

MINUTES OF THE CLEAN ENERGY COMMISSION

July 30th, 2026, at 5:02 P.M.

Approved at the meeting of August 27th, 2026

Participants: Sam Cleaves, Linda Brayton, John Bourneuf, Courtney Allen, Em Strubell, John Moskal

Absent: None

Staff: Bailey McCaul, Sustainability Coordinator

Location: Rose Baker Center for Aging Well. All votes were taken by roll call.

A full recording of this meeting is available at:

https://gloucester-ma-gov.zoom.us/rec/play/4MPltgk6ZTrEAt3sOCKCpclzDQvr42gprUvNIKQumdh3n9abwksBQZbqEeqO4HutayqtTFwdndA_plu0.AaYPQIU0DjQYOscs?accessLevel=meeting&canPlayFromShare=true&from=share_recording_detail&startTime=1785445300000&oldStyle=true&componentName=rec-play&originRequestUrl=https%3A%2F%2Fgloucester-ma-gov.zoom.us%2Frec%2Fshare%2FHLJaxf4qQQBSfBO25TyLDG0qO2W8SIF7MpkhJ9FCohyHfigv_hyh8jXPtqkHa2AG.gJktrU8K-LSSChfv%3FstartTime%3D1785445300000

Past Meeting Minutes Approval:

- May 2026, June 2026
 - Staff member has to change the location name.
 - Commission unanimously approves both minutes with suggested edits.

General Discussion/Presentations:

Staff Report:

- The Gloucester High School Geothermal project is on hold until contracting issues between the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center and the selected vendor are resolved.
 - There are scheduling concerns due to the lengthy contracting process and weather conditions.
- The solar installations on West Gloucester Water Treatment Plant are fully installed and waiting to be hooked up to the grid by NationalGrid, the turn-on date is not yet determined.
- Sustainability Coordinator confirms the date and location of the Climate Leader Public Information Session and brings materials for review.
 - Staff distributes the flyer advertising the event, a draft invitation email template, and the printed slideshow to members.
 - Members suggest different local groups and entities to invite like 400Trees Gloucester and Seaside Sustainability.

General Discussion

- Members transition into discussing the guest speakers for the event and their presentation content.
 - Staff plans to have Dillan Patel from the DOER/Green Communities, Jeremy Koo from MAPC, and Ibrahim Lopez-Hernandez from the City of Beverly speak as guests.
 - The Sustainability Coordinator will be presenting as well.
- Chairman Sam Cleaves asks for an agenda and for bios from guest speakers so he may introduce them at the event in order.
- Jock Bourneuf suggests having a presenter discuss solar.
 - The Sustainability Coordinator doesn't believe there is time for an additional presentation if they want to do a Q&A portion and have time to clean up before the venue closes.
- Jock clarifies the intent of the event; to inform and ask questions about the building code.
- Courtney Allen mentions advertising the open seat on the Commission to attendees.
- Members and staff move onto reviewing and editing the Sustainability Coordinator's presentation for the forum.
 - John Moskal suggests adding a baseline year to data within the presentation and clarifying if it's annual and what the cost savings are.
 - Courtney Allen and Em Strubell suggest clarifying the 'Million-Dollar-Club' portion of the presentation
 - Em suggests emphasizing the money saved aspect of energy savings and the program benefits, and emphasizing the guaranteed funding of the designation.
 - Courtney Allen suggests clarifying the vehicle policy requirement is municipal only.
- Sustainability Coordinator explains the Zero-Emission Vehicle First Policy requirement of the Climate Leader designation to the Commission after Sam Cleaves and John Moskal ask questions.
 - Funding for EV purchases and leases doubles under the new program.
- Members discuss the ambitious goal of getting the building code passed by December and how long it will take to get to a vote.
- Members and staff discuss the content of the slideshow which covers potential projects.
 - Members discuss a solar canopy at O'Maley Middle School as a potential project.
- Members suggest a call to action slide to encourage residents to positively engage with City Councilors and the Mayor about the Specialized Code.
- Members discuss the practicality of the building code, both the in-place Stretch Code and the potential Specialized Stretch Code.

- Jock suggests bringing in Community Electricity Aggregation, some members worry about information overload while others think it's relevant as a City program.

End of Meeting

- Members agree to meet on August 27th.
- Jock Bourneuf moves to adjourn the meeting, seconded by John Moskal
 - Roll Call Vote
 - Aye: Jock Bourneuf, John Moskal, Sam Cleaves, Linda Brayton, Em Strubell, and Courtney Allen

Meeting adjourned at 6:00pm

-Respectfully submitted by Bailey McCaul