

Environmental Justice Council (EJC)

Meeting #22

Thursday, October 30, 2025

Location: Leominster City Hall Auditorium, 25 West Street, Leominster, 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
- Cheryll Holley- in-person
- Caroline Hon- in-person
- Kalila Barnett – virtual
- Madeline Fraser Cook- virtual
- Miles Gresham- virtual
- Jen Salinetti- virtual
- Melissa Ferretti- not present
- Lydia Lowe- not present
- Patricia Spence- not present
- Sofia Owen- not present
- Ari Zorn- not present
- Peter Maathey- not present

**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 reviewed the meeting agenda.

**3. Roll Call/Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes**

**María Belén** conducted a roll call of the EJC members. At the start of the meeting, the following council members were present: Marcos Luna, Cheryll Holley, Caroline Hon, Kalila Barnett, Madeline Fraser Cook, Miles Gresham, Jen Salinetti

The following council members were not present: Melissa Ferretti, Lydia Lowe, Patricia Spence, Sofia Owen, Ari Zorn, Peter Maathey

**María Belén** opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 12, 2025 EJC Meeting #20. **Cheryll Holley** motioned to approve. **Caroline Hon** seconded the motion. All present council members accepted the minutes. **Kalia Barnett abstained. (7 approved and 1 abstained)**

**María Belén** opened the floor for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 21, 2025 EJC Meeting #21. **Cheryll Holley** motioned to approve. **Jen Salinetti** seconded the motion. All present council members accepted the minutes. **Kalia Barnett and Caroline Hon abstained. (6 approved and 2 abstained)**

#### 4. First Public Question and Answer Session

Virtual public participants provided comments and inquiries:

- A participant requested a contact for directing people to learn more about EJ and what resources are available.
- A participant expressed concern over their community losing their EJ designation. A councilmember replied with methods for next steps on how a community can reinstate their designation.

#### 5. Presentation on the MassEnviroScreen

Speakers **Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity María Belén Power** and **Environmental Justice Liaison Syenna Mashmasarmi**, from the **Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs**, provided an overview of the MassEnviroScreen. The MassEnviroScreen tool is a tool designed to assign a cumulative burden score to every census block group in Massachusetts, designed to be equitable, transparent, and collaborative. The MassEnviroScreen tool will provide a single, publicly-accessible tool which showcases the existence of cumulative burdens. MassEnviroScreen is being developed by OEJE with input from state agencies GIS teams, academic and public health experts, CBOs and EJ advocates, and Indigenous representatives.

Next steps in the dissemination of information regarding MassEnviroScreen include a Thursday, November 6<sup>th</sup> webinar, participation in public meetings and feedback sessions, and the availability of providing written comments on the online web application.

Councilmembers inquired about the weight of the scores, missing data and taking into account lived experience, and suggested it would be helpful if guidance was provided on making the tool more actionable, including additional community engagement and accessible trainings.

Virtual participants inquired about taking into account topography to improve the accuracy of exposure to air pollutants and communities that were undesignated as EJ communities.

## 6. Presentation on Mass Save

Guest speakers from the **Department of Energy Resources, the Energy Efficiency Director Jo Ann Bodemer**, and the **Environmental Justice Senior Lead Elischia Fludd**, provided an overview of the Mass Save program. Mass Save is a program that helps residents and businesses save money on energy bills. Jo Ann and Elischia reviewed the eligibility of the residential sector, the income eligible sector, and the commercial and industrial sector. The Mass Save program considers equity a key factor, language access, and guidance for residential and small business customers. As part of this initiative, a heat pump hot water heater online marketplace and decarbonization consultations are made available with translation services.

Councilmembers inquired about providing all datasets (i.e. renters and limited English-speaking households) and are interested in seeing percentages over time as a measure of progress.

## 7. Second Public Question and Answer Session

Virtual public participants provided comments, inquiries, and suggestions via the Q&A box.

### Comments from the Q&A are listed below

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	At 7:29 we got an email with a letter telling us you're working on the petition. This is not justice. The residents of this mobile home community deserve better. They are sandwiched between an industrial zone and an air force base, which lost stands of 100 ft pine trees this year, and is right where y'all tried to site a lithium battery storage facility this spring. They only lost their EJ status because someone built McMansions on farmland	Kristen Mello	

	<p>in the same large block group. Maintaining the suspension of their EJ status while the sharks circle this land is not justice by any stretch of the imagination. I have to attend a parent teacher conference. Thanks for taking comments and making these a part of the public record.</p>		
2	<p>Would Council Members please speak to the steps a neighborhood must take to regain the EJ designation they lost with the 2020 Census updates? Specifically speaking to the Feb 2025 petition by heritage residential homes at 868 Southampton Road, Westfield. This area continues to be burdened and is still waiting for your help. Thank you.</p>	Kristen Mello	
3	<p>The Joint Base Cape Cod Community Involvement Plan has removed mention EJ/DEI which concerns me since it is located on state-owned land which is presumably responsive to the Mass EJC</p>	David Dow	
4	<p>Comment: Here on Cape Cod nutrient pollution and toxic chemical contamination are based on multi-town watersheds with diverse EJ populations. The Waquoit Watershed where I live includes Falmouth; Mashpee and Mashpee Wampanoag Reservation</p>	David Dow	
5	<p>Comment: In 2003 US EPA Headquarters released a Cumulative Environmental Impact Analysis of the Waquoit Bay Watershed which generated a poster</p>	David Dow	

## 8. Next Steps and Adjourn

**María Belén** reminded council members of the next meeting on **December 4 in Roxbury**.

**María Belén** requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Caroline Hon** motioned to adjourn. **Kalila Barnett** seconded. Sophia Spungin conducted roll call and all present council members approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.