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Preparing Boston Buildings for Rising Seas and Severe Weather Events

A Better City Releases Report and Toolkit on Enhancing Resilience in Boston; Launch Event to Follow

Boston, February 25th, 2015- A Better City (ABC) is excited to announce the release of its new report- *Enhancing Resilience in Boston: A Guide for Large Buildings and Institutions* and its compendium online resiliency toolkit. Climate projections for Boston indicate that the City is vulnerable to rising temperatures, increased storm intensity and higher sea-levels. The report and toolkit will provide Boston area building owners with information on 32 available resilience actions and technologies to mitigate and adapt to these vulnerabilities. The report also includes a preliminary assessment of potential regulatory touch points within the City and state for resilience actions and considers initial ideas for district-level resilience strategies for the Boston area.

An event to launch the report and toolkit will be held on Thursday February 26th from 8:30am to 10:30am in the Fort Point Room at Atlantic Wharf, 290 Congress Street, Boston. The event will feature an interactive panel discussion with remarks from Rob de Vos, Consul General of the Netherlands in New York; Austin Blackmon, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space, City of Boston; and Rick Dimino, President and CEO, ABC, who stated, “this report provide real and implementable resiliency measures for buildings to begin making investments in their facilities now, before the next storm hits and identifies opportunity for the City of Boston to streamline its permitting and approval processes to facilitate the easy integration of resilience actions.”

The panel discussion will include: lessons learned from other regions who have already experienced major events; how decisions are being made to install resilience technologies; how resiliency works into building economics; how to improve/streamline our local regulatory policies to facilitate resiliency investments; and how the private sector can work together to achieve economies of scale for making large scale improvements. The panel will feature Rob de Vos; Kairos Shen, Director of Planning, Boston Redevelopment Authority; Ben Meyers, Sustainability Manager, Boston Properties; Mary Skelton-Roberts, Senior Program Officer for the Environment, Barr Foundation; and Kathryn Wright, Consultant, Meister Consultants Group.

One of the panelists, Ben Meyers, Sustainability Manager at Boston Properties, will speak to the decisions made at Atlantic Wharf to install an Aqua Fence and how it works into building economics. He

notes that "As coastal city property owners, we are interested in sensible and science-based resilience strategies. ABC's Building Resilience Toolkit provides a comprehensive overview of potential measures that help reduce the vulnerability of the existing building stock and new developments. It will be a valuable resource for the commercial real estate community."

With Boston narrowly missing severe damage from Hurricane Sandy in 2012, as well as many less major storms since then; Boston building owners have become increasingly aware that they must start to plan ahead for reducing the risks of flooding and other climate related threats. "A Better City continues to demonstrate its leadership and commitment to supporting Mayor Walsh's climate efforts in the commercial real estate sector," said Austin Blackmon, Chief of Environment, Energy, and Open Space for the City of Boston. "This report and its accompanying resiliency toolkit will serve as great resources for Boston businesses and institutions as they engage in near- and long-term mitigation and preparedness."

About A Better City

A Better City (ABC) improves the economic competitiveness and quality of life of the Boston region by advancing and providing leadership on significant transportation, land development, and environmental policies, projects, and initiatives related to the business and institutional community.

About the Challenge for Sustainability

ABC's Challenge for Sustainability is a voluntary program that engages buildings and businesses in Greater Boston to adopt best practices in sustainability and energy efficiency through a platform of benchmarking and a peer to peer support network to reduce their carbon footprint.

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