



# HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

## COMMITTEE MEETING

~ MINUTES ~

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

3:00 PM

Sullivan Chamber

**The Health and Environment Committee will hold a public hearing to review and discuss energy planning in Cambridge including expanding electricity capacity, expanding renewable energy productions, BEUDO energy requirements, and thermal energy network planning and any other topics relevant to the city’s overall planning for ensuring city goals of electrification may be met.**

Attendee Name	Present	Absent	Late	Arrived
Burhan Azeem	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Patricia Nolan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Sumbul Siddiqui	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Jivan Sobrinho-Wheeler	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Ayesha M. Wilson	<input type="checkbox"/> Remote	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	

A public meeting of the Cambridge City Council’s Health and Environment Committee was held on Wednesday, October 29, 2025. The meeting was Called to Order at 3:00 p.m. by the Chair, Councillor Nolan. Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2025 adopted by Massachusetts General Court and approved by the Governor, the City is authorized to use remote participation. This public meeting was hybrid, allowing participation in person, in the Sullivan Chamber, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 795 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA and by remote participation via Zoom.

**At the request of the Chair, Clerk of Committees Erwin called the roll.**

- Councillor Azeem – Present/Remote
- Councillor Nolan – Present/In Sullivan Chamber
- Councillor Siddiqui – Present/Remote
- Councillor Sobrinho-Wheeler – Absent
- Councillor Wilson – Present/Remote

**Present – 4, Absent – 1. Quorum established.**

The Chair, Councillor Nolan offered opening remarks and noted that the Call of the meeting was to review and discuss energy planning in Cambridge including expanding electricity capacity, expanding renewable energy productions, BEUDO energy requirements, and thermal energy network planning and any other topics relevant to the city’s overall planning for ensuring city goals of electrification may be met. Present at the meeting from the Office of Sustainability were Susanne Rasmussen, Deputy Climate Chief, Nikhil Nadkarni, Senior Climate Program Manager, and Julie Wormser, Chief Climate Officer. Present from the Department of Public Works was Irina Sidorenko, Project Manager, Energy and Sustainability. Councillor Zusy was also present. Present from Eversource were Jason Wright, Ronite Goldstein, Juan Martinez, Sophia Zhang, Katherine Horey, and Rick Branca. Councillor Nolan shared that members from MIT, the Chamber of Commerce, and BioMed were present in the audience.

Councillor Nolan recognized Sussane Rasmussen and Nikhil Nadkarni who gave a presentation titled “Sustainable Cambridge”. The presentation was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet.

Councillor Nolan recognized the team from Eversource who gave a presentation titled “Health and Environment Committee October 29, 2025”. The presentation was provided in advance of the meeting and included in the Agenda Packet.

**Councillor Nolan opened Public Comment.**

Patrick Barrett, 907 Main Street, Cambridge, MA, shared concerns related to costs and space associated with electrification and the challenges small property owners are facing.

Rick Clemenzi shared concerns related to a slide in the presentation from Eversource and the challenges that are faced with decarbonization.

Diane, 120 Rindge Avenue, Cambridge, MA, asked for more information related to how the electric division and gas division of Eversource are working together to reach these goals.

Heather Hoffman, 213 Hurley Street, Cambridge, MA, shared concerns related to embodied carbon while making the transitions to electrification.

Councillor Nolan thanked everyone for attending the meeting and highlighted how important it is for collaboration with the City, Eversource, and the major energy users within the City to reach climate goals. Councillor Nolan pointed out that there are some challenges with BEUDO but added how important it is to continue these discussions to reach the goal of having net zero emissions by 2050 or sooner. Councillor Nolan asked the team from Eversource how the City of Cambridge could be more helpful with reaching these goals and future energy demands.

Councillor Nolan recognized Jason Wright who agreed with comments made by Councillor Nolan and added how important it is for the City to continue working towards outreach and having both community and the City support for projects. Jason Wright explained that space is limited within Cambridge, which is why Eversource is building an underground substation. Councillor Nolan asked what specific needs Eversource needs to be successful.

Councillor Nolan recognized Rick Branca who emphasized that space is the biggest challenge for Eversource in Cambridge and shared that having more access to land would be helpful to meet future energy needs. Ronit Goldstein pointed out that Eversource is having similar challenges in other communities as more of them are now starting to plan for electrification. Ronit Goldstein highlighted how important it is to have partnerships, such as the one made with the Kendall Square project, noting that it helps with communicating with the public and planning. Councillor Nolan noted that energy planning is a priority in the City and that the City is open to creating more collaboration as it relates to land use.

Councillor Nolan asked if there were any concerns related to the Alewife area. Juan Martinez shared that Eversource has both short and long-term goals to meet the needs of Alewife and believes Eversource can meet the projected energy demand. Councillor Nolan shared concerns about Alewife being in a floodplain area.

Councillor Nolan asked if Eversource could share more information related to the delays in receiving equipment and if transformers could be placed somewhere else besides the first floor of buildings. Katherine Hosey explained there have been delays since COVID affected the supply chain but pointed out that there has been improvement. Katherine Hosey provided a brief overview of how Eversource is stocking transformers to help with delays and shared information on what other factors may cause delays, such as digging or road work. Katherine Hosey explained why transformers are placed in certain areas and that equipment needs to be accessible.

Councillor Nolan asked how Eversource is working towards the transition and coordinating between gas and electric systems. Juan Martinez provided an overview of how Eversource has begun the transition of gas and electrical systems and pointed out some of the challenges they are facing, such as customers not choosing to switch off gas. Katherine Horey added how Eversource is putting efforts towards focusing on affordability and support for customers to make the switch. Sophia Zhang noted that even with the expansion of electrification, Eversource does have a program that replaces old gas pipelines to ensure safety until gas systems are phased out. Councillor Nolan agreed that it is important to be safe, but Cambridge does not want new gas pipes if the goal is to eliminate fossil fuels.

Councillor Nolan recognized Susanne Rasmussen who asked Eversource if there is a plan to reduce rates with time of use rates when smart meters are finally installed, emphasizing how other cities and states are using this model successfully. Irina Sidorenko had a follow up question related to AMI and TOU meters. Katherine Hosey shared that all meters will be replaced with AMI smart readers.

Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Wilson who shared concerns about the high delivery costs for electric bills and how they affect low-income residents. Councillor Wilson asked what type of assistance programs are available through Eversource to help with costs. Jason Wright shared how Eversource is working towards helping customers connect with local fuel assistance and energy efficient programs. Jason Wright added that Eversource will have outreach events in communities for residents to learn about what programs are available to them. Ronit Goldstein shared that Eversource will send emails and posts to social media about these events and encourages residents to call to check what programs they are eligible for, such as window upgrades. Susanne Rasmussen provided an overview of the efforts made by the City to keep costs down and will also connect residents to fuel assistance and other programs. Councillor Wilson emphasized how important it is to get this type of information out to the community.

Councillor Nolan recognized Councillor Zusy who asked for clarification on long-term projections from Eversource and if the predicted growth in demand is included in their planning. Juan Martinez confirmed that the projected numbers reach the 2025 goals and shared that Eversource updates its 10-year plan every year. Councillor Zusy shared concerns about rising costs of electricity in the future. Councillor Nolan pointed out that with gas no longer being a factor, the bills should be able to balance out.

Councillor Nolan thanked everyone for their participation and the ongoing collaboration between the City and Eversource. Jason Wright thanked Councillor Nolan for holding this meeting and shared that he looks forward to future discussions.

**With the time of the meeting being expired, Chair Nolan adjourned the meeting at 5:07p.m.**

**Clerk's Note:** The City of Cambridge/22 City View records every City Council meeting and every City Council Committee meeting. The video for this meeting can be viewed at:

[Oct 29, 2025 3:00 PM - Health & Environment Committee - Committee Meeting](#)

**A communication was received from Susanne Rasmussen, Deputy Climate Chief, transmitting a presentation titled "Energy Planning in Cambridge".**

**A communication was received from Susanne Rasmussen, Deputy Climate Chief, transmitting a presentation from Eversource relative to Energy Planning.**