

Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

ATTENDEES

1. Chandra Farley*
2. Angela Clyde
3. Beth Graham
4. Blair Beasley
5. Bonita Johnson
6. Codi Norred
7. Dr. Erica Holloman-Hill
8. James Marlow
9. Jennette Gayer
10. Khalifa Lee
11. Lauren Westmoreland
12. Dr. Matt Cox
13. Michelle Midanier
14. Odetta MacLeish-White
15. Rex Hamre
16. Robbie Hunter
17. Solomon McBride*
18. Susan Evans

*Virtual**

ABSENT

Ciannat Howett
Dr. LaToria Whitehead
Maggie Kelley Riggins
Sheryl Brown

Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer John R. Seydel called the Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. on Thursday, February 3, 2023.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- I. **Welcome and Introductions**
 - a. Recognition of City of Atlanta Elected Officials
 - b. Overview of the City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience Staff
 - Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer
 - John R. Seydel, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer
 - J. Olu Baiyewu, Director, Urban Agriculture
 - Michelle Wiseman, Director, Waste Diversion
 - Michelle Midanier, Clean Energy Program Associate
 - Beth M. Graham, Executive Consultant and FUSE Fellow
 - c. Review of Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- II. **Clean Energy Atlanta “A Vision for a 100% Clean Energy Future”**

John R. Seydel – Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer

 - a. **City of Atlanta Clean Energy Interim Goals as adopted by Atlanta City Council**
 1. 10% Clean Energy by 2020
 2. 30% Clean Energy by 2025
 3. 50% Clean Energy by 2030
 4. 100% Clean Energy by 2035

- b. Overview of Clean Energy Plan Recommendations and Atlanta Overview (*Refer to Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting Presentation*)
- c. **Additional Items in Progress for OSR**
 - Follow-up engagement with PSC and Georgia Power based on Georgia Power Rate Case and Integrated Resource Plan Intervention – See City of Atlanta press release here - <https://www.atlantaga.gov/Home/Components/News/News/14494/1338?npage=2>
 - AtlantaBuildingBenchmarking.com
 - Atlanta Energy Map – CBEEO Dashboard Pilot - <https://gis.atlantaga.gov/CBEEO/>
 - Greenlink Analytics CBEEO Results - <https://atlantabuildingbenchmarking.com/benchmarking-data/>
 - WeatherRise ATL
 - Lake Charlotte Carbon Credit Program
 - Better Building Challenge 2.0
 - Tree Protection Ordinance
 - Atlanta Green Bank Opportunity

iii. City of Atlanta: 2015 Climate Action Plan Progress

Michelle Midanier, Clean Energy Program Associate

a. City of Atlanta Climate Action Plan Goal Focus Areas

- Green Space
- Energy Production
- Commercial Buildings
- Residential Buildings
- Transportation and Mobility
- Water Consumption
- Materials Management and recycling
- Food Security Green Space Access

b. Goal Status in 2020 (2009 Baseline) (*Refer to Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting Presentation*)

Goals Met

- a. Commercial Buildings - 20% Energy Use Reduced
- b. Residential Buildings – 20% Energy Use Reduced
- c. Food Security – Fresh Food Access within ½ Mile to 75% of Residents
- d. Green Space Access – Park Access within ½ Mile to 40% of Residents

Mediocre Progress

- e. Green Space – 7% Park Land Increase
- f. Water Consumption – 20% Water Consumption Per Capita Reduced
- g. Materials Management & Recycling – 80% Waste Diversion

Low/Negative Progress

- h. Energy Production – 10% Municipal Renewable Energy
- i. Transportation Emissions Reduced – 20% Transportation Emissions Reduced
 - Due to population growth and single-use vehicles

c. Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Data

- 2019 Community GHG inventory
 - Total Carbon Dioxide Equivalent (CO₂e) in metric tons =8,366,149

- Agriculture, Forestry, & Other Land Use (-1.72% due to absorbing CO2 from the atmosphere)
- Commercial Energy (35.67%)
- Residential Energy (16.96%)
- Industrial Energy (4.20%)
- Solid Waste (1.33%)
- Transportation & Mobile Sources (43.54%)
- Water and Wastewater (0.02%)
- **Emissions: Methane has more than 80x the warming power of CO2 over the first 20 years in the atmosphere**
 - **These are some examples of processes in the city that produce methane: landfills, oil and natural gas systems, agriculture, wastewater and treatment**
- **Methane is a crucial opportunity in the climate fight as it is more potent and has more warming power**
- For transportation emissions, burning 1 gallon of gasoline equals 20 lbs of carbon dioxide and an average vehicle contributes 6 to 10 tons of carbon dioxide each year

d. Renewable Energy on the Grid to Meet 100% of Atlanta Energy Needs

- **Clean Energy Status**
 - As of 2020 the City of Atlanta has 6.02% renewable energy on the grid and in 2021, it basically doubled and increased to 13.02%
 - In 2020, the city has reached around 60.20% progress to meeting our initial Clean Energy goal (10% clean energy by 2020)
 - In 2021, the city has reached around 43.40% progress to meeting our interim Clean Energy goal (30% clean energy by 2025)
 - The utilities energy mix of 2021, 8% renewable & 5% null which is Renewable energy credits (REC = tradable non-tangible commodity of 1 MWh of electricity generated from a renewable energy source – large scale projects, not actual energy generated)
 - Renewable Energy for GA Power = Landfill Gas, Solar, Hydro Power, Biomass, & Wind
 - **Work with the Clean Energy Advisory Board to calculate progress in a formal accounting way that aligns with sustainability standards**

e. Atlanta: CDP Cities A List in 2022

- For the first time, Atlanta made the CDP A List at the end of last year
- Criteria to Meet “A” Status:
 1. Disclose Environmental Data through CDP-ICLEI Track
 2. Community-Wide Emissions Inventory
 3. Renewable Energy Target
 4. Published Climate Action Plan
 5. Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessment
 6. Climate Adaptation Plan

iv. “Moving Atlanta Forward Together”

Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer

- a. Mayor Andre Dickens is *Moving Atlanta Forward* through a progressive agenda focused on opportunity, safety, and investment for the future – for everyone. This agenda includes three pillars:
- 1) **A City of Opportunity for All** to ensure that every Atlantan shares in our city’s growth and prosperity
 - 2) **One Safe City** to keep all our neighborhoods safe and welcoming for everyone
 - 3) **A City Built for the Future** to invest in creating a strong, healthy, and sustainable city that supports our growth and that everyone can enjoy
- The City of Atlanta has an unprecedented once in a generation opportunity to leverage Federal investments in Clean Energy Initiatives
 - Critical to the Mayor’s Agenda is the quality of life of in the City of Atlanta. As such, the City of Atlanta Officially Codified the mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience
 - The Clean Energy Advisory Board supports the City of Atlanta’s efforts as we continue to build the roadmap to move the city forward towards its clean energy goals rooted in climate resilience and climate justice
- b. **Clean Energy Advisory Board Governance**
- The City of Atlanta is exploring designating the Clean Energy Advisory Board as an “Official Board” of the City.
 - City of Atlanta Official Boards requires compliance with the Georgia Open Records Act which states that all meeting minutes, emails and text messages, are public records even on home computers or personal devices
 - Board Members also will require Ethics Training
 - A decision will be made in the coming weeks
 - The Clean Energy Advisory Board includes 25 members and serve a two-year term
 - **Clean Energy Advisory Board Action Item: Nomination and Selection of a Board Co-Chair**
- c. **Clean Energy Advisory Board – Working Groups Breakout Session**
- Each Board Working Group was tasked with brainstorming short-term and long-term strategic initiatives and focus areas to advance the work.

Please see list of initiatives below identified by the Working Groups during the breakout session with top focus areas in **BOLD**:

- 1) **Clean Energy Funding**
 - Who are our partners? Federal, State, Local, Private, Philanthropic
 - Beneficiaries: Bring Partners
 - Residents: Low/Mid Income and Underserved Communities
 - Commercial, Small Business and Multi Family Residents
- 2) **Community and Partner Engagement**
 - **Clean Energy Summit for youth, college students as leaders with a focus on equipping kids to educate their parents**
 - **Must implement metrics for measuring success of the Working Group initiatives***
 - Build off of what the City of Atlanta has developed to date and build off of the success stories

- Target specific audiences/areas in Atlanta that are most burdened
- Identify Communication Vehicles based on audience? Seniors vs. Youth
- Develop Workshops to inform students of the plan
- **Home Retrofits & Education Funding**
- **Youth Ambassadors – Sustainability Ambassadors / ACE Warriors (Atlanta Clean Energy Warriors; Engage Board member Sheryl Brown, ACE Director**
- Identify what exists/ what’s been tried*
- Educating seniors on the various utility rates that are available to them

3) Decarbonize Atlanta

- *Who is the decision maker? And what is the available funding? **
- **Data Availability and Translating Data**
- Land Availability and Land Use
- **Residential Energy Efficiency (Barriers, Health + Safety Considerations)**
- Building Performance Standards
- Workforce Clean Energy
- Virtual Power Purchase Agreement

4) Transportation Infrastructure

- E Bike Rebates
- Fleet
- Private Fleet Benchmarking
- **Better Build Buildings Challenge for Fleet Charging and for Employee Transportation**
- Dig in on multi-family EV Charging (different from commercial)
- **Set Goals for Workplace, Housing, Infrastructure for EV Charging**
- Help pilot DOT VMT
- Pay attention to capacity for EV Growth, including, load calculations in EV Ordinance
- Require Bike Infrastructure in Commercial (See SPI Requirements)
- City could invest in “bike corrals”
- EV make Ready Amendments, including readiness and actual installation
- **Transportation Demand Management city-wide**
- Capture NEVI Funding and EV Make Ready Funding
- Parking Minimums and Maximums

d. Open Discussion

- N/A

CLOSING

- The next Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting is March 14, 2023, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
- Location: Atlanta City Hall
- The meeting was adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

Minutes Submitted by: Beth M. Graham, Executive Consultant and FUSE Fellow
Minutes Approved by: Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer

February 6, 2023