

SUSTAINABILITY GAME PLAN

FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™

BOSTON



2026
BOSTON

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	3
How to Use This Game Plan	5
Environment	6
Waste Management	7
Waste Types	8
Energy Efficiency	12
Greenhouse Gas Emissions	15
Common Emission Sources	16
Transportation.....	18
Local Shopping and Sourcing	21
Community	24
Community Engagement and Education	25
Environmental Education.....	27
Health and Safety	30
Heat Mitigation.....	23
Additional Resources	35

INTRODUCTION

WELCOME TO FIFA WORLD CUP™ BOSTON 2026 (BOSTON 26)' SUSTAINABILITY GAME PLAN.

As a Host Committee for the **FIFA World Cup 2026™**, we are proud to welcome thousands of visitors from around the world to Boston and the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as part of the largest World Cup tournament to date. The scale of the tournament and the number of people it brings to the region create an important opportunity to support more sustainable approaches to how fans travel, gather, and participate in events. The tournament also provides a platform to encourage lasting behavior change by supporting everyday actions that contribute to a more resilient and resource-conscious future beyond 2026.

Delivering an event of this scale requires thoughtful planning. This Game Plan is designed to help you incorporate practical sustainability measures into events and operations, with a focus on reducing environmental impacts, using resources efficiently, and maintaining strong event outcomes.

GEORGE WASHINGTON STATUE IN BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN



SUSTAINABILITY IS A KEY COMPONENT OF THE FIFA WORLD CUP 2026™ OPERATIONS IN THE REGION.

The City of Boston, where our **FIFA Fan Festival™** will be held, advances sustainability through its [Climate Action Plan](#), including efforts to reduce emissions, improve energy efficiency, expand public transit, and strengthen climate resilience, with a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050.

Boston Stadium (The Stadium), located in the Town of Foxborough, will host 7 World Cup matches. The Stadium advances sustainability through measures such as public transit access and electric vehicle charging to support lower-impact travel options, diverting waste through recycling, composting, and food donation programs, supporting the conversion of food waste into renewable energy, and improving energy efficiency with technologies like LED lighting, cogeneration systems, and clean energy partnerships.

Together, these efforts set the foundation for how sustainability is approached across Boston 26's activities and events. They also reflect the role that vendors, partners, and event organizers play through day-to-day decisions. This Game Plan outlines **practical actions and expectations** to help align events and celebrations with these efforts, manage resources effectively, and support a well-executed World Cup experience.

BOSTON STADIUM IN FOXBOROUGH, MA



HOW TO USE THE GAME PLAN'S PRACTICAL CHECKLISTS

The recommendations in this section are organized into three levels to help event organizers identify actions that align with their **goals, capacity, and available resources**.

Organizations can start with foundational actions and build toward more advanced practices over time.



GET IN THE GAME

Quick-win actions that are **easy to implement** and **require minimal cost or operational changes**. These steps serve as practical starting points that can be integrated into most events right away.



LEVEL UP

Moderate-effort strategies that **require additional planning, coordination, or stakeholder engagement**. These actions strengthen sustainability performance and help integrate more consistent practices across event operations.



PLAY TO WIN

High-impact strategies that **demonstrate leadership and long-term commitment** to sustainability. These actions often involve stronger collaboration, operational shifts, or investment, but can deliver measurable environmental and community benefits.

ENVIRONMENT

WASTE MANAGEMENT

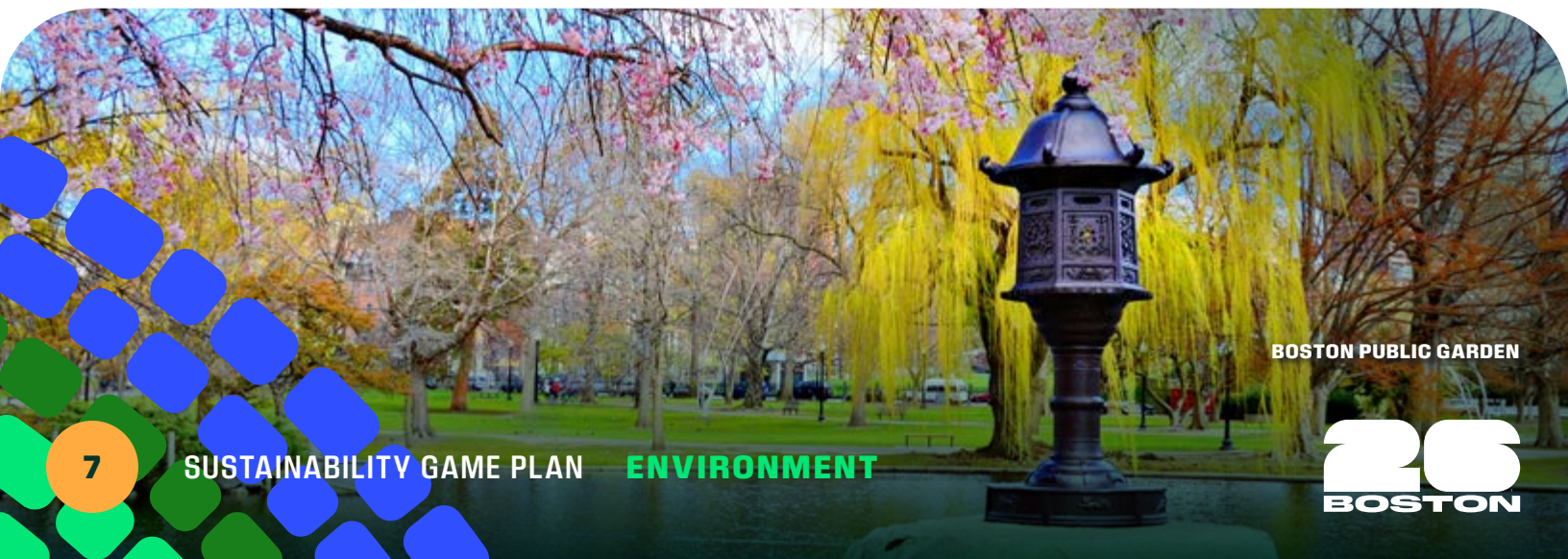


GOAL: Minimize waste sent to landfills by prioritizing recyclable materials and reducing the amount of packaged goods.

Waste management in Massachusetts focuses on reducing the amount of waste sent to landfills through recycling, composting, and material reuse. Across the state, municipalities, businesses, and organizations are working to improve how materials are sourced, used, and disposed of to support broader sustainability and climate goals. These efforts create the foundation for cities in Massachusetts to strengthen local waste reduction initiatives and improve diversion systems at large public events, where thoughtful planning and coordination can significantly reduce environmental impacts.

For events, waste management is a critical component. Prioritizing waste reduction can support **Boston's Zero Waste** initiative, which aims to transform the city into a zero-waste community. As outlined in **Boston's Climate Action Plan**, achieving this vision requires cultural shifts beginning at the municipal level and supported by local business development, where events and individual actions play an important role in driving progress.

Events generate waste from multiple sources, including food, packaging, service ware, and event materials. During large events, fast-paced operations and high volumes can lead to overordering, increased use of single-use items, and inconsistent waste handling, creating added costs, operational challenges, and strain on local waste systems. Most waste stems from a few key factors: excess materials, reliance on disposable products, and poor coordination of waste sorting and management. Reducing what is brought on-site, improving material efficiency, and aligning waste systems can significantly minimize waste and improve operations.



BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN



Waste Types

Here are some of the most common waste types:



Food waste

Uneaten or unused food from preparation, service, or attendee plates. Often driven by overproduction, large portions, or food held too long.



Packaging waste

Materials that come with products, such as boxes, plastic wrap, and containers. Common from deliveries and single-use service items.



Service ware and disposables

Single-use items like plates, cups, cutlery, napkins, and takeaway containers used during food and beverage service.



Recyclable materials

Items such as paper, cardboard, aluminum cans, and certain plastics that can be processed through recycling systems if properly sorted.



Compostable materials

Organic waste including food scraps and compostable service ware that can be diverted from landfill where composting is available.








Event materials and signage

Banners, decorations, printed materials, and temporary structures that are often discarded after the event if not designed for reuse.

The types of materials used during an event also play a key role in how much waste is generated and how easily it can be managed. Some materials are more likely to be reused or successfully recycled, while others are often contaminated or sent to landfill due to how they are used. Making upfront, informed choices about materials can reduce disposal challenges, lower costs, and improve overall waste outcomes during the event.

The following color scale indicates preferred material choices, with green highlighting better options for reducing waste and gray indicating less desirable options.

				
NO PACKAGING	GLASS/ALUMINUM (CANS)	CARDBOARD	PAPER	PLASTIC
Best option. Using reusable containers creates the least waste.	Highly recyclable and more likely to be reused or recycled into new products.	Widely recyclable and a better option when clean (e.g., pizza boxes without grease).	Better than plastic but still creates waste and may not be recyclable if coated or food soiled.	Often not recycled and can stay in the environment for a long time.



ROCKPORT, MA

Recognizing these waste types is the first step. The actions below focus on how to reduce them in practice during event planning and delivery.



GET IN THE GAME



- Select products that can be reused or recycled
- Partner with local businesses that offer return, refill, or reduced packaging options
- Repurpose equipment, furniture and materials where possible
- Coordinate with venues and local partners to align waste systems

LEVEL UP



- Provide reusable or recyclable containers for attendees to take leftover food
- Reduce reliance on single-use items where alternatives exist
- Work with vendors to simplify packaging and materials
- Plan for surplus food redistribution where possible (i.e., food donation organizations)

PLAY TO WIN



- Identify main waste streams such as food, packaging, and disposables
- Set up clearly labeled landfill, recycling, and compost bins (aligned with your local systems)
- Train staff on proper waste sorting
- Adjust ordering and portioning to reduce excess



Waste Management Resources



COMPOSTING

- [Curbside Food Waste Collection](#)
- [Project Oscar](#)
- [Black Earth Compost](#)
- [Bootstrap Compost](#)
- [Garbage to Garden](#)



RECYCLING

- [City of Boston Waste & Recycling Guidelines](#)
- [What to recycle](#)
- [MassDEP Beyond the Bin Recycling Directory](#)



FOOD DONATION

- [Recycling Works Massachusetts](#)
- [Food Rescue US - Boston](#)
- [Food Link](#)
- [Spoonfuls](#)
- [Greater Boston Food Bank](#)
- [Food For Free](#)

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



GOAL: Keep operations running smoothly during high-demand periods while avoiding unnecessary energy use and cost spikes.

During large events, energy demand increases quickly. Extended hours, higher foot traffic, and peak summer conditions in the region can put added strain on cooling systems, refrigeration, lighting, and kitchen equipment. This can lead to higher utility costs, equipment issues, or slower service if systems are not managed carefully.

In many cases, energy waste happens when equipment runs longer than needed, cooling is set too low, or multiple systems are operating at full capacity without coordination. Focusing on timing, maintenance, and prioritizing critical equipment can help maintain performance without overloading systems.



DOWNTOWN BOSTON, MA

USE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST TO GUIDE YOUR EFFORTS:



GET IN THE GAME



- Work with venues to plan for peak demand periods and align on energy use
- Prioritize high-efficiency or electric equipment when planning or upgrading
- Enroll in renewable electricity or green power programs offered by local providers
- Build energy use expectations into vendor and supplier coordination

LEVEL UP



- Replace lighting with LEDs and use timers or sensors in low-traffic areas
- Schedule equipment uses to avoid everything running at once during peak times
- Maintain refrigeration, HVAC, and kitchen equipment to prevent performance issues
- Reduce generator use where possible by coordinating with site power access

PLAY TO WIN



- Turn off nonessential lighting, signage, and equipment when not in use
- Set realistic temperature controls for indoor spaces and storage
- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed and check seals regularly
- Pay attention to utility use patterns to catch unusual spikes early



Energy Efficiency Resources

- **Mass Save** - a program that helps residents and businesses save energy and money through efficiency services, rebates, and incentives.
- **Boston Community Choice Electricity** - City of Boston program that provides residents and businesses with affordable renewable energy.
- **Boston Energy Saver** - a service that helps residents and small businesses save money on energy by providing personalized, one-on-one guidance and connecting them to rebates, financing, and efficiency upgrades.

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS



GOAL: Reduce emissions from event operations by focusing on the biggest drivers including energy use, transportation, and sourcing.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions come from everyday activities that support events, including powering equipment, transporting people and goods, and sourcing food and materials. During large events, these emissions can increase quickly due to higher energy demand, more deliveries, and increased travel from attendees and staff. **Boston Stadium** has contributed to lowering emissions and energy use through projects such as high-efficiency chillers, LED sports lighting, a cogeneration plant, and energy fuel cells.

Boston 26 and its events are already taking important steps to reduce emissions, but individual events also play a role. The choices you make around transportation, food, materials, and energy use can contribute to these efforts.



BARNSTABLE, MA

Common Emission Sources

Most emissions tied to events come from a few key activities. Understanding these helps prioritize where to focus efforts. Remember that while not all emissions can be eliminated, many can be reduced through better planning, coordination, and operational choices, often bringing cost and efficiency benefits.



Energy use

Electricity and fuel used for lighting, cooling, refrigeration, cooking, and equipment are a major source of emissions, especially during longer operating hours or hot weather when systems are working harder.



Transportation

Travel by attendees, staff, and suppliers is often one of the largest contributors. Frequent deliveries, long-distance sourcing, and individual vehicle use can quickly increase emissions, particularly during high-traffic event periods.



Food and sourcing

Food production, especially items that are transported long distances or require refrigeration, adds to emissions. Overordering and food waste further increase this impact.



Materials and waste

Single-use items, packaging, and materials that are discarded after short use contribute to emissions, particularly when sent to landfill. Waste also drives additional transportation and handling.

USE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST TO GUIDE YOUR EFFORTS:



GET IN THE GAME



- Plan logistics to minimize movement encouraging fewer, larger deliveries instead of frequent small ones
- Prioritize local and regional suppliers to reduce travel distances
- Align with vendors and partners that are already taking steps to reduce emissions
- Incorporate emissions considerations into planning, sourcing, and logistics decisions

LEVEL UP



- Reduce unnecessary deliveries by consolidating orders and scheduling off-peak drop-offs
- Encourage staff and attendees to use public transit, walking, or other low-emission options
- Choose menu items and materials that require less transport and handling
- Work with vendors to right-size orders and avoid overproduction

PLAY TO WIN



- Offer digital receipts instead of paper
- Limit unnecessary trips and deliveries where possible
- Share clear directions for public transit and nearby access routes
- Review where energy, transport, and materials are being used most
- Make small adjustments to reduce shipment frequency



MTBA GREEN LINE

Transportation

Transportation is a key component of event sustainability. In the region, transportation remains a major source of emissions, with many trips still taken by single-occupancy vehicles, although this has decreased in recent years. Boston's [2030 Climate Action Plan](#) includes a target to shift trips away from passenger vehicles to walking, biking, and public transit by 30 percent, while also expanding the use of electric vehicles. Events can support these goals by encouraging alternative transportation options and reducing reliance on individual car travel.

Boston 26 is committed to supporting more sustainable travel options throughout the FIFA World Cup 2026™. In collaboration with transportation agencies and regional partners, the Host Committee encourages the use of public transit, shared mobility, and other lower-impact transportation options to help reduce congestion and improve accessibility.

Events can help reduce these impacts by making it easier for attendees and staff to choose public transit, walking, biking, or shared transportation options. Massachusetts' strong transportation network, including regional rail and bus systems, walkable urban areas, growing bike infrastructure, and event-specific shuttle or chartered bus services such as the [Boston Stadium Express Bus](#), provides accessible alternatives to driving. Planning with these options in mind can reduce congestion, improve accessibility, and support a smoother and more efficient event experience.

These efforts also support broader regional sustainability goals and provide an opportunity to encourage more sustainable travel habits that can continue beyond the event.



GET IN THE GAME



- ❑ Plan event locations around major transit hubs or high-access areas
- ❑ Coordinate with venues to understand transit access, bike parking, and pedestrian flow
- ❑ Incorporate transportation planning into event communications and vendor coordination
- ❑ Align with city and regional efforts to reduce vehicle use and support transit

LEVEL UP



- ❑ Encourage attendees and staff to use public transit, walking, or biking
- ❑ Include clear directions to nearby T stations, bus routes, and walking paths in event materials
- ❑ Promote carpooling for staff or attendees who need to drive
- ❑ Schedule deliveries and staff arrivals to avoid peak congestion times

PLAY TO WIN



- ❑ Select a location that is accessible by public transit
- ❑ Share simple directions, including the nearest T stop or bus route
- ❑ Encourage guests to consider alternatives to driving when attending
- ❑ Be mindful of how transportation choices impact traffic and access



BEACON HILL - BOSTON, MA

Transportation Resources

- [Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority Map](#)
- [Boston Stadium Transportation Guidelines](#)
- [MBTA Trip Planner](#)
- [Bluebikes](#)

LOCAL SHOPPING AND SOURCING



Goal: Make purchasing decisions that support reliable operations, reduce unnecessary transport, and keep spending within the local economy.

Where and how goods are sourced has a direct impact on event operations. Long-distance deliveries, frequent shipments, and heavily packaged products can increase costs, create delays, and add pressure during high-demand periods. Strong local and regional supplier networks make it possible to source closer to the event, improving reliability and reducing transportation needs.

Boston 26 is proud to partner with **FIFA World Cup 2026™** (FIFA26) to support delivery of the FWC26 Local Impact Supplier Program across participating Host Cities. Through this program, FIFA26 will vet and select event-ready local suppliers with relevant event production experience. The **Boston Resource Guide** complements this broader effort by encouraging local procurement and sourcing, with the goal of maximizing economic impact and supporting businesses in the region.

Sourcing locally also means working within local neighborhoods and small businesses. Choosing nearby partners can make events easier to manage, especially in a city where traffic, timing, and access can quickly become constraints. It also helps to keep spending within the local community and supports the businesses that are part of the city's identity, while creating a more connected and dependable event experience.



FANEUIL HALL - BOSTON, MA

USE THE FOLLOWING CHECKLIST TO GUIDE YOUR EFFORTS:



GET IN THE GAME



- Prioritize local and regional suppliers to reduce delivery distance and improve reliability
- Incorporate sourcing considerations into planning and vendor selection
- Work with suppliers that can consolidate deliveries or reduce packaging
- Commit to a percentage of procurement from local, diverse, or small businesses

LEVEL UP



- Review delivery frequency and consolidate orders where possible
- Compare suppliers based on distance, packaging, and ability to meet demand
- Coordinate deliveries with venue schedules to reduce congestion and delays
- Use seasonal menus and/or products

PLAY TO WIN



- Review what you are ordering most often and whether those choices are creating unnecessary deliveries or excess materials
- Monitor how frequently orders are placed and combine them where possible to reduce repeated trips
- Assess whether the products you use generate avoidable waste through packaging or single-use formats



Local Shopping and Sourcing Resources

- **Boston Public Market** - year-round marketplace featuring over 30 New England artisans and food producers offering fresh groceries, prepared meals, crafts, specialty items, and local libations.
- **SoWa Open Market - SoWa Boston** - one of the largest open-air farmer and artist markets in Boston that offers a variety of regional and local vendors, plus food and beverage trucks, artist studios, galleries, and retail shops.
- **Sustainable Business Network of Massachusetts Directory** - brings together businesses, communities, and leaders to support a local, green, and fair economy by promoting sustainable and socially responsible business practices.
- **Foxborough, Plainville and Wrentham Local Business & Community Guide** - highlights independent businesses, local restaurants, markets, and regional attractions in the southwest Greater Boston corridor.

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATION



GOAL: Support local communities and help staff and attendees understand how to participate in event operations.

Events take place within active neighborhoods and rely on shared infrastructure, public spaces, and local services. During large events, increased activity can place added pressure on these systems. At the same time, events create opportunities to support local businesses and contribute positively to the community.

Planning with awareness of local impacts and working with community partners can improve both operations and overall event experience.

HOW CAN I CONTRIBUTE TO THE COMMUNITY?



Hire locally and provide accessible employment opportunities



Work with local and diverse suppliers for goods and services



Train staff on awareness of the surrounding area and respectful engagement



Manage customer behavior to reduce disruption to nearby businesses and residents



Coordinate with local partners and participate in community initiatives where appropriate



Use shared resources such as water, energy, and public space responsibly



Community Engagement and Education Resources

▶ [Boston Centers for Youth and Families](#)

▶ [United Way Massachusetts Bay](#)



Environmental Education

Large events bring together a wide range of visitors, including international attendees who may be unfamiliar with local systems such as recycling, composting, or transportation options. Clear communication helps reduce confusion and helps attendees align with your goals.

WHAT THIS CAN INCLUDE:



- Clear signage at points of decision such as waste stations, refill areas, entrances, and loading zones



- Simple messaging that reinforces expected behavior such as proper bin use or refill options



- Staff prepared to answer common questions and guide attendees when needed



- Highlighting local sustainability efforts to connect actions to place

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER:



GET IN THE GAME



- Use consistent signage and messaging across all event areas to reduce confusion
- Partner with local organizations or city programs to align messaging
- Track common issues such as contamination or litter and adjust communication accordingly
- Incorporate a visible education element that reflects your region's sustainability efforts

LEVEL UP



- Provide multilingual signage in high-traffic areas where appropriate
- Add short, clear sustainability messages to menus, receipts, or queue areas
- Assign staff during peak periods to support waste sorting and answer questions
- Offer incentives (discounts for reusable cups, etc.)

PLAY TO WIN



- Use simple, visual signage with minimal text
- Place signage where decisions are made, such as above bins or near exits
- Train staff to guide attendees when needed
- Share short reminders that support expected behavior



Environmental Education Resources

- [Conservation Resources for Educators](#)
- [Massachusetts Environmental Education Society](#)
- [Massachusetts Farm to School](#)
- [Hitchcock Center – Education for a healthy planet](#)
- [Lloyd Center for the Environment](#)

HEALTH AND SAFETY



GOAL: Maintain safe conditions for staff and attendees during high-demand event operations.

Large events can place added pressure on staff, facilities, and systems. Extended hours, higher volumes, and unfamiliar visitors can increase the likelihood of incidents if not planned for in advance. Managing these risks helps avoid disruptions and allows teams to stay focused on delivering the event.

Most health and safety risks during events are predictable and can be addressed through planning, clear communication, and consistent routines.

COMMON RISKS TO PLAN FOR:



Staff fatigue from long shifts and high demand, which can lead to mistakes or injury



Heat-related illness during outdoor activities or crowded conditions



Slips, trips, and falls in high-traffic or fast-moving areas



Manual handling injuries during setup, restocking, or breakdown



Food safety issues during high-volume service



Medical situations involving guests, such as dehydration or pre-existing conditions



Crowd congestion during arrivals, departures, or delays



Weather-related disruptions that affect safety or operations

ACTIONS TO CONSIDER:



GET IN THE GAME



- Plan staffing and scheduling to avoid excessive fatigue and maintain coverage
- Align with venue procedures for emergency response, crowd management, and weather events
- Ensure clear communication channels for reporting issues and escalating concerns
- Incorporate health and safety expectations into vendor and staff coordination

LEVEL UP



- Rotate staff across tasks to reduce strain during peak periods
- Maintain clear walkways and manage high-traffic areas to reduce congestion
- Reinforce food safety and hygiene practices during busy periods
- Monitor conditions such as heat, crowding, or workload and adjust as needed

PLAY TO WIN



- Plan realistic shift lengths and encourage regular breaks
- Keep work areas clean, well-lit, and free of hazards
- Make sure staff know how to report issues and access support
- Share basic emergency contacts and procedures with all teams

Heat Mitigation

WHY IT MATTERS

Heat can affect both staff and attendees, especially during outdoor events or in crowded areas with limited airflow. Even in Massachusetts, where extreme heat is less constant, summer conditions combined with long hours and high activity can increase the risk of heat-related illness.

Heat impacts are often underestimated because they build gradually. Staff working long shifts, wearing uniforms, or moving between indoor and outdoor spaces may be exposed for extended periods without realizing the strain.

WHO IS MOST AT RISK



- Staff working outdoors or in kitchens



- Individuals in crowded or poorly ventilated areas



- Attendees not used to local weather conditions



- Anyone not regularly taking breaks or staying hydrated

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

- Early signs can include fatigue, dizziness, headache, or excessive sweating
- More serious signs include confusion, nausea, or lack of sweating despite heat
- Changes in behavior or responsiveness should be taken seriously

HOW TO MANAGE HEAT DURING EVENTS:



Plan for access to water and encourage regular hydration



Provide shaded or cooler rest areas where possible



Adjust schedules or rotate staff during peak heat periods



Be aware of weather forecasts and plan for hotter-than-expected conditions



Make sure staff know when and how to escalate concerns



Health and Safety Resources

- Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA)
- Massachusetts Extreme Heat Resources
- Boston Public Health Commission

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES



- **Setting a Strategy – Resource Guide**: Understand and integrate core elements of a strategic framework to align activities with sustainability principles, ensuring that every action taken contributes to broader environmental, social, and economic goals.
- **Strategy Playbook**: Learn more about creating a sustainability strategy that creates opportunities to drive revenue, reduce costs, and engage with fans and corporate partners to positively impact communities.
- **Energy Decarbonization Playbook**: Discover a wealth of strategies, best practices, and solutions tailored to meet the unique needs of sports venues across the athletics and entertainment industry.
- **Revenue Generation Playbook**: Obtain practical tools and strategies to build partnership-driven revenue pathways that position sustainability initiatives as indispensable to your organization's growth.



SUSTAINABILITY
GAME PLAN

