



City of Medford
Medford Energy & Environment Committee
City Hall Room 205
Medford, MA 02155
781-393-2137
enviro@medford.org | www.medfordenergy.org



Medford Energy & Environment Committee (MEEC) Agenda
January 9, 2023 @ 6:30 PM
Via Zoom Virtual Meeting Connection (connection information below)

Office of Energy and Environment: Alicia Hunt

Committee Members: Gaston Fiore (co-chair), Benji Hiller, Barry Ingber, Laretta James, Kathleen McKenna, Luke McKneally, Martha Ondras, Bob Paine, Jessica Parks, John Rogers, and Paul Taslimi (co-chair).

- 6:30-6:55 Administration.
and 1. Greetings, roll call, and introductions of guests.
- 7:00-7:05 2. Review of minutes from December 5, 2022.
3. Administrative updates from Alicia Hunt. What's the status of the waste initiatives?
4. Review of committee meeting dates for 2023.
5. Review of HYEAF date for 2023.
- 6:55-7:00 Can Medford still apply and, if so, should Medford apply to be one of the 10 cities in the Massachusetts pilot program that bans the use of fossil fuels in new buildings and major renovations?
- 7:05-7:10 Any updates on tree and leaf-blower ordinances?
- 7:10-7:15 New Massachusetts law meant to reduce traffic deaths. **Law requires drivers to stay at least four feet away from "vulnerable users" of the road when passing them.**
(Gaston) <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/192/S3162>
- 7:15-7:30 Presentation summarizing Oslo's response to the climate crisis.
(Paul)
- 7:30-8:00 Review of Electrify Arlington Program.
(Bob)
- 8:00-8:30 Discuss the future direction of MEEC.
(Paul and everyone) Initial discussion of Paul Taslimi questions for committee consideration:
1. What is the operational bandwidth of our committee?
 2. What issues are approachable within the parameters of this committee?
 3. Do we have any advocacy bandwidth outside of current concerns that are defined in the city of Medford resiliency plan? The gist of this question is navigating city policy and concerns of individual members of the committee. I'm [Paul is] clearly referring to myself in this context.
 4. How does MEEC contribute to the energy and environment concerns of citizens? Are we a clearing house for industry-defined notions of resiliency and the mechanics of negotiating that

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or can we advocate for more?

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Community Development is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Energy and Environment Commission Meeting

Time: January 9, 2023 06:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/96291215902>

Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

One tap mobile

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Dial by your location

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Meeting ID: 962 9121 5902

Find your local number: <https://zoom.us/u/aVXiXT094>

Anyone wishing to send comments or questions to the meeting can send email to enviro@medford-ma.gov

The meeting recording will be available on the committee website within a few days:

<https://medfordenergy.org/gogreen/medford-energy-committee/>

On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations. This Act allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely through March 31, 2023 without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings.

In accordance with this Act, this meeting of the City of Medford Energy & Environment Committee is being conducted totally via remote participation using Zoom, including committee members and the public. The use of Zoom complies with the law's requirement to provide live "adequate, alternative means" of public access to the deliberations of the public body, instead of holding meetings in a public place. Persons who would like to listen to or view this meeting while in progress may do so by using the link that was included on the meeting agenda posted on the City of Medford website. We will also post a record of this meeting on the city's website in the near future at the link provided in the meeting agenda.

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Medford Energy and Environment Committee Members



Gaston Fiore (co-chair): Gaston believes that an environmental education campaign leveraging our youth, encouraging active forms of transportation (pedestrian and bicycle), and making green technologies reachable to low-income households are key to achieving world-class environmental sustainability for Medford. Gaston has a background in AI and machine learning and has experience in self-driving cars and demand modeling to medicine. He has BS and MS degrees in Aerospace Engineering from MIT, and an MS in Computer Science from Harvard.



Benjamin (“Benjie”) Hiller: is a now retired lawyer. He has a Masters degree in biology/ecology. He spent most of his career engaged in toxic tort litigation, specializing in representing children harmed by lead poisoning. Back in the 1970s and 1980s, he was part of the Clamshell Alliance which fought to prevent the construction of the Seabrook Nuclear Power Plant and which brought the dangers of nuclear power to the attention of the world.



Barry Ingber: has spent most of the past four decades with non-profit organizations that serve low-income communities and work for a more sustainable and affordable energy future. Most recently, he managed energy programs for Tri-City Community Action Program. Previously, as Executive Director of MassEnergy, he founded the state’s first and largest green power program, and the nation’s first non-profit renewable energy coop.



Laretta James: is a real estate agent and Realtor®. She works within the Committee to design and promote energy, sustainability, and environmental programs and events to educate and benefit residents and businesses. Her background includes working in the elevator industry, event organizing, and art and design. She was previously President of the Massachusetts Elevator Safety Association.



Kathleen McKenna: environmental engineer at Commercial Construction Consulting, Inc. (C3), which deals with LEED and sustainability consulting, energy audits, and implementation. She is secretary of the New England Chapter of The Association of Energy Engineers. Kathleen served in the role of community solar coach for the very successful 2013 Solarize Mass Program, when she coordinated the community outreach process, answered questions from residents and businesses, and was the main point of contact for community members.



Luke McKneally: registered architect with in-depth experience in energy-efficient, environmentally responsive design and the use of renewable energy in buildings. He is an Energy Engineer at ICF, implementing MassSave Passive House incentives for multifamily development in Massachusetts to encourage best practices and the highest performance possible with minimal project cost implications.



Martha Ondras: with a Master’s degree in environmental health at Tufts, she is a research associate at the Health Effects Institute (HEI) in Boston, working on air quality research. HEI provides high quality, trusted science for cleaner air and better health. Prior to pursuing a second career in environmental health, she retired from the post of Director of Design at Harvard Business School.

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Bob Paine: Certified Consulting Meteorologist and Qualified Environmental Professional. Experience in meteorology and air pollution studies and consulting. Associate Vice President at AECOM, a company that focuses on areas of air quality consulting, engineering, and compliance, climate adaptation, and PFAS mitigation. Bob has been a member of this committee and legacy municipal committees (e.g., wind turbine committee) since 2004.



Jessica Parks: with a background in sustainable design and urban planning, she has experience in developing greenhouse gas reduction plans, driving energy efficiency projects, and establishing energy reporting protocols. She is currently a Senior Project Manager at MIT for projects under the campus-wide Greenhouse Gas (GHG) program. Jessica hopes to utilize her experience and expertise to help create opportunities for community engagement and education in support of a more sustainable and resilient Medford.



John Rogers: extensive background in energy conversion (motors, batteries, chargers, power grid, electric vehicles). With Solectria, he worked on the electrical system for the “Solectria Sunrise” EV and on their Grid Tied Solar Inverters. With Azure Dynamics, he worked on a Ford E250 Electric Van Prototype and on the onboard charging system for Ford’s Transit Connect Electric. He now works for Instrumentation Laboratory - Bedford, MA.



Paul Taslimi (co-chair): Senior scientist at Merck Research Laboratories Boston. Paul has been an active scientist for 40 years. Paul has a BSc and MSc degrees in Chemistry and Biochemistry respectively from Canada. Paul has a deep interest in mitigating the climate crisis through science education and raising awareness at the local level and hopes that his years of experience in science can be beneficial to the Medford community in addressing the climate crisis.

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Medford Energy and Environment Committee Municipal Staff



Alicia Hunt: Director of Planning, Development and Sustainability. Alicia started working with the city in 2010 as the Energy Efficiency Coordinator and has managed extensive energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for the City's buildings. She facilitated the City's Green Communities designation and works to bring in energy and environment related grants and programs to the City of Medford. Alicia is a Medford resident who brings her green knowledge to other Medford organizations in her spare time.

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