

Green New Dean Oversight Board (GNDOB)

Meeting Notes

MEETING SUMMARY	Date: 02/27/2023 Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm Location: Zoom	
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Syris Valentine Keith Weir Emily Myers Nina Olivier Tomas Madrigal Ken Workman Debolina Banerjee Dennis Comer	Peter Hasegawa Maria Batayola Kristina Chu Steve Gelb Hibo Sahal Matt Remle Eunice How Rachel Heaton
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Jess Wallach, excused absence Andrea Ornelas	
GUESTS:	Sandra Mallory, Office of Sustainability & Environment Nicole Keenan, NK Consulting Ashima Sukhdev, Seattle Public Utilities	

DECISIONS MADE	Vote on Policies, Programs, and Projects Committee Charter: Keith moved; Maria seconded with amendment to the motion to review the progress of this committee in 4 months. Unanimous approval.
	Vote Agreement to move office election to Early April to allow overlap between current Executive Committee and incoming Exec. members: No objections or concerns from board during discussion. Unanimous approval.
	Consideration: GND Board sign a letter of support for a SCL led federal grant application to support grid modernization as a strategy to support distributed energy resources as part of the citywide resilience hub strategy. Board declines at this time due to lack of time for the board to get better acquainted with SCL's Grid Modernization strategy in a more detailed manner. Board extends an invitation to SCL to present on the grid modernization strategy to help build the Board's learning & understanding on this.

FOLLOW-UP ACTION ITEMS			
#	ITEM	RESPONSIBLE PERSON(S)	TARGET DATE

1	Draft BEPS comment letter from Board: S. Valentine and J. Wallach drafted a letter on BEPS on behalf of the board for board members to review, edit and consider. Requesting comments and edits from the board.	S. Valentine, J. Wallach, M. Batayola support	No date identified
2	Draft BEPS comment letter from Board: A request for the board to connect with labor representatives in trades impacted by a building performance emissions policy to gather input on the board's draft letter	K.Weir	No date identified
3	Ash Sukhdev, SPU on Circularity 23: Would the Board be interested in attending or helping to distribute free tickets? Prioritizing youth and BIPOC attendees. 5 tickets are available, but more can potentially be made available	Email Sara Cubillos if interested	No date identified

Meeting Notes

M. Batayola, S. Valentine, & D. Banerjee GNDob Co-Chairs, Sara Cubillos, OSE Climate Justice Advisor facilitated the meeting. Lylanna Allala, OSE Climate Justice Director, took notes.

Welcomes and Introductions

Syris Valentine called the meeting to order and provided a land acknowledgement.

Presentations

Update on current version of the Building Emissions Performance Standard (BEPS) policy, Sandra Mallory, OSE

- This is the biggest action the City of Seattle can take to reduce emissions to get us a large reduction in emissions. This would be 27% emissions reduction in the building sector by 2050.
- June 2023 anticipates the policy going to Council
- Broad outreach was done to inform this policy development which included engagement with a BEPS Technical Advisory group, mailing list of 4,000 building owners, met with labor representatives, non-profit owners, Housing Development Consortium that had their own technical advisory group, public meetings, all informed the development of this policy.
- Long runway with a deadline of 2050 that considers the needs of building owners and support programs for under resourced building owners
- Building owners have options to get towards emissions neutral
- In 2022 a support program for under resourced building owners was launched with an initial cohort of building owners. In 2023, a consultant will work with more building owners with a prioritization of non-profits and buildings that serve BIPOC
- 150-270 jobs created by this policy

- Alternative compliance payment option is only through 2035. Revenue will go into financial assistance for under resourced buildings as well as funds from any fines or penalties.
- Multi-family buildings: extend timeline for compliance Affordable multifamily: an even longer timeline for compliance Includes regulated low income housing and lower rent market rate housing
- There is a hardship compliance plan to accommodate extenuating circumstances which can include seismic upgrades and more
- Policy is going through refinement currently, will not go through the SEPA process until April and legislation with Council in June followed by rulemaking.

Questions from Board Members:

- Q:
 - A: City is instituting an energy reporting system and the State has a energy use reporting system. City is working closely with the state on a common reporting form.
- Q: Will City of Seattle make energy data transparent to the public on energy usage regarding the Building Energy Performance Standard?
 - A: We currently share data through Seattle Energy Benchmarking
 - More information can be found here: [About Benchmarking - Environment | seattle.gov](#)
- Q: What are the concerns from building owners?
 - A: Primarily the cost.

Public Comment

Name	Affiliation	Comment
Robin Briggs		Understands the tension that new building owners are contending with new policies and would like to see an approach to meet 2030 goals.
Jason		Stressing importance of meaningful compliance measures. Would like to see the penalty for non-compliance to larger to incentivize compliance by a 2030 goal.
Hannah Lindell-Smith	Student	Amend BEPS policy to align with a 2030 goal. Would like to see loopholes that allow natural gas eliminated from the policy.
Jonathan Chen	Resident of District 5, volunteer with 350Seattle	Low-income communities have higher rates of pulmonary disease. During COVID for low-income households and BIPOC communities, indoor air quality was a concern Electrify buildings by 2030
Ryan Driscoll	Social worker, District 3 resident	Concerned about residents in low-income multifamily buildings. If the deadline is pushed out to 2050, that

		means residents will continue to experience the impacts of fossil fuel use indoors. Support seeing a deadline of 2030 in BEPS
Alex Fay	RN in Seattle	Would like to see a deadline of 2030, reject RNG in the policy as it provides health risks like CLPD, cardiovascular disease. Recent study found 12% of asthma cases can be linked to natural gas use indoors. and can still leak methane through pipes
Junie Lee	Healthcare worker in District 1	Would like to see a 2030 deadline in the BEPS policy. Understands the financial concerns of building owners but wants to see human health prioritized. We are running out of time to act.
Brett Anton	Student, UW Institute of Climate Action	Align BEPS policy with a 2030 deadline.
Zachary Kirshbaum	Tilth Alliance	Align BEPS policy with a 2030 deadline.
Alice Lockhart		Push hard for aggressive timelines in the BEPS policy.
Andrew Heckles	Seattle Education Association and substitute teacher	People need cooling capacity through heat pumps. Would like to see a more aggressive deadline in BEPS. With federal funding through the Inflation Reduction Act, would like to see the City of Seattle secure funding to help accelerate faster deadlines of compliance in the BEPS. Asking to remove use of renewal natural gas as a fuel to use in order to comply to the policy.

Updates and Announcements

- **For Discussion & Consideration: Draft letter on BEPS from GND Board, introduced by S. Valentine, discussion facilitated by M. Batayola**
 - Letter is addressed to Mayor Harrell, Director Farrell
 - Letter drafted by Syris Valentine and Jess Wallach

- Recommendations outlined in the letter:
 - Increase Alternative Compliance Payment with the true cost of carbon
 - Require all publicly owned buildings covered by the policy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2030.
 - Require all privately owned buildings covered by the policy to achieve net-zero emissions by 2035, with targeted exemptions to meet the unique needs of hospitals and affordable housing.
 - Increase ACP to align with the social cost of carbon defined in the best peer-reviewed science available
 - Specify a minimum percentage of the revenues generated to be allocated to programs directly supporting building decarbonization in environmental justice communities.
 - Reconsider use of renewable natural gas as a fuel option
- Syris has sent the draft letter to the board via email for review

- Discussion
 - Strongly oppose use of fracked gas which is being equated to renewable natural gas
 - Would like to hear more about potential increase of the payroll expense tax to create additional revenue to support the BEPS.
 - Would like to advocate for the board to think about ensuring a just transition for workers that may be impacted by this policy. Encouragement to have a conversation with workers and union representatives impacted by this policy.
 - Comments can be submitted now up until April during SEPA
 - Comments can be submitted to City Council in June
 - **Next steps:** Encourage board members to submit comments and edits to Syris and Jess on this letter. Maria will support. Connect with labor representatives on the board regarding conversation needed to have with fossil fuels workers. Keith can raise this with union partners to weigh in on this letter.

PPP Discussion

- Amend section so responsibilities are with staff on tracking, Maria offered

Nicole Keenan & Preparation for the GND Board Retreat

- Discussion to inform the development of the retreat agenda

Ash Sukhdev, SPU

Circular Economy: [Circularity Economy Event - Circularity 23: June 5-7, 2023 \(greenbiz.com\)](https://www.greenbiz.com/event/circularity-economy-2023)

- Ash provides an overview of the conference which is in Seattle this year
 - June at the Hyatt Regency
 - Expecting national and international attendees

- City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development and Seattle Public Utilities are sponsors of the event. Through their sponsorship, the City has access to free tickets to distribute.
- Ask: Would the Board be interested in attending or helping to distribute free tickets? Prioritizing youth and BIPOC attendees. 5 tickets are available but if there is more interest, let Sara know.

Request: Board letter of support for a federal grant Seattle City Light is leading

Brought forth by Sara Cubillos

- March 14, letter of support for a Seattle City Light federal grant application
- Process: Vote to delegate responsibility to the GND Exec Committee to review the letter and sign on behalf of the board
- T. Madrigal not in support.
- Board agrees there is not enough time to learn about the Grid Modernization strategy and sign a letter of support but would like to invite representatives from SCL to present on the Grid Modernization strategy so that the board becomes more familiar with the approach.
- Board would like to invite members from Skagit Valley Tribes to share more about their concerns with hydro energy and the Skagit valley dam to a future meeting to learn more about their issue.