



AMERICAN CLIMATE
LEADERSHIP AWARDS

Alternatives for Community & Environment

ace-ej.org

This guide offers a successful and stepwise model for you to replicate in your community. It is part of a series featuring the award-winning programs from the finalists of the American Climate Leadership Awards 2022 by ecoAmerica.

OVERVIEW

70% of building emissions in Boston come from 4% of buildings. **Alternatives for Community & Environment** (ACE) partnered with the City and proved that it is possible to address greenhouse gas emissions and integrate Just Transition theory into policy, moving us toward a regenerative economy grounded in the lived experiences of the people on the frontlines of pollution. By following our example, other cities can center justice as they address environmental inequities.

Our neighborhood of Roxbury has the second highest asthma rate in Boston ([15.7%](#)). Roxbury residents are more likely to live in a building that is not energy efficient or weatherized. At the same time, our community is negatively impacted by emissions from the largest institutions in the city, including Boston Medical Center and Northeastern University. Boston's Environment Department invited us to join them in a process to update BERDO. We knew we could not pass up the opportunity to craft a policy that met community needs and the city's pollution reduction goals.

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

1. Identify stakeholders and possible funding opportunities.
 - a. For all audiences: reach out to local environmental, housing, and climate justice organizations to build trust before pitching collaboration on the process.
 - b. If a city staff person:
 - i. identify a qualified consultant to help facilitate a community-centered process. A facilitator trusted by community organizations is key. One Square World did incredible work with us in Boston.
 - ii. identify funding opportunities to compensate community groups and residents for participating in the process.

2. If a city staff person: throughout the process, convene experts (community, academics, and other stakeholders) to identify key issues of concern.
3. Ongoing: generate public interest and support for the proposed policy, ex: Boston [petition drive](#).
4. Once the policy is drafted: identify a champion to sponsor the ordinance in city council (or other local representative body); meet with city councilors to educate them and ensure their support; and turn out members to support the policy when it is voted on by the city council.
5. Watchdog the implementation and regulatory process.

Alternatives for Community & Environment is an ACLA 2022 Finalist. For more information and replication guides, go to ecoAmerica.org.