



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor

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June 2, 2022

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Subject: BERDO Discussions

Dear Large Building Owner:

The City of Newton released its five-year Climate Action Plan in November 2019, with the goal of making the Newton carbon-neutral by 2050. This is a crucial undertaking, but not an easy one.

Newton's Climate Action Plan shows that 26% of Newton's greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) come from vehicles and 8% from gas leaks. The largest portion, 66%, comes from buildings. Notably, the 400 largest buildings account for 27% of the City's total GHG emissions. That means making large buildings energy efficient and using renewable energy sources must be a significant focus for the City as we tackle climate change.

The City Council passed a resolution on April 19, 2022 supporting the development in Newton of a Building Emissions Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO). The purpose of such an ordinance is to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Newton's largest buildings. The City of Boston adopted a BERDO ordinance in September 2021. Newton is using Boston's BERDO as a model for our own ordinance.

The City of Boston's version of BERDO sets a phased declining emissions requirement for existing buildings greater than 20,000 square feet and residential buildings 15 units and above. If Newton adopts a similar ordinance, buildings and portfolios of buildings (multiple buildings with one owner) that total more than 20,000 square feet would be subject to the ordinance. Boston's BERDO requires building owners to submit annual reports on their energy use and to develop and execute a plan for their buildings to reach net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050, which is also the goal of Newton's Climate Action Plan.

We want – and need – your input in order to shape Newton's BERDO: our decisions about timelines, size and types of buildings affected, the trajectory of emissions reductions, etc. To address climate change—and craft Newton's BERDO—in a responsible manner will require all hands on deck.

We invite you to join us at one of the following discussion sessions. The dates for the first sessions, to be held remotely, are as follows. Please register by going to [Newtonma.gov/NewtonBerdo](https://Newtonma.gov/NewtonBerdo).

- Friday, June 17, 2022 at 8:00 am
- Thursday, June 23, 2022 at 8:00 am
- Wednesday, June 29, 2022 at 10:00 am

Do you have a question or a comment in the meantime? Please email [NewtonBERDO@newtonma.gov](mailto:NewtonBERDO@newtonma.gov).

Sincerely,



Ruthanne Fuller  
Mayor