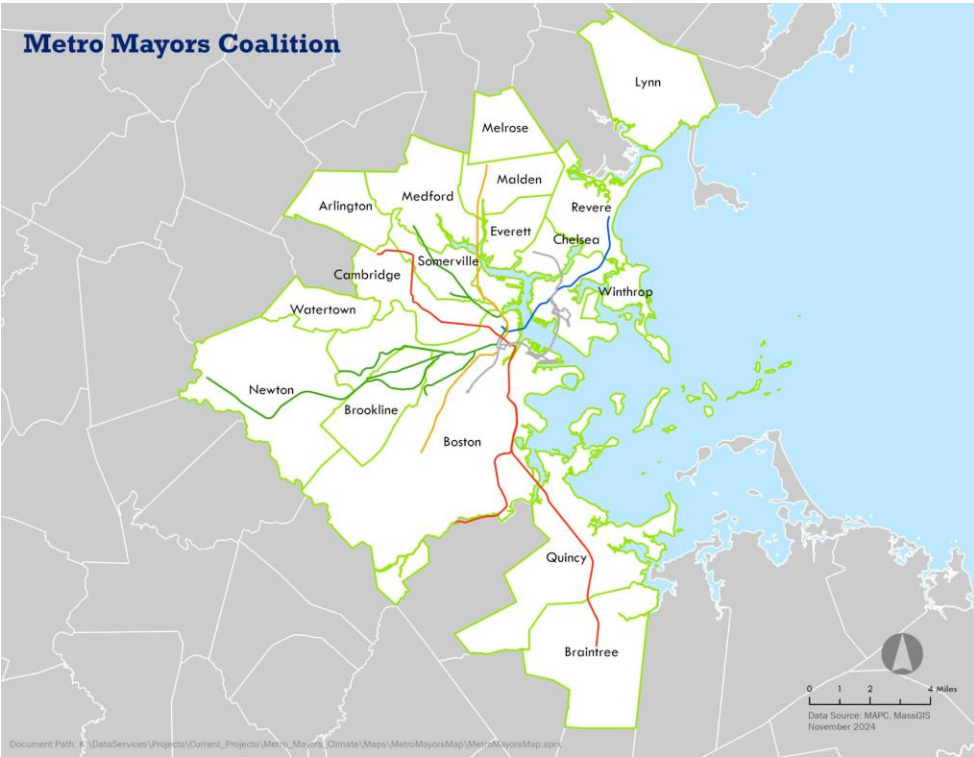


Project Overview & Objectives

Last spring, the Metro Mayors Coalition reaffirmed their climate commitment. Part of this was a promise to hold a Youth Climate Summit, which MAPC brought to fruition at Somerville High School on May 16th, 2026.

- In order to become climate leaders in the future, young people must become engaged with climate change now – which means that we must ensure they have the means to do so
- Priority areas for this summit included advocacy, social justice, and empowerment
- Particular focus was placed on bringing in people from the Metro Mayors communities, shown below, although registration was opened to all high-schoolers



Approach and Methods

There are many factors that go into event planning – everything is a decision. Some of the steps included:

- Staying organized across the team with Excel and SharePoint
- Creating detailed agenda documents to track many moving parts
- Prioritizing youth leadership and empowerment in the climate space

Further categories and actions ↓



Deliverables and Findings



Youth lightning talk speakers from the Mattapan Food and Fitness Coalition

On the day of the Summit, we had **15 local environmental organizations represented** across the youth poster session, tabling, and lightning talks. There were also three unique workshops for students to choose from: zine making, climate-resilient food systems in urban communities, and climate justice in Metro Boston.

Diorama-making from our food systems workshop, led by CELT Fellow Nicole Fina



In total, about 80 people attended in the event, with **about 60 youth** participating!



Poster presentations and tabling by youth and local organizations

Main Takeaways

Looking beyond the numbers of participants or speakers, it became clear at the Summit that many youth are ready to take action on climate change, and that opportunities like this event can give them the bridge that they need to move forward into this field.

- **Engagement:** young people are driven to be part of the solution. Throughout the Summit, we saw this through consistent, active engagement with the content we provided, and beyond.
- **Leadership:** youth are the climate action leaders of the future... *and the present*. Young people across the region are doing impactful work already, and when given the chance to shine, they provide inspiration to their peers and adults alike.
- **Connection:** while giving feedback on the Summit agenda, a priority of the Youth Climate Taskforce was to have opportunities to network, both with other students and people already working in the climate space. Participants connected with each other, and local organizations, throughout the event as a result.

By creating this Youth Climate Summit, we gave local students a chance to see that their voices and actions matter in this changing world. They did not let it go to waste.



Acknowledgements

A heartfelt thank you to:

- Sasha Shyduroff
- Milan Chuttani, and the rest of the Youth Climate Summit team
- The 2026 Youth Climate Taskforce
- All of the staff, presenters, and volunteers who played a part in this event
- and finally, the high-schoolers who participated!

This event would not have been possible without all of you!