



NB RESILIENT

A Summary of New Bedford's Plan for Climate Action + Resilience

New Bedford is a historic New England seaport that is unequalled in vibrant livability, cultural vitality, and natural beauty. The NB Resilient plan is New Bedford's roadmap to continue to thrive in the face of future challenges, especially climate change. Through an inclusive engagement process, goals and priority actions were identified in six focus areas. A resilience framework incorporating four essential themes was developed to ensure NB Resilient stayed true to New Bedford's community values.

Cross-Cutting Themes



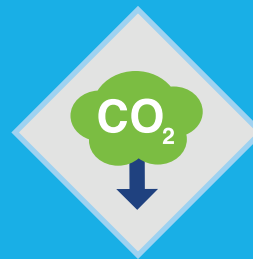
Resilience

Improving everyone's ability to adapt and flourish in the face of change.



Equity and Empowerment

Ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities for civic engagement.



GHG Reduction

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions that result from energy used in our homes, businesses, cars, and through City operations.



City Character

Preserving our history and culture, while increasing community cohesion.



Transportation & Land Use

CHANGING HOW WE TRAVEL STARTS WITH MAKING ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS MORE ATTRACTIVE AND VIABLE.



Achievements to Date

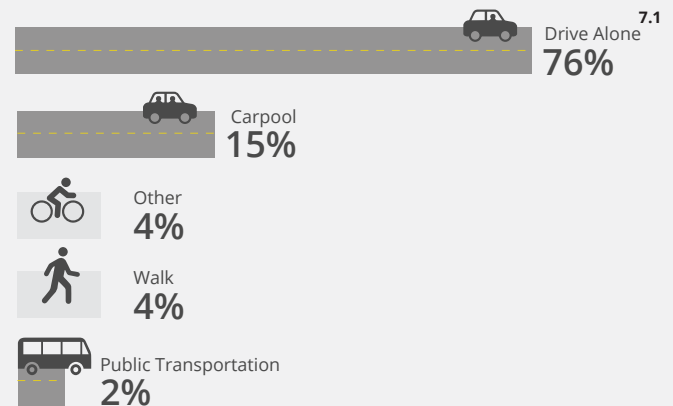
New Bedford's comprehensive multi-modal planning strategy has produced:

- ✓ Construction of the Blue Lane: 5.5 mile path along the waterfront and coast
- ✓ Increased public transit service and transit-oriented development
- ✓ Increased quality housing stock and home-ownership

Goals

- Improve, enhance and connect the city's multimodal transportation opportunities.
- Increase the use of pedestrian, bicycle and transit mode choice for local mobility.
- Update zoning and building regulations to support climate readiness for existing and new developments.
- Provide safe and equitable housing for all residents throughout the city that reflects the cultural and historical character of each area.

How Does New Bedford Get Around?



Leading By Example

By 2018, 25% of the municipal fleet was electric.



PRIORITY ACTIONS

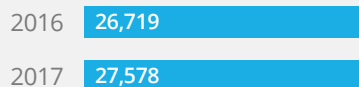
To bolster access to transportation options and walkability, our community identified key actions to build upon New Bedford's transportation opportunities.

- 1 Allocate resources to a multi-modal master plan that improves safety and access to non-motorized transportation and connections to public transit
- 2 Promote sustainable land development and redevelopment
- 3 Maintain focus on municipal transportation emissions
- 4 Continue efforts initiated by the Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School programs

Goals

- Reduce waste tonnage 30% by 2030 and become a zero-waste community by 2050.
- Design, build, and maintain all infrastructure to be energy efficient and resilient to the impacts of climate change.

TOTAL AMOUNT OF WASTE DISPOSED OF IN NEW BEDFORD (TONS)



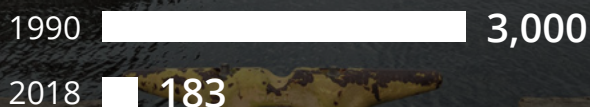
% OF TOTAL WASTE DIVERTED (FROM LANDFILL)



EVEN WITH REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN RECENT DECADES, COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOWS CAN STILL ALLOW POLLUTION TO IMPACT OUR WATERS

A combined sewer system collects rainwater and sewage in the same pipe. Intense precipitation can overwhelm this system and spread contamination. Green infrastructure, like rain gardens, can help prevent this from happening.

MILLION GALLONS DISCHARGED FROM CSOs



Infrastructure, Utilities & Waste

SMART INFRASTRUCTURE CHOICES AND WASTE MINIMIZATION HELP US **PREPARE FOR & REDUCE THE INTENSITY OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS.**



Achievements to Date

- ✓ Over 90% reduction in combined sewer overflow volume since 1990
- ✓ Water treatment plant upgrades, with plans to increase solar capacity
- ✓ Enacted a single-use plastic bag ban ordinance

PRIORITY ACTIONS

To improve our ability to process waste, prevent sewer-overflow events, and protect our infrastructure, our community identified the following key actions.

- 1 Promote green infrastructure in projects throughout the city
- 2 Implement an organics (food waste, yard waste) collection that includes commercial, single-family, and multi-family properties
- 3 Implement the Integrated Capital Improvements Plan
- 4 Adopt an action plan to ensure the continued protection of New Bedford's water supply

Natural Resources

WE MUST MAINTAIN OUR CITY'S CONNECTION TO THE SEA AND NATURE AND UPHOLD OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT HABITAT.



Achievements to Date

- ✓ Exclusive planting of native species and control of invasives
- ✓ Improved the quality of the riverfront
- ✓ 99% trash removal from water entering the Sassaquin pond
- ✓ More than 2900 new trees planted since 2014

Goals

- Reduce air, water, soil, noise and light pollution.
- Take an integrated water resource management approach that considers the needs of the natural water ecosystem, human water use, and potential droughts and flooding.
- Add more tree canopy coverage equitably across the City.
- Protect wildlife and their habitat by using native or sustainable species in landscaping throughout the city.

CLIMATE CHANGE WILL IMPACT NEW BEDFORD'S WILDLIFE, OPEN SPACES, AIR & WATER



Straining habitats and risking of extinction



Forcing animals and plants to migrate to new places



Threatening water quantity and quality



Worsening air pollution

PRIORITY ACTIONS

To protect the natural resources that our residents enjoy and that support our economy, community members highlighted the following priority actions:

- 1 Research and find opportunities to install alternatives to impervious surfaces and hardscapes in the city
- 2 Continue to develop and implement the Urban Reforestation Plan
- 3 Develop a Watershed Protection Plan
- 4 Adopt a city-wide policy to use only native plant species, with a focus on pollinator plantings

Goals

- Use 100% renewable sources for the City of New Bedford's energy by 2050.
- Reduce residential, municipal and commercial energy consumption 35% by 2030, using 2013 as a baseline.
- Reduce community-wide greenhouse gas emissions 35% below 2017 levels by 2030, toward a path to net zero GHG emissions by 2050.
- Work with partners to reduce the vulnerability of the energy system due to extreme weather or peak demand.

WHERE DO NEW BEDFORD'S GREENHOUSE GASES COME FROM?

Reducing greenhouse gas emissions from our major contributors - buildings and transportation - will be key to our emission reduction efforts.

TOTAL EMISSIONS



LEADING THE WAY ON CLIMATE & ENERGY SOLUTIONS

- 8,000**
street and traffic lights replaced with power-saving LEDs
- 23**
electric vehicles in the municipal fleet
- 400**
residential rooftop solar systems installed
- \$7,000,000**
dollars saved from residential energy aggregation since June 2014

Climate & Energy

TAKING ACTION TODAY **REDUCES COSTS AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS TOMORROW.**



Achievements to Date

- ✓ Most municipal solar capacity per capita in the continental US
- ✓ 25% of the municipal fleet is electric
- ✓ Undertook one of the largest performance contracting initiatives in the Northeast

PRIORITY ACTIONS

To continue to drive the reduction of the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change and to ensure all of New Bedford is resilient to the impacts, our community prioritized actions that protect our greatest assets, increase renewable energy options, and reduce energy consumption.

- 1 Develop a long-term adaptation strategy for the Port
- 2 Create a city-wide energy and water conservation campaign and tracking system
- 3 Increase the type and number of community installations of renewable energy sources
- 4 Encourage community electric vehicle adoption

Public Health & Safety

CLIMATE CHANGE PREDICTIONS **CREATE** UNIQUE CHALLENGES REGARDING PUBLIC HEALTH & SAFETY.



Achievements to Date

- ✓ 3x reduction in elevated blood-level screening results in children since 2010
- ✓ Named an Age-Friendly Community in 2018
- ✓ New Bedford Coastal Foodshed runs benefits-friendly farmer's markets year round

Goals

- Ensure vulnerable communities are engaged in decision-making and prepared for climate impacts.
- Prepare and support New Bedford residents to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours after an extreme event.
- Improve accessibility to goods and services, such as fresh and healthy food and low-cost medical care.
- Build an effective emergency communication strategy across city departments and enhance public participation, availability of information, and quality of public services.

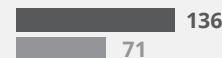
AREAS WHERE WE CAN BUILD OUR RESILIENCE & ADDRESS NEW BEDFORD'S CHRONIC STRESSORS

A person's vulnerability is increased when they experience: Preexisting health conditions, isolation, lower socioeconomic status, unhealthy housing conditions, substance abuse, and exposure to high levels of environmental contaminants.

● New Bedford ● Massachusetts



ASTHMA EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS
per 10,000 people



LOW ACCESS TO A GROCERY STORE
& are low income



BLOOD LEAD LEVELS
per 1,000 children



PEOPLE OVER 65
living alone



POOR/FAIR HEALTH
& are low income



UNABLE TO SEE DOCTOR
because of cost



PRIORITY ACTIONS

To protect the health and security of our community, the following priority actions were identified.

- 1 Improve access to local, healthy and affordable food
- 2 Expand access to primary and preventative health care
- 3 Improve and increase communication capabilities
- 4 Conduct a thorough vulnerable populations assessment

Goals

- Ensure all businesses in New Bedford are aware of and prepared for the impacts of climate change.
- Bolster current port industries and capitalize on opportunities for secondary industries.
- Increase the diversity of local industries and support the growth of the creative economy, cultural tourism, technology, green manufacturing, renewable energy and entrepreneurship.
- Promote pathways out of poverty and build financial stability through training and professional development programs.

OUR LOCAL ECONOMY IS GROWING

46,157* JOBS IN OUR LOCAL ECONOMY **5,005** OF THESE JOBS ARE NEW SINCE 2014 **+1,399** INCREASE OF JOBS IN 2017 ALONE

* Due to COVID-19, by April 2020, our jobs numbers saw a decrease of nearly 24% to 35,183

BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY

Some of our community members face additional challenges that make it more difficult for them to actively engage in our growing economy or to worry about climate change. Our actions for a resilient future need to address these stressors.

EDUCATION

% of population over 25 without a high school diploma

NEW BEDFORD

22.6

MASSACHUSETTS

9.6 %

UNITED STATES

12.5 %

Economy & Jobs

WE ARE BUILDING UPON OUR STRENGTHS TO ENSURE CONTINUED ECONOMIC PROGRESS.



Achievements to Date

- ✓ Hundreds of millions of dollars of investment in port infrastructure, enabling new maritime enterprises to take hold and facilitating significant growth in commercial fishing, including a 67% increase in out-of-state vessel landings
- ✓ Scheduled deployment of the nation's first utility scale offshore wind project
- ✓ Full build-out of the New Bedford Industrial Park
- ✓ 4x reduction in unemployment over the last decade

PRIORITY ACTIONS

To ensure the resilience of New Bedford's growing economy and to allow all residents to participate in it, the following actions were prioritized.

- 1 Fully develop and activate the New Bedford Ocean Cluster (NBOC)
- 2 Develop and promote education and skills training for both college and non-college career tracks in emerging sectors where New Bedford has natural advantages (marine economy, advanced manufacturing, creative economy, etc.)
- 3 Develop cross-sector collaboration and structured pathways for the cultivation of local leadership and professional development opportunities, with a focus on engaging youth, seniors, veterans, immigrants, and previously incarcerated people
- 4 Create an adaptation toolkit for businesses to raise awareness of and prepare for climate change



LEARN MORE AT:

[nbresilient.com](https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/environmental-stewardship/nb-resilient-climate-action-resilience-plan)

OR

<https://www.newbedford-ma.gov/environmental-stewardship/nb-resilient-climate-action-resilience-plan>

