

**December 6, 2023 6:30 P.M.**  
**Meeting Minutes - Remote Participation**

**Board Members Present**

John Hayes, Chair

Erin Casey

William Winn

Rick Nye

**City Staff Present:**

Stacy Kilb, Sustainability Engagement Coordinator (recorder)

**Absent**

Elvis Alvarez

Chris Cantone, Vice Chair

**Public:**

SATV (recording)

**Introductions**

**Guest Speaker:** Beverly Craig, Program Director, High Performance Buildings, and Julia Sucov, Building Decarbonization and Climate Finance Fellow, [MassCEC \(Clean Energy Center\)](#): Demonstration of "*Clean Energy Lives Here*" website and resources

- MA CEC is a quasi-state agency working with DOER, EEA, and Governor's office on energy and climate issues
- Encourage climate tech sector and help state meet its emissions goals
- More flexibility than state agencies
  - Ex. Focused on embodied carbon now
  - Passive houses/specialized opt-in code
- Want to spread the word about the site
- Clean Energy Lives Here – Clean Energy Campaign; website describes technologies, shares incentives, features short video content on goals and customer stories

- Website: <https://goclean.masscec.com/>
- Clean Energy Solutions includes: Wx, Heating and cooling, solar, appliances, electricity and transportation with sub-pages for related technologies
- All pages have the same layout:
  - Benefits of the technology
  - How it works with home diagram (toggle for setups)
  - Videos on each topic including info and customer stories
  - Incentives and financing
  - Example project cost before and after incentives
  - Questionnaire
  - “Go to Mass Save” link
  - Articles
- Benefits and savings page rounds up incentives available
- Installers page – search by zip code for installers that have opted into the page. Installers not vetted but CEC confirms that they do offer the services listed
  - If you search for air source heat pumps, heat pump hot water heaters, or weatherization, a pop-up directing you to the Mass Save website comes up
  - Contact info for installers is at the bottom of the page
  - Can only search for one technology at a time
- Resources page lists all technologies outlined on the website, contains articles and blog posts
- Customer stories: self-explanatory
- Can be translated into many languages using widget at top, working on translation into Spanish
- Sign up for monthly newsletter on top banner or popup

## Discussion

- Possible to distinguish between commercial and residential? Site is only meant for residential buildings with 1-4 units
  - Different levels for Boston/Cambridge decarbonization standards, this website is not there yet

- Discussion of induction stoves. Rick Nye planning kitchen renovation including induction stove. Beverly suggests getting one with knobs. Easy to clean with buttons, but she misses the knobs. These also have computer chips, difficult to just repair. Knobs are lower tech and easier to repair.
- Feel free to give feedback on the CEC website
- There are some weatherization things you can do outside of MA scope
- 5-minute CEC demo/summary video is available to share: [Clean Energy Lives Here: Short Demo - YouTube](#)
- Since installers are not vetted, there is no way for homeowners to give feedback if an installer is less than satisfactory
- Massenergize or HeatSmart may vet installers
  - Note: <https://www.massenergize.org/services/service-providers/>  
Does not list many installers as of now
  - Stacy Kilb notes that while HeatSmart Alliance does gather feedback on installers, it does not provide a vetted list itself. Residents are encouraged to check out Abode's vetted list: <https://abodeem.com/homeowners/participating-contractor-listing/>
    - Note that the communities listed are only those who have municipal light plants and do not participate in Mass Save, so if you have National Grid, Eversource, Berkshire Gas, or Cape Light, you'll have to choose a listed community at random/in your geographic area to see installers
  - HeatSmart alliance does have general information on selecting an installer and links to CEC and other resources
  - Mass Save installers do go through trainings but it is unclear if it's all installers in a company or just some, so be sure to ask if the particular person doing your HP install has been trained
- Bev notes that air infiltration often gets missed in HEAs. Recessed lights are very "leaky" and Mass Save only does boxes, not the flat version. That would be out of pocket.
- If the Mass Save mandate changes to decarbonization from efficiency only, how do we do a zero over time plan? This can be difficult to do.
- Stacy to put Beverly and Julia in touch with William Winn

- Abode is running the CEC Pathways to Decarbonization project, a cohort of 30 homes (selected from 400+ applicants)
- Mass Save weatherization doesn't get done b/c of barriers such as knob & tube. Some people need handholding.
- Is there a carbon calculator for different measures? No, each house is unique, so this could be inaccurate.
- CEC website does not list tax credits b/c if someone doesn't itemize or doesn't have tax liability, they don't apply.
- CleaResult has a HP calculator
- Discussion of HP heating cost vs. Gas. Despite EV and Heat pumps, Ms. Craig's energy bills are not very different. But she has been very focused on air infiltration.

### City Updates

- Energy Coach office hours at CLC next Tuesday, 12/12, 9:00-10:30 AM, coinciding with Salem Pantry's hours there
- Still seeking volunteer Heat Pump Coaches

### City Council Liaison Update (Andy Varela)

- Not provided

### Old/New Business

#### New Business

- Discussion and vote on letter in support for City Council adoption of Specialized Opt-In Code
  - *A motion to approve the letter is made by Rick Nye, seconded by Erin Casey, and passes 4-0.*

John Hayes	Yes
Erin Casey	Yes
William Winn	Yes
Rick Nye	Yes
Chris Cantone	Absent
Elvis Alvarez	Absent

- Discussion and vote on 2024 meeting schedule

- 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month, with the exception of of Nov. 6<sup>th</sup> and Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>
- A motion to approve the 2024 meeting schedule is made by Erin Casey, seconded by William Winn, and passes 4-0.

John Hayes	Yes
Erin Casey	Yes
William Winn	Yes
Rick Nye	Yes
Chris Cantone	Absent
Elvis Alvarez	Absent

- SERC would like updates on High school. Neal can provide updates to Stacy to give during regular meetings. A more formal April/May 2024 presentation is requested.
- Wiliam Winn notes that he finished a graduate school paper focusing on decarbonization efforts in Massachusetts housing.
  - How are we doing in the pathway? We are doing well. The Massachusetts peak year for carbon emissions was 1990 and they have been declining since then. The U.S. peak year was 2007. Mass. will hit our target of 30% reduction from 1990 levels in 2027, a 17% reduction in 6 years
  - DOER tool/criteria for Home Energy Score gives homes a 1-10 rating similar to a HERS score. It has been suggested to municipalities that they require it to be used by sellers whenever a home is sold. It is already being used in Austin, TX, and Portland, OR.
  - Current bill to require sellers to get a Home Energy Score before their house placed on market in MA is stuck in the state house.
  - There is nothing about the buying process that lets a purchaser know how much heating will cost or how tight the house is. This is important because a buyer has no idea if it will cost thousands of dollars to heat with oil over the winter, if the house is uninsulated. This may be something they want to factor in when buying a house.
  - Rick Nye notes that from a seller’s perspective, a premium can be placed on a more efficient house.

- The measure was opposed by some realtors who claimed that low income homes might be less efficient, but lower square footage homes can be more efficient. Plus there are plenty of incentives for income eligible folx who could weatherize or get HVAC upgrades, so this would not negatively affect them.
- Rick Nye notes that many people want to address climate change but don't know how. Home energy assessments are a good first step, the people can focus on improving their home's score.
- SERC is willing to support this. Will Winn will provide additional information.
- Stacy to follow up with Betsy Frederick as a potential SERC board member

**Public Comment**

**Approve Meeting Minutes – November 8, 2023**

- *A motion to approve the minutes is made by Rick Nye, seconded by William Winn, and passes 4-0.*

John Hayes	Yes
Erin Casey	Yes
William Winn	Yes
Rick Nye	Yes
Chris Cantone	Absent
Elvis Alvarez	Absent

**Upcoming City Committee Meetings**

Agendas can be found at: <https://www.salemma.gov/minutes-and-agendas>

- **Salem Food Policy Council:** First Monday of the month, January Date TBD, 6:00PM
- **Recycling Committee:** First Tuesday of the month, January Date TBD, 6:30PM
- **Tree Commission:** Third Monday of the month, 1/15/24, 6:00 PM
- **Conservation Commission:** Third Tuesday of the month, 1/16/24, 6:30PM

**Next SERC Meeting – Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024, 6:30PM**

**Adjournment**

- *A motion to adjourn is made by Rick Nye, seconded by Erin Casey, and passes 4-0.*

John Hayes	Yes
Erin Casey	Yes
William Winn	Yes
Rick Nye	Yes
Chris Cantone	Absent
Elvis Alvarez	Absent