

City of Boston BERDO Review Board
Public Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting
February 9, 2026, at 4:30 pm
[View recording here](#)

Board Members in Attendance: Jessica Boatright, Hessann Farooqi, Lori Ferriss, Gail Latimore, and Reginald “Reggie” Stovell Jr.

Board Members not in Attendance: Stephen Ellis

Staff Present: Diana Vasquez, Dr. Claudia Diezmartinez, Zengel “Ziggy” Chin, and Aaron Ngo.

Others: Approximately nine (9) members of the public attended this meeting.

Call Meeting to Order

4:34 pm: A meeting of the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance, hereafter referred to as (BERDO), within the Air Pollution Control Commission, was called to order on February 9 at 4:34 pm. This meeting was held virtually.

Roll Call

4:35 pm: The following BERDO Review Board members were in attendance: Chair Jessica Boatright, Hessann Farooqi, Lori Ferris, Gail Latimore, and Reginald “Reggie” Stovell Jr.

The following Environment Department staff were in attendance: Diana Vasquez, Dr. Claudia Diezmartinez, Zengel “Ziggy” Chin, and Aaron Ngo.

Others: Approximately nine (9) members of the public attended this meeting.

First Agenda Item: Equitable Emission Investment Fund Annual Disclosure

4:36 pm: A. Ngo presented information and details about the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund (the Fund) report.

4:42 pm: Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked whether the Environment Department would distribute news of the release of the Fund report.
 - D. Vasquez answered that the report will be included in the BERDO newsletter and will be posted on the Fund website as well.

- J. Boatright asked if there were any patterns or observations that the Review Board should take into consideration for this year's application cycle.
 - A. Ngo answered that many applicants were affordable housing organizations, but it was interesting to see other projects from different organizations as well.
- H. Farooqi asked if past awardees have submitted progress reports to the City for their projects.
 - D. Vasquez answered that the BERDO team has received reports from all organizations in the first application cycle when they reach a milestone in their projects, as well as quarterly updates throughout the project's duration.
- H. Farooqi asked if the organizations share any setbacks with their projects or feedback in the quarterly reports.
 - D. Vasquez explained that feedback has been received on the overall process, and applicants are asked to report any delays, hurdles, or barriers they encounter. A common challenge involves supply chain delays and difficulty obtaining materials, which can extend project timelines beyond the grantee's control. Quarterly check-ins have been helpful in tracking progress and ensuring projects remain active and monitored.
- H. Farooqi asked if awardees are providing information about workforce hiring standards in their reports.
 - D. Vasquez confirmed that information is being provided in their milestone reports.
- L. Ferriss asked whether the BERDO team was communicating the BERDO updates to stakeholders involved in the regulations development process.
 - D. Vasquez explained that during the development of regulations, community advisory groups from about 10 local organizations met regularly and were compensated for their guidance. Since the regulations were approved, communication has been less frequent. Key channels for updates include the website, newsletters, and public Review Board hearings. Targeted updates, such as emails about the Fund report, have not been routine but could be implemented using existing contact information.

- G. Latimore asked if there has been any update on the organizations that were depending on federal solar tax credits for their projects.
 - D. Vasquez answered that before finalizing grant awards, applicants who included solar tax incentives in their proposals were asked if they could proceed even if funding was delayed past 2025. All indicated they could move forward, so it was communicated transparently that the fund could not guarantee disbursement by December 31, 2025. Applicants understood and were prepared to continue their renewable energy projects even if funding were to arrive in 2026.
 - G. Latimore requests, if possible, that the 979,714.5 kg CO₂e per year reduced by the projects be translated into terms more easily understood by the general public.
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Second Agenda Item: Discussion on the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund 2026 Application Cycle

5:04 pm: D. Vasquez presented information and details about the 2026 application cycle for the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund.

5:13 pm: Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright commented that geographic distribution should be taken into account when reviewing the Fund applications.
- J. Boatright asked whether there are any rules on how long an awardee must spend the funds granted to them.
 - D. Vasquez answered that there is no hard deadline for when an awardee must spend the funds.
- H. Farrooqi stated that he supports giving priority to organizations that have not yet been awarded funding from the Fund and adding a stronger workforce development priority in the application process.
- L. Ferriss commented that she supports prioritizing organizations that have not yet been awarded and is interested in aligning co-benefits with the City's priorities.
- R. Stovell commented that he supports having a deadline by which an organization should spend the grant from the Fund.
 - D. Vasquez suggested adding that the grant should be spent within 3 years after being awarded.

- J. Boatright asked what the timeline would be for receiving Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) into the Fund.
 - C. Diezmartinez explained that the timing of ACPs will depend on when building owners submit their reports. Some payments may be received before May 15 if reporting occurs early and systems are in place, but most submissions are expected in mid to late May, as many owners report close to the deadline. Payments will only be made after staff review emissions data and confirm whether a building is in or out of compliance, so the majority of payments are anticipated around and shortly after May 15.
 - G. Latimore suggested reviewing the language in the Community Preservation Act regarding deadlines for spending the awarded funding.
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Third Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes.

5:51 pm: The Review Board voted to approve the [January 26 Meeting Minutes](#). Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Board Member L. Ferriss seconded the motion. All board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 5:51 pm.

Fourth Agenda Item: Administrative Updates

5:52 pm: Z. Chin shared the following updates:

The number of flexibility measure applications.

The streamlined Short-Term Hardship Compliance Plan application has been published on the Review Board and BERDO website.

Annual BERDO reporting will open on February 17.

The BERDO team has planned the 2026 webinar series, and more information is available on the [BERDO website under “upcoming events”](#).

The BERDO team proposed forgoing the February 23 Review Board meeting due to a lack of agenda items.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2026.

Meeting Adjournment

6:00 pm: Chair J. Boatright made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Board Member G. Latimore seconded. All board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 6:02 pm.