

Green New Deal Oversight Board Minutes

MEETING SUMMARY	<p>Date: 10/28/24</p> <p>Time: 5:00 - 7:00 PM</p> <p>Location: Zoom</p>
MEMBERS PRESENT:	Debolina Banerjee, Camille Gipaya, Nancy Huizar, Emily Myers, Stephanie Ung, Peter Hasegawa, Hannah Lindell-Smith, Jess Wallach, Keith Weir, Steve Gelb, Emily Pinckney, Andrea Ornelas, Nina Olivier, Lizzy Baskerville, and Rachel Heaton
MEMBERS ABSENT:	Ken Workman, Eunice How, Matt Remle, Susan Balbas
GUESTS:	Elise Rasmussen (OSE), Sara Cubillos (OSE)

DECISIONS MADE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • VOTE: Approval of the August Board Meeting Minutes • VOTE: Authorize the PPP Committee to finalize and submit the Letter in Response to the Mayor’s Proposed 2025-2026 Budget
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MEETING NOTES

Peter Hasegawa, Emily Pickney, and Nina Olivier (GNDOB Executive Committee members) and **Elise Rasmussen** (Climate and Environmental Justice Associate) facilitated the meeting.

Meeting notes were taken by **Sara Cubillos** (OSE Green New Deal Advisor)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Emily Pickney started the meeting, reviewed the meeting agenda, and facilitated introductions.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comments.

VOTE: APPROVAL OF THE JULY MEETING MINUTES

Steve Gelb moved to approve the minutes. **Keith Weir** seconded the motion. The Board voted to approve the September Meeting Minutes. **Unanimous approval.**

STAFF UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Elise Rasmussen provided the following staff updates:

- Review Email from Friday with updates on events, resources, and funding opportunities.
- On Monday Nov. 4th there will be a lunch and learn from Bin Jung on Resilience Hubs planning process. This will be a progress update on the planning work
- Tuesday Nov. 6th – Shape Our Water Plan Community Workshop at Youngstown Cultural Center
- Nov. 7th – Rooted in Community, Growing Together – a community conversation about generational wealth building

- Dec. 6th City Hall – Boards and Commissions Gathering
- GND0B Meeting is cancelled in November. The GND0B December meeting will take place on December 2nd.
- Staff, MLK Labor, Urban League, and People’s Economy Lab are working to review the data collected during the Community Assemblies and working towards developing initial findings.

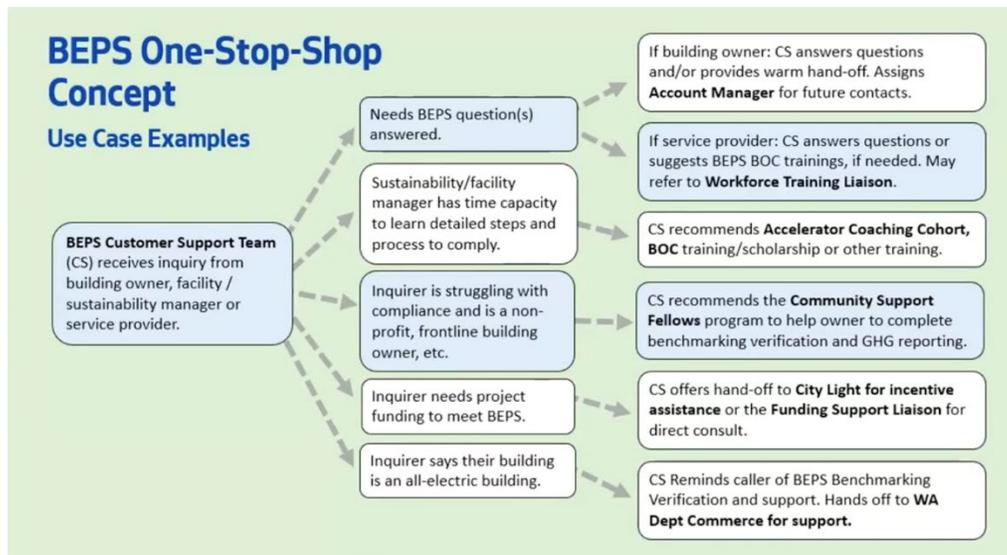
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Energy Code was passed, and the code will begin being enforced on November 15th. The Board did championed a progressive energy code, so this is a great accomplishment for the Board.
- BEPS Working Group – **Nina Olivier** is serving on the workgroup. So far, the group has discussed how to identify fuel sources and what counts as floor area and space use types to fit the various configurations and needs of buildings. Lastly, the group is deciding if there should be qualified personnel conducting site visits for compliance standards. **Steve Gelb** commented that there might be an opportunity to collaborate with State efforts on supporting under-resourced buildings.

Presentation: U.S. Department of Energy Award Update for Building Emissions Performance Standards Implementation (BEPS)

Presentation by Nicole Ballinger (OSE’s Building Emissions Performance Standards Program Manager)

- OSE is a recipient of the US Department of Energy grant to support with BEPS implementation.
- The grant was funded by the Inflation Reduction Act and provides assistance for the adoption of the latest zero emissions building energy codes.
- The award is grants \$17.2 million for enhanced outreach and support, not capital funds to buildings. The grant period is for 9 years from January 2025 to December 2033.
- OSE is the prime recipient with the following sub recipients:
 - Building Potential – customer support
 - SEI Climate Corps – 3 community support fellows for direct technical support for building owners/managers.
 - Seattle 2030 District – to connect owners to funding via Funding Resource Liaison.
- Project Goals:
 - Prioritizing support for building owners most at a disadvantage to meet BEPS requirements.
 - Foster growth and training of a diverse workforce to respond to changing needs during BEPS implementation.
 - More information included in the meeting materials.



Board member question and answer period:

- **Peter Hasegawa:** What is the workforce gap that is needed for this work?
 - Nicole: That would be one thing to look into and identify as part of the roles and capacity we intend to grow with the grant.
- **Peter Hasegawa:** What is your assessment about other building needs for adding air conditioning or insulating mechanical assets to prevent pipes from bursting? Resilience is increasingly going to be something the Board continues to bring up and should be considered.
 - Nicole: Cooling would be a benefit of electric heat pumps. This is something that OSE can explore and bring to DOE.
- **Steve Gelb:** Could you share about the funding that the State received for the state-level BEPS? How will the state work align?
 - Nicole: We spoke with WA Department of Commerce and found that states that are doing building efficiency had a 3-year award and will be starting a little sooner. Part of the work of the grant will be to quickly identify buildings that are already all-electric and instead of bringing them into the program, OSE would introduce them to the state services.
- **Peter Hasegawa:** The 2030 District CPA block diagram and support are really helpful, but will it only be for their members?
 - Nicole: No, this will be available for everyone, though 2030 members may be the first pilots because of the existing relationship.

Presentation on Economic and Revenue Forecast

Presentation by Akshay Iyengar (Fiscal & Policy Analyst at Seattle City Budget Office)

- The City budget is now with the City Council who has been having Budget hearings.
- The last revenue forecast was in the summer. As of mid-October, there is a new forecast which was presented to the Council. A lot of the revenue reductions have been in sales and use and

business and occupation taxes. Overall employment growth in the Seattle area has lagged compared to national numbers. The Payroll Expense Tax forecast is up.

- Timeline for the City budget process:
 - November 12th: Public Hearing @ 5PM
 - November 13th-15th: Budget Amendments
 - November 19th: Budget Committee Final Actions
 - November 21st: Special City Council Meeting – Final Action on 2025-2026 Budget
- [Link to full forecast presentation.](#)

Board Member Question and Comment Period:

- **Steve Gelb:** What is the difference between the two forecasts and where we were last year?
 - Akshay: compared to 2023, revenue is higher now.
- **Peter Hasegawa:** How does the Payroll Expense Tax work, especially when workers are paid in stock?
 - Akshay: It is levied on the company's employees who are earning over a certain amount. Many people with stock options hit this limit which means companies pay more into the tax.
- **Debolina Banerjee:** What is the General Fund deficit?
 - Akshay: About \$210M, but this is an estimate.
 - **Steve Gelb:** Is that a revenue decline?
 - Akshay: It is a mismatch between revenue forecast and baseline expenditures and the City will use Payroll Tax to Backfill that deficit.

Board Discussion: Opportunities for Board Involvement in City Budget Process

The Board reviewed their budget recommendations and discussed ways to move forward in the updated budget process.

- **Nancy Huizar:** The Environmental Justice Fund (EJ Fund) and the Duwamish River Opportunity Fund (DROF) are highly important. They directly impact frontline communities and help build capacity across the environmental justice movement.
- **Camille Gipaya:** Urban League is an EJ Fund recipient and has supported Black Earth Day for the past 3 years. It has been super beneficial for capacity building and is a major part of community-led climate action work. The EJ Fund is a major contributing factor in why the Urban League can build up its environmental and climate justice work.
- **Hannah Lindell-Smith:** While wanting a light rail line in West Seattle, it is not appropriate to use funds from the EJ Fund in a community that does not experience environmental injustices, especially considering that there are many other funding sources for transit projects.
- **Stephanie Ung:** The EJ Fund is one of the few institutional funding sources that uplifts cultural practices and invests in communities with historic and continuing cultural practices that are crucial.
- **Rachel Heaton:** Seconding what has been said about the EJ Fund. Cutting the EJ Fund will also impact Indigenous sustainability projects. There are other sources for Sound Transit projects. Climate projects that are Indigenous-led projects are often about land practices and protections. Cutting funding would be going backward in our efforts.

- **Jess Wallach:** Second what has been shared and it is important that the Green New Deal needs to be in alignment with core environmental justice values and benefit people on the frontlines of the climate crisis. We need to identify how to work with the City to restore funds for EJ priorities and support transit moving forward because both are needed.
- **Steve Gelb:** Agree with what others have said. In the Mayor's proposal, he has combined some of the funds, is there an opportunity to improve the overall efficiency? He offered PPP committee seat to new Board Members if needed.

Peter Hasegawa moved for the Board to allow the Board's PPP Committee to approve the final letter for the City. **Andrea Ornelas** seconded the motion. **Unanimous approval.**

NEXT STEPS & ADJOURN

Keith Weir moved to adjourn the meeting and **Jess Wallach** seconded. The Board voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:09pm. **Unanimous approval.**