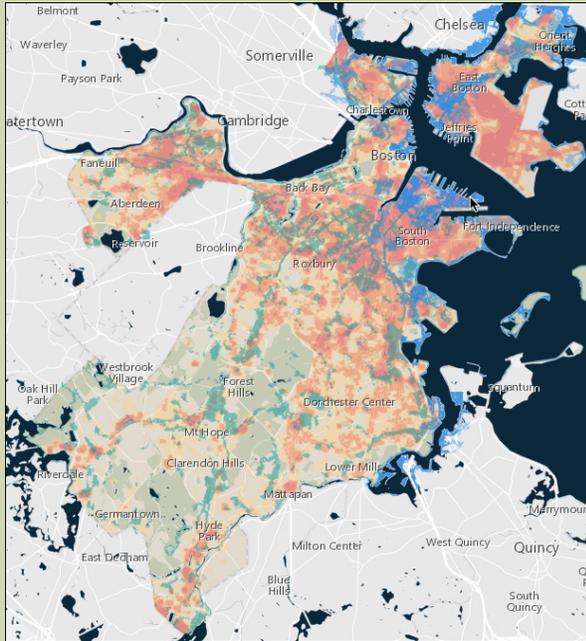
Climate Justice: interrupt process by creating paths for resilience that prioritize the most vulnerable while countering patterns of past injustice



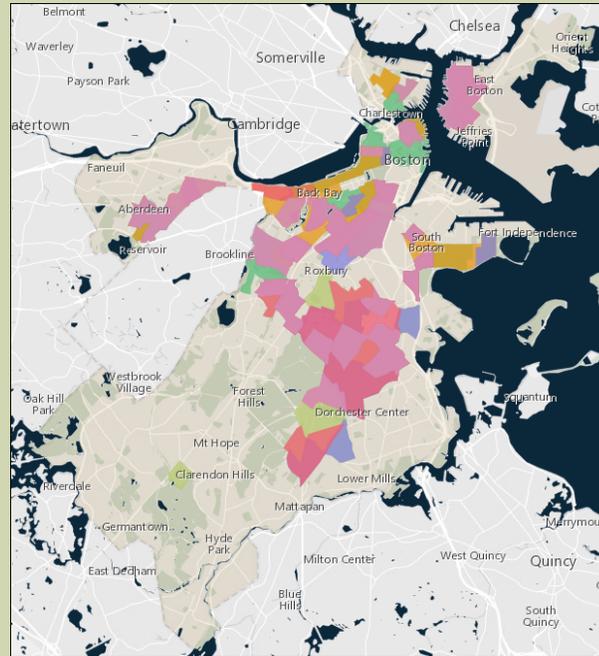
HOW?

- 1) Ensuring benefits of policies, projects and other actions are distributed equitably
- 2) Everyone has the right and opportunity to participate in the decision-making process
- 3) Explicit recognition of how past and present processes and policies are unjust
- 4) Recognizing the intersectionality of issues

What Constitutes Vulnerability?



Images from Climate Ready Boston Explorer



Environmental Vulnerability

- Sea Level Rise
- Increased Heat
- Increased Precipitation
- Stormwater/Coastal flooding

Socioeconomic Vulnerability

- Environmental Justice communities
- Children, Elderly, Disabled, Renters
- Socially Isolated (e.g. Immigrants)
- Lack access to Food, Open Space, Transportation
- Lack access to economic opportunity or safe neighborhoods

Many of these factors overlap and compound each other

Community Feedback: Concerns

Clarity:

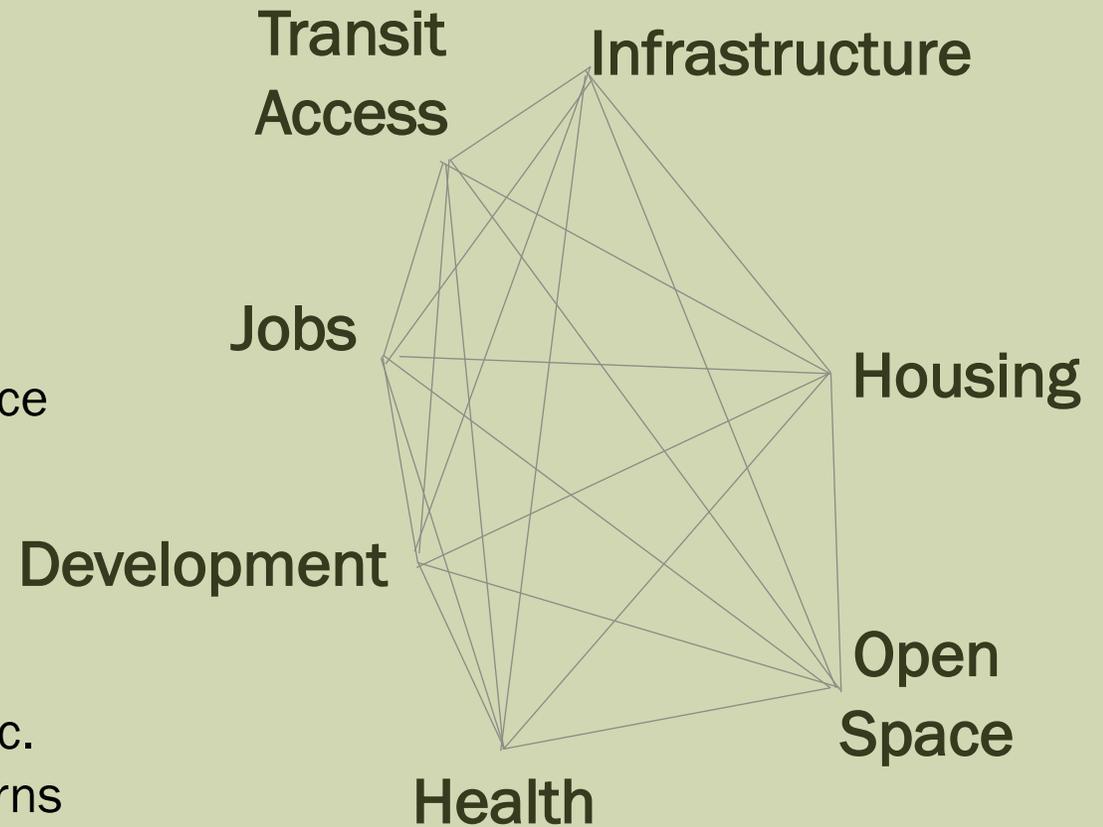
- Clarity from city on roles, goals, funding
- Unclear timeline/implementation for goals
- Engagement seen as inconsistent, expert-speak

Priorities:

- Greater access to energy programs
- Concern city prioritizes development over resilience
- Update and communicate evacuation plans

Intersectionality:

- Other city plans consider climate change?
- Stronger link between housing, transportation, etc.
- Addressing existing environmental/access concerns
- Improve partnership with small businesses
- Greater emphasis on city & regional vs. individual action



Community Feedback: Ideas

Implementation:

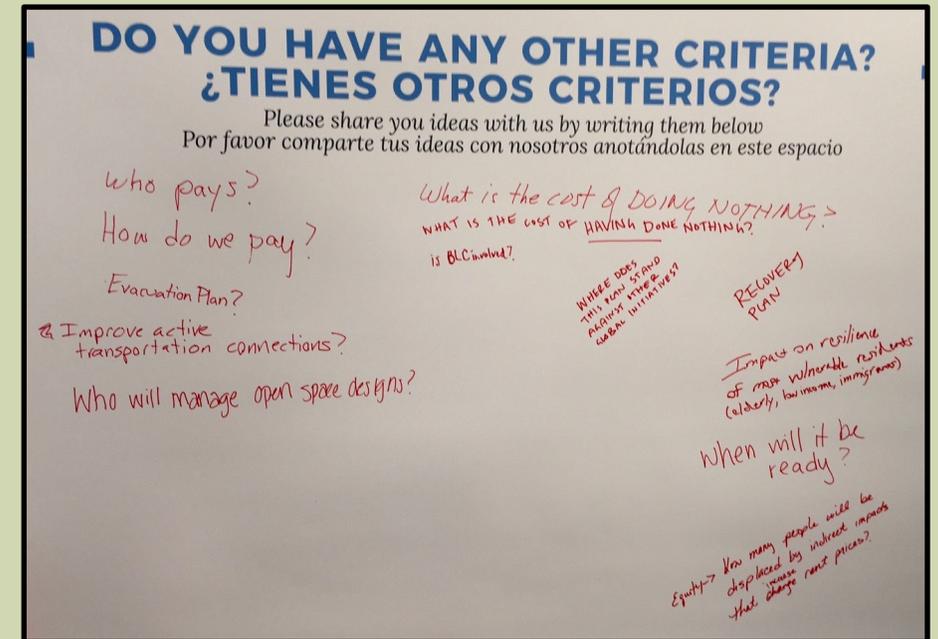
- Climate Justice Committee/Working Group
- Multiple, iterative avenues for engagement
- Work with neighborhoods on evaluation metrics
- Speak to day-to-day challenges of residents
- Link racial equity work and climate impacts

Partnerships:

- Participatory budgeting or annual grants
- Greater collaboration between departments
- Support work already being done in neighborhoods

Statement of Values:

- Consider climate rights/justice ordinance
- Divesting city pensions
- Equity checklist for new development
- Climate justice training for city employees



Feedback board from East Boston Workshop



Recommendations

How are these solutions created? What do they look like and what problems or inequities do they address? Who created them, and who are they for?

Ordinances:

- Community Working Group for Climate Justice
- Timelines and accessible updates for future plans/projects
- Divest municipal investments from fossil fuels
- Climate justice training/toolkit for new hires

Resolutions:

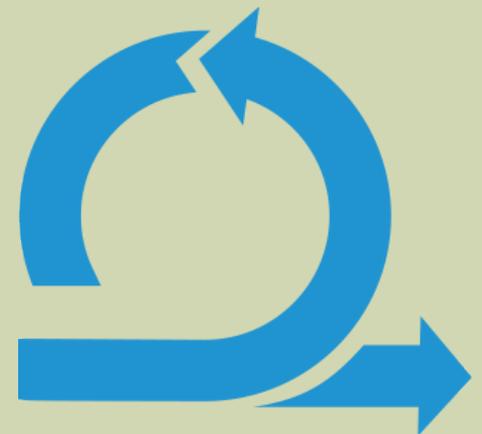
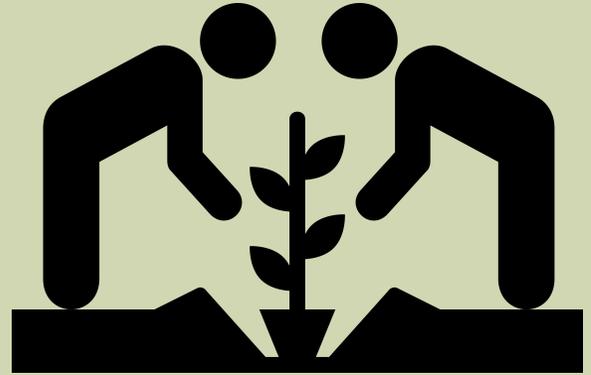
- Commit the city to locally-specific climate justice principles
- Climate justice checklist for future development
- Requirements for departmental communication

Hearings/Working Sessions:

- Renew Boston more accessible
- Emergency plans and evacuation routes
- Neighborhood-scale climate projects
- Metrics for evaluation
- How to support local justice leadership
- Increased funding for EEOS
- Grants for community-based projects/positions
- Green opportunities in marginalized neighborhoods

Takeaways

- 1) Build trust through communication & support
- 2) Meet communities “where they are”
- 3) Departmental communication & a justice lens
- 4) Accessible, frequent implementation updates
- 5) Create long-term partnerships (committees, liaisons)
- 6) Support local neighborhood leadership
- 7) Develop locally-informed metrics for evaluation





Thank you!

Be sure to check out:

- Climate Justice Working Group
 - The Report and engage with city offices & officials
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