

## Green Buildings Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 19, 2022 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM

McKenna Conference Room (1st Floor), 560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02886  
Members of the public were allowed to join remotely via Zoom.

### Meeting Minutes

#### Committee Members Present

Dr. Carrie Gill, Chair  
Christopher Armstrong  
Commissioner Jim Cambio  
Dr. Joseph da Silva  
David Patten

Stephen Turner  
Mark Winslow

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources  
Representing Building Design  
Rhode Island Building Code Commission  
Rhode Island Department of Education  
Rhode Island Division of Capital Asset Management and  
Maintenance  
Representing Building Commissioning  
Representing Building Construction

#### Other Attendees Present

Steven Chybowski  
Jon Erickson  
Josh Kessler  
Bill Nash  
Michael O'Brien Crayne  
Karen Verrengia  
Cornelia Wu  
Art Zeman

Rhode Island Office of Energy Resources  
CLEAResult  
National Grid  
International Code Council  
National Grid  
CLEAResult  
Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships  
RI Department of Environmental Management

#### 1. Call to order

Chairperson Gill called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

#### 2. Announcements from the Chair

Chairperson Gill requested a round of introductions from everyone at the meeting to help encourage stakeholder engagement. Chairperson Gill also noted that a number of new appointments are being considered for this Committee and that two new appointments have been made already including the Rhode Island Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance Director David Patten and Melissa Travis of the Rhode Island Manufacturers Association to represent the building materials industry.

Chairperson Gill provided an update on the 2021 Act on Climate, which sets forth mandatory greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals and requires the State to update the *2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*. More information can be found at <http://climatechange.ri.gov/>. There will be three public sharing sessions April 19<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup> to discuss near-term priority actions for the electric sector in order to get Rhode Island on track to meet its 2030 climate mandate.

Chairperson Gill also noted that buildings cross-cut different sectors, and there is an opportunity to have a more integrated conversation about decarbonizing buildings. At the May Committee meeting, members will look to discuss the possibility of hosting a public sharing session on this topic to inform the *2022 Update to the 2016 Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Plan*.

Lastly, Chairperson Gill noted that all meeting materials are available online on the <http://www.ribcc.ri.gov/gba/> website.

### 3. Voting on previous meeting minutes

Chairperson Gill noted that the Committee will vote on each month's meeting minutes separately and asked that if Committee members were unable to attend a meeting to abstain from the vote. She also noted that the Committee members listed on the meeting minutes need to be updated before final posting to accurately reflect members who had been officially appointed to their positions. Moving forward, meeting minutes can be voted on monthly if there is a quorum present.

#### a. August 2021

Commissioner Cambio motioned to approve the August 2021 meeting minutes. Committee Member Turner seconded. Commissioner Cambio approved. None opposed. All other members abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – abstain  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – abstain  
GILL – abstain

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – abstain  
WINSLOW – abstain

#### b. October 2021

Committee Member Armstrong motioned to approve the October 2021 meeting minutes, contingent upon updating the list of Committee members present to reflect Josh Kessler as a member of the public. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Committee Members Patten, Turner, and da Silva abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – abstain  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – abstain  
WINSLOW – aye

#### c. November 2021

Committee Member Armstrong motioned to approve the November 2021 meeting minutes, contingent upon updating the list of Committee members present to reflect Josh Kessler as a member of the public. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Committee Members Patten and Turner abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – aye  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – abstain  
WINSLOW – aye

#### d. December 2021

Committee Member Armstrong motioned to approve the December 2021 meeting minutes, contingent upon updating the list of Committee members present to reflect Josh Kessler as a member of the public. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and three Committee members abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – abstain  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – abstain  
WINSLOW – aye

e. January 2022

Committee Member Armstrong motioned to approve the January 2022 meeting minutes, contingent upon updating the list of Committee members present to reflect Josh Kessler as a member of the public. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Committee Member Patten abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – aye  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – aye  
WINSLOW – aye

f. February 2022

Committee Member Turner motioned to approve the February 2022 meeting minutes, contingent upon updating the list of Committee members present to reflect Josh Kessler as a member of the public. Committee Member Armstrong seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Committee Members Patten and da Silva abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – abstain  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – aye  
WINSLOW – aye

g. March 2022

Committee Member Turner motioned to approve the March 2022 meeting minutes. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and Committee Members Patten and Armstrong abstained. The motion passed; the minutes were approved.

ARMSTRONG – abstain  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – aye  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – abstain  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – aye  
WINSLOW – aye

**4. Final draft of the 2021 Annual Report**

a. Presentation and discussion

Mr. Chybowski led a discussion of the 2021 Annual Report, noting that the Exceptions Granted was moved to the overview section rather than an appendix, an acknowledgements section was added, and that the data is presented in a transparent manner including descriptions on its limitations.

Committee members discussed additional ways to include State facility construction data based on data available to the Building Codes Commission. This data will be reviewed at the May meeting and can be voted on to be included as an addendum to the 2021 Annual Report.

Committee members also discussed additional opportunities to increase compliance.

b. Public comment

Mr. O'Brien Crayne asked if this group is formally involved in the building code advancement work. Chairperson Gill answered that the Committee is responsible for determining green building standards equivalencies and assisting with the development of stretch codes, which are ultimately recommended to the Building Codes Commission for adoption.

c. Vote on adoption of the 2021 Annual Report

Committee Member Patten motioned to approve the report with the following five amendments: revise the Committee member list to include all current and former members, adjust the formatting of the Green Ribbon Schools charts, add a copy of the survey instrument as an appendix, add a note to the Municipal Government Compliance section noting that compliance is the responsibility of the municipality, and revise the description of the Green Buildings Advisory Committee to clarify the law in question. Committee Member Turner seconded the motion. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed; the 2021 Annual Report was approved with the aforementioned revisions. In addition, the Committee will plan for a presentation on State facility data for the May meeting, which can then be voted on to be added to the report as an addendum.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – aye  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – aye  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – aye  
WINSLOW – aye

## 5. Final draft of the Green Buildings Study scope of work

a. Presentation and discussion

Chairperson Gill led a discussion about the Green Buildings Study scope of work. She noted that the scope of work was formatted based on the State's request for proposals template, and that much of the template language must be retained.

Committee members discussed opportunities to increase the value placed on ISBE enterprises and expressed concern about the scope of the study. Committee members would like to see the scope of the study clarified to focus on public buildings and facilities. Chairperson Gill also read comments on the scope of work provided by Committee Member Travis via email prior to the meeting.

b. Public comment

Art Zeman of the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management stated that the State recently updated the request for proposals template, noted that we could have a pre-bid proposal conference, and that the evaluation committee must be state employees. In addition, Mr. Zeman suggested that the milestones in the request for proposals could be described on a timeline in reference to the issuance date rather than specific dates on the calendar.

c. Vote on adoption of scope of work and direct procurement

Committee Member Patten motioned to approve the scope of work with amendments to: continue to work with the State or Rhode Island Division of Purchases to increase ISBE values, more clearly state the objective of aligning the Green Buildings Act with the 2021 Act on Climate, clarify the scope as focused on public sector buildings, include an optional hybrid pre-bid proposal conference, and share the revised scope of work with the Committee before issuing it. Committee Member da Silva seconded. All in favor, none opposed. The motion passed; the Green Buildings Study scope of work was approved with the aforementioned revisions.

ARMSTRONG – aye  
CAMBIO – aye  
DA SILVA – aye  
GILL – aye

PATTEN – aye  
TRAVIS – absent  
TURNER – aye  
WINSLOW – aye

**6. Other updates from Committee Members, if any**

None.

**7. Public comment**

None.

**8. Adjourn**

Committee Member da Silva motioned to adjourn the meeting. Committee Member Turner seconded. All in favor, none opposed; the meeting was adjourned at 11:14 a.m.

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