

Environmental Justice Council (EJC)

Meeting #13

Thursday, February 8, 2024

6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting location: Zoom webinar

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

Council members present:

- Cheryll Holley
- Caroline Hon
- Namrita Kapur
- Lydia Lowe
- Marcos Luna
- Peter Maathey
- Jen Salinetti
- Patricia Spence
- Miles Gresham

Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EOEEA) staff present:

- María Belén Power, EJC Undersecretary
- Caroline Lemoine, Deputy Director of Environmental Justice for External Stakeholder Coordination

1. Welcome and Overview of Meeting Logistics

María Belén Power welcomed panelists and attendees. **Kecil John** provided an overview of the meeting logistics, including use of the question and answer (Q&A) box and the availability of interpreters.

2. Roll Call/Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **María Belén Power** conducted a roll call of the EJC members. At the start of the meeting, the following council members were present: **Cheryll Holley, Caroline Hon, Namrita Kapur, Lydia Lowe, Marcos Luna, Peter Maathey, Jen Salinetti, Patricia Spence, and Miles Gresham.**
- The following council members were not present: **Madeline Fraser Cook, Kalila Barnett, Melissa Ferretti, Sofia Owen, and Ari Zorn.**

- **María Belén Power** opened the floor for a motion to adopt the minutes from the previous meeting. **Peter Maathey** motioned to adopt. **Marcos Luna** seconded the motion. **Miles Gresham** and **Jen Salinetti** abstained. All other present council members accepted the minutes.

3. First Public Question and Answer Session

One public participant posed a question. The public participant inquired about the process of contacting community representatives to engage in EJC meetings. The EJC clarified that municipalities and representatives are invited and encouraged to join EJC meetings.

4. Discussion of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant

- **Jonathan Schrag** introduced the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). Jonathan provided context, detailing state-level engagement with communities, trade unions, and environmental justice (EJ) advocates to inform the creation of the CPRG.
- **Dyanna Jaye** discussed the priority climate action plan, which is due to the state government on March 1. Dyanna discussed the goals associated with four of the nine priority climate action measures: transportation, electric power, commercial buildings, and residential buildings.
- Council members inquired about the inclusion of geothermal expansion within the grant, the applicability of solar expansion within the grant, the eligibility of municipalities and community-based organizations to apply to the grant, and grant logistics.
- **Jonathan Schrag** discussed the implementation of grant funds, including heat pump procurement, offshore wind port investment, and medium and heavy-duty vehicle electrification.
- Council members inquired about the electrification grant distribution, outreach coordination, and how to utilize data to identify EJ communities for targeted grant implementation.

5. Updates and Announcements

María Belén Power announced the next EJC meeting, which will be held in Worcester, Massachusetts, on March 14.

6. Second Public Question and Answer Session

The public participants posed questions and the EJC discussed the following topics:

- The council's EJ definition, which ultimately impacts whether communities are included in EJ initiatives (particularly concerning the New Bedford area).
- Concerns regarding waste contaminants in local waters in the Berkshire community.
- Clarification about which entities are eligible to apply for CPRG early implementation grants, which will be distributed by Massachusetts regions.

Comments from the Q&A chat are listed below.

#	Question	Name
1	I have concerns about the high costs of treating wastewater on Cape Cod to remove pollution that is polluting coastal embayment's via sewer or [innovative]/advanced septic systems.	David Dow
2	On Cape Cod we have a grant for free fare for seniors on public transport buses to aid travel for EJ populations/folks who can't drive to shop or go to meetings.	David Dow
3	I didn't see much mapped for the greater New Bedford area which has a large diversified EJ community.	Karen Vilandry
4	Yearling Meadows where I live has underground utilities, but we often have power outages due to the aboveground power grid structure on our major roadways. Could these be replaced to have underground electricity transmission [using] this grant program?	David Dow
5	Connecting offshore wind to the regional electric grid on land is a major challenge here on Cape Cod.	David Dow
6	This is my first meeting. I'm curious if biodiesel vehicles have also been considered or just electric vehicles? Several of the large [Department of Public Works and Department of Transportation] vehicles are diesel (street sweepers, [vacuum] trucks, excavators, clamshell trucks), [so] conversion to biodiesel seems a better alternative than electric.	Angela Panaccione
7	The Cape Cod Climate Change Collaborative has a Faith Communities Environmental Network (FCEN) that converts climate action dialog into action on the ground (Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth is a member of the FCEN entity)	David Dow
8	What types of entities (public, nonprofit, private, etc.) are eligible to apply for CPRG early implementation grants?	Anonymous Attendee

7. Next Steps and Adjourn

María Belén Power reminded council members of the next meeting date, March 14, in Worcester, Massachusetts. **María Belén Power** motioned to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.