

## **Proposal to Add an Environmental Justice Seat to the TURA Advisory Committee**

Environmental justice is a priority for the Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA). This priority is reflected in all agencies, offices, commissions, and boards that fall under EEA's purview, including the Advisory Committee to the Toxics Use Reduction Administrative Council.

As defined in EEA's [environmental justice \(EJ\) policy](#), EJ refers to equal protection and the meaningful involvement of all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens. EJ is based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency.

EEA directed all its agencies and offices to develop their own strategies to integrate EJ considerations throughout their policies, programs, rulemakings, and other actions. In the fall of 2022, EEA published a draft [EJ strategy](#) for public comment which includes the individual strategies of all of its agencies, offices, and divisions. The Office of Technical Assistance (OTA) has committed to institutionalizing EJ throughout the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) Program. A key agency action item in OTA's EJ strategy aims to reserve EJ seats on appointed committees and ensure diverse representation in all appointments.

The Advisory Committee to the Administrative Council on Toxics Use Reduction is one of the governing bodies of TURA (MGL c.21I § 4(F)). The Advisory Committee members are appointed by the Secretary of EEA. The Members of the Advisory Committee play an important role in ensuring that the Administrative Council is well-informed on issues and perspectives pertaining to its role in coordinating the Toxics Use Reduction programs of the Commonwealth. The Advisory Committee provides advice to the Administrative Council (MGL c.21I § 4) which is a governing body of the TURA program responsible for policy oversight and charged with coordinating the state enforcement of laws and regulations on chemical use and toxic waste generation, implementing policies that promote worker health and safety, and safeguarding public health.

The Advisory Committee membership is directed by state statute (MGL c.21I § 4(F)) to include a variety of stakeholders, including, but not limited to representation from the general public, statewide environmental organizations, organized labor, businesses in the Commonwealth (including small businesses), statewide health policy advocacy organizations, the attorney general, and a representative each from certified toxics use reduction planners, and a water authority. Expanding on existing stakeholder representation and building on EEA's commitment to EJ and OTA's key agency actions, OTA is proposing to add a stakeholder position to the Advisory Committee to be reserved for an EJ representative. The position description follows.

## **Environmental Justice Representative Sought for the TURA Advisory Committee**

The Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA) Program is seeking a representative from the Environmental Justice Advocacy community for its Advisory Committee. Please see below for a description of the tasks and commitment details. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs seeks diversity in all boards and committees, including this search for an Environmental Justice representative for the TURA Advisory Committee. Please pass this vacancy description on to potential candidates or other networks.

### **What is the role of the Advisory Committee?**

The Advisory Committee provides input on program policy issues in the areas of chemical listing and delisting petitions; the adoption of higher and lower hazard chemicals; policy recommendations to the Governor regarding toxic use reduction and the implementation of the Toxics Use Reduction Act (TURA); and the overall efficient operation of the TURA program.

The Advisory Committee plays a critical role in advising the TURA Administrative Council regarding its responsibilities for policy oversight of the TURA program, promulgation of regulations pertaining to the operation of the program, and for reviewing requirements “pertaining to chemical production and use, hazardous waste, industrial hygiene, worker safety, public exposure to toxics, and release of toxics into the environment.

### **Who are the members of the Advisory Committee?**

The TURA statute (MGL Chapter 21I: Section 4(F) stipulates the Chairperson of the TURA Administrative Council shall appoint an advisory committee to the Council. The Committee is currently composed of fifteen stakeholders with specific expertise that provides the TURA Administrative Council with a forum for discussing TURA policy and implementation issues. The fifteen members include representatives from statewide environmental advocacy, public health, labor, large and small businesses, toxics use reduction planning, state water resources planning, health policy advocacy, the Attorney General’s Office, and the general public.

### **What is the time commitment?**

The Committee meets approximately quarterly. Meetings are usually 3 hours and are scheduled in the afternoon at the convenience of the majority of the Committee members. Handouts are sent in advance of the meeting and members are asked to review the documents prior to the meeting.

### **Where do they meet?**

Virtual meetings will be held until further notice. The Committee normally meets in Boston, usually at the Saltonstall building at 100 Cambridge Street.

### **What is the appointment process?**

Nominees are asked to provide a resume that highlights their professional career, expertise, lived experience, and qualifications as they relate to Environmental Justice. The Executive Director to the TURA Administrative Council then prepares the appropriate Boards and Commission appointment paperwork and submits it to the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs for consideration and appointment.

**For more information, please contact Tiffany Skogstrom, Executive Director of the TURA  
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