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**New Report Provides Climate-Change Preparedness Best Practices, Guidance for  
Boston Property Owners, City**

*Report also features effective climate-resilience efforts from New York, Toronto, and other cities*

**(BOSTON) AUGUST 7, 2013**—The Boston Society of Architects (BSA) and the Boston Green Ribbon Commission (GRC) today announced the release of a new resource to help property owners in Boston and beyond reduce their vulnerability to and increase their resilience in the face of climate-change effects, such as severe storms and sea-level rise.

The report, [\*Building Resilience in Boston: “Best Practices” for Climate Change Adaptation and Resilience for Existing Buildings\*](#), was commissioned by the GRC and the City of Boston, and developed for the BSA and the Boston Foundation for Architecture by Linnean Solutions, the Built Environment Coalition, and the Resilient Design Institute. Intended to provide property owners, the City of Boston, the GRC, the architectural community, and others with a better understanding of measures they can incorporate for more durable and resilient buildings, the report includes best practices for building sites, structures, enclosures, systems, operations, and occupant usage. It also contains a review of Boston’s vulnerabilities and climate-preparedness initiatives, as well as resources and efforts under way in other United States and international cities and federal governments, such as New York City’s post-Hurricane Sandy PlaNYC report, [\*A Stronger, More Resilient New York\*](#), and Toronto’s report, [\*Ahead of the Storm\*](#).

Said BSA president Mike Davis FAIA, “Design decisions made today directly affect Greater Boston’s resiliency in the face of climate change. This report provides technical solutions for property owners and policy options for review and consideration by the City. The architectural community is grateful to the Barr Foundation for funding this research, which gathers best practices to protect our region from climate-related vulnerabilities.”

“Preparing Boston’s existing buildings for the impacts of climate change requires close partnership between the City and building owners,” said Boston’s chief of environment and energy, Brian Swett. “This report provides lessons learned from resiliency strategies implemented around the world and is an important resource for the City and the GRC to help understand how they can prepare building development for our future climate.”

Some best practices within the Boston resilience report include elevation of crucial systems off the ground level, storm-resistant structure and landscape design, backup power options, and disaster-preparedness protocols for facilities staff.

The report also discusses ways in which Boston can build on its climate-preparedness efforts, such as convening communities at the neighborhood level to define specific vulnerabilities; developing the capacity of local organizations to create and implement effective resilience plans; expanding the coordination of local, state, federal, public, and private efforts; and further leveraging related local activities currently under way.

“In presenting options Boston property owners and policymakers can consider for increasing resilience of our existing building stock to climate change, we are fortunate to be able to draw from the experience [not only] of property owners and the sustainable design and building community in Boston but [also] from our counterparts across the country and around the world,” said John Cleveland, executive director of the GRC. “This report provides us with valuable guidance, which the GRC will use to conduct further research into which climate-preparedness measures may be most cost-effective and practical for Boston buildings in the near term and the future.”

The report is available at <http://www.greenribboncommission.org/resilience-report>.

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#### **About the Boston Society of Architects**

The Boston Society of Architects (BSA) is committed to professional development for its members, advocacy on behalf of great design, and sharing an appreciation for the built environment with the public at large. Established in 1867, the BSA today consists of nearly 4,000 members and produces a diverse array of programs and publications, including ArchitectureBoston Expo and *ArchitectureBoston* magazine. A chapter of the American Institute of Architects, the BSA is a nonprofit, professional-service organization. Its partner organization, the Boston Foundation for Architecture, supports the civic and public outreach of the architectural community. For more information, visit <http://architects.org>.

#### **About the Boston Green Ribbon Commission**

The mission of the Green Ribbon Commission (GRC) is to convene leaders from Boston’s key sectors—business, education, healthcare, civic society, finance, real estate, professional services, tourism, and others—to support the goals of the City of Boston’s Climate Action Plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent by 2020. The Commission’s more than 30 members participate in sector- and issue-specific working groups to share data and identify best practices in energy efficiency, sustainability, and issues related to climate preparedness. For more information, visit <http://greenribboncommission.org>, with information on the GRC’s Climate Preparedness Working Group at <http://www.greenribboncommission.org/climate-preparedness>.