BUILDINGS & DEVELOPMENT

Driving the transition to resilient and efficient buildings—new and existing—that are healthier and more affordable to own and operate.

WHAT DOES BUILDINGS & DEVELOPMENT INCLUDE?

- Establishing more rigorous sustainable design and development standards and enforcement methods, ensuring buildings last longer.
- Encouraging building owners to participate in energy efficiency programs.
- Ensuring our historic assets are resilient to the threats of climate change.
- Developing our neighborhoods and communities for mobility and access to services and amenities.
- Limiting new development and considering managed retreat in high-risk areas.

HOW CAN BUILDINGS & DEVELOPMENT CONTRIBUTE TO OUR LONG-TERM RESILIENCE AND SUSTAINABILITY?

1. The way we develop our buildings and neighborhoods shapes how people get around, how efficiently resources are consumed, and how well we can preserve community identity and cohesion.

2. Sustainable building design increases efficiency, reduces greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and saves money.

3. Revising codes and upgrading buildings to account for climate change, as well as limiting development in high-risk areas, will keep residents safer.

THE BRISCOE VILLAGE FOR LIVING & THE ARTS (BVLA)

The BVLA is an environmentally friendly, mixed-use development underway in Beverly, MA. The project will redevelop the historic Briscoe School and theater to provide independent and affordable senior housing and wellness services, as well as community arts and gathering spaces.

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Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Beverly and Salem by Sector

Buildings are the largest source of greenhouse gases in both Beverly and Salem.

Source: GHG Emissions Inventory, 2020

50% BEVERLY

55% SALEM

BUILDINGS REPRESENT THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Natural gas and other building heating fuels like fuel oil and kerosene accounted for 30% of total GHG emissions in Salem and 26% in Beverly. Taking steps such as replacing fuel oil with electric heat pumps and improving insulation can save residents money and reduce emissions.

Some of the buildings and development-related strategies being considered for the Resilient Together plan include, but are not limited to:

› Complete life-cycle assessments on publicly funded projects.
› Review zoning and building codes to remove any barriers to clean energy infrastructure.
› Require renewable energy facilities (e.g., solar installations, energy storage) for new construction.
› Incentivize developers to use flood damage-resistant materials, protect critical utility systems, and implement cool and green roofs.
› Adopt an energy benchmarking and disclosure policy for large buildings.
› Strengthen minimum design standards for construction in flood-prone areas.

DID YOU KNOW?

A new academic building at the Waring School in Beverly will be designed and constructed to the Passive House standard. The Waring School will be the first independent school in Massachusetts to certify a Passive House building.

Passive House

A set of principles for sustainable design and construction that emphasize a high degree of energy efficiency, resilience, air quality, and comfort. High-performance materials and design techniques help put buildings on a path toward zero carbon emissions by eliminating up to 90% of a building’s energy use.

LEARN MORE AND SHARE YOUR IDEAS AT RESILIENT-TOGETHER.ORG