

Somerville Climate Forward 2021 Progress Report



Contact 311 (617-666-3311) for interpretation and translation services.

Annually, the City of Somerville Office of Sustainability and Environment releases a report on the progress made on the priority actions listed in *Somerville Climate Forward*, the City's climate change action plan.

Somerville Climate Forward has three main goals:

- Reduce Somerville's contribution to climate change and work towards carbon neutrality (mitigation)
- Prepare Somerville for the unavoidable impacts of climate change (adaptation)
- Fairly distribute the opportunities created by climate action and work to alleviate the unequal burdens of climate change (equity)

Read the full progress report:
www.somervillema.gov/climateforward.



Newly installed planters and flowers line Somerville Avenue. The City planted 518 trees in 2021.

Highlights



Reducing Emissions from Buildings

A draft Rental Registration and Energy Disclosure ordinance was submitted to City Council. It would require owners of rental properties to provide information on units to the City as well as an energy disclosure to prospective tenants.



Electric Vehicle Chargers

The City purchased four additional electric vehicle charging stations. The vehicle chargers will be installed in Conway Park, Assembly Square, and Day Street.





Urban Forest Management Plan

The Public Space and Urban Forestry Division completed their two-year effort to create an Urban Forest Management Plan. Priorities in the plan include:

- Increasing canopy cover from 14.6% to 16%
- Increasing the population of native species and decreasing the population of invasive species
- Addressing the threat of the Emerald Ash Borer to the City's 1,036 Ash trees



Streetscape Improvements

The Somerville Avenue Utility Streetscape Improvements project was completed; it is one of the city's largest green stormwater infrastructure installations. The project improves Somerville's ability to respond to heavy rainfall, flooding, and lack of green space. As a result of this project, the City has installed the following. These improvements will extend the life of the existing sewers.

- New water mains
- Planters that absorb rainwater
- Two new protected bike lanes
- Permeable pavement



Leading by Example

The City reduced emissions resulting from powering municipal buildings and City vehicles by 421 metric tons CO2 equivalent, a 5% decrease from 2020.



Bus Lane Improvements

The Washington Street Rapid Response Bus Lane project with the MBTA was completed. As a result, bus queue jumps were added, traffic signals were altered, and a bus-only lane from Sullivan Square to Union Square was created.

The City decreased the amount of fossil fuels used to power municipal operations.

84% Fuel Oil Use

8.5% Gas Use

6.4% Gasoline Use

Contact the Office of Sustainability and Environment

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