

**Talking Points for Mayor Thomas M. Menino**  
**Green Cities: Lessons from Boston**  
**March 5, 2008**

- Thank you, **Dean Ellwood**. I want to thank Harvard University for co-hosting today's discussion. And thank you for your ongoing partnership on the issue of climate change and sustainability.
- I'm delighted to have this opportunity to talk about climate change, what it means for our city, and how Boston is leading the way on this important issue.
- Boston was recently named the third greenest city in the nation by *Popular Science Magazine*. I'm proud that people are recognizing the hard work that my administration has put into addressing this problem.

- While climate change is a global problem, we all can do our part to reduce the effects and plan for the future.
- I would like to take a few moments to explain how my administration is adopting policies that will help Boston mitigate and adapt to climate change.
- The threat of climate change is very real. I've spoken to scientists who tell me that because Boston is flat, a rise in sea level could endanger our beloved Harbor Walk – the 38-mile pathway we have invested so much in over the years.
- I have directed my City team to work with the Boston Redevelopment Authority to plan for these and other changes. For example, we will likely see an increase in heat emergencies due to more extreme weather.
- Mitigation starts with reducing our greenhouse gas emissions. By the year 2012, the City of Boston will reduce our emissions 7 percent

below 1990 levels. And by 2050, we will achieve 80 percent below 1990 levels.

- This morning I'm pleased to officially release the City of Boston's Climate Action Plan. This plan details Boston's greenhouse gas emissions and the steps we are taking to reduce them by:
  - Improving our buildings
  - Making Boston more bike-friendly
  - Increasing the amount of renewable energy we purchase, and
  - Planting trees and protecting our open space.
  
- All of these policies are helping us reduce energy consumption, and improve public health. But we're not going to reach those goals through municipal changes alone. We need every resident and our business community to commit to reducing their emissions as well.

- The Climate Plan includes my **Climate Action Pledge**. I'm asking each of you to join me by taking 10 steps to reduce your own emissions: For example:
  - Walk, bike or take the T instead of driving
  - Recycle as much as possible, and
  - Buy locally grown food
  
- I'm probably preaching to the choir with this audience!
  
- Boston is not alone in tackling this issue. Mayors across our nation are taking action. Together, we have signed the US Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, committing ourselves to taking action in our cities, as well as supporting strong state and federal climate protection policies.
  
- Addressing climate change takes more than a strong commitment, however. It takes resources. In order for cities to continue taking a leadership role, we need assistance and resources that will support our efforts to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The state and

federal government must also implement climate-friendly transportation and energy policies.

- Giving cities more resources to address climate change will also strengthen the economy.
- Already, the Massachusetts clean energy cluster supports more than 14 thousand jobs. That makes it the 10<sup>th</sup> largest industry in the state, with a projected growth rate of more than 20 percent per year. Greater Boston ranks in the top five clean energy clusters in the nation.
- To maximize Clean Tech's benefits for Boston, my administration is working with the Kendall Foundation to form the Boston Energy Alliance, which will aggregate demand for energy efficiency. The Energy Alliance will use a revolving loan fund to finance retrofits for all types of buildings, all across the city. We will make energy efficiency affordable for everyone – from home owners to business owners.

- Altogether, we expect to leverage 500 million dollars for efficiency enhancements. This will create a massive new market for people who provide clean tech services. We're talking about 25 hundred jobs in the next five years!
- Creating jobs on that scale allows us to drive workforce development as well. We will form partnerships with vocational educators to join with the Boston Public Schools, organized labor and our workforce development staff to create a new program to prepare Boston's high school graduates for these new green collar jobs.
- The promise of Clean Tech is enormous. More and more, we will see its benefits, in our environment and our economy, for years to come.
- Sustainability is a commitment to future generations. If we are going to successfully confront this issue, sustainability and collaboration must be our mantra. This issue is too big for us not to work together smartly.

- I'm proud to have Harvard University as one of our most valuable partners on the issue of sustainability. Harvard has designed their state-of-the-art Science Complex according to LEED platinum standards. The Complex will also feature eco-friendly landscaping and storm water management systems. Most importantly, it will create an attractive gathering place for the entire community.
- I look forward to working with Harvard on their forthcoming Master Plan, which I'm hopeful will live up to the full promise of environmental sustainability.
- Now, it's my pleasure to introduce **President Faust**.