

City of Boston BERDO Review Board
Public Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting
June 10, 2024, at 4:30 pm
[View recording here](#)

Board Members in Attendance: Rashida Boyd, Lovette Jacobs, Jack Nelson, and Stephen Ellis.

Board Members not in Attendance: Gail Latimore and Councilor Gabriela Coletta

Staff Present: Aidan Callan, Diana Vasquez, and Zengel “Ziggy” Chin

Others: Approximately seven (7) members of the public attended this meeting.

Motion to Nominate Acting Chair

4:32 pm: Environment staff D. Vasquez led a vote for Acting Chair. Board Member R. Boyd made a motion to nominate Board Member S. Ellis to serve as Acting Chair. Board Member J. Nelson seconded the motion. All Board Members in attendance (4) were in favor. The motion carried at 4:33 pm.

The motion carried before recording commenced

Call Meeting to Order

4:33 pm: A meeting of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance, hereafter referred to as (BERDO), within the Air Pollution Control Commission, was called to order on June 10 at 4:34 pm. This meeting was held virtually.

Roll Call

4:35 pm: The following BERDO Review Board members were in attendance: Acting Chair Stephen Ellis, Rashida Boyd, Lovette Jacobs, and Jack Nelson.

The following Environment Department staff were in attendance: Aidan Callan, Diana Vasquez, and Zengel “Ziggy” Chin.

Others: Approximately seven (7) members of the public attended this meeting.

First Agenda Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes.

4:36 pm: The Review Board voted on approving the [May 13 Meeting Minutes](#). Board Member J. Nelson made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Board Member L.

Jacobs seconded the motion. All board members in attendance (4) voted in favor. The motion carried at 4:37 pm.

Second Agenda Item: Update and Discussion on BERDO Reporting.

4:37 pm: A. Callan shared the number of extension requests received by the City and the number of buildings in compliance with reporting requirements. He also presented how the City is reaching out to builder owners.

4:46 pm: Board Q&A Session

- R. Boyd asked for more information regarding the 400 buildings from the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) that have yet to report their energy use.
 - A. Callan answered that BHA is having difficulties in getting their energy use data from utilities due to the number of buildings they are reporting for, but the Environment Department is working with BHA to help them complete reporting.
 - S. Ellis asked how changing the account numbers from energy suppliers would affect reporting and verification.
 - A. Callan explained that the data is tied to the meter number in buildings which has not changed. The City has been working with utilities to help with the transition of account numbers, however, some building owners will have to wait until the system is upgraded to continue requesting data from the energy suppliers.
 - S. Ellis inquired about the specific demographics and locations of the 1,600 buildings that have not yet reported.
 - A. Callan said that the buildings are mostly smaller buildings that may be lacking the support and resources to easily comply with BERDO.
 - S. Ellis wished the City luck on reaching out to building owners and asked for a breakdown of building types that have not reported in a future meeting.
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Third Agenda Item: Discussion and Update on the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund

4:54 pm: D. Vasquez presented on the launch of the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund and how the Fund has been shared with interested parties.

4:56 pm: Board Q&A Session

- No questions were asked by Board Members.
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Fourth Agenda Item: Administrative Updates

4:58 pm: Z. Chin shared that L. Matsueda and M. O'Malley have stepped down from the Review Board. The Environment Department is working with the Mayor's office to fill the roles as quickly as possible. She also shared the updated Emission Factors that the Environment Department has released.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 24.

4:59 pm: Informal Board Q&A Session

- S. Ellis expressed his support for the Environment Department as they work to fill in the vacant seats.
- J. Nelson asked if there was any significant change to the values of the Emission Factors
 - H. Payne answered that there were no major changes but now there are third-party emission factors from district energy suppliers. The Environment Department has completed the annual emissions calculations for grid emissions factors using data from ISO New England.
 - J. Nelson asked a follow-up question if the greenhouse gases per pound of steam emission factor changed.
 - H. Payne answered that she believes the emissions factors are lower than the EPA's default emissions factors.

5:03 pm: Acting Chair S. Ellis opened a public comment period.

5:04 pm: Acting Chair S. Ellis closed a public comment period.

Fifth Agenda Item: RDH Building Science Technical Capacity Building Training

5:05 pm: RDH conducts a Basics of Building Science training.

Meeting Adjournment

6:19 pm: Board Member J. Nelson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member R. Boyd seconded. All board members in attendance (4) voted in favor. The motion carried at 6:20 pm.