



BCHighMUN 30



City of Boston Task Force: Boston Flooding 2075

Chair: James Krzywda'22

Co-Chair: Charlie Kent'22

3.7.2020



Honorable delegates,

My name is Charlie Kent and I am the co-chair of this committee. The topic of global warming is an ongoing topic that continues to be the focal point of our world. The sea levels are rising globally, not just in Boston. My favorite Model UN experience was when the majority of the class, using the power of democracy, was able to overpower the tyranny of the chairs. It was epic!!!

Cordially,

Charlie Kent'22

Co-Chair

City of Boston Task Force Committee

Hi Delegates,

I'm James Krzywda and I'm excited to chair this committee. This committee will have lots to talk about regarding Boston flooding, especially considering how local the issue is. During the conference, there will be many subjects to touch and take into account, so I'm interested to hear your ideas. My favorite Model UN experience was the College of William and Mary Conference. It was lots of fun, and I hope that our conference will be too.

Respectfully,

James Krzywda'22

Co-Chair

City of Boston Task Force Committee

Contact information for position papers: jp.krzywda22@students.bchigh.edu



Introduction to the Boston Flooding Committee

Global warming and climate change have been major global issues for years and continue to become more and more pressing. These issues are causing temperature and ocean levels to rise at an alarming rate. This damage is the result of ongoing pollution, litter, and heavy reliance on non-renewable resources. If the rate at which these issues are increasing continues, Boston will be covered with 44 feet of water by 2075.

This committee is set in 2022. We must decide whether we accept the validity of the NOAA report, and if so, what measures must be taken now to mitigate the effects of flooding in the City of Boston and its surrounding areas as sea levels rise.

History of Boston Flooding:

High-tide flooding often referred to as "nuisance" or "sunny day" flooding, is increasingly common due to years of relative sea-level increases. It occurs when tides reach anywhere from 1.75 to 2 feet above the daily average high tide and start spilling onto streets or bubbling up from storm drains. As sea-level rise continues, damaging floods that decades ago happened only during a storm now happen more regularly, such as during a full-moon tide or with a change in prevailing winds or currents.

NOAA documents changes in high-tide flooding patterns from the previous year at 97 NOAA tide gauges along the U.S. coast, and provides a flooding outlook for these locations for the coming year, as well as projections for the next several decades. Boston had 11 days of high-tide flooding last year and can expect 11–18 days next year, according to a report released Wednesday by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). High-tide



flooding endangers crucial infrastructure in Boston, including waste and stormwater systems, MBTA lines, and roads like the frequently-flooded Morrissey Boulevard.

The NOAA report predicts 20-35 days per year of high-tide flooding for Boston by 2030 and 45-95 days by 2050. These long-term outlooks are based on the range of relative sea-level rise, using "intermediate" scenarios from the Fourth National Climate Assessment.

Problems/Obstacles/Threats/Strengths/Weaknesses:

It is clear that there is no simple way to predict the rate at which sea levels could rise. The climate is unpredictable, and as we have seen recently, it is more volatile than ever. There are certainly loads of variables involved; people need to make decisive decisions since the issue is so pressing. Some things that must be worked out are the overreliance on non-renewable resources, political tension regarding the issue, and government funding. The combination of all of these issues is what makes decision-making so challenging.

History has made it all too clear that the water is rising at an increasing rate. If a real change wants to be made, there must be a shift in culture, which is obviously challenging. This means the government needs to compromise, people need to shift to renewable energy, and the country must confront the issue rather than wait.

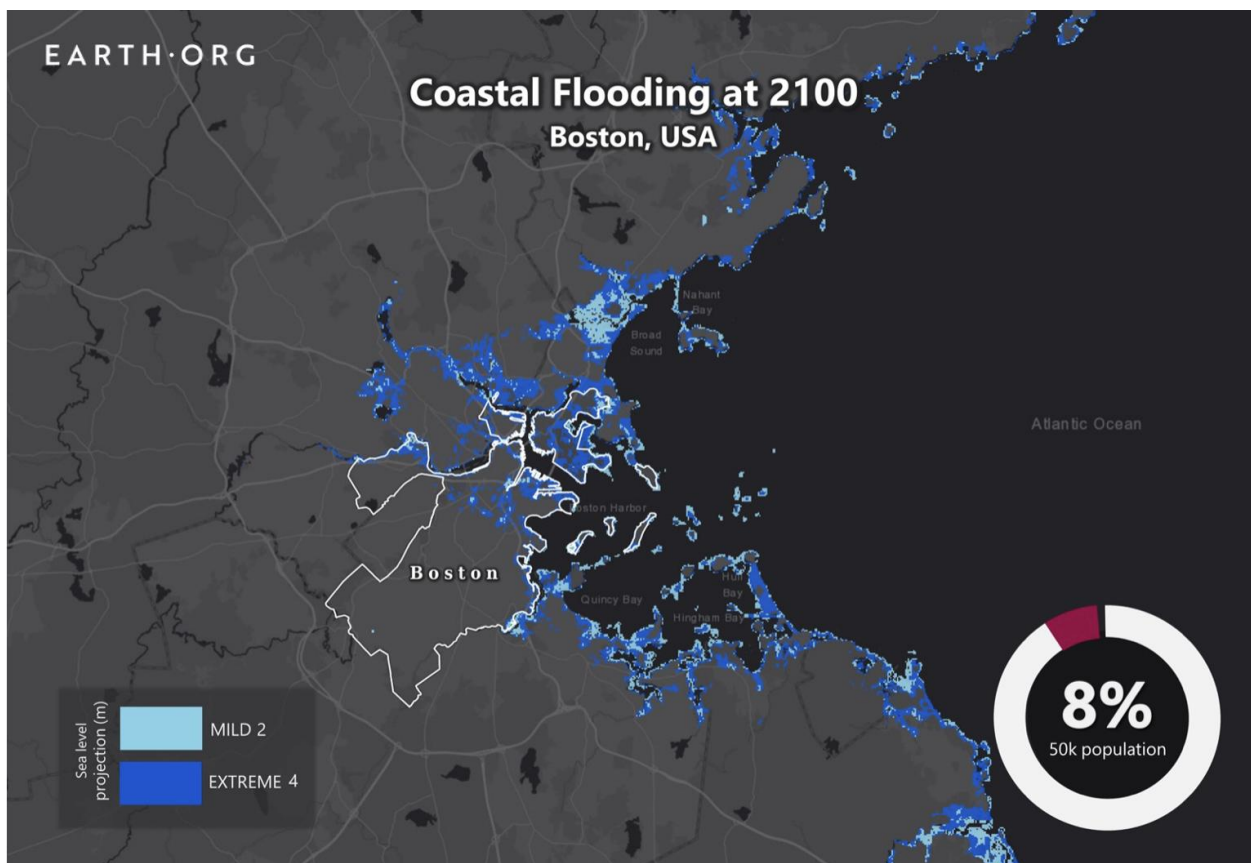
Questions to consider:

1. What action could the Committee take to limit the use of non-renewable resources?
2. How can the Committee quickly implement a sufficient plan in a short time?
3. Should the Committee seek help from other governing entities such as the US Federal government? Should this Committee seek assistance from the UN Environmental Programme?



4. What incentives could be in place to encourage countries to be more environmentally friendly?
5. How will the Committee be able to address each issue being different locally such as in Boston?

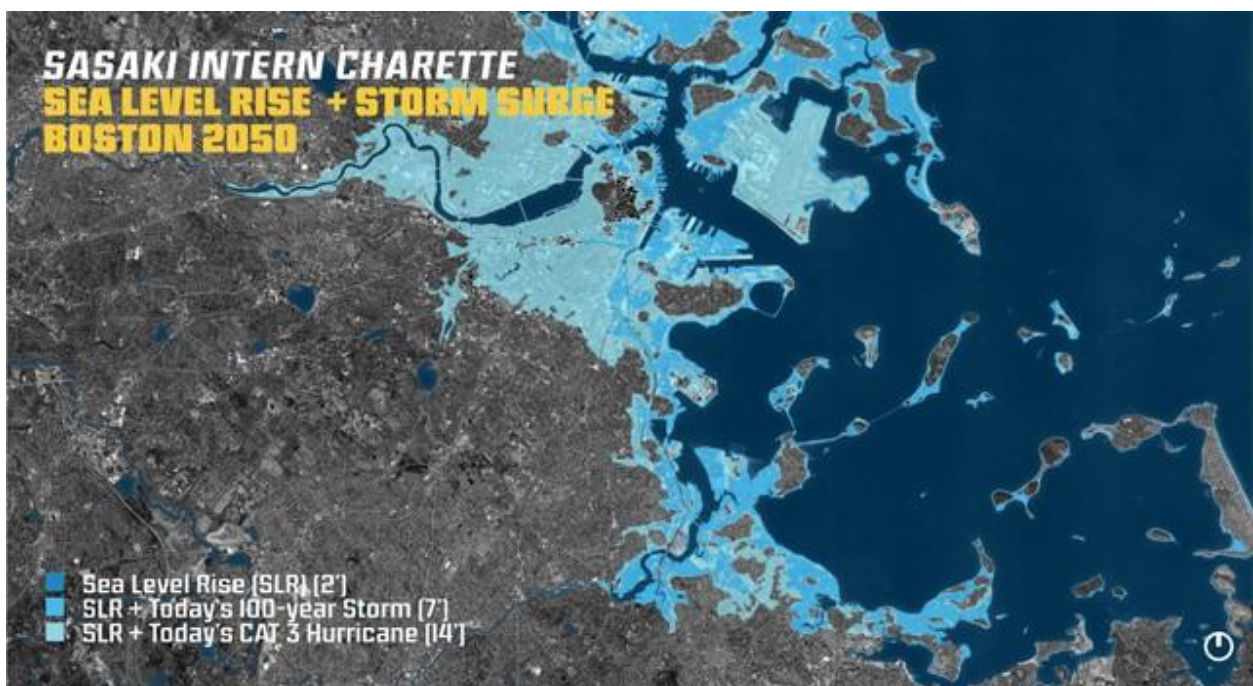
Below is map of Boston Sea Level Projections (NOAA)





Above: A photo of Boston College High School. Notice its proximity to Boston Harbor. This is where the Committee meets today. If accurate, the area shown above will be submerged under 44 feet of water by 2075.

Below: A map of Storm Surge projections by 2050 (NOAA)





Bibliography:

- <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov>
- <https://www.wbur.org/news/2021/07/14/high-tide-flooding-boston>
- <https://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?gage=bhbm3&wfo=box>

Committee Representatives

Michelle Wu	Mayor of Boston		
Charlie Baker	Governor of Massachusetts		
Rick Spinrad	NOAA Agency Executive		
Lori Argulles	NOAA Director of Strategic Communications		
Kendra Lara	Committee Chair Environmental Justice City of Boston		
Stephen Poftak	Chief Executive MBTA		
Jamey Tesler	Sec. of Transportation		



Jim Montgomery	Commissioner of DCR		
Steven Lynch	Representative of Congressional 8th District of Mass.		
Martin Suuberg	Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection		
Bill Fine	President and general manager of WCVB Channel 5		
Brian McGrory	Editor of the Boston Globe		
Ayanna Presley	Representative of Congressional 7th District of Mass.		
Rebecca L. Raush	Senate Chair for Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture		
Carolyn C. Dykema	House chair for Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and		



	Agriculture		
Zoe Nagasawa	Harvard University student and Center for Collaborative Education		
Michael McKelvy	Gilbane Construction		President and CEO
Geoff Diehl	Republican Candidate for Massachusetts Governor		
Maura Healy	Democratic Candidate for Massachusetts Governor & Attorney General of Massachusetts		
Greta Thunberg	Swedish Climate Change Activist		
Edward Mahkey	U.S. Senator from Massachusetts		
Elizabeth Warren	U.S. Senator from Massachusetts		
Marty Walsh	Former Boston mayor, Sec. of Labor		
Deval Patrick	Former Governor of Massachusetts		