

*Environmental Business Council of New England, Inc.
Sustainable Solutions Lab at the University of Massachusetts Boston*

Community Engagement for Climate Resilience What is it and how do you do it well?

Friday, September 27, 2024

Hosted by:

Foley Hoag LLP

155 Seaport Boulevard

Boston MA 02210

and

Streaming virtually on Zoom



EBC & Sustainable Solutions Lab at UMass Boston – Quarterly Climate Adaptation Forum

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SSL Contact: Gabriela Boscio Santos, Gabriela.Boscio@umb.edu

www.climateadaptationforum.org

AGENDA

- 9:00 a.m. **Registration & Networking**
- 9:30 a.m. **Welcome**
- Kelly Knee, Forum Organizer
Executive Director, RPS – A Tetra Tech Company
- Program Introduction**
- John Valinch, Program Co-Chair, ESG Analyst, Boston Trust Walden
- 9:50 a.m. **Striving for Authentic Engagement: The Chelsea Model**
- Bianca Navarro-Bowman, Climate Justice Manager, GreenRoots
 - Fidel Maltez, City Manager, City of Chelsea
- 10:10 a.m. **Participatory Budgeting: An Approach to Community-Led Decision Making and Engagement**
- Melissa Liu, Participatory Budgeting and Engagement Coordinator
City of Cambridge
- 10:30 a.m. **EEA Office of Environmental Justice and Equity & Meaningful Engagement**
- Crystal Johnson, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Justice and Equity
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
- 10:50 a.m. **Community Safety and Climate Resiliency**
- Vicente S. Harrison, Health, Safety, and Emergency Manager
Vibrant Communities Support Services
Parks & Recreation, City of Portland – *presenting virtually*
- 11:10 a.m. **Break**
- 11:30 a.m. **Interactive Facilitated Negotiations Exercise**
- Exercise Leader:** Carri Hulet, Principal, CH Consulting
- 12:30 p.m. **Adjourn – Closing remarks**
- Carolyn Norkiewicz, Program Co-Chair
Regional Coordinator for Greater Boston, Municipal Vulnerability Program
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FORUM CO-CHAIRS

Carolyn Norkiewicz, Regional Coordinator for Greater Boston, Municipal Vulnerability Program
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Carolyn Norkiewicz is the Greater Boston Regional Coordinator for the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Grant Program. She works with municipalities on local climate change adaptation planning and implementation projects that are funded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. In addition to assisting communities with grant management, she connects MVP grantees with resources and local partners to support an equitable and holistic approach to building climate resilience.

Prior to her current role, Carolyn most recently worked with the City of Medford's Office of Energy & Environment on their climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning process, while earning her M.A. in Urban & Environmental Planning & Policy from Tufts University. Her thesis work focused on the opportunities and challenges of collaborating at a watershed scale on climate adaptation planning. Before graduate school, Carolyn worked for an urban conservation organization in Lowell, MA (Lowell Parks & Conservation Trust) and, prior to that, served with AmeriCorps Cape Cod. She graduated from Stonehill College with a B.A. in English, and currently resides in Boston.

John Valinch, ESG Analyst
Boston Trust Walden
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John is an ESG Analyst responsible for evaluating current and potential portfolio investments and engaging companies to advance sustainable business practices. In his role, John analyzes corporate sustainability policies, practices, and performance across a broad array of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. He also supports engagement efforts with companies across a range of sustainability issues. John is a member of the Boston Trust Walden Research and Engagement Committee.

John began his career in 2014 and joined Boston Trust Walden in 2024. Previously, he worked at Groundwork USA as a Senior Manager of Climate Resilience and Land Use. In his role, John developed and implemented a federal advocacy initiative focused on climate resilience and environmental justice. Before this, John worked at the labor union UNITE HERE! As a research analyst, he engaged with national public pension funds to advocate for improved working conditions, co-led a strategic research team, and facilitated stakeholder engagement. John holds a BA in Political Science from University of Massachusetts Boston and a dual MPP and MBA from Brandeis University.

Julie Wormser, Chief Climate Officer
City of Cambridge
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On October 1, 2024, Julie Wormser will officially become the first ever Chief Climate Officer of the City of Cambridge, Massachusetts. Prior to this role, Julie was the Mystic River Watershed Association's Senior Policy Advisor and founder of the Resilient Mystic Collaborative. Since its launch in September 2018, the RMC has grown to include 20 municipalities and has secured over \$30 million in funding to pursue regional climate preparedness projects. As Executive Director of The Boston Harbor Association, Wormser was instrumental in drawing attention to Boston's need to prepare for coastal flooding from extreme storms and sea level rise. She coauthored *Preparing for the Rising Tide* and *Designing With Water* and co-led the Boston Living with Water international design competition with the City of Boston and Boston Society of Architects. She has a BA in biology from Swarthmore College and an MPA from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government.

SPEAKERS

Vicente S. Harrison, Health, Safety, and Emergency Manager
Vibrant Communities Support Services
Parks & Recreation, City of Portland
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Vicente S. Harrison is the Health, Safety, and Emergency Manager for the City of Portland, Oregon Vibrant Communities Support Services. He has a background in emergency management, public safety, and leadership. Vicente is also an advocate for diversity and inclusion, and he has published a children's book to encourage embracing the natural outdoor environment while serving as a Park Ranger Supervisor. He serves on the boards of Bird Alliance of Oregon (Wildlife), Trailkeepers of Oregon (Board President), and Human Access Project (River accessibility). In his free time, he enjoys birding, hiking, and spending time with his family in Portland.

Crystal Johnson, Assistant Secretary
Office of Environmental Justice and Equity
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
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Crystal Johnson serves as the Assistant Secretary of Environmental Justice at the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' Office of Environmental Justice and Equity. She is a Senior Environmental Planner and Energy Strategist with more than thirty-years of accomplishments in strategic planning, management, policy, research, and assessment of energy and environmental resources. She has ample strategic leadership experience in planning, implementing, and managing progressive impact programs and has a solid record of innovative thinking. She attended the University of California, Berkeley.

Melissa Liu, Participatory Budgeting and Engagement Coordinator
Budget Office, City of Cambridge
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Melissa Liu is the Participatory Budgeting (PB) and Engagement Coordinator with the City of Cambridge Budget Office. Melissa joined the City in fall of 2023 as a PB Specialist where she assisted in coordinating the tenth PB cycle in Cambridge in 2023-2024. She is currently coordinating the eleventh cycle of Cambridge PB, which kicked off in the last week of August, 2024. She has previously worked as a research intern in technology and AI policy at the Council on Foreign Relations and TrendForce Corp. Melissa graduated in fall of 2023 with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Secondary in Government from Harvard College.

Fidel Maltez, City Manager
City of Chelsea
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Fidel Maltez is the City Manager of Chelsea, officially starting in the role on January 1, 2024. Fidel lives in Chelsea with his wife, Maria Belen Power and their two daughters, Maya and Ana Victoria.

Fidel served as Town Manager of Reading, MA for 2 years prior to returning to Chelsea as City Manager. During his time in Reading, Fidel was able to complete critical infrastructure projects with the help of State and Federal funds, including a \$2.1 Million grant from Municipal Preparedness Grant, a \$2 Million grant from the EPA, and a \$2.6 Million Massworks grant for the reconstruction of Haven Street. Fidel also completed several operational improvements and helped create Reading's first Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Prior to his work as Town Manager of Reading, Fidel held the position of Commissioner of Public Works for the City of Chelsea for five years overseeing all municipal construction as well as all related areas of public works in Chelsea. As Commissioner, Fidel focused on beautification efforts, improving City infrastructure, and being responsive to residents through initiatives such as Chelsea's 311 Department. Fidel led several building renovations, including the reconstruction of the City Hall tower and the replacement of the historic cupola at Chelsea Public Library. Fidel received the Civic Leadership Award from Clean Water Action for Chelsea's work to replace lead water pipes throughout the community.

Prior to Chelsea, Fidel spent 13 years with the Cintas Corporation, beginning immediately after college as a Management Trainee. Fidel completed the construction of three manufacturing plants in Portland, ME, York, PA and Philadelphia, PA. Fidel spent 3 years in China with Cintas as the Country Engineer, building manufacturing plants in Suzhou and Tianjin. This experience was invaluable in teaching Fidel how to navigate multicultural settings, and learning how to adapt to new environments. Fidel was instrumental in launching the Cintas Scrub Vending machine program nationally.

Fidel holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering degree from Lafayette College and a Master's Degree in Public Policy from Tufts University. In addition, he holds a Senior Executive in Local and State Government certificate from the Harvard Kennedy School. Fidel was born in Managua, Nicaragua and moved to the Miami, FL at the age of 7, later returning to Managua to complete High School at the Notre Dame School.

Bianca Navarro-Bowman, Climate Justice Manager

GreenRoots

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Bianca is passionate about building community knowledge, power, and leadership to combat the unequal effects of climate change. At GreenRoots, she leads and supports projects that focus on centering resident perspectives in advancing community climate resilience and adaptation. Bianca works with community members and coworkers to improve the ability of EJ populations to safely navigate increasing summer heat temperatures, flood impacts, and decarbonization efforts that threaten to leave low- and middle-income folks and people of color behind in the clean energy transition. She has been working with GreenRoots since 2021 and loves Chelsea, East Boston, and the incredible residents and organizations she gets to collaborate with.

She is originally from the Washington, DC area and graduated from the College of William & Mary in Virginia. She studied Environmental Science & Policy and English Literature, and also has a background in community-based citizen science research, environmental field work and forest fire management work. Bianca loves taking trips to the mountains, eating, reading, and attending music and arts events throughout the Boston area.

Interactive Exercise Leader

Carri Hulet, Principal

CH Consulting

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Carri Hulet is a senior mediator at Consensus Building Institute (CBI) – a not-for-profit organization Carri Hulet is a collaboration expert and former affiliated faculty with the Program on Negotiation at Harvard Law School. Carri runs her own practice as a facilitator, mediator, and strategic advisor with groups of people trying to manage complex challenges across various kinds of boundaries (geographic, philosophical, disciplinary, departmental, etc.). Most of Carri's work is with groups addressing the impacts of climate change, with a particular focus on helping municipalities, agencies, companies, non-profits, and others address the disproportionate effects of climate change on people and places.