

BERDO REVIEW BOARD PUBLIC MEETING

April 8, 2024



BERDO Review Board



Rashida Boyd

Board Member



Gabriela Coletta

City Councilor



Stephen Ellis

Board Member



Lovette Jacobs

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City of Boston Staff



**Hannah
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*Director, Carbon
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**Zengel
"Ziggy" Chin**

*BERDO Review Board
Assistant*

Agenda

Today's Meeting



- 1. Approval of Meeting Minutes**
- 2. Updates and Discussion on Equitable Emissions Investment Fund**
- 3. Administrative Updates**
- 4. Meeting Adjournment**

The background of the slide is a dark blue wireframe illustration of a city skyline, viewed from an elevated perspective. The buildings are represented by white and light blue lines, creating a complex, geometric pattern of rectangular shapes and heights. The overall aesthetic is modern and architectural.

Equitable Emissions Investment Fund

Update and Discussion



Equitable Emissions Investment Fund

[Public Shared Folder](#)

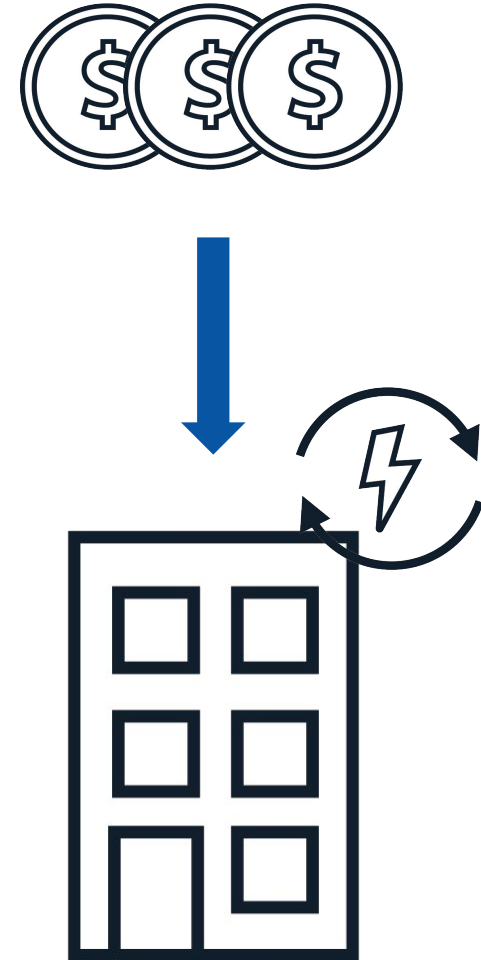
The BERDO team has made the following publicly available:

- A draft [project evaluation form](#)
- A proposed [application outline](#)
- A [Fund survey](#)

Feedback will be accepted until **Friday, April 12**. This opportunity has been shared with:

- The BERDO, Review Board, and Environment Department newsletters recipients
- Review Board members
- The Community Advisory Group
- The Commercial Real Estate Working Group

So far, we have received *five* responses via the Survey.



Background on Distributing City Operating Funds

Updates on the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund

Two laws to be aware of:

1. Massachusetts Anti-Aid Amendment (Article 46, section 2 of MA Constitution Amendments): expenditures of taxpayer funds must advance a public interest.

2. MGL, c 30B (Uniform Procurement Act): dictates that local public funds distributed via a grant agreement must go to nonprofit organizations (registered 501c3 or have a fiscal sponsor)

Public Benefit of the Fund

Money in the Fund shall be expended for the support, implementation, and administration of local building carbon abatement projects that aid the City of Boston in reaching its carbon neutrality goals and help improve air quality for residents across the City.

We've identified two potential options for this first application cycle

Updates and Discussion

Updates regarding the first application cycle



Option 1: Non-profit organizations that provide building decarbonization services apply to the Fund (Grant agreement)

- Open an application cycle where only nonprofits that provide decarbonization services as part of their regular programming are eligible to apply and receive money.
 - *The nonprofit would have to provide decarbonization services, not receive the money for their own buildings.*

| Pros | Cons |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Any type of building owner is eligible to receive the services from the nonprofit, such as private owners, nonprofit owners, and condo owners.• Services provided can encompass any project stage, such as scoping/planning, engineering/designing, and implementation. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• This limits the pool of potential direct applicants significantly (must be nonprofits that provide decarbonization services).• The Review Board will have less control over who the recipients of the services are.* |

**We can add conditions to the grant, such as subrecipients would need to be located in EJ populations, etc., but the Review Board would not directly select which entities receive services from the grantees.*

Updates and Discussion

Updates regarding the first application cycle



Option 2: The Review Board secures a contract for decarbonization services through an RFP process (Not a grant agreement)

- The Review Board would secure a contract with a vendor (private or nonprofit) that provides decarbonization services with the stipulation that recipients of the services meet Review Board standards or criteria.

| Pros | Cons |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Review Board would have more control over who the recipients of the services are.* | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Only scoping/planning or designing/engineering services can be provided. No physical changes can be done in private buildings. |

* The Review Board can directly decide who the recipients of the decarbonization services will be.

The background of the slide is a dark blue wireframe illustration of a city skyline, viewed from an elevated perspective. The buildings are represented by white and light blue lines, creating a complex geometric pattern. A semi-transparent dark blue horizontal band runs across the middle of the image, serving as a backdrop for the text.

Board Q&A

Board Members may discuss and ask staff questions

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Public Comment Period

Members of the public may provide public comment

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Additional Administrative Updates

Staff presents administrative updates

Technical Capacity Building Consultant

The City has procured a technical capacity building consultant for the Review Board

- [RDH Building Science, Inc](#)
- **Will work to:**
 - *Provide training and capacity-building to the Review Board*
 - *Provide on-call technical services to the Review Board*
 - *Prepare accessible materials on compliance options for Building owners and the public*
- **Review Board Initial Survey**
 - *Survey is open until **Wednesday, April 10***
 - *RDH estimates survey will take about 30 minutes to complete*



Making Buildings Better

Estimated Project Timeline

- **Task 1: Training and capacity building for Review Board**
 - *March- August 2024*
- **Task 2: On-call technical services**
 - *June - December 2024*
- **Task 3: Prepare Accessible Materials**
 - *March - August 2024*
- **Task 4: Regular check-ins and coordination with city team**
 - *March - December 2024*

Review Board Nominee

Update on Nominee



Nomination form closed on Friday, March 8. We received a total of three nominees from:

- Community Labor United
- Jamaica Plain NDC
- Neighborhood Association of the Back Bay
- New England United 4 Justice
- Piers Park Sailing Center
- Reclaim Roxbury



2024 Meeting Schedule

Second and fourth Mondays



| MEETING DATES | |
|----------------|--------------|
| January 8 | July 8 |
| January 22 | July 22 |
| February 12 | August 12 |
| February 26 | August 26 |
| March 11 | September 9 |
| March 25 | September 23 |
| April 8 | October 14* |
| April 22 | October 28 |
| May 13 | November 11* |
| May 27* | November 25 |
| June 10 | December 9 |
| June 24 | December 23* |

Proposal for May 27 meeting:

- If we have applications queued by Friday, May 17, move this meeting to Tuesday, May 28.
- If we do not have applications queued by Friday, May 17, cancel this meeting.

Adjourn

Thank you! A recording and the slide deck for this meeting will be available on boston.gov/berdo-review-board.

