

Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Tuesday, March 15, 2022 | 9:00 – 10:00 AM

In compliance with Executive Order 22-20, this meeting was fully remote via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes

Committee Members Present

Dr. Carrie Gill, Chair	Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Commissioner Jim Cambio	Building Code Commission
Mark Winslow	Gilbane
Dr. Joseph da Silva	Rhode Island Department of Education
Stephen Turner	Stephen Turner Inc.

Other Attendees Present

Steven Chybowski	Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources
Josh Kessler	National Grid
Michael O'Brien Crayne	National Grid
Christopher McWhite	Town of Smithfield
Kai Salem	Green Energy Consumers Alliance

1. Call to order

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

2. Announcements from the Chair

Chairperson Gill updated the Committee that new candidates are still being considered for appointment to the Green Buildings Advisory Committee (GBAC) and that these appointments will be made by Director Thorsen.

Chairperson Gill also provided updates on the Act on Climate. Efforts related to the 2021 Act on Climate and updates to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan are ongoing. There will be three

public sharing sessions in the coming weeks on how to track progress toward climate goals. In addition, the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4) will be meeting on April 7th. More information about these events can be found at climatechange.ri.gov, where you can also find a working draft of the 2022 Update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan.

3. Old business

a. Presentation and discussion of the draft 2021 Annual Report

Mr. Chybowski presented and led a discussion on the draft of the GBAC 2021 Annual Report. Comments and feedback from the Committee Members was recorded and will be incorporated into the next draft of the report presented at the April GBAC meeting.

b. Other updates, if any

Committee Member Turner stated for the Committee that urgent action is needed for leapfrogging the 2018 building codes and for the adoption of a green buildings code.

4. New business

a. Presentation and discussion on the draft Green Buildings Study scope of work and workplan

Chairperson Gill presented on the drafted scope of work for the Green Buildings Study requested of the Committee during the February meeting. The draft scope of work is designed to be dropped into the State procurement request for proposals (RFP) template. The current goal is to review a draft of the report in October and vote on a final report in November. This would allow any findings to be considered for 2023 legislative session.

Committee Member da Silva recommend that we increase the RFP scoring values for the ISBE and double the reward points for this section to increase the emphasis on equity. Chairperson Gill will report back on whether that would be possible at the next meeting after reviewing the request with the Division of Purchases.

Committee Member Turner suggested that conducting both an identification of policy recommendations and benefit-cost analyses at the same time could be confounding and wants to make sure that Committee Members get enough opportunity to weigh in on the study and report. Chairperson Gill suggested clarifying the sequencing to identify possible recommendations, then conduct benefit-cost analysis, then use the cost-benefit analysis to refine recommendations.

Committee Member Winslow stated that he would also like more engagement opportunities for the GBAC in the study process. Chairperson Gill suggested the Committee might add meetings as appropriate.

Chairperson Gill described the proposed requisition process, which would establish a technical evaluation committee comprised of GBAC members who are State employees that would evaluate proposals and a project management team comprised of GBAC members for ongoing supervision of the study process. In the RFP, the GBAC will request to see specific plans for stakeholder and GBAC engagement.

5. Correspondence

There was no new correspondence beyond requests to be added to the distribution list.

6. Public comment

None.

7. Adjourn

Chairperson Gill adjourned the meeting at 10:10 a.m.

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