

RE-ENVISIONING URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE TO ADDRESS CLIMATE CHANGE: A COMPREHENSIVE REGIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR SUSTAINABILITY

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2019

8:30-9:00 **COFFEE & REGISTRATION**

9:00-9:15 **WELCOME & OPENING REMARKS**

9:15-9:30 **A FRAMEWORK FOR EQUITY, ENVIRONMENT, & INFRASTRUCTURE**

A truly sustainable city must consider equity, environment, and infrastructure in equal measures. This framework shapes our broad discussion highlighting the inherent tradeoffs in achieving equity, reducing environmental risks, and creating new energy, building, and transportation infrastructure as a means to find sustainable solutions for cities.

Lucy Hutyra, Associate Professor, Earth & Environment, Boston University

Marc Draisen, Executive Director, Boston Metropolitan Area Planning Council

9:30-10:45 **SESSION 1: HOUSING RESILIENT CITIES**

Boston, like too many U.S. cities, is experiencing a housing availability and affordability crisis. Boston is also facing significant vulnerabilities from climate change. This session explores urban approaches to tackle housing availability, affordability, and equity, while jointly considering the cost of improving infrastructure to mitigate climate change.

Moderator: Katherine Einstein, Assistant Professor, Political Science, Boston University

Gregg Colburn, Assistant Professor, University of Washington

Amy Dain, Public Policy Analyst, Dain Research

Sara Hughes, Assistant Professor, University of Toronto

Maxwell Palmer, Assistant Professor, Boston University

10:45-11:00 **TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

11:00-11:15 **COFFEE BREAK & NETWORKING**

11:15-12:30 **SESSION 2: OLD HOMES, NEW IDEAS**

Achieving ambitious sustainability goals requires the large-scale retrofit of the existing building stock and construction of “net zero” buildings to support growth. This session will evaluate the physical, social and financial elements of the retrofit process with the aim of identifying key performance metrics, and frameworks that could lower barriers to energy retrofits.

Moderator: Michael Walsh, Research Assistant Professor, Boston University

Anne Evens, CEO, Elevate Energy

Galen Nelson, Director of Innovation Programs, Massachusetts Clean Energy Center

Brooks Winner, Clean Energy Coordinator, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Kurt Roth, Head of Building Energy Systems, Fraunhofer Center for Materials Innovation

Maria Stamas, Western Director, Energy Affordability, National Resources Defense Council

12:30-12:45 **TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

12:45-2:00

LUNCH KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY MICHAEL CAPUANO, FORMER U.S. REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS

From False Starts to Six Stops (and a Bike Lane): Lessons from the Green Line Extension

Our region's newest multi-modal transit corridor – the Green Line Extension – has been on the drawing board since 1990. The project has endured false starts, long lags, political transitions, and shifting priorities. After so many delays, how did this project come to fruition when other transit promises made as part of the Big Dig fell away? Former US Representative Mike Capuano offers lessons on fostering the political, policy and financial environment necessary to realize transformative urban infrastructure projects in our region.

2:00-3:15

SESSION 3: MOVING FROM OLD STREETS TO NEW MOBILITY

We know what we want from a sustainable urban transportation system – safety, low-to-zero emissions of greenhouse gases, promotion of physical activity, good accessibility, low-to-no cost shared modes of travel, & last mile transit solutions. This session explores emerging technologies and proactive policies for sustainable urban transportation systems that serve the needs of the evolving and diverse urban population.

Moderator: Tim Reardon, Data Services Director, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Chris Dempsey, Director, Transportation 4 MA

Kate Elliott, Senior Program Manager, American Cities Climate Challenge, NACTO

Chris Osgood, Chief of the Streets, Transportation, and Sanitation, City of Boston

Stacy Thompson, Executive Director, Livable Streets Alliance

3:15-3:30

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

3:30-3:45

BREAK

3:45-5:00

SESSION 4: INTEGRATING ECOSYSTEMS

Human well-being depends on ecosystem services such as the provisioning of clean air and water, yet climate action plans for cities often exclude the role of ecosystems. In this session, we discuss the state of ecosystem science in cities and how ecosystem services can be better integrated into planning and policy making.

Moderator: Pamela Templer, Professor, Biology, Boston University

Christopher Cook, Chief, Environment, Energy, and Open Space, City of Boston

Brendan Shane, Climate Director, Trust for Public Land

Jonathan Thompson, Senior Ecologist, Harvard Forest

Paige Warren, Professor, UMass Amherst

5:00-5:15

TABLE DISCUSSIONS

5:15-5:30

SYNTHESIS & CHARGE FOR DAY 2

Katharine Lusk, Co-Director, Initiative on Cities, Boston University

5:30-6:30

NETWORKING & REFRESHMENTS

7:00-8:30

VANGUARDS IN URBAN PLANNING: TRANSFORMING VANCOUVER, TORONTO, & MINNEAPOLIS

Vancouver, Toronto and Minneapolis are flourishing. Through innovative housing, green space and transportation policies, plus shifts to renewable energy, these communities offer roadmaps for sustainable urban growth.

Moderator: Barbara Moran, Senior Producing Editor, Environment, WBUR

Jennifer Keesmaat, Former Chief City Planner, City of Toronto

Gil Kelley, General Manager of Planning, Urban Design, and Sustainability, City of Vancouver. B.C.

Heather Worthington, Long Range Planning, City of Minneapolis

Location: WBUR CitySpace at 890 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, MA 02215



TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2019

8:30-9:00 **COFFEE & REGISTRATION**

9:00-9:15 **DAY 1 SYNTHESIS & DISCUSSIONS**

9:15-10:30 **SESSION 5: INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Although universities and governmental agencies strive to engage community members in local, state and/or regional initiatives, the practice often falls short of this ideal. We will discuss the norms, practices, tools, and resources that can be used to work collectively and promote a more equitable distribution or investment in resources in relation to population health.

Moderator: Judith G. Gonyea, Professor, School of Social Work, Boston University
Robin Bachin, Professor & Assistant Provost, University of Miami
Doug Brugge, Professor, School of Medicine, University of Connecticut
Linda Sprague-Martinez, Associate Professor, Boston University
Ellin Reisner, President, Somerville Transportation Equity Partnership, Somerville, MA

10:30-10:45 **TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

10:45-11:00 **COFFEE & NETWORKING**

11:00-12:15 **SESSION 6: IMPROVING HEALTH OUTCOMES**

Local health can be influenced in multiple ways by building and land use decisions, including direct influences of the built environment on health as well as indirect influences related to air pollution, climate extremes, green space, and opportunities for active transportation. This session focuses on the twin challenges of affordability and carbon emission reductions, and the potential implications for health of vulnerable populations.

Moderator: Jonathan Levy, Professor, Environmental Health, Boston University
Roseann Bongiovanni, Executive Director, GreenRoots
Stephanie Ettinger de Cuba, Executive Director, Children's HealthWatch
Patricia Fabian, Research Assistant Professor, Boston University
John Spengler, Akira Yamaguchi Professor of Environmental Health and Human Habitation, Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health
Lindsey Tucker, Associate Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

12:15-12:30 **TABLE DISCUSSIONS**

12:30-2:00 **LUNCH KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY GINA MCCARTHY, FORMER EPA ADMINISTRATOR; DIRECTOR C-CHANGE, HARVARD**

Climate & Health: The Greatest Public Health Challenge of our Time, and what You Can Do About It
Our dependence on fossil fuels is changing weather patterns and temperatures are rising, leading to more extreme weather events, the spread of vector-borne diseases, harmful air pollutants, and food insecurity that all affect our health. But we also know that every step we take to tackle climate change creates major health benefits: cleaner air, cleaner water, and safer places for us to live, work and play.

We can all do so much more in our lives, in our homes, our communities, our schools to act on climate change. We cannot rest until each and every one of you gets engaged and active. Our kids are counting on us because their lives and their futures are at stake.

2:00-2:30

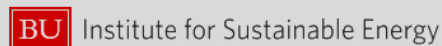
KEY THEMES & EMERGING OPPORTUNITIES

The contemporary and future sustainable city has to have an inclusive, equitable approach to tackling issues related to politics, housing, transportation, ecosystems, community engagement, and health. Using the lessons learned from this conference we will sketch out emerging opportunities for research and policy changes.

Lucy Hutyra, Associate Professor, Earth & Environment, Boston University
Katharine Lusk, Co-Director, Initiative on Cities, Boston University

 Follow the conversation at [#BUSUS2019](https://twitter.com/BUSUS2019)

This event is hosted by the Boston University Initiative on Cities and Urban Climate Initiative and supported by BU Graduate Program in Urban Biogeoscience & Environmental Health, BU Institute of Sustainable Energy, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, and the National Science Foundation.



PLEASE RECYCLE YOUR BADGE AT THE END OF THE MEETING.