

# Malden

## Climate Action Plan



### What is it?

A Climate Action Plan (CAP) provides a strategic roadmap for reducing our community's greenhouse gas emissions while building our ability to prepare for climate change impacts. This CAP is our guide for creating a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable future for all Maldonians.

### Why have one?

Malden is already experiencing the impacts of climate change. In the last 32 years, the City has experienced 22 natural hazards that triggered federal or state disaster declarations. The vast majority of these events involved flooding, while others were due to hurricanes, nor'easters, and severe winter weather. Extreme heat is another major climate concern that we experience in Malden; our City can be dangerously hot in some areas during the summer due to the "Urban Heat Island" effect. It is imperative that we take action to protect our community as climate change intensifies.

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# What are the goals outlined in the Climate Action Plan?

1. **Champion good governance: The City of Malden will set an example for residents, businesses, and partners to follow, by integrating sustainable, equitable, and collaborative processes in all sectors of civic life.**
  - A. Lead by example by reducing carbon emissions from municipal buildings and vehicles in a variety of ways (see full plan for specific implementation actions).
2. **Achieve net zero carbon emissions in buildings & energy across the City.**
  - A. Transition residential, commercial, and industrial buildings to electric heating and clean power.
  - B. Adopt a building energy use disclosure policy (i.e., buildings of a certain size would need to report their annual energy use) and consider an emissions performance standard for these buildings.
  - C. Adopt climate smart policies that enable clean energy adoption, like adopting the Specialized Stretch Energy Code, pursuing a SolSmart designation, and exploring tax incentives and other policies to encourage clean energy upgrades for existing buildings.
  - D. Explore whole neighborhood approaches to decarbonization, like networked geothermal, neighborhood scale education campaigns to promote MassSave, and group purchasing options for heat pumps.
  - E. Address major gas leaks through collaboration with and advocacy to National Grid.
3. **Accelerate sustainable transportation options in Malden.**
  - A. Advance walking, biking, and rolling improvements in Malden.
  - B. Repurpose on- and off-street parking spaces for climate-friendly uses, like bike racks, pocket parks, annual events, or traffic safety improvements.
  - C. Expand Bluebikes service.
  - D. Improve bus transit through collaboration with and advocacy to the MBTA.
4. **Enhance community resilience (the ability of our society to respond to, withstand, and recover from disruptions, like climate change or pandemics).**
  - A. Promote community climate education.
  - B. Explore a resilience hubs network (resilience hubs are trusted community spaces that support the public before, during, and after an emergency—like expanded versions of the Malden Warming/Cooling Centers).
5. **Mitigate the heat & flooding impacts experienced by Maldonians.**
  - A. Reduce the urban heat island effect by planting more street trees and incorporating cooling improvements like shade structures and cool roofs/pavements.
  - B. Expand tree canopy cover and greenspace throughout the City.
  - C. Reduce flood risk and impacts by improving stormwater drainage infrastructure and reducing impervious surfaces.

For access to the full plan, as well as progress updates, please visit:  
[www.cityofmalden.org/greenmalden](http://www.cityofmalden.org/greenmalden)

