

## **Green Buildings Advisory Committee**

Draft Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, February 20, 2024 | 9:00 AM

McKenna Conference Room (1st Floor), 560 Jefferson Blvd., Warwick, RI 02886

Members of the public were allowed to join remotely via Zoom

**Members in Attendance:** Mark Winslow, Ken Filarski, Chris Armstrong, Patrick Crowley, Tim Carroll, Jim Cambio, Greg Miller, Rachel Calabro, Joe da Silva

**Others in Attendance:** Steven Chybowski, Eli Bossin, Eva Davet, Allison Anderson (virtual), Karen Verrengia (virtual), Brittany Becker (virtual), Michael O'Brien Crayne (virtual)

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### **Agenda**

#### **1. Call to Order**

Chairman Filarski called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

#### **2. Office of Energy Resources Administrative Announcements**

Mr. Chybowski shared that the Office of Energy Resources (OER) has posted a request for information (RFI) for the home energy rebate programs created by the Inflation Reduction Act. The deadline for submissions from stakeholders is February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2024, and more information can be found on the OER webpage.

He also shared updates on programming for municipalities and public entities. First, municipalities are eligible to apply for energy efficiency conservation block grants through OER. The deadline for submissions is February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Second, OER is accepting applications for the Lead by Example Clean Energy Awards for public sector energy projects. These nominations are due by March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Lastly, OER and the Rhode Island Infrastructure Bank will be offering a spring round for the Efficiency Buildings Fund program, which provides below market-rate interest loans for energy projects. Submissions for this program are due by May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

#### **3. Vote on January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes**

Committee Member Crowley motioned to approve the January 16, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

#### **4. Chair Announcements**

Chairman Filarski shared that he will be presenting on the Green Buildings Act on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 to the Executive Climate Change Coordinating Council (EC4). Chairman Filarski also discussed a memorandum of Understanding signed by nine states, including Rhode Island, committing to accelerate residential heat pump adoption with goals set for 2030 and 2040.

#### **5. Presentation and Discussion on the Study of the Green Buildings Act**

The Energy Efficiency group shared the study results from the interviews conducted. Several recommendations from stakeholders were made and these recommendations were reflected on a matrix showing both expected impact and cost.

Ms. Anderson explained more about each impact-cost section and asks for the committee's input. One suggestion is to pursue a master price agreement for green buildings experts. More education for the state agencies was also suggested.

Committee members agreed that the School Building Authority had the best success in following and implementing the Green Buildings Act. Best practices of their programs should be identified to understand how each agency can replicate their success. It was also noted that new legislation for decarbonization & electrification was introduced. Committee members expressed interest in reviewing this legislation as it mentions the Green Buildings Act and the Committee.

**6. Review and Potential Vote on the Green Buildings Act Rules and Regulations**

Chairman Filarski explained that he was looking to include language from the statute in the rules and regulations to provide context and help readers understand how to comply with the law.

Committee Members suggested a study should be done on the percentage of greenhouse emissions within the public sector vs the private sector as the Green Buildings Act only covers the public sector.

Council Member da Silva motioned to approve the rules and regulations as drafted and presented on February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024, with one amendment to include the greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets of the Act on Climate under section 1.2.4. Committee Member Crowley seconded. All in favor, none opposed.

**7. Updates and New Business from Committee Members**

None.

**8. Public Comment**

None.

**9. Adjourn**

Committee Member da Silva motioned to adjourn the meeting at 10:01 a.m. Committee Member Winslow seconded. All in favor, none opposed, and the meeting was adjourned.