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-Charlotte Kahn Director of The Boston

Boston Indicators *Hub of Innovation*

Innovations can be challenging to find and describe. The Boston Foundation (TBF) has been working with Planet-TECH Associates since 2004 to conceptualize and implement two bi-annual editions of the 'Innovations' section of its *Boston Indicators Project*, which spans ten sectors germane to long-term municipal quality-of-life, ranging from 'Civic Health' to 'Transportation'.

With assets more than \$830 million, the Boston Foundation is one of the largest community foundations in the United States. The Boston Indicators



Project is the signature endeavor for The Boston Foundation, and is widely recognized as a national prototype for the communication of municipal trends. It is essential the innovations component be exemplary and useful to regional planners.

The Problem: Limited Scope and Usefulness

The preceding *Boston Indicators Project* reports were limited in scope and how they presented advancements that could bolster regional development. Identified sectors had no measure for comparison with commendable innovations elsewhere, as featured projects were limited to those that only existed within Greater Boston. The handful of initiatives had been presented as text-only narratives with separate category pages. There was no way to access them collectively and dig deeper.

The Solution: Expanded Research and Improved Information Design

Planet-TECH Associates helped conceptualize, design, and deliver the 'Hub of Innovation' tool as a visually compelling repository of innovations from around the world affecting quality-of-life enhancements. This tool is now a major feature of the *Indicators Project*. The online report includes more than one hundred national and international innovative initiatives alongside local ones, increasing the quality and quantity of information. Everything is linked by topic and region.

What's Ahead: Planet-TECH's futurist research empowers municipalities, community foundations and private developers to anticipate what's ahead with economically and environmentally sustainable innovations.



"The 'Boston: Hub of Innovation' tool helps us to better serve our community by providing insight into many cuttingedge programs...
This new tool is information-rich, visually compelling, and of great practical use to regional planners."

—Charlotte Kahn Director of The Boston

Foundation Indicators

Project

Boston: Hub of Innovation



www.bostonindicators.org (click **Hub of Innovation** link)

"The Hub of Innovations tool helps the Boston Foundation to further distinguish its Indicators Project as an exemplary model of information dissemination on trends and innovations key to the well-being and competitiveness of municipalities."

> -Charlotte Kahn Director of The Boston Foundation Indicators Project

Planet-TECH Associates is a global research consultancy dedicated to analyzing and advocating ways to shape the future. We evaluate trends to determine innovative opportunities for municipalities, private developers and other stakeholders who seek economic and environmental sustainability. Established in 1996, we are experts in Futures Research—a technique to determine indicators that can influence emerging outcomes in the years ahead.

Planet-TECH puts you in touch with What's Ahead.