



The City of New York
BRONX COMMUNITY BOARD #1

3024 THIRD AVENUE
BRONX, NEW YORK 10455
(718) 585-7117 • Fax (718) 292-0558 • Email: bx01@cb.nyc.gov

Serving and Representing: Port Morris, Mott Haven and Melrose



VANESSA L. GIBSON
BOROUGH PRESIDENT

CLARISA M. ALAYETO
CHAIRPERSON

ANTHONY R. JORDAN
DISTRICT MANAGER

Environmental Justice & Sanitation

April 17th, 2024

Cesar Yoc, Chairperson

DRAFT

Environmental justice and sanitation committee meeting.

- Members introduce themselves and discuss agenda items, including a presentation on New York Power Authority and a green map.

Energy transition and community involvement.

- Mr. Philip Ellison provides historical context on New York Power Authority's mission for affordable energy.

Energy infrastructure and transmission in New York State.

- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights NYPA's efforts to provide low-cost clean energy to customers, including government agencies and nonprofits.
- NYPA generates nearly 25% of New York City's electricity, with 80% of it being renewable and affordable energy.
- Mr. Philip Ellison explains the geography and demand of power plants in NYC, including peaker plants.
- Mr. Philip Ellison explains the importance of transmission infrastructure for bringing clean energy to New York State.
- NightBot owns publicly-owned transmission lines in upstate New York, with private energy companies owning transmission lines in other areas.

Energy services and infrastructure development in New York, including electric vehicles, solar power, and community solar.

- Mr. Philip Ellison explains NIPER's role in managing energy market and providing services to customers.
- NYPA is building publicly owned infrastructure for electric vehicles across New York State.

- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights Recharge New York's work in the Bronx, including electrifying buildings and infrastructure.
- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses a successful pilot project with NYCHA, using centralized heat pump technology in a 20-story building.

Renewable energy goals and transmission infrastructure in the Bronx.

- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses renewable energy goals and transmission, emphasizing the importance of battery storage to connect renewable energy sources to the grid.
- Offshore wind and underwater cables are used to generate and transmit electricity, with substations increasing the energy's capacity before it reaches customers.

Energy development, solar power, and environmental justice in the Bronx.

- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights NYPA's environmental justice work in the Bronx, including hydroponic labs and STEM education.
- Mr. Philip Ellison discussed NYPA's history, clean energy transition, and role in the Bronx community.
- Solar services are available for nonprofits and businesses through NYPA, with a focus on affordability and community impact.
- Mr. Philip Ellison explains the complexity of energy distribution in New York, including the role of Consolidated Edison and other energy providers.
- Member Ngande Ambroise receives confused phone calls about energy distribution and billing, with callers seeking clarification on how energy is provided and paid for.

Energy storage and grid updates.

- Member Ngande Ambroise questions the viability of private energy storage in New York, citing policy challenges and technical limitations.
- Member Ngande Ambroise discusses challenges with using solar energy in New York City, including lack of control over energy usage and sale of excess energy to other people.
- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses the future of the grid, including the potential for individual energy storage and two-way systems that send energy back to the grid as needed.

Solar energy, workforce development, and transmission lines.

- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses bi-directional solar energy transmission lines, explaining how they work and their potential benefits.
- Member Ngande Ambroise shares insights on the Javits Center's solar roof, highlighting the project's significance and the company's role in its development.
- Mr. Philip Ellison mentioned that Night is made up of engineers, environmental scientists, and other mission-oriented people who are proud of their work and think about the public.

- Mr. Philip Ellison also mentioned that there are laws requiring green workforce development for projects, including a mandate to think about workforce and what that looks like.

Energy infrastructure, pollution, and equity in the Bronx.

- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc expresses concerns about environmental justice and equity in energy infrastructure development, citing examples from Spain and California.
- Mr. Philip Ellison acknowledges the issue and mentions the need for remediation plans to address environmental justice concerns in energy infrastructure development.
- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights the Bronx's overburdened infrastructure, including pollution from industrial activities and highways.
- Mr. Philip Ellison expresses concern about the impact of an economy crash on energy infrastructure projects, including those in the Bronx.
- Mr. Philip Ellison explains that peaker plants were built in the 1920s, 1940s, and 1960s, releasing high levels of noxious gases like carbon dioxide.

Equity, technology, and sustainability in energy storage and housing.

- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc discusses challenges with energy storage technology, including disposal and maintenance issues.
- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses equity and environmental concerns in battery recycling, highlighting the need for responsible handling of post-life batteries.
- Mr. Philip Ellison mentions innovations in battery storage technology, including AI and NightBot's request for proposal, to improve capabilities and address environmental concerns.
- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc and Mr. Philip Ellison discuss NYCHA programs and their work with various buildings and leaders.

Transitioning to renewable energy sources.

- Mr. Philip Ellison explains that NightBot owns hydro plants upstate and small peaker plants downstate, and EJ team is part of the conversation on transitioning to clean energy.
- Mr. Philip Ellison mentions that NightBot has a renewable project development team led by Vanilla, and EJ is also involved in the conversation.
- NightBot's environmental justice department is committed to transitioning to renewable energy.
- The transition will be a collective effort involving multiple stakeholders.
- NightBot acknowledges the challenges of battery storage but remains committed to the state's ambitious goals.

Environmental justice issues in a community, including pollution and health impacts.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan highlights environmental injustices in the community, including pollution from peaker plants, medical waste incinerators, and other facilities.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of environmental justice and sustainable energy for marginalized communities.
- He suggests that contractors working on renewable energy projects should support environmental organizations doing justice work.

Environmental justice in the South Bronx, including pollution and energy infrastructure.

- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the need for reparations and passion to address the long-term health effects of environmental injustices in the South Bronx.
- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc and Mr. Philip Ellison acknowledge the District Manager's work in the community and express their commitment to building relationships and addressing historical pieces in the Bronx.
- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses expanding mandate, developing relationships, and educating community on energy infrastructure.
- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights importance of injustice and environmental implications in clean energy infrastructure development.

Reducing energy consumption in NYC through urban planning and transportation.

- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc emphasizes the importance of reducing energy consumption in cities.
- Mr. Philip Ellison discusses competing design priorities in NYC, including electric mobility and transportation emissions.
- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights local government efforts to promote alternative transportation methods, such as biking and electric vehicles.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan emphasizes the importance of investing in community spaces and responsible resource allocation.
- Mr. Philip Ellison highlights the need for accountability and collaboration in addressing environmental justice issues.

Selecting a new board member and secretary for a community organization.

- Members nominate themselves or others for various positions.
- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc: Nominated for Secretary role, to take minutes and facilitate meetings.
- Member Ngande Ambroise: Supports Cesar's nomination, emphasizes importance of involvement.

Environmental justice, nomination for chair, and committee work.

- Member Michael Pimental expresses hesitation in taking on a nomination due to lack of passion or knowledge in environmental justice.
- Committee discusses nomination and appointment of Vice Chair and Secretary.

Using technology to gather community input on neighborhood issues.

- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc explains the importance of measuring progress in a reactionary field, using a pilot project to analyze data and make improvements.
- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc proposes a survey to gather information on neighborhood cleanliness, targeting organizations and the public.

Environmental issues in a NYC neighborhood, including waste, pollution, and community participation.

- Committee aims to create interactive map to identify and address environmental issues in district.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan highlights environmental issues in the district, including waste and air pollution, and calls for more resources to be allocated to sanitation.
- Member Michael Pimental suggests using 311 data to update a map of dumping sites, and Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc agrees that it would be beneficial to have a discussion with the agency responsible for providing that information.
- Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc aims to create a map of the neighborhood to encourage community participation in identifying environmental issues and assets.

Using GPS to track community issues in the Bronx.

- Member China Copperstone suggests using a map to track service requests and issues in the Bronx, with the goal of involving more community members in data collection and problem-solving.
- Member China Copperstone and Cesar Yoc discuss the potential for participatory GIS to engage the community and lead to action items, but also raise questions about responsibility and accountability.
- Committee discusses ways to hold city agencies accountable for their actions and improve community relations.
- Deputy Chief of Sanitation for the Bronx expected to attend full Board meeting to discuss sanitation efforts in the district.
- District Manager Anthony Jordan and Committee Chairperson Cesar Yoc discussed sanitation issues in their district with NYC Department of Sanitation officials, including overpopulation of hypodermic needles and lack of education on proper waste disposal.

- The group also addressed the need for innovative solutions to ensure cleanliness and safety in the district, including the use of technology and community outreach programs.

Action Items

Send out another email to all committee members soliciting nominations for Vice Chair

Create a green map survey and analyze the information collected to create a summary report

Present the green map proposal to the Bronx borough president's office for potential integration into their website

Schedule a follow up conversation with NYCHA to discuss waste management responsibilities at NYCHA properties

Have the Deputy Chief for Sanitation attend the next full board meeting to discuss sanitation efforts and strategies