

City of Boston BERDO Review Board
Public Meeting Minutes
Zoom Virtual Meeting
July 27, 2026, at 4:30 pm
[View recording here](#)

Board Members in Attendance: Jessica Boatright, Samira Ahmadi, Hessann Farooqi, Gail Latimore, and Councilor Brian Worrell.

Board Members not in Attendance: Stephen Ellis and Lori Ferriss.

Staff Present: Diana Vasquez and Claudia Diezmartínez, PhD.

Others: Approximately three (3) members of the public attended this meeting.

Call Meeting to Order

4:35 pm: A meeting of the Review Board for the Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance, hereafter referred to as BERDO, was called to order on July 27 at 4:35 pm. This meeting was held virtually.

Roll Call

4:36 pm: The following BERDO Review Board members were in attendance: Chair Jessica Boatright, Samira Ahmadi, Hessann Farooqi, Gail Latimore, and Councilor Brian Worrell.

The following Environment Department staff were in attendance: Diana Vasquez and Dr. Claudia Diezmartínez.

Others: Approximately three (3) members of the public attended this meeting.

First Agenda Item: Discussion on 2026 Equitable Emissions Investment Fund Applications

4:37 pm: D. Vasquez presented information on the 2026 Equitable Emissions Investment Fund (the Fund) application cycle.

4:50 pm: Board Q&A Session

- J. Boatright asked about the status of projects from past application years.

- D. Vasquez answered that past awardees have been in constant contact about project progress.
- J. Boatright asked whether the applicant and the administrative side view the application the same way within WizeHive
 - D. Vasquez confirmed that the views are the same.
- H. Farooqi asked how Board members will state any conflict of interest while reviewing the applications.
 - D. Vasquez explained that reviewers are asked to confirm through the WizeHive portal that they have no conflicts of interest before evaluating applications.
- G. Latimore asked if any past applicants have submitted this year with the same project.
 - D. Vasquez answered that Urban Edge is applying again this year with the same project as last year.
- G. Latimore asked how Reclaim Roxbury calculated their projected emissions reductions.
 - C. Diezmartínez answered that Reclaim Roxbury's proposed emissions reductions appear to rely entirely on assumed electricity savings, but the calculations behind those numbers remain unverified. The applicant likely based these projections on assumed energy habits from tenant education rather than hard data. If invited to present, Reclaim Roxbury can be asked to provide further insights and clarify the methodology behind these figures.
- G. Latimore asked why Children's Services of Roxbury and Southwest CDC have never reported to BERDO.
 - D. Vasquez answered that both organizations should have submitted their required BERDO data, as even vacant properties must report. However, non-reporting should not automatically disqualify a meaningful project that offers strong emissions reductions. If the Board decides to move the projects forward, funding could be made conditional on the applicant completing the BERDO reporting requirement before receiving the grant.
- G. Latimore asked for clarification on whether Bridge Over Troubled Waters will comply with its emissions limit.

- D. Vasquez explained that Bridge Over Troubled Waters is currently renovating a vacant administrative office building to serve as a youth emergency shelter. Because the site is unoccupied, current energy usage is exceptionally low, causing long-term projections to show emissions compliance through 2045. However, this compliance status reflects the building's temporary vacancy rather than its future operational performance once the shelter opens.
 - Councilor B. Worrell asked if the scoring criteria are all weighed equally.
 - D. Vasquez answered that applications in WizeHive are evaluated using equally weighted criteria, including emissions reductions and tenant benefits. Numerical scores are assigned based on qualitative ratings from highly advantageous to not present, which generates an overall score for each project. However, to account for nuanced proposals that standard metrics might miss, the portal includes a final recommendation question allowing board members to vote on advancing a project and provide qualitative context.
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Second Agenda Item: Approval of Meeting Minutes.

5:13 pm: The Review Board voted to approve the [July 13 Meeting Minutes](#). Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Chair J. Boatright seconded the motion. All Board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 5:14 pm.

Third Agenda Item: Administrative Updates

5:14 pm: C. Diezmartínez shared the following updates:

No new submission for flexibility measures has been received.

The BERDO team is hosting a BERDO Flexibility Measure Sprint Day, where building owners can sign up for a 20-minute one-on-one session with a BERDO team member to review their draft flexibility measure application, get questions answered, and receive support before submitting. Participants should come prepared with their BERDO ID, a draft application, and any questions. Sessions are available both online and in person at 26 Court Street. More information is available at boston.gov/berdo-sprint.

Due to a lack of agenda items, the BERDO Team proposed not holding a meeting on August 10 to give the Review Board time to finish reviewing the EEIF applications. The next meeting will be August 24

Meeting Adjournment

5:19 pm: Board Member G. Latimore made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilor B. Worell seconded. All board members in attendance (5) voted in favor. The motion carried at 5:19 pm.