

Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

- Allean Brown
- Avery Evans
- Beth Graham
- Bonita Johnson
- Chandra Farley
- Ciannat Howett*
- Dr. Erica Holloman-Hill*
- Jennette Gayer
- Khalifa Lee
- Dr. Matt Cox
- Michelle Midanier
- Solomon McBride
- Susan Evans
- Zoe Landers

*Virtual**

ABSENT

1. Angela Clyde
2. Blair Beasley
3. Codi Norred
4. James Marlow
5. Dr. LaToria Whitehead
6. Lauren Westmoreland
7. Maggie Kelley Riggins
8. Odetta MacLeish-White
9. Rex Hamre
10. Robbie Hunter
11. Sheryl Brown

Chief Sustainability Officer Chandra Farley welcomed the Clean Energy Advisory Board at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, May 11, 2023.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

a. Welcome

II. Open Discussion

a. City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Resilience Updates – Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer

- The City of Atlanta will launch the community-wide engagement process for a comprehensive Sustainability and Resilience Plan in 2024. This plan will build upon the momentum from previous plans, include necessary updates for Clean Energy Atlanta 100% clean energy goal and be informed by the City of Atlanta Clean Energy Advisory Board priority objectives and key pillars.
- On Monday, May 15, 2023, Atlanta City Council authorized the City of Atlanta to donate funds from the American Rescue Plan Act Funds to three organizations to execute the City of Atlanta WeatheRISE ATL Program. The three organizations

include: Sustainable Georgia Futures, Greenlink Analytics, and National Association of Minority Contractors.

b. Clean Energy Funding Update – Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer

- This is a historic moment in time with the Federal funding opportunities. The focus for the Office of Sustainability and Resilience is on opportunities directed to local government.
- The current Federal grant priorities are:
 - the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program (EECBG), designed to assist local governments in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuels, to improve energy efficiency and comes with technical assistance.
 - Climate Pollution Reduction Grant designed to assist metropolitan statistical areas with regional climate pollution reduction planning. The planning grant effort is being led by the Atlanta Regional Commission.
 - Charging Fueling Infrastructure Grant designed to strategically deploy publicly accessible electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Multi-departmental effort including ATL DOT, Dept. Parks & Rec, Fleet Services, Procurement and possibly the Airport. We have technical support from the Electrification Coalition and a lot of corporate interest in supporting our buildout if awarded.
- Hertz Electrifies Atlanta public private partnership was launched on April 19, 2023, that aims to expand electric vehicle rentals, EV charging infrastructure and education and training opportunities for youth. This effort expands the environmental and economic benefits of vehicle electrification throughout Atlanta. This partnership also included a data sharing agreement that supports the City’s effort to plan the best locations for charging infrastructure.
- The Justice40 Oversight Committee’s priority over the next 30 to 60 days is to understand how the Justice40 Oversight Committee should be utilized and to establish a City of Atlanta definition of environmental justice. The process is supported by Councilmember Jason Dozier who sponsored the resolution. The commission make-up was legislated as half community and half city staff.
 - **Action Items:**
 - Circulate the Justice40 Oversight Commission Resolution to the Clean Energy Advisory Board – [Click here](#).

iii. “Defining City of Atlanta Clean Energy and the Role of the Working Groups” – Beth M. Graham, Executive Consultant and FUSE Fellow

- **City of Atlanta Clean Energy Definition**
 - On March 6, 2019, the Atlanta City Council unanimously passed Resolution No. 17-R3510, which adopted Clean Energy Atlanta, a plan to achieve 100 percent clean energy by 2035.
 - The Clean Energy Resolution defines “Clean Energy” as “energy derived from Wind, Solar, Existing and Low-Impact Hydroelectric, Geothermal, Biogas, and Wave Technology sources”.

- **Defining the Roles of the Clean Energy Advisory Board Working Groups**
 - Working Groups are charged with ensuring recommendations, solutions, initiatives, and policies are all centered in Equity, Environmental Justice and Analytics, advancing the goals of City of Atlanta’s 100% Clean Energy Plan.
 - Working groups will meet as needed, outside of the quarterly Board meetings, with the goal of creating strategies to achieve the goals, with key metrics to track, and report progress at each quarterly meeting.
 - Board members are expected to co-chair and actively participate in working groups, engaging additional Subject Matter Experts from outside the board as needed.
 - Board members may also be asked to actively engage with public comments in Atlanta City Council and Council Committee Meetings, and Neighborhood Planning Unit Meetings
 - **Action Items:**
 - Share the dates of Working Group Meetings with Clean Energy Advisory Board Members
 - Share the link to join the Clean Energy Advisory Board Working Groups Resource Network: [Click here.](#)

iv. Working Groups Presentations and Open Discussions

a. Community and Partner Engagement Working Group Focus Areas of Consideration- Bonita Johnson, Co-Chair

Goal: Advance 100% Clean Energy Goals for all Atlantans by 2035 through community and partner driven engagement, education, and roadmap to reduce energy burden ensuring A City Built for the Future.

1. Develop plans to reduce energy burden in underserved communities through an environmental justice and equity lens.
2. Expand youth and senior climate action education to impact behaviors to advance sustainability best practices.
3. Strengthen community and partner engagement to advance 100% clean energy goals for all Atlantans.
 - Support launch of WeatherRISE ATL Program
 - Launch marketing campaign in underserved communities to communicate “What is in it for me”?
 - Define benefits and barriers by sectors and partners in each of these sectors.
 - Expand Youth Engagement and Education
 - Support the Sustainable Development Goals elevating SDG #17: Partnerships for the Goals to Strengthen Community and Partner Engagement to Advance 100% Clean Energy Goals for All Atlantans
 - Define benefits in all areas of sustainability (defining benefits is a goal of Justice40 Oversight Commission)
 - What sectors do we have? Gaps and expand partnerships.

- White House – Engage partnership with the Environmental Justice Advisory Council
 - Build partnership and relationships
 - Identify areas that need funding and innovative projects
 - Expand local sustainability initiatives
 - Develop STEAM education for workforce development initiatives

b. Decarbonize Atlanta Working Group Focus Areas of Consideration - Matt Cox, Co-Chair
Goal: Reduce building greenhouse gas emissions; implement building performance standards, retrofit buildings and homes to improve energy efficiency adoption, and workforce development

1. Energy Codes

- The largest amount of GHG emissions comes from buildings
- Home rule state we get to decide what the code is
- 2021 IECC Update
- 2030 All Electric code, would need to change state law
- States to look to: Minnesota & Louisiana
- Opportunities: Building occupants, increasing code & economic development, displacement pressures & downward pressures on rates if building stock is more efficient
 - Lower energy burdens

2. Energy Efficiency Deliverables, Equity Lens, Metrics and Timeline

- Commercial Benchmarking Energy Efficiency
 - Research on how to increase compliance and how do we get there
 - Vacant properties
 - IOU context
- Vacant Properties
 - Pulling utilities & equity goals
 - Land bank
 - Measuring
- Carbon Credits
 - City of Atlanta: City Forest Credit program
 - Exploring credit options to sell to local universities & projects to deploy
- Corporate/Large Buyer Funding
 - New tariff structure or carbon credit investments?

3. Renewables, Deliverables, Equity Lens, Metrics and Timeline

- Existing Footprints for City Operations
- Solar Atlanta
 - Largest municipal rooftop program in the state
- Policies for LMI Solar
 - Solarize Approach for LMI

- Tax credits from IRA
- Rate increases
- Coupled with WeatherRISE ATL
- SEPA's – ownership is by the company & gets paid by the energy consumed
 - *Resilience hubs & storage
- Community Solar
- Clarifying state code for Virtual Power Purchase Agreements (VPPAs)
- Implementation support, economic development, diverse thinking to avoid unintended consequences
- Who is missing: community representatives, contractors & RE developers, & good faith property owners
 - Engage Partners: Midtown Alliance, Livable Buckhead

c. Transportation Infrastructure Working Group Focus Areas of Consideration – Avery Evans, Co-Chair

Goal: Define roadmap and timeline for EV Infrastructure and Citywide Charging Stations, “Complete Cities”, Transit Oriented Development, Public Transportation Improvements and Incentives

- 1. Electric Vehicle Programs and Infrastructure**
 - Set city goals for workplace, housing, infrastructure for EV charging
 - Better Buildings Challenge for EV chargers
 - EV Readiness Ordinance Amendment Update
- 2. Pedestrian, Bike, Micro-mobility Infrastructure**
 - Electric bike rebate (long-term)
 - Study committee resolution
 - Social bond infrastructure investments
 - ATL DOT
 - E-bike rides
 - TDM strategy
 - *Pedi cabs ATL expansion
 - *Strive transit, mostly electrified
 - Marta commercial solar at their site
 - 4-5 MW
 - *Solar potential question, cities utilities committee
 - Technical needs memo: protected bike lanes & maintenance needs
- 3. Transit Infrastructure**
 - Transportation Demand Management (TDM Policy)
 - Bus Rapid Transit, protected bus
- 4. Smart Infrastructure, Autonomous Vehicles, and Emerging Technology**

vi. Public Comments – None

vii. Wrap-up and Next Steps

vii. Announcements

- a. Thomasville Heights Healthy Homes Community Event - May 12, 2023, 12p.m. – 2 p.m.
- b. FUSE Innovation LAB with Clean Energy Advisory Board, Community members, City of Atlanta, and partners to inform the 2024 Sustainability and Resilience Strategic Plan Key Pillars for strategic plan (August 2023 – 4 Hours).

CLOSING

- The Clean Energy Advisory Board Working Groups Meetings to continue in June and July 2023 to finalize strategic plans in advance of the City of Atlanta Innovation Lab in August 2023.
- The meeting was closed at 1:00 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Beth M. Graham, Executive Consultant and FUSE Fellow

May 19, 2023

Minutes Approved by: Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer

May 19, 2023