

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL



ORDER OF CITY COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY

WHEREAS: Boston has entered into a robust construction boom to accommodate the demand for new housing and will need to continue to build residential and commercial buildings; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has committed to making its buildings carbon neutral by 2050; and

WHEREAS: Buildings contribute to over half of the City of Boston's greenhouse gas emissions; and

WHEREAS: Buildings that comply with net zero carbon requirements minimize fossil-fuel use and encourage a higher standard of environmental sustainability and cost-efficiency; and

WHEREAS: There is a significant demand for both innovative and modern designs to create high performance homes and buildings that would be energy independent and not reliant on carbon; and

WHEREAS: With a lack of leadership in Washington D.C. on issues regarding climate change, cities and municipalities across the United States must be proactive in leading creative solutions in addressing pressing environmental issues and lead the way to 100% clean, renewable energy; and

WHEREAS: Boston has historically exhibited leadership on a host of moral, cultural, intellectual, and economic issues; and

WHEREAS: Cities such as Cambridge, MA; Austin, TX; Fort Collins, CO; and Palo Alto, CA, have spearheaded strategic plans to commit to net-zero carbon, in which any greenhouse-gas emissions produced by commercial and residential establishments are offset by carbon-free energy production; and

WHEREAS: As a coastal city, Boston is highly susceptible to rising sea-levels and extreme weather, which may inequitably impact Boston neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS: It is in the interest of the public health, safety, and welfare for the City of Boston to protect all residents from dangerous environmental issues that contribute to global climate change and adversely affect the City of Boston's ability to comply with its Climate Action Plan; **THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, orders a hearing on considering the benefits of developing net-zero-carbon requirements and incentives for future construction in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA); Environment, Energy, and Open Space Department (EEOS); Boston Clean Energy Coalition (BCEC); and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.