

The Watertown Environment and Energy Efficiency Committee working group BERDO met remotely via Zoom at 5:30 PM on Tuesday, May 21st, 2024.

The following members and staff were present: Brian Hebeisen (chair), Silas Fyler (Energy Manager), Pat Rathbone, Jocelyn Tager, Ernesta Krackiewicz,

Others present:

The meeting started with a quorum at 5:30 with Brian Hebeisen presiding.

1) Announcements

2) Preliminary review of State BER

The Committee discussed the Silas Fyler's discussion with the DOER on the State Building Energy Reporting (BER) system. They have a reporting date in late June as opposed to May for Draft BEROD, they are considering Parcels and not buildings as requirement for 20,000 sqft size. All buildings will report, and the utilities will provide data automatically. Penalties are only \$150 for not reporting.

3) Status of BERDO and Regulations

The team considered the addition of parcels, acknowledging it could add around 10 to 20 buildings. They decided to align building definitions with the state for reporting purposes, emphasizing the potential cost savings for building owners and the importance of consistency across cities and states. The committee decided to move the report date to match the state. Lastly, they decided to table the campuses definition due to regulatory uncertainties, and agreed to have Silas draft his thoughts on the matter for further feedback.

Silas shared that George Bacus from the Charles River Chamber of Commerce had requested draft regulations and sample buildings for the BERDO before it goes before the city council. The team agreed to coordinate with the chamber to obtain the necessary buildings for discussion. Silas will coordinate with the Charles River Chamber of Council to secure a few sample buildings (1 large mixed-use, 1 lab, and 1 small), focusing on buildings that can demonstrate the potential benefits and challenges of the BERDO regulations.

Jocelyn will send an email to Jen to request a copy of the Cambridge BERDO regulations.

The team discussed the decision-making process regarding BERDO, with Silas being tasked to consider various factors such as energy efficiency and political implications. They also deliberated on the potential financial benefits and the need for all buildings over 20,000 square feet to report their energy usage. The team also discussed the concept of hardships related to reporting reduction numbers for historic buildings and decided to further discuss the regulations regarding hardships and deferrals in a future meeting. Lastly, they identified potential problem areas and agreed to move forward with acknowledging questions and assuring the public that they were aware of the issue and looking into it.

Silas will write up a quick agenda for the next meeting, proposing the use of Cambridge's BERDO as a baseline for the new Watertown regulations.

4) Decided next meeting will be 5:30pm on 5/29/24

5) **Move to adjourn at 7:00 pm**

All approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted by Silas Fyler