

Environmental Justice Council (EJC)

Meeting #24

Thursday, February 12, 2026

Location: Roxbury Community College, 1234 Columbus Ave, Roxbury, MA
6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: In-person

Meeting documents: [Agenda](#), [Slides](#)

Council members:

- María Belén Power, EEA Undersecretary of EJ & Equity (In-person)
- Marcos Luna- in-person
- Caroline Hon- in-person
- Lydia Lowe – in person
- Jen Salinetti – in person
- Madeline Fraser Cook – in person
- Sofia Owen – in person
- Paula Garcia– in person

- Cheryll Holley– virtual
- Melissa Harding Ferretti – virtual
- Patricia Spence – virtual
- Miles Gresham – virtual
- Kalila Barnett – virtual

- Harleen Marwah – not attending
- Peter Maathey – not attending

1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting Logistics

María Belén Power welcomed all attendees.

Sophia Spungin provided an overview of the meeting logistics, including the use of the question and answer (Q&A) box and the availability of interpreters.

2. Agenda Overview

María Belén Power opened the floor for the President of Roxbury Community College, Dr. Jonathan K. Jefferson, to provide welcoming remarks. Dr. Jefferson provided remarks on the

Community College's commitment to sustainability and current efforts to implement inclusivity and smart infrastructure.

María Belén reviewed the meeting agenda.

3. Roll Call/Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

María Belén introduced new councilmember Paula Garcia. **Paula Garcia** provided a brief introduction.

María Belén conducted a roll call of the EJC members. At the start of the meeting, the following council members were present: Kalila Barnett, Madeline Fraser Cook, Melissa Harding-Ferretti, Cheryll Holley, Caroline Hon, Lydia Lowe, Marcos Luna, María Belén Power, Sofia Owen, Jen Salinetti, Patricia Spence, Miles Gresham, and Paula Garcia.

The following council members were not present: Harleen Marwah and Peter Maathey.

María Belén opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 4, 2025 EJC Meeting #23. **Melissa Harding-Ferretti** motioned to approve. **Patricia Spence** seconded the motion. All present council members accepted the minutes. **Kalila Barnett, Jen Salinetti, Sofia Owen, Paula Garcia, Miles Gresham abstained. (8 approved and 5 abstained)**

4. First Public Question and Answer Session

Virtual public participants provided comments and inquiries:

- A participant from Taunton was hoping to receive a letter of support from the EJC as they are going in front of the zoning board. The participant expressed concern about living next to a large concrete batch plant and the long-term exposure of dust.
- A participant expressed interest in finding out information on the annual EJ report release. **María Belén** to follow up.
- A participant, a city councilor from Westfield, was looking for guidance on communities that have petitioned to have EJ status to improve protections for their community. Vulnerable neighborhoods have been unable to establish official status as a protected community.
- An in-person participant expressed concern on protecting a park land that is an EJ area. The participant encouraged the EJC to work toward protecting lands and provided information on a public meeting concerning environmental justice in Mattapan.
- An in-person attendee from Jamaica Plains encouraged the protection of Franklin Park and provided a fact sheet.

5. Presentation on the Clean Energy and Climate Plan

Speaker **Oleander Stone, Director of Climate Equity and Environmental Justice** and **Melissa Mittelman, Assistant Secretary for Decarbonization from the Massachusetts Executive Office**

of Energy and Environmental Affairs, provided an overview of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP). **Oleander Stone** and **Melissa Mittelman** provided background information on the purpose of the CECP. The speakers outlined how the CECP will reduce greenhouse gas emissions across the Commonwealth by enacting reduction goals, considering equity and cost benefits, explaining impacts on EJ communities and more. The CECP will utilize a variety of modeling approaches and will follow three phases to achieve the 2035 CECP goals.

Councilmembers inquired about the distinction between priorities outlined versus topics, clarification on ‘uncertainty analysis’ and what it encompasses, clarification on long-term equitable goals, elaboration on the structures of engagement, details on the policy packages proposed, and methods to engage community members virtually.

6. Breakout Sessions

Councilmembers transitioned into three breakout sessions for 15 minutes to discuss the questions below, with two in-person breakout groups and one online.

- Are there additional priorities missing from this list, or other ways you would suggest thinking about them?
- How should we think about equity within the decision-making framework?
- What would it look like if the CECP successfully implemented these priorities through decarbonization policy?
- How do you see the state’s role in your communities within the broader work of decarbonization?

7. Report-out from Breakout Sessions

Council members reported their discussions held from breakout sessions. Each group provided a summary of the conversation.

- **Group 1 (online):** Group 1 discussed that the ideas presented may not be accessible to the average person. Councilmembers recommended not using as much jargon to make the conversation open to all. To make this accessible to everyone, the plan must feel relevant and relatable to the average person. Topics such as air, water, food, and housing need to be made explicit.
- **Group 2 (in-person):** Group 2 discussed how to think about equity and the decision-making framework. Councilmembers agreed that it was necessary to define equity and ensure that benefits are equitable by looking at how the benefits play out in local communities. Councilmembers discussed that options presented for emissions reductions are not accessible to all communities (i.e. heat pumps and electric vehicles). Equity must be considered from a broader perspective, from the distribution of benefits and burdens.
- **Group 3 (in-person):** Group 3 discussed the state’s role in communities within the broader work of decarbonization. Councilmembers discussed adjusting prioritizations to meet the capacity of the state and thinking about how the proposed definitions may

mean different things to different people. It is important for the community to make shared definitions that speak to the communities themselves. Modeling needs to be grounded beyond academics and acknowledge potential weaknesses. Councilmembers agreed that communities need to be a part of the solution and need to be involved on a granular level.

8. Second Public Question and Answer Session

- A virtual participant wanted the council to acknowledge that environmental justice issues impact the average person. The attendee encouraged plain language to speak to people where they are when it comes to affordability and everyday problems, in order to encourage more buy-in.

Comments from the Q&A are listed below

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	Why doesn't the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan consider climate change effects on the coastal ocean or Environmental Justice consequences of Federal denial of EPA endangerment effects of climate change on EJ populations?	David Dow	Not answered live.
2	How do the 2025 actuals compare to the mandates set for 2025?	Kannan Thiruvengadam	A report card along with a press release will be released on 2/13/26 with more details. This will illustrate technological benchmarks. You can also search for Clean Energy and Climate Metrics in Massachusetts Climate Report Card.
3	Does the Clean Energy and Climate Change Plan include models based on adaptive, ecosystem-based approaches on effects on wild places, wild things?	David Dow	Not answered live.

4	The 2021 Sierra Club comments on revising the Massachusetts Ocean Management Plan included an adaptive, ecosystem-based management plan outline.	David Dow	Not answered live.
5	On Cape Cod there are 48 Communities of Faith engaged in climate change education and action on the ground which could help with communication on the Clean Energy & Climate Change Plan.	David Dow	Not answered live.

9. Next Steps and Adjourn

María Belén reminded council members of the next meeting on **April 9 in Orange**.

María Belén requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Caroline Hon** motioned to adjourn. **Miles Gresham** seconded. Sophia Spungin conducted roll call and all present council members approved. The meeting adjourned at **8:16 pm**.