

## City of Atlanta Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

### ATTENDEES

1. Alex Ortiz
2. Bonita Johnson
3. Carla Lewis
4. Beth Graham
5. Chandra Farley
6. Cosco Jones
7. Cynthia Curry
8. Ernest Rogers
9. Frank Martin
10. Kimberly Scott
11. John R. Sydel
12. Meloni Boatswain
13. Michelle Midanier
14. Reza Abree
15. Susan Evans
16. Tanzy Ward
17. Wykeisha Howe

### ABSENT

1. Allean Brown
2. Avery Evans
3. Cepeda Kilgore Jr.
4. Codi Norred
5. Diamond Spratling
6. Lamia Lopez
7. Maggie Kelley Riggins
8. Steve Williams
9. Zoe Landers

Chief Sustainability Officer Chandra Farley welcomed the Clean Energy Advisory Board at 11:10 a.m. on Thursday, February 22, 2022. Twenty-two people were in attendance, including members of the Clean Energy Advisory Board Resource Network.

### ORDER OF BUSINESS

#### I. Introductions and Opening Remarks

##### I. Opening Remarks

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

Thank you and welcome Clean Energy Advisory Board, the Resource Network and community members for joining us today for our first Clean Energy Advisory Board meeting of the year and congratulations to our newly appointed board members.

## II. Defining Sustainability and Resilience

- **Sustainability:** “Sustainability is about creating and maintaining conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony, that permit fulfilling the social, economic and other requirements of present and future generations.”
- **Resilience:** Resilience is the capacity of individuals, communities, institutions, businesses, and systems within a city to survive, adapt, and thrive no matter what kinds of chronic stresses and acute shocks they experience.

## II. Clean Energy Atlanta “A Vision for 100% Clean Energy Future”

- **Clean Energy Atlanta – Interim Goals – Presenter: Michelle Midanier, Clean Energy Program Associate, City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience**
  - The City of Atlanta has goal of 100% clean energy for 100% of Atlantans by 2035
- **Climate Goals Progress and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions**
  - GHG emissions are on a declining trend city-wide and will continue this path with more sustainable and resilient projects with revolving energy use, transportation, land use, and waste and wastewater processes.
- **Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Ordinance**
  - The Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Ordinance has been in place since 2015, and applies to commercial buildings, including multi-family properties, over 25,000 square feet to track energy and water usage.
  - The Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience launched a pilot program in 2022 in collaboration with the city’s Geographic Information System (GIS) team to create a visual snapshot of Building Performance Standards, the next step beyond benchmarking to reduce energy consumption - <https://gis.atlantaga.gov/CBEEO/>
  - The city is establishing stronger partnerships and also streamlined the reporting processes. We are planning to revamp our website and marketing collateral to guide building owners through the process as well as share more frequent updates on compliance trends.
    - **Workforce Development opportunity to train and conduct energy audits on commercial buildings.**
- **Transportation Infrastructure Update – Presenter: John R. Seydel, Deputy Chief Sustainability Officer, City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience**
  - The Commercial Building Energy Efficiency Ordinance was considered a leading model 10 years ago; we are in a different space now and can again be a model, for city owned buildings especially with new construction, existing buildings to go beyond LEED Silver requirements as the standard.
  - **Electric Vehicle Readiness Ordinance**
    - New multifamily commercial building construction and single family residential includes EV charging stations with 20% of the parking spots with EV chargers.
  - **Innovation and Partnerships**
    - The City of Atlanta partnerships are key to *Moving Atlanta Forward* expanding access EV chargers across the city and reliability, including:
      - Atlanta Department of Transportation and Georgia Department of Transportation “Right of Way” Chargers

- Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC) program scaling 300 to 400 “free” Level 2 EV chargers over the next 18 months.
- Hertz Electrifies Atlanta - 8 DC Fast Chargers and charging hub at the Airport
- Atlanta Housing Authority + RMI
- Tesla – Access to Level 2 and Level 3
- The City of Atlanta Employee Resource Group (ERG) launched an Interdepartmental Employee EV Resource Group
- **Solar Atlanta**
  - The City of Atlanta Solar Atlanta program, a renewable energy initiative, currently includes 26 city-owned buildings with solar with potential capacity of 30 MWs, the equivalent of about 3,000 homes.
  - In 2022, the City of Atlanta used 1,777,241.49 kWh
    - This is equivalent to CO2 emissions from:
      - 150 homes electricity use for one year OR
      - 861,201 lbs. of coal burned OR
      - Equal to carbon sequestered for 12,713 tree seedlings grown for 10 years

### III. *A City Built for the Future, Moving Atlanta Forward Together*

#### i. **City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience – Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer Presenter**

- **WeatherRISE ATL Progress to Date and Next Steps**
  - Sustainable Georgia Futures community canvassers have knocked on close to 2,500 doors, distributed 220 community surveys, with 152 completed.
  - Phase 2: Complete 152 home energy audits by June 2024
- **Georgia Bright Solar**
  - An Atlanta, Savannah and Capital Good Fund pilot residential leasing solar program for Low to Moderate Income Georgians with no upfront costs
  - **Spread the word on the Georgia Bright Program:**  
<https://capitalgoodfund.org/bright/>
- **AgLanta – City of Atlanta Urban Agriculture and Food Systems Program**
  - Urban agriculture and food systems are key components of the city’s climate resilience strategy, expanding our local food system and local food procurement and fresh food access map.
  - Fresh Food Access Map - <https://fresh-food-access.glideapp.io/dl/17171d>

#### ii. **City of Atlanta Climate Resilience Action Plan (*Framework to launch in 2024*)**

- The City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience is moving forward to develop a new comprehensive Climate Resilience Action Plan
- The Plan will be anchored in equity and environmental justice, and align with the Mayor’s Moving Atlanta Forward Agenda
- The work of the Clean Energy Advisory Board and recommendations captured from the external “Sustainability Innovation Lab” will be synthesized into actionable strategies to build climate resilient communities inclusive of 100% clean energy, health, and wellbeing with fresh food access.

#### IV. Clean Energy Advisory Board – Working Groups

##### i. City of Atlanta Mayor’s Office of Sustainability and Resilience – Beth Graham, Stakeholder Engagement Director Presenter

- The Clean Energy Advisory Board Working Groups play an integral role in advancing the work of the City of Atlanta Climate Resilience Action Plan
- In 2023, the Working Groups were expanded to include the Resource Network which scaled to over 60 members in one year.

##### ii. Working Groups Members and Meeting Recommendations\* (February 22, 2024\*)

- **Clean Energy Funding Board Members:** Ernest Rogers, Frank Martin, and Steve Williams
  - **2024 Recommendations:** Focus on value of “Strategic Partnerships” including Fortune 500 Corporations, Green Banks, Venture Capital Funds and Private Equity
  - Build Workforce Development Programs and Reduce Displacement
  - Partner with utility companies and big users of electricity to engage, and advance clean energy solutions.
- **Community and Partner Engagement Board Members:** Bonita Johnson, Carla Lewis, Cepeda Kilgore, Jr., Codi Norred, Diamond Spratling, Kimberly Scott, Lamia Lopez, Susan Evans, and Wykeisha Howard
  - **2024 Recommendations:** Launch a City of Atlanta “Youth Sustainability and Climate Action Summit”
  - Develop a Shared Calendar of Events/Activities and Resources that advance sustainability and climate resilience.
- **Decarbonize Atlanta Board Members:** Alex Ortiz, Cosco Jones, and Maggie Kelley Riggins
  - **2024 Recommendations:** Benchmark Existing Housing Stock including Energy Efficiency Standards for Homes, Energy Audits with Real Estate Transactions/Inspections and Tax Credits with Energy Projects
  - Renewable and Energy Efficiency Model: Tax Credits (*Bill Financing, C-Pace, Georgia Power Rebates, Watershed, and Southface Rebates*) and Federal, State and Local Incentives
  - Pre-Purchase Home Energy Audits and Educate Community on Energy Star Appliances
- **Transportation Infrastructure Board Members:** Allean Brown, Avery Evans, Meloni Boatswain, Reza Abree, Cynthia Curry, and Zoe Landers
  - **2024 Recommendations:** Focus on Last Mile Connectivity through policies, programs, investments, and partnerships.
  - TDM: free, discounted MARTA
  - Micro-Mobility: eBikes, scooters, Pedestrian Infrastructure Investments (ATL DOT / GDOT); eBike Rebates
  - EV Adoption: Corridor Charging Stations; eShuttles, EV readiness Ordinances.
  - Revamping the smart corridor to utilize shuttles.

##### iii. Working Groups Action Items (March/April)

- Schedule a virtual meeting(s) to meet members and engage Resource Network
- Select Working Groups Co-Chairs to guide the group, schedule meetings, define metrics, budget, and track progress on the strategy decks.
- Review 2023 “Year in Review” document to build on the progress to date.

**Clean Energy Advisory Board**  
MLK Recreation and Aquatic Center  
Multi-Purpose Room  
February 22, 2024  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

- Collaborate to brainstorm, and define top 2 to 3 priorities to shape the work moving forward in alignment with the city's key priorities and the Mayor's Moving Atlanta Forward Agenda
  - **"Save the Date"** - Clean Energy Advisory Board members and the Resource Network to attend the next board meeting on May 2, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
- **Public Comments** – None
  - **Wrap-up and Next Steps**
  - **City of Atlanta Mayor's Office of Sustainability and Resilience Updates** – Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer

#### **CLOSING**

- The next Clean Energy Advisory Board Meeting is scheduled for May 2, 2024, at 11:00 a.m.
- Location: TBD
- The meeting was closed at 1:00 p.m.

**Minutes Submitted by:** Beth M. Graham, Stakeholder Engagement Director, on March 8, 2024

**Minutes Approved by:** Chandra Farley, Chief Sustainability Officer