Energy and Environment (E+E) Unit Accomplishments 2024

CLIMATE AND CLEAN ENERGY POLICY:

**State Level:**

* **S.2967: Clean Energy Siting and Permitting Climate Bill:** In November, the Governor signed the 2024 Climate Bill, an *Act Promoting a Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity, and Protecting Ratepayers*, which primarily addressed significant delays in clean energy projects. Please see the summary [blogpost](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/abc-celebrates-the-passage-of-the-2024-climate-bill) with key takeaways.
* **H.5100: Mass Leads Act**: In November, the Governor also signed the $3.96B Economic Development Bond Bill, known as the Mass Leads Act, summarized in a [blogpost](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/a-better-city-celebrates-the-passage-of-the-economic-development-bond-bill-h.5100-(mass-leads-act)). The Bond bill provides support and bonding authorizations for the advancement of climatetech businesses in Massachusetts, as well as other considerations for economic development across life sciences, public infrastructure, workforce development, and business competitiveness.
* **Municipal Opt-In Specialized Stretch Energy Code and Updated Stretch Energy Code:** A Better City held a focus group in March 2024, and then participated in Department of Energy Resources (DOER) hearings, and submitted a comment letter in April (see relevant [blogpost](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/doer-requests-comments-on-the-stretch-codes) that included these comments). DOER expects final regulations to go into effect in February 2025.
* **Large Building Energy Reporting (LBER) Regulations:** A Better City provided comments on the Commonwealth’s LBER regulations. The LBER regulations have similarities to the City of Boston’s 2014 Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO 1.0). Final changes to the LBER regulations are anticipated to be released by the end of February 2025.

**City of Boston Level:**

* **BERDO 2.0**: In February, A Better City held an [event](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/event-recap-berdo-2.0-regulations-and-next-steps) on [BERDO 2.0 regulations](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/final-berdo-regulations,-key-takeaways,-and-next-steps) and next steps. Throughout 2024, A Better City also facilitated 5 meetings of the BERDO Commercial Real Estate Working Group.
* **Zero Net Carbon (ZNC) Zoning**: A Better City has been engaging members on the ZNC zoning process through its initial failure to pass in August 2024, to its eventual passage in January 2025. See a summary blogpost on what is included in ZNC regulations [here](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/boston-zoning-commission-passes-zero-net-carbon-zoning).

EQUITABLE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

* **PowerCorpsBOS**: The 3rd cohort of the PowerCorpsBOS building operations program was launched in May, and a [Lessons Learned Report](https://www.abettercity.org/docs-new/lessons%20learned%20powercorps%20boston%20final%209.5.24.pdf) was released in September about the [program partnership](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/kick-off-to-powercorpsbos-building-operations-cohort-3-in-service-learning-and-lessons-learned-report) with the City of Boston, and building partners.

EXTREME HEAT

* **Heat Partnerships & Advocacy**: A Better City has been working on the [B-COOL temperature sensor pilot](https://www.abettercity.org/news-and-events/blog/b-cool-summer-2024-temperature-sensor-pilot-preliminary-results), the [Applied Economics Clinic Heat Policy Reports](https://aeclinic.org/publicationpages/12/2024/tackling-extreme-heat-recommendations-for-strengthening-massachusetts-policy), has been serving as a subcontractor on a 3-year [Wellcome Trust project](https://www.bu.edu/sph/news/articles/2025/professor-awarded-3-2m-grant-to-expand-urban-heat-research/) looking across Boston, New Orleans, and Phoenix, and has submitted a [Heat Comment Letter](https://files.constantcontact.com/88fa4207001/d662b5b7-3bca-450e-aac9-8ec04c79ee55.pdf?rdr=true) to Governor Healey on recommendations for a potential heat executive order, as well as ongoing ResilientMass heat implementation.

ENGAGEMENT

* **A Better City E+E Engagement Includes Advocacy Through the**: BERDO Commercial Real Estate Working Group, Boston Tree Alliance, A Better City Extreme Heat Working Group, Resilient Mystic Collaborative (RMC) Coastal, Stormwater, and Heat Working Groups, Office of Energy Transformation Working Groups, Global Warming Solutions Act Implementation Advisory Committee, Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) Commercial and Industrial Working Group, EEAC HVAC Task Force, ResilientMass Finance Advisory Committee, Sustainable and Equitable Funding Coalition, and the ResilientCoasts Initiative.