

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA
COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT

Room 400, City Hall
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Monday, March 4, 2024
11:13 a.m.

PRESENT:

COUNCILMAN ISAIAH THOMAS, CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN RUE LANDAU, VICE-CHAIR
COUNCILWOMAN QUETCY M. LOZADA
COUNCILMAN ANTHONY PHILLIPS
COUNCILMAN MARK SQUILLA
COUNCILMAN JEFFREY JAY YOUNG

RESOLUTION: 240069

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2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
3 morning, everybody. Today is
4 Monday, March 4, 2024. The
5 Committee on Legislative Oversight
6 is ready to begin our hearing.

7 Before we start, I just
8 want to say thank you to all the
9 people who are here today to watch
10 the government in action. As we
11 are excited to have this
12 conversation, special shout-out to
13 the Vice-Chair Councilmember
14 Landau. This is her first
15 Committee hearing, so I'm going to
16 leave for a little bit and let her
17 Chair at some point so she can show
18 Philadelphia how lucky we are to
19 have her.

20 With that being stated, I
21 now note that the hour has come.
22 Mr. Maynard, will you please call
23 the roll to take attendance.

24 THE CLERK: Of course,
25 Mr. Chair.

1 Chairman Thomas.

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

3 Present.

4 THE CLERK: Vice-Chair

5 Landau.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

7 Present.

8 THE CLERK: Councilmember

9 Lozada.

10 (No response.)

11 THE CLERK: Councilmember

12 Phillips.

13 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:

14 Present.

15 THE CLERK: Councilmember

16 Squilla.

17 COUNCILMAN SQUILLA:

18 Present.

19 THE CLERK: And,

20 Councilmember Young.

21 (No response.)

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank

23 you, Mr. Clerk. A quorum of the

24 Committee is now present. This

25 hearing is now called to order.

1 This is the public hearing of the
2 Committee on Legislative Oversight
3 on Resolution No. 240069.

4 Mr. Maynard, will you
5 please read the title of the
6 hearing resolution to be heard
7 today.

8 THE CLERK: Hearing
9 Resolution 240069, authorizing the
10 Committee on Legislative Oversight
11 to hold hearings to investigate the
12 City's progress on its carbon
13 neutrality goals to meaningfully
14 participate in the planet-wide
15 effort to mitigate the effects of
16 global warming.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
18 you, Mr. Maynard.

19 Let's jump right into it
20 unless any members of the Committee
21 have any remarks?

22 (No response.)

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: All
24 right.

25 Mr. Maynard, will you

1 please call the first panel to
2 testify this morning.

3 THE CLERK: Of course. The
4 first panel is Liz Lankenau and
5 Emily Schapira, but we're going to
6 have Ms. Lankenau joined by Nidhi
7 Krishen and Dom McGraw first.

8 (Witnesses approached
9 Witness table.)

10 THE CLERK: Ms. Schapira,
11 can you sit inside the rails. Much
12 appreciated.

13 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Good
14 morning. Thank you for being here
15 today. Please state your name for
16 the record and you may begin your
17 testimony.

18 MS. LANKENAU: My name is
19 Elizabeth Lankenau. So good
20 morning, Chairperson Thomas and
21 members of the Committee on
22 Legislative Oversight. My name is
23 Elizabeth Lankenau and I am the
24 Interim Director of the Office of
25 Sustainability. I'm here today to

1 testify regarding Resolution
2 240069, to investigate the City's
3 progress on its carbon neutrality
4 goals.

5 The Office of
6 Sustainability was created in 2008
7 to promote policies and programs to
8 meet the City's sustainability
9 goals. To this end, our office
10 works with partners throughout the
11 City to improve the quality of life
12 for all Philadelphians through
13 advancing environmental justice,
14 reducing carbon emissions and
15 preparing for a hotter, wetter
16 future.

17 While our office is
18 immersed in this mission, we
19 realize that for most people goals
20 like carbon neutrality can feel far
21 off and unrelatable. However, we
22 also know that the impacts of
23 decades of global inaction are
24 already widely felt, with
25 vulnerable populations and people

1 of color being affected most.

2 Just ask the Philadelphia
3 communities located in heat islands
4 during ever-more common heatwaves,
5 the property owners and renters
6 experiencing flooding and water
7 damage, the kids suffering from
8 asthma because of poor air quality
9 and the households across the City
10 that struggle to pay their energy
11 bills.

12 In this testimony, we will
13 talk about the nuts and bolts of
14 emissions reductions because it is
15 our responsibility to advance these
16 technical goals. However, curbing
17 the human impacts of climate change
18 and building resilience to the
19 changes already happening are
20 always at the heart of our work.

21 It is also important to
22 recognize that reaching carbon
23 neutrality will be a truly
24 collective effort. I am one person
25 testifying on behalf of the

1 Administration. We as an office
2 are one actor within the City
3 department network, and this
4 network exists within an ecosystem
5 of public and private
6 organizations.

7 In preparing for this
8 hearing, we reached out to many of
9 our fellow departments to
10 incorporate their important work.
11 We all have a role to play to
12 mitigate this planet-wide crisis.
13 But at our core, we are here to
14 serve and protect the people of
15 Philadelphia, particularly those
16 affected most by past harmful
17 policies and practices. And in
18 serving residents, we must
19 meaningfully include them in
20 building a lower carbon world that
21 drives shared prosperity.

22 When speaking about carbon
23 neutrality, it's important to
24 distinguish between the actions
25 that the municipality can take to

1 reduce emissions from its
2 operations and the bigger challenge
3 of reducing emissions across the
4 City. Speaking first to municipal
5 emissions reductions, the City is
6 leading by example to reach carbon
7 neutrality through improved energy
8 management, energy efficiencies and
9 using more renewable energy. This
10 work is executed across the General
11 Fund which produces 46 percent of
12 municipal emissions, the Water Fund
13 which produces 38 percent, and the
14 Aviation Fund which produces 16
15 percent.

16 Through actions outlined in
17 the Municipal Energy Master Plan,
18 the City has cut municipal
19 emissions in the General Fund's
20 built environment by 44 percent
21 since 2016, well ahead of schedule
22 to meet the 2030 goal of a 50
23 percent reduction. This saves
24 about \$2 million a year through
25 advanced energy procurement and

1 management.

2 One of the many
3 partnerships with the Philadelphia
4 Energy Authority was to develop a
5 70 mega watts solar facility, which
6 now provides approximately 25
7 percent of the City's electricity
8 from municipal buildings.

9 The in-progress upgrade of
10 all City streetlights to LEDs, the
11 Philly Streetlight Improvement
12 Project, which will reduce
13 municipal energy by 10 percent
14 saving \$5 million to \$8 million a
15 year while improving public safety.
16 The City's new Guaranteed Energy
17 Savings Act project will finance
18 major upgrades for City offices,
19 health centers and homeless
20 services buildings through energy
21 savings. And integrating the
22 School District into the City's
23 energy management portfolio will
24 save millions on energy costs while
25 creating a healthier environment

1 for students.

2 One-third of the General
3 Fund's emissions come from
4 municipal fleet. We will continue
5 to support the fleet
6 electrification through strategic
7 deployment of additional EV
8 charging infrastructure for its
9 necessary expansion. In addition
10 to this work contributing to carbon
11 pollution reduction, the transition
12 will yield cost-savings and support
13 local job creation.

14 The Philadelphia Water
15 Department's Energy Management and
16 Resource Recovery Program addresses
17 the 38 percent of municipal
18 emissions generated through PWD's
19 operations. The team is advancing
20 efforts for carbon neutrality at
21 facilities which are large energy
22 users through projects to generate
23 energy and offset the reliance on
24 natural gas and electricity such of
25 the use of biogas and solar energy.

1 The Department of Aviation
2 has a robust sustainability program
3 to address its 16 percent of
4 municipal emissions. It has
5 conducted energy audits, annual
6 greenhouse gas inventories and
7 achieved airport carbon
8 accreditation. Through projects
9 like LEED certification and the
10 electrification of diesel ground
11 support equipment, it is
12 proactively addressing its
13 footprint.

14 Efforts to reduce jet fuel
15 idling has prevented emissions
16 equivalent to 1617 tons of nitrous
17 oxides and 68 tons of particulate
18 matter improving air quality.
19 Plans include geothermal and solar
20 energy production projects and a
21 zero-emission strategy for shuttle
22 buses. While it is extremely
23 important for the municipality to
24 do its part, we are one entity
25 among many who must act for the

1 City to reach carbon neutrality.

2 To put this into context,

3 emissions generated by the

4 municipality are only about 2

5 percent of the total generated

6 city-wide. Over the past two

7 Administrations, Philadelphia has

8 made progress toward reducing

9 emissions and has consistently met

10 global standards, being recognized

11 as a Climate Disclosure Project

12 A-list city for bold climate

13 action.

14 In 2021, our office

15 conducted a city-wide greenhouse

16 gas inventory that found that

17 emissions have dropped by 20

18 percent between 2006 and 2019, with

19 a large portion of reductions

20 coming from a cleaner energy grid.

21 Achieving carbon neutrality will

22 require an immense city-wide effort

23 to address the 70 percent of city-

24 wide emissions generated by

25 buildings and industry, the 26

1 percent generated by transportation
2 and the 4 percent generated by
3 waste and wastewater.

4 In 2012, the City took the
5 first step in addressing emissions
6 from large buildings city-wide
7 through the Building Energy
8 Benchmarking Policy, which requires
9 large building owners to report on
10 their energy use. Then in 2019,
11 the City adopted the Building
12 Energy Performance Policy, further
13 requiring large buildings to
14 perform tune-ups to improve energy
15 efficiency.

16 Further development of
17 policies to directly address
18 emissions from buildings could
19 build upon these actions and
20 accelerate reductions. Expanding
21 building energy policies to address
22 buildings of all sizes is an
23 important part of the equation, as
24 most of our residents live in small
25 older houses that need updates to

1 both reduce energy use and reduce
2 high energy costs.

3 Through our Energy Poverty
4 Alleviation Strategy, we strive to
5 address residents' high energy
6 burden while reducing residential
7 emissions, building resilience and
8 improving housing quality
9 insecurity. This work will focus
10 on underresourced and overburdened
11 communities and incorporate green
12 workforce development to prioritize
13 an equitable and just clean energy
14 transition.

15 To address the 26 percent
16 of city-wide emissions generated by
17 transportation efforts -- generated
18 by transportation, efforts by
19 partners at SEPTA and the Office of
20 Transportation, Infrastructure &
21 Sustainability are working to
22 increase the accessibility of
23 public transportation, increase
24 biking and scale adoption of EVs,
25 improving low- and no-emission

1 alternative transportation modes
2 and enabling the transition to
3 electric automobility are important
4 parts of the strategy.

5 Every Philadelphian who
6 takes the bus in lieu of a personal
7 vehicle cuts their emissions by 38
8 percent while people who walk or
9 bike completely eliminate their
10 emissions. OTIS while working with
11 its partners has an extensive
12 portfolio to make buses faster and
13 more reliable, enable kids to walk
14 to school safely and make riding a
15 bike a safe and inclusive option.

16 There are many reasons why
17 people need to drive, and we should
18 support the electrification of
19 those trips. To this end, OTIS is
20 working to increase the provision
21 and equitable distribution of EV
22 chargers. To address the 4 percent
23 of emissions generated by waste and
24 wastewater, the departments across
25 the City are implementing solutions

1 related to recycling, organic
2 waste, tree cover, urban
3 agriculture and green stormwater
4 management. Weekly collections of
5 recycling by the Sanitation
6 Division helps residents accessibly
7 reduce their carbon footprints
8 while reducing raw materials and
9 waste going into landfills and
10 waste-to-energy facilities.

11 Since 2022, Sanitation has
12 increased diversion by over 40
13 percent and increased
14 contamination -- decreased our
15 contamination by over 30 percent,
16 saving more than \$1.5 million
17 annually. Future efforts will
18 encourage all Philadelphians to
19 reduce consumption, repair and
20 reuse items and recycle acceptable
21 waste.

22 The Department of Parks and
23 Recreation achieves carbon
24 reductions through several of its
25 units, including Farm Philly,

1 Natural Lands and Urban Forestry,
2 Tree Philly, Park Stewardship and
3 its Sustainability division. These
4 programs divert food waste from
5 landfills, sequester carbon through
6 urban gardens and tree planning and
7 conservation, mitigate flooding and
8 reduce sediment pollution, promote
9 native species and turn dead and
10 falling trees into lumber.

11 The Philadelphia Water
12 Department is implementing the
13 25-year Green City, Clean Waters
14 program to reduce the volume of
15 stormwater entering combined sewers
16 through green stormwater
17 infrastructure and traditional
18 infrastructure improvements. The
19 environmental benefits of GSI
20 include improving air quality and
21 reducing emissions, reducing urban
22 heat island effect, saving energy
23 and supporting wildlife, all of
24 which help to increase resilience
25 to a changing climate.

1 Another extremely important
2 lever contributing to carbon
3 neutrality is the carbon intensity
4 of our energy sources. There are a
5 multitude of factors that affect
6 our energy mix in Philadelphia.
7 Among them, federal and state
8 policies, energy markets and
9 infrastructure requirements.

10 While our testimony will be
11 too brief to cover this, we will
12 highlight a high-impact project
13 under development that exemplifies
14 energy innovation in the region,
15 the Hydrogen Hub. As a lead
16 partner in the Mid-Atlantic Clean
17 Hydrogen Hub, the City of
18 Philadelphia is at the forefront of
19 an initiative to reduce carbon,
20 methane and other emissions through
21 the production of low or no carbon
22 hydrogen, both through municipal
23 and city-wide projects.

24 As the Hub becomes more
25 established, opportunities to

1 explore the use of hydrogen for
2 heavy vehicles and industrial needs
3 will be explored. Initiatives like
4 the Hub will allow the City to
5 progressively make energy a bigger
6 portion of its energy supply.
7 While carbon neutrality is
8 extremely important, pursuing this
9 goal justly, equitable and in ways
10 that are relevant to our residents
11 is essential.

12 In 2022, the City also took
13 an important step in furthering
14 just and equitable climate action
15 through the creation of our Office
16 of Environmental Justice team.
17 Their work centers communities
18 disproportionately burdened with
19 negative environmental impacts in
20 all actions to reduce emissions and
21 build climate resilience,
22 establishing racial equity as a
23 core value in our climate work.

24 Grant-making through the
25 Community Resilience and

1 Environmental Justice Fund, the
2 work of the resident-led
3 Philadelphia Environmental Justice
4 Advisory Commission and developing
5 mapping tools to understand the
6 cumulative impacts of environmental
7 injustices will guide decision-
8 making and policy.

9 Finally, it is important to
10 note that while this testimony
11 focuses on carbon neutrality, the
12 impacts of climate change are
13 already being felt. And our work
14 in heat and flood-prone communities
15 shows that we need to focus on
16 climate resilience simultaneously.
17 In 2019, the City appointed its
18 first Chief Resilience Officer to
19 guide coordinated adaptation
20 efforts.

21 Planning efforts through
22 the Flood Risk Management Task
23 Force break down departmental silos
24 to grow city-wide flood resiliency,
25 while place-based initiatives in

1 overburdened, flood-prone
2 communities like Eastwick convene
3 governmental stakeholders while
4 routing resources, support and
5 decision-making power to the
6 community.

7 The City is also taking
8 steps to develop an equitable,
9 community-driven resilience plan
10 greatly expanding the scope of the
11 2015 Growing Stronger Plan.

12 Through the testimony provided
13 today, it should be clear how the
14 Office of Sustainability has
15 approached this important work and
16 how we work with other departments
17 to advance carbon neutrality by
18 2050, if not sooner.

19 More can and must be done
20 and we're seeking every opportunity
21 through Inflation Reduction Act
22 funding, philanthropic support and
23 intentional collaborations to act
24 swiftly. As this work develops, we
25 will continue to look to all of you

1 to understand that hard
2 conversations, difficult decisions
3 and impactful trade-offs are part
4 of this work.

5 While the work ahead will
6 require enormous effort, we are
7 confident in the leadership of this
8 City and applaud Mayor Parker's
9 long-term vision to meet the City's
10 goal of reaching carbon neutrality
11 by 2050. By working together, we
12 will make Philadelphia the
13 cleanest, greenest and most
14 prosperous big city in America.

15 Thank you for this
16 opportunity to testify. With me I
17 have Dominic McGraw, Deputy
18 Director of Energy Services and
19 Operations and Nidhi Krishen,
20 Deputy Director of Climate
21 Solutions to assist me in answering
22 any questions. And I will be happy
23 to assist in directing you to the
24 appropriate department
25 representatives that have

1 contributed to our testimony today.

2 Thank you.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
4 you for your testimony. Very much
5 appreciated.

6 Mr. Clerk, do you want to
7 call the next person on this panel
8 to testify? And then we'll open it
9 up for questions from members of
10 the Committee.

11 THE CLERK: In order to
12 manage mics and seats, why don't we
13 run questions for this group first.
14 It might make this things a little
15 easier logistically.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
17 So, Emily, nobody else would like
18 to offer any testimony before or --
19 well, okay, never mind. Let's
20 start with questions with this
21 group, and then we'll move to
22 Emily. It was written a little
23 different. Emily was on this
24 panel.

25 Members of the Committee,

1 any questions to get it started?

2 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Yeah.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
4 recognizes Councilmember Phillips.

5 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
6 you for your testimony. I was just
7 noting to one of our leaders in our
8 office that as you noted in your
9 testimony, carbon neutrality often
10 times can go to the wayside
11 compared to all the issues that
12 happen in the City, so thanks for
13 bringing this to our attention as
14 much as possible.

15 But one of the things that
16 I wanted to say is that I couldn't
17 help but see in your testimony that
18 you noted that you're only one
19 person, a part of one
20 Administration and it's going to
21 take a number of people to really
22 make this possible.

23 I just want to know what
24 does it look like for you to have
25 more people involved in this,

1 right, because clearly, you know, I
2 guess since legislation came about,
3 maybe I would have never interacted
4 with your office for whatever
5 reason. So how is your office
6 working to interact with the
7 general public on an ongoing basis
8 by going out to neighborhoods,
9 going into these Districts because
10 to really talk about carbon
11 neutrality and make it a huge
12 awareness thing for the City.

13 MS. LANKENAU: Sure. So I
14 would say first with our new
15 Environmental Justice Team and the
16 Advisory Commission that we work
17 with, that is one level I think
18 that we're going to pull to be
19 increasingly in the community, both
20 as staffers and through the
21 Commission.

22 We will be working on --
23 we're finishing up an energy,
24 poverty alleviation strategy -- and
25 Nidhi can talk about that more --

1 and some of the planning work that
2 has gone into that, but figuring
3 out sort of the next steps to be
4 more present in the community to
5 really work on what needs to be
6 done to alleviate the cost of
7 paying your energy bills. So those
8 are just a couple ways.

9 We will also be -- this is
10 resilience, not mitigation but are
11 looking into various funding
12 sources to do an updated resilience
13 plan from our 2015 Growing
14 Stronger. Growing Stronger was not
15 really focused on municipal
16 actions. And the resilience plan
17 that we're going to do next is
18 going to be a (inaudible) in the
19 community, heavy intense planning
20 process. And through that even
21 though it's a resilience plan, we
22 are going to be developing
23 mitigation questions and approaches
24 to be able to speak to the
25 community.

1 So while we're out there
2 and minimize I think a lot of the
3 analysis, paralysis and
4 overplanning because there's so
5 many plans that happen in
6 communities, how we can answer a
7 lot of questions while we're out
8 there. So does that answer your
9 question?

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Yeah,
11 absolutely. I mean, I just
12 offer -- because a lot of the work
13 does involve community resilience.
14 For example, recycling didn't
15 become popular overnight. There
16 was a lot of advertisement to the
17 point we're recycling as something
18 that we do.

19 This is going to be the
20 same thing when it comes to carbon
21 neutrality, right. It's going to
22 have to be a level of advertisement
23 to help us get to that point we're
24 at. I'm just looking to see what
25 advertisement are we doing around

1 this issue.

2 MS. LANKENAU: I think this
3 will get to Mayor Parker's see,
4 touch, feel. And one of the things
5 we're working on right now is a bit
6 of community strategy so that we're
7 not stuck in our lingo. Every
8 department has their lingo and how
9 do we really make sustainability,
10 mitigation, resilience. People
11 feel it. They might just not
12 really know how they feel it, so
13 how do we democratize the work that
14 we do.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
16 you.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: A
18 couple of questions: So part of
19 the goal of the conversation here
20 today is to see what the likelihood
21 is that we can actually achieve
22 carbon neutrality before 2050. I
23 think based on the testimony that
24 we heard as well as the facts and
25 data that came with it, it seems

1 like we're on a good trajectory.

2 But talk to me about what
3 it would take to move that up 5 or
4 10 years. Let's say if we were
5 trying to achieve carbon neutrality
6 by 2040.

7 MS. LANKENAU: 2040.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: What
9 would it take for us to get there?

10 MS. LANKENAU: Yeah. I
11 mean, I think we're in an
12 unprecedented time, first of all,
13 with the Inflation Reduction Act to
14 go after more dollars to do more
15 work. So it's not necessarily a
16 burden for City government as it's
17 us going after the dollars.
18 Buildings take up -- they're the
19 largest part of the emissions
20 equation. And so, focusing on
21 buildings, both large buildings and
22 small buildings. So the energy,
23 poverty, alleviation strategy will
24 get to some of that regardless of
25 what kind of energy is powering

1 buildings.

2 One of the things that we
3 really want to see happen is that
4 people are enrolled in the
5 affordability programs. And so,
6 they're weatherizing their
7 properties which of course reduces
8 the amount of energy used, whether
9 that's gas or in the future
10 electric or whatever that mix looks
11 like. So I think right now it's a
12 little hard to say how we get to
13 2040, but there are certainly
14 levers and actions we can pull to
15 make that to expedite.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well,
17 that's going to be the theme for
18 today's hearing. So as other folks
19 come to testify, we want to
20 consistently ask folks' opinion as
21 it relates to expediting the
22 process.

23 Last question for me for
24 this particular panel, and then
25 I'll open it up to other members of

1 the Committee, what policy or
2 practice has another city taken
3 that we haven't necessarily adopted
4 in Philadelphia that you feel like
5 we should look at and possibly
6 adopt to try to again expedite
7 where we want to go as it relates
8 to carbon neutrality?

9 MS. LANKENAU: Sure. I
10 would say Boston. I think one of
11 my first meetings when I came in as
12 interim we met with Boston and they
13 do have what's called a building
14 performance policy standard. There
15 is money out there, federal dollars
16 to explore that. So that's
17 something that is on our --

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm
19 sorry. It's called?

20 MS. LANKENAU: Building
21 performance standard.

22 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.

23 MS. LANKENAU: And so, it
24 will be taking the work we're
25 already doing with our benchmarking

1 program, our performance policy and
2 it's like taking it up a notch to
3 really look at how buildings can
4 perform even better through basic
5 tune-ups. So other cities have
6 done it. I believe New York has
7 done it.

8 I think Nidhi can speak to
9 this more than I could. But that
10 is again if we're looking at
11 buildings being the biggest
12 emissions problem, we would focus
13 on buildings for sure.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
15 I'm sorry. One more question.

16 MS. LANKENAU: Yeah.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: In your
18 testimony you talked a little bit
19 about e-chargers and making sure
20 that they're being distributed in
21 an equitable way. Give us a little
22 more detail. Where are we as it
23 relates to e-chargers? How
24 responsible have we been as it
25 relates to the distribution of

1 those chargers and what is our plan
2 as it relates to the future and how
3 we see this as an infrastructure
4 issue.

5 Is it included in our
6 capital budget? Are we going to
7 rely on the private sector? Give
8 me a little information on that.

9 MS. LANKENAU: Sure. I
10 would say EVs, it's a mix. For the
11 municipal side of things, I'll ask
12 Dom McGraw to talk a bit more about
13 our policy and how we've been doing
14 this for the municipality and all
15 of our departments. And then if
16 you want further information, I can
17 ask Chris Puchalsky from our office
18 of Transportation, Infrastructure &
19 Sustainability to weigh in a little
20 bit more.

21 So with that, would you
22 like to contribute?

23 MR. MCGRAW: So I think
24 when we talk about charging
25 infrastructure, there's City-owned

1 assets and that charges City fleet
2 vehicles. However, when we are
3 talking about public charging, that
4 is not something that the
5 Administration oversees. So I
6 think typically we're looking for
7 industry to come in and fill that
8 void. That's why we're seeing
9 different chargers at different
10 retail stops and things like that.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I think
12 the concern is if we -- I'm sorry.
13 For the record, I want to
14 acknowledge that Councilmember
15 Young has joined us as well as
16 Councilmember Lozada.

17 I think the concern is that
18 if we allow the private sector to,
19 I don't want to say completely, but
20 to take the lead as it relates to
21 planning around e-chargers, we can
22 look up and be in a position where
23 a lot of poor communities and
24 communities of color are again left
25 out as it relates to another issue.

1 So help us understand how
2 do we assure as we're making this
3 transition, which we are all
4 excited about and we want to
5 advocate for, how do we assure that
6 communities of color and poor
7 communities are not left out? If
8 I'm in the private sector, what are
9 we doing to incentivize this type
10 of access? I just don't see how
11 this is equitable, if that makes
12 sense.

13 And I'm not saying you're
14 not doing it. I'm saying for me
15 based on what I'm hearing I'm not
16 quite sure that my question is
17 being answered.

18 MR. MCGRAW: Sure. And
19 Chris Puchalsky here from
20 Transportation can speak to that.
21 I think what I meant to say was
22 what our office oversees is the
23 distribution of fleet vehicle
24 charging and then the policies that
25 exist around that. So we work

1 heavily with the Department of
2 Fleet Services and how we can put
3 charging infrastructure around so
4 our City fleet can use it. But
5 Office of Transportation,
6 Infrastructure & Sustainability
7 oversees the policy.

8 MR. PUCHALSKY: Good
9 morning, Councilmember. Chris
10 Puchalsky, OTIS. I think you raise
11 a really great point, that the
12 private sector while we are seeing
13 more and more charge points being
14 installed left to its own devices
15 may not, likely will not end up
16 with an equitable solution just
17 like we see so many areas of our
18 society.

19 I think there's a few
20 pieces we're trying to put
21 together. One is looking at the
22 zoning code to see how we can
23 improve that to ensure that more
24 charging is installed with new
25 development. Something we did last

1 year was apply for a federal grant
2 to install charging around rec
3 centers. We did not win that
4 federal grant, but we're trying to
5 learn from what the federal
6 government did want to fund so we
7 could readjust our strategy next
8 time.

9 We're looking at several of
10 the other federal grants either
11 through the Bipartisan
12 Infrastructure Law or the Inflation
13 Reduction Act. Three of the
14 programs are NEVI, the National
15 Electrical Vehicle Infrastructure
16 program; CPRG, the Climate
17 Pollution Reduction Grant; and CFI,
18 who I can't remember the name of
19 that one right now. But there's a
20 bunch of different grant
21 opportunities that we can look to
22 jumpstart it.

23 I think the other thing is
24 looking at what are the incentives
25 and where does the private sector

1 want to go and how can we put our
2 thumb on the scale, so to speak. I
3 think we're still learning that and
4 it's probably too soon to talk
5 about the budget ask and the
6 capital operating budget, but it's
7 something that we're looking at
8 developing a plan. We're hoping in
9 the next few months to put out the
10 starting strategy around the
11 electric vehicle charging.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chris,
13 you've been testifying in hearings
14 with me too much so you already
15 knew where I was about to go. I
16 would love to, and I just want to
17 put this on the record and then
18 I'll recognize other members who
19 may have questions. I would love
20 to see a proactive plan that allows
21 the City to partner with other
22 departments that already exist such
23 as Parks & Rec like you said or the
24 libraries to be able -- imagine
25 someone being able to charge their

1 car at the library, go in and be
2 able to get some work done and read
3 some books and then be able to come
4 back and, you know.

5 And because our libraries
6 are dispersed in a way that's
7 equitable as well as our rec
8 centers, there is a path to being
9 able to address that issue. So
10 thank you, Chris. I appreciate
11 your testimony.

12 Chair recognizes Vice-Chair
13 Landau and then Councilmember
14 Young.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
16 Thanks.

17 Thank you so much for all
18 your testimony. I have a couple of
19 questions that include I am still
20 forever struck by that 70 percent
21 that our emissions are coming from
22 buildings throughout the City and
23 really also am very interested in
24 anything else we can do to help us
25 speed up the repairs that we need

1 to make, any of the energy
2 efficiencies in these buildings.
3 Whether it's Boston, New York,
4 whatever information you can give
5 to us that would help us help you
6 and help all of us, we really would
7 like that information.

8 I'm excited at this time of
9 home repairs coming and Basic
10 System Repairs that we can start
11 holistically looking at our
12 buildings, but lower income people
13 need help. Our big building people
14 need to focus on all of us because
15 it's got to be a part of their kind
16 of social impact of having their
17 industry or their building here in
18 the City of Philadelphia. Give
19 back to us. Help us breathe
20 better. Help us all thrive --
21 sorry to use your term -- in the
22 City, but I think that is really
23 important that they have that
24 social compact with us. So
25 whatever you can give us on that.

1 I have more questions about
2 recycling, finding out recently
3 that only 13 percent of
4 Philadelphians recycle; is that
5 about right? That's what I've
6 heard.

7 MR. LANKENAU: Yeah. For
8 that, I would direct that one to
9 Kyle Lewis in our Sanitation
10 Department on details about our
11 recycling, but yeah.

12 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: It
13 sounds like I got a number that was
14 extremely low. I don't like that.
15 So what can we do, and maybe you're
16 not the answer to this, but to
17 better promote recycling to folks,
18 including businesses and commercial
19 activity as well, not everybody's
20 recycling when they should?

21 Even when we do separate
22 out our recycling, I want to know
23 how we can better handle our
24 plastics. And I know our food
25 system waste can be used in

1 positive ways as well. And so,
2 when can we start composting and
3 using all that waste in a way that
4 generates us and helps us?

5 MS. LANKENAU: Sure. So
6 for the recycling question, I'd
7 like to call up Kyle Lewis. For
8 the composting, Erica Smith Fichman
9 from Parks & Rec with the organics
10 program that they're working on
11 with Bennett Composting and if they
12 need to defer to others in their
13 department, I will ask them to do
14 so.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: And
16 also while we're at it, can I also
17 throw in I'm very interested in
18 what we're doing with the streets
19 to make them more bike- and
20 pedestrian-friendly.

21 MS. LANKENAU: Okay.
22 (Witness approached Witness
23 table.)

24 MS. LEWIS: Good morning.
25 I am Kyle Lewis, Recycling Program

1 Director with the Sanitation
2 Department. So I want to address
3 the 13 percent first. It doesn't
4 necessarily mean that 13 percent of
5 the people are recycling. It means
6 that 13 percent of the waste that
7 we are collecting is being diverted
8 by recycling, diverted to
9 recycling.

10 We also have a number of
11 other -- and that is a statistic
12 for our curbside collections. We
13 also recycle through our sanitation
14 convenience centers. We recycle
15 metals. We recycle fluorescent
16 light bulbs. We recycle yard
17 waste, white goods and batteries
18 also at our sanitation convenience
19 centers as well as we take tires
20 for disposal. And so, that number
21 of 13 percent is the curbside
22 collections number. And I can get
23 you if you'd like the broader
24 number from the recycling of the
25 materials at the sanitation

1 convenience centers.

2 And then there were other
3 questions, but I can't say that I
4 have them in --

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: So
6 thank you for that. That's great.
7 Can we do better with plastics and
8 then also food waste and composting
9 at some point?

10 MS. LEWIS: So we can
11 certainly do better with plastics.
12 Currently in the City of
13 Philadelphia we recycle plastics
14 Nos. 1, 2 and 5. So what we tell
15 our public is that we recycle 215s
16 in the 215, right. So it's an easy
17 way for them to get to know what
18 they can recycle. Because the
19 truth of the matter is that the
20 plastic industry is playing a
21 little bit of a trick in that all
22 of the plastics with that recycling
23 symbol Mobius, those chasing arrows
24 in a triangle, all of those
25 plastics are not really recyclable.

1 There's not a market for all of
2 those plastics.

3 And so, we try to be very
4 specific with our public as to what
5 materials are accepted, recyclable
6 because the truth of the matter is
7 that in order for it to be
8 environmentally viable, it needs to
9 be clean recycling. And so, we at
10 my office in Sanitation have been
11 constantly and constantly doing a
12 large push in order to let people
13 know what's recyclable, what's not
14 recyclable, acceptable, you know.

15 I had somebody -- I was
16 actually at a party this weekend
17 and she said, oh, just put it in
18 the recycling bin. And I was like
19 uh, and we haven't had the
20 what-is-my-job conversation, right.
21 But I ended up kind of explaining
22 to the party why this plastic is
23 recyclable and this one isn't.

24 And so, it is messaging
25 that is something that we are

1 consistently getting out to our
2 public. And we ask if any City
3 Councilpeople, if you are having
4 events, if you are having staff
5 meetings, that we be able to come
6 in and teach that because we find
7 that talking with people about
8 recycling in a more intimate
9 setting is really what changes
10 their behavior.

11 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: And I
12 suppose the larger question also is
13 can we -- I want to handle plastics
14 in the best possible way we can
15 here in Philadelphia as well. I
16 know we now know what's recyclable,
17 but we want to also make sure that
18 we're recycling in the healthiest
19 way possible here in Philadelphia.

20 MS. LEWIS: Mm-hmm.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: And
22 then also wanted to get to food
23 waste too.

24 MS. LEWIS: Right. In
25 terms of the recycling, we don't

1 use a chemical recycling process.
2 We sort bale. It is a contracted
3 company that we work with. Our
4 current contract is with Waste
5 Management and it's right on Bleigh
6 Avenue in Philadelphia. So that
7 material is sorted out, baled and
8 then sold to the markets.

9 We're not stockpile --
10 there's no stockpiling of
11 materials. It's really being sold,
12 you know, your phone cases is
13 likely made out of recycled
14 plastics as well as other items
15 that we use every day. And so, I
16 want to make sure that I'm
17 answering your question. But
18 honestly, I'm not clear on what you
19 mean by how can we better handle
20 plastics.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
22 Someone is taking the plastics and
23 putting it into a different form to
24 create new plastics, so it's
25 harming someone somewhere, right.

1 The processing plant is not the
2 safest place in the world, so
3 that's what I was looking into.
4 But we can also talk more offline
5 about that as well.

6 MS. LEWIS: We can do that.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: And
8 then the food waste.

9 MS. LEWIS: In terms of
10 food waste, we at Sanitation have
11 been working with the Water
12 Department in order to work on an
13 anaerobic digestion process of
14 taking the food waste that is
15 source separated organics, turning
16 them into a slurry, and then that
17 would go into the Water Department
18 digesters to really enrich the
19 pellets that they are already
20 making. And so, we have been
21 investigating that. It is an
22 ongoing process.

23 There's been a benchtop
24 study with Temple University for
25 that process and that was

1 successful, but the Water
2 Department has to make sure that
3 the process will not foul up their
4 digesters because that's not
5 something that we can afford to
6 happen. The waste that comes out
7 of the City of Philadelphia has to
8 be processed and kind of going into
9 the system and gets out of the
10 system within a certain timely
11 fashion. And so, that's what we in
12 Sanitation are doing. And I know
13 Parks & Rec has a community compost
14 network as well as looking into
15 expand composting within Parks &
16 Recreation centers.

17 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
18 you.

19 MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
21 recognizes Councilmember Young.

22 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
23 you, Mr. Chair.

24 A few questions actually
25 along the lines of things that's

1 been testified today. Has the
2 City -- there was an article that
3 came out a couple of months ago
4 about L&I and the fact that there
5 isn't enough chargers for the
6 electric vehicles, right. So has
7 the City done any type of study to
8 determine what its own needs are
9 for electric charging vehicles and
10 is that somewhere published that we
11 as Councilmembers can take a look
12 at?

13 MS. LANKENAU: Sure. I'm
14 going to defer this to Dom.

15 MR. MCGRAW: Sure. Yes.
16 So we are actively working with
17 departments to assess their need.
18 We know what a vehicle conversion
19 strategy would look like as far
20 as -- and that's highlighted in our
21 Municipal Clean Fleet Plan, so
22 looking at how we can transition
23 our light-, medium-duty fleet to
24 electric. On the heavier side, the
25 technology isn't quite there for

1 our needs.

2 So now as we're
3 transitioning and electrifying our
4 fleet and moving that forward, the
5 need for infrastructure is growing.
6 And so, we have been assessing
7 sites to find out where the best is
8 for our operating departments.

9 Some of our operating departments
10 lease garage space. Some are on
11 municipal assets. So while we're
12 working on building out that
13 infrastructure, we have like a
14 charging contract to use with EVgo
15 currently.

16 And so, they're providing
17 supplementary support while we
18 build out our charging
19 infrastructure. I will say we have
20 solidified a charging
21 infrastructure vendor to collect
22 all the equipment and now we're
23 going to be installing it. So
24 that's going to ramp up
25 significantly, but that's kind of

1 where we're at.

2 We currently have 54 sites
3 across City assets and that
4 provides 100 ports. We have 250
5 vehicles, so we should be able to
6 be charging in a regular capacity
7 with that. However, different
8 departments have different needs
9 and where this infrastructure is
10 located is something that we're
11 working on.

12 So we're developing -- to
13 answer your question, we're
14 developing a full plan. I can
15 absolutely share that with you when
16 that's completed. We're regularly
17 working with departments now to
18 meet their needs.

19 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
20 you. Along those lines just for
21 future reference, I know that there
22 is a proposed police station in my
23 District. And I can tell you that
24 the residents would much more like
25 electric charging stations than the

1 traditional fueling stations there,
2 so that could be a potential site
3 to add more electric charging
4 infrastructure there.

5 Second question I have,
6 what are some efforts or what are
7 your efforts to reduce our carbon
8 footprint I guess regionally,
9 right? How have you been working
10 with some of our other
11 municipalities in the region to
12 address this issue, because
13 Philadelphia can't just address it
14 alone? Whatever our efforts are,
15 it doesn't do anything if our
16 partners regionally aren't
17 collectively working to that goal
18 as well.

19 MS. LANKENAU: Sure. I
20 would say the first step has been
21 very recent with the Inflation
22 Reduction Act. There is a pot of
23 funding, formula funding right now
24 for the Climate Pollution Reduction
25 Act, the Delaware Valley Regional

1 Commission. I was leading the
2 planning effort for the
3 Pennsylvania municipalities and its
4 jurisdiction, so Chester, Bucks
5 Mont Co., us, Delaware County.

6 From there the formula
7 funding is a guaranteed \$1 million
8 that is used to develop the plan.
9 Hot on the heels of that within a
10 month we had to be assembling a
11 list of implementation projects.
12 So that too is a collaborative
13 effort with Delaware Valley
14 Planning and other municipalities
15 because their needs and their
16 readiness is very different than
17 our needs and our readiness.

18 So the plan was just
19 submitted. I think the email came
20 in today and the projects have been
21 identified and they relate to
22 things, reducing building
23 emissions, act of transportation.
24 There's I think seven to nine
25 different areas of focus in that

1 that really will help address
2 reducing the carbon footprint not
3 just in Philadelphia but for others
4 since we know this does not respect
5 geographical boundaries.

6 Nidhi, is there anything
7 else you would like to add to that?

8 MS. KRISHEN: The
9 Philadelphia Energy is leading an
10 application for implementation
11 dollars for the CPRG coordinating
12 all our projects. I'm sure I'll
13 let them speak more about that, but
14 thank you.

15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
16 you. And one more question. This
17 is just on the recycling. Is there
18 any literature that we can give out
19 to our constituents on how to
20 recycle because I've been only in
21 office in for two months now, but
22 this is some things that I want to
23 give out to our constituents on the
24 need and the understanding on the
25 knowledge and education of how to

1 recycle properly?

2 MS. LEWIS: Absolutely.

3 And thank you for that willingness
4 to do that. We will deliver to all
5 of City Council information about
6 recycling so that you can have it
7 for your constituents. You'll have
8 that within the week.

9 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
10 you.

11 MS. LEWIS: And our website
12 is very robust in terms of
13 recycling information as well.

14 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
15 you.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
17 recognizes Councilmember Lozada.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Just
19 a follow-up to recycling. As we as
20 a city looked at becoming cleaner
21 and green, have we thought of the
22 possibilities of partnering with
23 the private recycling organizations
24 or companies in different companies
25 in different districts? Like in a

1 district like mine I can think of
2 four.

3 Have we thought of
4 partnering with them to help
5 receive some of those appropriate
6 and maybe nontraditional items that
7 would show up in recycle centers to
8 help us respond to the need and
9 eliminate those items from ending
10 up on our sidewalks as they often
11 do, because people are not educated
12 on where do I take it, what is
13 appropriate and what is not?

14 MS. LEWIS: So we partnered
15 with many organizations and we're
16 happy to continue to do that. We
17 have a recycling donation resource
18 finder that's online. If I'm being
19 honest, it needs to be updated and
20 we have plans to update that. And
21 you can go to that recycling and
22 resource finder and basically type
23 in any type of material that you
24 have and it will tell you where to
25 recycle, and we partner with all of

1 those organizations that are
2 currently on the finder and we will
3 update and grow the finder and
4 partner with more organizations.
5 And so, if you have those
6 organizations in your community,
7 please send them our way and we
8 will make sure that they get onto
9 the finder.

10 One of the key items that
11 we collect at our sanitation
12 convenience centers are
13 electronics. And so, we do collect
14 electronics at our sanitation
15 convenience centers as well, and we
16 partner with community
17 organizations throughout the year
18 and do presentations in church
19 basements, at community
20 organizations. And again, we're
21 happy to do that.

22 Any information -- any
23 invitation that we receive we're
24 happy to say yes because we want
25 people to get information about

1 recycling. And again, when we go
2 to organizations, one thing we do
3 is just play a recycle sort game
4 with everybody, right. We do that
5 from kids to full-grown elderly
6 adults, because many of us have
7 been recycling for many years, but
8 we're not doing it right and it's
9 critical that we do it right.

10 And so, any of those
11 organizations that you have in
12 mind, please send them our way
13 because we will be happy to go to
14 any meetings. I don't care if it's
15 a meeting of 5 people or a meeting
16 of 500 people. We're happy to be
17 there and show people how to
18 recycle and encourage them to
19 recycle because it ultimately
20 affects us all.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
22 you.

23 MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
25 recognizes Councilmember Phillips.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: So
2 this is what I want to say and I
3 think it's really important. We
4 have in different districts various
5 events and programs. A lot of
6 events and programs are tailored to
7 certain issues and concerns. So it
8 really sometimes if we have the
9 ability to fit you in or fit
10 someone like yourself in, that's
11 fine. But it's not always our
12 focus, right.

13 I think your office would
14 benefit from organizing your own
15 events, your own programs and then
16 just inviting District
17 Councilmembers as well as At-large
18 members and need be to come to the
19 event and help promote the event
20 and so forth. But you all have to
21 begin to do the leg work to make
22 awareness about this because you
23 are the experts, you're the leaders
24 in this, and I think it's really
25 important that you -- like this

1 office becomes a team player in
2 organizing its events rather than
3 waiting for us to organize them.

4 Because one of the things
5 I'm thinking about is there are
6 children out there. There should
7 be presentations in schools where
8 you're talking about the importance
9 of recycling. There are senior
10 citizens that are in need of
11 understanding why recycling is more
12 important than maybe some archaic
13 ways that they might have been
14 doing things. Whatever that may
15 be, I just think it's important
16 that you all have to do the
17 promotions and awareness of your
18 office a lot better and find
19 yourselves more connected into the
20 neighborhoods.

21 MS. LEWIS: Well, I
22 certainly appreciate that, the
23 thought that we need to do a better
24 job so we will certainly look at
25 that. We do a lot of community

1 meetings through our Block Captain
2 Network because they are a part of
3 Sanitation, so we will go out to
4 Block Captain meetings and have
5 conversations with them at Block
6 Captain meetings as well. But we
7 can certainly look at doing
8 additional events throughout the
9 community so we get the work out
10 more.

11 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
12 you.

13 MS. LEWIS: As far as you
14 mentioned the schools, we actually
15 right now are just awarding our
16 Green Schools program, our Green
17 Schools program, our grants to
18 schools whether it be parochial,
19 private or public schools that
20 encourage environmental
21 sustainability. And so, we have
22 projects proposed that are
23 installing a water fountain that
24 takes reusable bottles in the
25 schools and then everybody gets a

1 reusable bottle so that that cuts
2 down on plastic waste. And we have
3 projects proposed for vertical
4 gardens and different things in
5 order to beautify and promote
6 environmental sustainability.

7 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Yeah,
8 I mean that's a great program. But
9 that also rewards the schools and
10 kids who are into that. We have
11 kids that I see every day throw
12 trash on the ground. We have kids
13 every day that I see that are
14 certainly not thinking about
15 recycling when they're dumping
16 things into trash cans and so
17 forth. So I think it really does
18 start early on.

19 And I think it's like
20 assembly programs finding ways to
21 see how many schools can you get to
22 every year annually because they
23 grow into adults. And before 2050,
24 they can be the champions for this
25 particular cause because they

1 understand the importance of it.
2 So I think our focus on
3 sustainability has to be about
4 making more direct presentations
5 and having a lot of banners or
6 posters or something that young
7 kids face about this. Because
8 people my age and so forth, we're
9 either going to do it or not. But
10 our kids are our future and they
11 actually can be the more brilliant
12 ones to help us understand why this
13 is important.

14 All right. I'm done,
15 Chairman. Thank you.

16 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
17 you, Councilmember Phillips. We
18 appreciate it.

19 And did you want to
20 respond?

21 MS. LANKENAU: Not respond,
22 but I realize we did not answer one
23 of Councilmember Landau's
24 questions.

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Please.

1 MS. LANKENAU: Yes. So,
2 Dom, would you like to --

3 MR. MCGRAW: Yes. So it
4 was around buildings. Oh, and then
5 streets was another one so there
6 are two unanswered questions. So
7 for buildings, we are working with
8 the Philadelphia Energy Authority
9 regularly. We take advantage of
10 the Pennsylvania Guaranteed Savings
11 Act, which allows us to go in and
12 do a deep energy retrofit in our
13 facilities. We did it at the
14 quadplex, so this building and the
15 surrounding high-rises that the
16 City owns. We did it at the
17 Philadelphia Museum of Art.

18 And then we're now also
19 doing, speaking of Streets, the
20 Streetlighting project is all
21 funded through this Act. It allows
22 us to take out a special financing
23 through bonds that allow us to --
24 the savings from the project pays
25 the bond. So it allows us to go in

1 and do these deep energy projects.

2 So up next what we have
3 going on, we have RFPs out right
4 now for we're going to come back to
5 these buildings because the last
6 project that we did was in 2050.

7 We're going to do another deep
8 energy retrofit here in City Hall.

9 One Parkway Building, Municipal
10 Services Building and then the
11 Center for Criminal Justice as well
12 as multiple health services and
13 homeless services facilities.

14 So with that, we know we're
15 going to see savings. It's going
16 to pay for itself, but also it's
17 going to give significant energy,
18 energy reduction which will help
19 towards our carbon neutrality goal
20 from municipal assets. But it also
21 increased health within the spaces.

22 We're also working with the
23 School District of Philadelphia.
24 We're going to be taking on their
25 energy procurement and then through

1 that, doing a lot of -- and bill
2 analysis so the utility bill
3 analysis, and that will help us
4 identify different energy
5 conservation measures we can take
6 on.

7 The Energy Authority's
8 already been working with them on
9 the Pennsylvania Guaranteed Energy
10 Savings Act and we've been doing
11 multiple projects, and Emily can
12 speak more to that. But really
13 looking at how we can kind of go
14 deeper and maybe we can kind of
15 target some facilities because of
16 some of the findings we will find
17 through energy analysis there. And
18 can you repeat your streets
19 question?

20 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Just
21 wanted to know -- you might or
22 might not be the right person to
23 answer this, but what are we doing
24 with our streets to make them more
25 biker- and walker-friendly?

1 MS. LANKENAU: Sure.

2 Chris.

3 MR. PUCHALSKY: Thanks for

4 the question, Councilmember.

5 There's a whole slew of things

6 we're doing, and I think they all

7 fit under something we know from

8 our Vision Zero program, is that

9 slower is safer. When a pedestrian

10 is hit at 25 miles per hour, they

11 have a 90 percent chance of

12 surviving. When that same

13 pedestrian is hit at 45 miles per

14 hour, they have a 90 percent chance

15 of dying. So we have a whole set

16 of programs and policies in order

17 to encourage drivers to drive at a

18 safe speed.

19 The speed cameras on

20 Roosevelt Boulevard have been

21 tremendously successful, and we

22 worked with the Coalition to make

23 that permanent last year and to get

24 five new corridors plus five school

25 zones. We're trying to roll that

1 out. We were just meeting with
2 Councilmember Thomas' staff last
3 week, and we appreciate the
4 interest from his office and lots
5 of other offices on safety, so
6 increasing the automated
7 enforcement, which is not only
8 effective but doesn't lead to some
9 of the escalations that we've seen
10 with manual enforcement where it
11 could end up poorly for either the
12 driver or the law enforcement
13 professional.

14 We also have a whole bunch
15 from various small programs, like
16 the Speed Traffic Calming Request
17 program which we recently worked
18 with the Streets Department to
19 reform that program to make it more
20 user-friendly for residents to
21 request speed cushions and other
22 traffic calming interventions on
23 the streets to neighborhood slow
24 zones where we actually work with
25 an entire neighborhood to do

1 traffic calming all at once.

2 We sit down at a workshop.

3 We give them the monopoly money and

4 the cost of different speed

5 cushions, bump-outs, et cetera.

6 And they have them plan out how

7 their own neighborhood is going to

8 be safer. And then all the way

9 from really large infrastructure

10 grants, like last year we got a

11 RAISE grant to do traffic calming

12 at seven schools in North

13 Philadelphia. So those are all the

14 types of things that we are doing.

15 We can probably spend the next hour

16 talking about it and would love to

17 whenever you're convenient.

18 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank

19 you.

20 MR. PUCHALSKY: And I'll

21 just add additionally the Philly

22 Streetlight Improvement Project --

23 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chris,

24 hold on. Go ahead.

25 MR. PUCHALSKY: The Philly

1 Streetlight Improvement Project
2 will also significantly increase
3 visibility, so going towards our
4 Vision Zero goals.

5 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
6 you.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Oh, go
8 ahead please.

9 MS. LEWIS: I did want to
10 take an opportunity -- and thank
11 you -- to address the Councilman's
12 comments on the school assemblies.
13 The Green Schools program is a
14 threefold program. It is the grant
15 program. It is the offer to the
16 schools to come in and do
17 assemblies and classroom visits
18 with any of our staff, whether that
19 be about recycling or whether that
20 be about green jobs in general or
21 jobs in sanitation.

22 We have a lot of -- just to
23 put it honestly, we have a lot of
24 Black males who are in positions of
25 authority in the Sanitation

1 Department that I think is a good
2 image for students to see. And so,
3 we offer the schools the
4 opportunity for any of our
5 Sanitation staff to come in and
6 have conversations via assembly or
7 as I said classroom visits on any
8 range of topics depending upon
9 ages.

10 The other component of the
11 Green Schools program is that we
12 offer the schools that we will come
13 in and do a waste audit and show
14 them how they can better manage
15 their waste within the schools.
16 And so, the Green Schools program
17 is those three components. It's
18 the grants, it's the assemblies and
19 classroom visits and waste audits.

20 We've also partnered with
21 the School District, and it is
22 certainly time to revisit and we
23 can certainly be more proactive in
24 kind of calling the schools and
25 asking them as opposed to just

1 sending them out an email, so I
2 certainly agree with that. But we
3 have partnered with the schools in
4 that our posters -- we've edited
5 our posters to put School District
6 logos and identification on them
7 and then they hang in the School
8 District cafeterias.

9 And so, I appreciate all of
10 these suggestions that come out of
11 these meetings because we certainly
12 can't think of everything. And I
13 appreciate your comments, and we
14 will take them to heart and pursue
15 them.

16 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
17 you. I just want to say I
18 appreciate you sharing that insight
19 and the work that you're doing.
20 Certainly continue it. And as you
21 said, I think that being really
22 proactive, having a calendar of
23 events, aggressive about getting
24 the relationships into the schools
25 will make a world of a difference.

1 For a program of that nature, it
2 could make a huge impact on the
3 lives of kids, especially if we not
4 only enforce it through assembly
5 but also reinforce it through
6 teachers and so forth, have the
7 School District reinforce it
8 throughout their lessons and so
9 forth as much as they can. So I
10 think we just need to be a little
11 bit more aggressive with it. So
12 thank you.

13 MS. LEWIS: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
15 you, Councilmember Phillips.

16 Councilmember Young, did
17 you have a comment?

18 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Yes.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yes,
20 sir. The Chair recognizes
21 Councilmember Young.

22 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: The
23 implementation of the Philly
24 Streetlight Improvement Project,
25 are they City workers that are

1 actually changing out the lights or
2 are they privately contracted?

3 MR. MCGRAW: No, it's
4 contracted out with -- Ameresco is
5 the company and then they have subs
6 that work with them. So if it is
7 an issue with an existing
8 streetlight, it would go to the
9 Streets Department. But as we're
10 moving forward with this project
11 and going
12 neighborhood-by-neighborhood, they
13 will be target for retrofit. Does
14 that make sense?

15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Yeah.
16 And was that RFP'd out? How was
17 that company --

18 MR. MCGRAW: Yes, it was a
19 full RFP.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
21 recognizes Councilmember Lozada.

22 Before Councilmember Lozada
23 go, you spoke about the RAISE grant
24 program. Please tell me that the
25 majority of that money was spent on

1 the 12 percent of the roads that
2 produced the majority of our car
3 accidents in the City. Please tell
4 me that's the focus of --

5 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah. So
6 none of that money has been spent
7 yet because they made the RAISE
8 announcement last year. It usually
9 takes over a year to get the grant
10 under contract and another two to
11 three years to move through the
12 design process until we get to
13 construction.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: That
15 makes the City look bad, but okay.

16 MR. PUCHALSKY: Well, some
17 of its -- yeah, the federal
18 government doesn't always move as
19 fast as we want, but I know they're
20 trying. But, yes, we specifically
21 selected those schools to try to
22 target a lot of the High Energy
23 Network. Not every mile is because
24 kids walk a lot of different
25 directions, but we targeted those

1 schools because they were in
2 neighborhoods that both have a lot
3 of High Energy Network streets and
4 they were low-income minority
5 communities that were suffering
6 disproportionately from traffic
7 violence.

8 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: For
9 those who are not aware, we've been
10 down this road a lot of times in a
11 lot of different hearings and one
12 of the things that was most
13 alarming during the pandemic was
14 that not only did we see an
15 increase in hit-and-runs but we
16 didn't have the proper technology,
17 and we recognize that a few roads
18 were producing the majority of the
19 accidents.

20 So when I'm talking about
21 the 12 percent, it's a number that
22 we've reflected upon based on a
23 number of different conversations
24 and deep dives into this particular
25 issue. So I'm very glad to hear

1 that. A little disappointed in how
2 long it's going to take, but very
3 excited to hear that we still have
4 that sharp focus as it relates to
5 investing infrastructure dollars on
6 the High Energy Network, those
7 intersections, those streets, those
8 areas that produce most of our car
9 accidents.

10 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yes, sir.
11 Every opportunity we get or every
12 reconcern from a resident, that is
13 the very first place we look to say
14 whether that comes to the top of
15 our list or falls down farther, is
16 it on the High Energy Network.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: This is
18 the last question.

19 Chair recognizes
20 Councilmember Lozada.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Very
22 quickly. I know out of my office
23 we have prioritized recreation
24 centers, schools and parks for
25 calming measures and speed bumps,

1 but we have a list of residents who
2 have put in petitions to request
3 speed bumps. Do we know what is it
4 going to cost us to be able to
5 install these speed cushions in the
6 applications or in the requests
7 that have already come in?

8 Do we know how many that's
9 been requested or are in the
10 pipeline? How do we figure out,
11 how do we prioritize them? When I
12 talk to police, police say, well,
13 we base them on accidents. And
14 some of our intersections are
15 difficult to understand the numbers
16 that police are reporting based on
17 what community residents are saying
18 or just standing on that corner and
19 seeing how traffic moves.

20 So are we analyzing that?
21 How do we do that if we're not?
22 And what are the results of the
23 reports that you guys are getting
24 if you're actually doing it?

25 MR. PUCHALSKY: Yeah,

1 that's a great question. So on the
2 crash data, we know that every
3 crash is reported. So sometimes
4 when we're having a conversation
5 and we say, hey, we don't see any
6 crashes at this intersection,
7 almost always the residents say,
8 you don't know about the one that
9 happened last week or the
10 overturned car, and not every crash
11 is reported.

12 I don't have those numbers
13 at my fingertips, but I can go back
14 and work with the Streets
15 Department to get you that list of
16 what would it cost to identify
17 everything that's currently on the
18 list. We know this is an
19 increasingly popular program where
20 more and more residents are seeing
21 that they can't walk to school --
22 they can't walk their kids to
23 school safely, they can't go to the
24 corner store to pick up a gallon of
25 milk without fearing for their

1 lives, so we know it's popular.

2 But we can try to get that number

3 and get back to you.

4 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Okay.

5 That would be awesome, yes. And as

6 it relates to the lights that

7 Councilmember Young mentioned, I

8 know that in order for a bulb to be

9 changed, there's a certain process.

10 But if I understand correctly, the

11 City is in the process of changing

12 the actual unit, right, the

13 streetlight. Do we know or how

14 many have been changed up until

15 now? What is left? How much is

16 that going to cost us and how do

17 you select which go first?

18 MR. MCGRAW: I'm going to

19 pass it to Emily Schapira from the

20 Philadelphia Energy Authority.

21 THE CLERK: Instead of

22 passing that question to Emily, why

23 don't we move to the next panel

24 which is Emily.

25 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA:

1 That's fine.

2 MS. LANKENAU: Thank you.

3 Thank you very much. And that is a
4 great segue. I did want to say
5 that a lot of our work we do work
6 with the Energy Authority very
7 closely and we need them. So thank
8 you.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
10 you to the panel. Thank you to the
11 Admin team. We appreciate all
12 you're doing and we look forward to
13 having this conversation again some
14 time soon. Thank you.

15 Mr. Clerk, will you please
16 call the next panel. We're going
17 to go with Emily and the Professor,
18 right?

19 THE CLERK: That's
20 correct, Mr. Chair. Emily Schapira
21 and Rob Kuper. Professor Kuper,
22 would you come forward as well.

23 (Witnesses approached
24 Witness table.)

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Emily,

1 we'll start with you. Please state
2 your name for the record and of
3 course you may begin with your
4 testimony. And I think
5 Councilmember Lozada already has
6 dibs on first question.

7 MS. SCHAPIRA: My name's
8 Emily Schapira. I'm the President
9 and CEO of the Philadelphia Energy
10 Authority. Good afternoon now to
11 Chair Thomas, members of the
12 Committee. I think you all know,
13 and I will summarize my testimony,
14 you have it in writing, the
15 Philadelphia Energy Authority is a
16 municipal authority chartered by
17 City Council and the Mayor in 2010.
18 We report up to a Board that's
19 appointed by the Mayor and Council.

20 We're focused on building a
21 robust and equitable clean energy
22 economy here in Philly. We support
23 and enable the City, the School
24 District and the private sector,
25 including in particular affordable

1 housing to access, develop,
2 procure, finance and implement
3 energy projects that help drive to
4 our carbon neutrality goals while
5 at the same time addressing some of
6 Philly's biggest challenges like
7 poverty, education, public health,
8 Vision Zero, public safety and much
9 more.

10 In 2016 in partnership with
11 then City Council President Clarke,
12 we launched the Philadelphia Energy
13 Campaign, a \$1 billion 10-year
14 investment in energy efficiency and
15 clean energy projects to create
16 10,000 jobs. We are well on our
17 way to meeting these ambitious
18 goals.

19 We're about to formally
20 announce our 2023 numbers, but I
21 can preview you here that we've
22 supported more than \$900 million in
23 projects just through seven years
24 of the program and have created
25 7500 hundred jobs so far. We view

1 our role as implementators so
2 that's why a lot of the questions
3 that you're asking about, energy
4 projects to sustainability, are
5 coming back my way.

6 We follow the lead of our
7 City's leadership and the Office of
8 Sustainability when they set policy
9 and priorities while we focus on
10 the nitty-gritty needed to execute
11 programs and projects. So we hold
12 long-term contracts on behalf of
13 the City, including for
14 streetlighting, issue bonds, manage
15 complex energy procurements on
16 behalf of the City.

17 We provide technical
18 support to the School District. We
19 run consumer- and business-focused
20 programs that enable the
21 marketplace to drive climate
22 adaptation just like you were
23 talking about with things like EVs
24 or energy efficiency in buildings
25 to Councilmember Landau's point.

1 And then we also run
2 workforce development programs that
3 build onramps to employment in this
4 industry, particularly for
5 historically marginalized
6 populations. We exist to help
7 Philadelphia's climate efforts
8 scale bigger, move faster and break
9 down barriers to clean energy and
10 its benefits.

11 I want to give a few
12 examples, and I will answer some
13 questions as I do that. The first
14 is the Philly Streetlight
15 Improvement Project. Of course,
16 that's in partnership with the
17 Streets Department and the Office
18 of Sustainability. Before we
19 launched this project, Streets used
20 their capital budget for many years
21 to make lighting upgrades where
22 they could afford to do it. They
23 completed about 2200 lights a year.

24 Using a comprehensive
25 energy project strategy with PEA,

1 we were able to issue the City's
2 first sustainability bond, and
3 we're spending about \$92 million to
4 replace and connect 130,000
5 streetlights with super energy
6 efficient, dark sky-compliant,
7 warm-colored LEDs and link all new
8 and existing LEDs that the Streets
9 Department had previously replaced
10 to a lighting management system
11 that provides dimming and
12 brightening controls and realtime
13 outage alerts. So we're
14 eliminating sort of the need to go
15 find fixtures that are out or file
16 through on 311 reports we'll know
17 immediately.

18 And also, in certain places
19 where we're seeing high instances
20 of vehicle and pedestrian crashes,
21 we have a scheme in place that
22 brightens those locations
23 significantly so that the
24 visibility is much better at night.
25 We were able to include also a

1 comprehensive, equity-driven
2 lighting design process to allow
3 for stakeholder engagement. And
4 this project will touch every
5 single neighborhood in the City
6 over two years.

7 So we'll complete all
8 130,000 fixtures in a 24-month
9 construction cycle. We're about
10 six months into that -- almost six
11 months into that at the moment.
12 We're about 15 percent of the way
13 through at the moment and we are
14 going to be speeding up shortly as
15 we're getting more of the fixtures
16 completed and delivered.

17 The project pays for itself
18 over 10 years, provides local
19 economic benefits and employment
20 through auditing. We're doing
21 local assembly. You may have seen
22 the recent news article about the
23 local assembly plant out in West
24 Philly, and we're using Future
25 Track to clear the trash and debris

1 out of alleyways so that we can get
2 in there to change the light
3 fixture.

4 The project was procured by
5 PEA. So to Dom's answer, we used a
6 Guaranteed Energy Savings Act
7 procurement which allows us to
8 procure a single energy services
9 company. That company's called
10 Amaresco. They bring in
11 subcontractors per our
12 requirements, so it's all the same
13 sort of prevailing wage union labor
14 that you would see on any other
15 project. We just don't do separate
16 four-part bidding.

17 And for this project, we
18 have 58 percent M/WBEs
19 participating and 58 percent Local
20 Business Enterprises as well. We
21 also managed to create specific job
22 training opportunities along the
23 way. This project alone as Liz
24 mentioned reduces the City's carbon
25 footprint by about 10 percent. So

1 that's a -- I see you're wanting to
2 ask a question.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

4 (Shaking head).

5 MS. SCHAPIRA: Okay. Good.

6 So we also support the School
7 District on their projects and
8 that's something that was mentioned
9 earlier as well. We generally
10 provide technical assistance to the
11 School District, so we've now
12 completed or have under
13 construction about \$250 million in
14 School District projects via the
15 same Guaranteed Energy Savings Act.
16 These projects speed up the scope
17 development and the procurement for
18 the District and in now 23 schools,
19 we've reduced energy costs anywhere
20 from 15 to 50 percent, depending on
21 what's done in there, and included
22 major capital needs like boilers,
23 air-conditioning, proper
24 ventilation, windows, remediating
25 hazardous materials and much more.

1 We are supporting the District to
2 begin adding solar to school
3 rooftops as it's appropriate and
4 continuing these GESA projects to
5 move them as quickly as possible.

6 I'll give you just a quick
7 example on our consumer programs,
8 Built to Last and Solarized Philly.
9 These are two consumer programs
10 that really identify a need and
11 then use energy as the entry point
12 to address deferred maintenance,
13 housing quality and affordability
14 and climate adaptation and
15 mitigation to help get to that 2050
16 goal.

17 Built to Last is a program
18 that layers, coordinates and
19 supplements all of the City's
20 existing home repair programs,
21 including Basic Systems Repair,
22 weatherization utility programs,
23 nonprofit programs, health care
24 programs and more to fundamentally
25 restore safe, healthy, affordable

1 homes for low-income homeowners and
2 prevent displacement.

3 Wherever possible, we
4 electrify and provide
5 air-conditioning to home via heat
6 pumps and add solar to the roof for
7 affordability. We have --

8 (Applause.)

9 MS. SCHAPIRA: Thank you.
10 We've completed or are under
11 construction in over 320 homes in
12 about 18 months with a waitlist of
13 over 1300 homes. We have current
14 funding for 400. I'd also like to
15 just mention Solarize Philly. It's
16 the largest program of its kind in
17 the nation with over 2700 homes
18 adding solar to their roof over the
19 last seven years. 45 percent of
20 those homes belong to low- and
21 moderate-income families.

22 Our success has set the
23 stage for up to \$250 million in
24 federal funding from the Inflation
25 Reduction Act, which we expect to

1 find out this month.

2 (Applause.)

3 MS. SCHAPIRA: Thank you.

4 And I mentioned workforce
5 development. I'll just say we
6 partner primarily with existing
7 workforce development organizations
8 and industry experts to really flip
9 on its head who benefits from the
10 growing clean energy economy in
11 Philadelphia. We run or support a
12 variety of training programs like
13 Bright Solar Futures, the Green
14 Retrofit Immersive Training program
15 or GRIT and others to bridge the
16 gap with the industry often
17 described as a labor shortage and
18 the unemployment rate among
19 marginalized populations in
20 Philadelphia.

21 Our approach is high-touch
22 low-volume training and wraparound
23 services to ensure that our
24 trainees are fully supported to
25 complete classroom training as well

1 as field internships, earn valuable
2 industry certifications and are
3 able to successfully connect to and
4 maintain full-time
5 family-sustaining careers.

6 And I'll just wrap up with
7 a few recommendations for this
8 Committee on additional steps
9 Philly must take in order to
10 achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.
11 First, we need city-wide
12 accountability to specific goals
13 across every City unit.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. SCHAPIRA: We have to
16 hold ourselves accountable for our
17 commitments. This means that
18 transparency planning and oversight
19 has to be non-negotiable and rise
20 to the importance of our other most
21 pressing challenges. It can be
22 tough to prioritize what feels a
23 long way off when we have immediate
24 critical issues facing us on a
25 day-to-day basis.

1 But 2050 is not far off for
2 the immense scaling up that we will
3 need in order to stave off the
4 worst effects of climate change in
5 Philadelphia. We can do both, but
6 it will require ongoing
7 commitments. That means that all
8 City departments should be
9 integrating the City's climate
10 strategy into performance metrics
11 and all capital and maintenance
12 projects must include a climate
13 lens.

14 (Applause.)

15 MS. SCHAPIRA: City
16 projects are installing
17 infrastructure that will last
18 beyond 2050 now, but we still
19 continue to install energy
20 efficient and fossil fuel
21 technology as the standard. We
22 must provide consistent greenhouse
23 gas inventories and enforce our
24 existing rules.

25 It also means that all City

1 services and housing efforts,
2 particularly those that serve low-
3 and moderate-income communities
4 must include climate standards,
5 including PHA. Too often when
6 there isn't enough to go around, we
7 choose to install the least
8 expensive furnace that just
9 exacerbates energy poverty or to
10 reroof a home with no insulation in
11 the attic or provide a loan without
12 giving homeowners or landlords
13 enough information to choose a more
14 efficient or long-term affordable
15 solution.

16 We put energy and climate
17 action as a nice-to-have that we
18 can deal with later. And while we
19 have kicked the can down the road,
20 we are ensuring that the very
21 people we want to support are those
22 now most vulnerable to the effects
23 of climate change with the highest
24 energy burdens. We must be willing
25 to make longer-term decisions.

1 My second recommendation
2 would be to resource the City's
3 Inflation Reduction Act strategy.
4 Under the Kenney Administration,
5 the City has directed tens of
6 millions of dollars to enhance
7 capacity for applying for federal
8 funding from the Bipartisan
9 Infrastructure Law, BIL or also
10 known as the IIJA.

11 The City has committed no
12 additional funding to date to
13 support our efforts to draw down
14 federal funds from the Inflation
15 Reduction Act or the IRA. That
16 work is led by the Office of
17 Sustainability and us at PEA and
18 really asks a lot of the applicants
19 and requires a different approach
20 that does need funding.

21 With some philanthropic
22 support from the William Penn
23 Foundation and others, we've been
24 able to support over \$2 billion in
25 applications for competitive

1 federal funding and expect to
2 support over \$3 billion in rebates
3 and tax credits to projects in
4 Philadelphia over the next five to
5 seven years. We're asking the City
6 to support this effort in FY25.

7 We've requested an increase
8 from the City to PEA's operating
9 budget. In FY24 we had about 24
10 percent of our budget come from the
11 City, which was about \$2.05 million
12 in FY24. We're asking for 3.6
13 million in FY25. We've also
14 requested \$5 million for Built to
15 Last, which needs matching
16 non-federal funds in order to be
17 able to get the federal dollars to
18 low-income households.

19 (Applause.)

20 MS. SCHAPIRA: And we've
21 requested \$2 million to the
22 Philadelphia's Green Capital Corp.,
23 which is the City's Green Bank, to
24 provide loan loss reserves and
25 other credit enhancements to make

1 sure federal greenhouse gas
2 reduction funds are available to
3 low- and moderate-income
4 communities. This \$10.6 million in
5 FY25 will ensure equitable access
6 to hundreds of millions of dollars
7 in federal funds for climate
8 adaptation and mitigation in
9 Philly.

10 And then the last thing
11 I'll just mention is to really use
12 our utilities and our assets to
13 lead climate efforts globally. We
14 have that potential in Philly.
15 Philadelphia has the largest
16 municipally-owned gas utility in
17 the country, PGW, the largest
18 unregulated microgrid in the
19 country at the Navy Yard, one of
20 the largest steam loops in the
21 nation owned by Vicinity, our own
22 water utility with a history of
23 innovation at the Water Department
24 and a huge municipal government
25 footprint.

1 We have not to date held
2 any of those utilities or assets to
3 any standards for long-term
4 decarbonization, a power Council
5 certainly holds.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SCHAPIRA: We have an
8 opportunity to lead through
9 innovation and we have all the
10 ingredients to do so. PGW and PWD
11 are incredible assets to help
12 Philadelphia make this transition,
13 and we must support their critical
14 climate planning, encourage
15 transparency, provide appropriate
16 resources and hold them
17 accountable.

18 Utilities must share how
19 their planning through 2050 is
20 consistent or inconsistent with the
21 City's carbon neutrality goals.
22 And for the City-owned utilities,
23 require regular disclosure of both
24 progress and risks to their
25 operations posed by climate change.

1 I'm happy to provide
2 further details on any of our
3 programs or on our recommendations
4 following this hearing. Thanks so
5 much for the time today. Happy to
6 answer questions.

7 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I'm
8 going to ask that Matt O'Malley
9 from Vicinity Energy join this
10 panel.

11 Professor, we're going to
12 ask you to testify next, but the
13 Vice-Chair has a specific question
14 she wants to ask of Emily right
15 now. After the entire panel goes,
16 then I'm going to open it up for
17 questions from members of the
18 Committee.

19 But, Councilmember Landau,
20 please.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
22 Thanks.

23 You said you're 15 percent
24 of the way through the
25 Streetlighting program. Where are

1 you changing those streetlights?

2 We are hoping this goes through an
3 equity lens.

4 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yes. I love
5 this question because you can see
6 the two-week look-ahead on what's
7 been completed at
8 phillystreetlightimprovement.com.
9 There's an active map that is
10 updated regularly so you can see
11 everything that's happening. We
12 did a little bit of a start outside
13 of our equity model because we had
14 happened to get some fixtures
15 available sooner than others, so we
16 did some pedestrian-level fixtures
17 up in the Northeast first.

18 But now, we've moved on to
19 alleyways, collectors and the local
20 roads as well. So you can see
21 we've definitely prioritized
22 communities that have high Vision
23 Zero impact, that have high crime
24 using a variety of data sets in the
25 City, and then also included other

1 demographic and equity information
2 in that formulation.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Real
4 quick one last question:
5 Approximately on average how much
6 does it cost to get a house with
7 the repairs fixed to a place where
8 you can actually start talking
9 about heat pumps and solar panels?

10 MS. SCHAPIRA: Great
11 question. So we do it all at once.
12 When we go into a home for Built to
13 Last, we do a holistic home audit
14 first. So they may have had access
15 to Basic Systems Repair before. If
16 not, we make sure they get that.
17 That's up to \$25,000.

18 Built to Last is really
19 Philly's Whole Home Repair program.
20 That state program was designed
21 after our Built to Last program.
22 And so, we take that audit and then
23 say, okay, what are all the
24 programs that can contribute some
25 funding to some piece of this.

1 So everywhere we possibly
2 can we're doing heat pumps and
3 electrification. The average home
4 is getting somewhere on the order
5 of \$50,000 to \$60,000 across
6 multiple programs. We subsidize
7 that with various different funding
8 sources at about \$15,000 per home,
9 and that gets them both
10 electrification and solar.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Emily,
12 we'll just keep going, right. I
13 think we're kind of rolling in and
14 then we'll let the next two
15 panelists testify after that.

16 Chair recognizes
17 Councilmember Landau, then
18 Councilmember Young.

19 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
20 Lozada.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Oh,
22 Councilmember Lozada, then
23 Councilmember Young. I'm sorry.

24 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS:
25 (Inaudible).

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It's
2 the L's. Thanks, Phillips.

3 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: My
4 question is, I understand that you
5 said we could see where these units
6 are being changed online. Is there
7 a way for us to see it by District,
8 right? And is there a report that
9 you can get to us so that we can
10 see exactly where it's being
11 changed, when? What's the
12 progress, right? What's next?

13 So that when we're out in
14 neighborhoods and people are
15 saying, hey, Councilwoman, it's
16 really dark out here, how can we
17 get our specific block on the list
18 to be changed, I'd like to see that
19 broken down that way better. And
20 then as these structures as we
21 receive calls that the light on the
22 block is out or that the light in
23 the alleyway is out, are we trying
24 to be as proactive as possible to
25 not just go service that light and

1 replace the bulb, but actually
2 remove the structure because we
3 know that eventually all of them
4 have to be changed anyway, so are
5 we kind of killing two birds with
6 one stone or are we kind of putting
7 a band-aid on it until we get to
8 that location?

9 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah, great
10 question. So yes to your first
11 question. We will make sure that
12 we get you a District layer in our
13 GIS system so you can see exactly
14 just for your District what's
15 happening and when. And if you're
16 ever going out to a specific
17 neighborhood and you want us to run
18 some data for you, just let us
19 know. We're here in City Hall 566.
20 You can always find us. So that's
21 the first thing.

22 Secondly, great question.
23 You would still report that to the
24 Streets Department for now until
25 we're sort of through this process,

1 which we've got another 18-plus
2 months on construction. But until
3 we're through it, everything won't
4 be replaced.

5 In cases where -- and
6 Streets is continuing their normal
7 process for this. They do have
8 some LEDs in stock, but they're a
9 whiter color than what we selected
10 for this project. In Kensington,
11 there's a lot of those white lights
12 out there so they might deal with
13 them with that existing inventory,
14 but it really depends on the
15 situation.

16 So if you do have an issue
17 and it seems like you're not
18 getting what you're looking for
19 from Streets, let us know and we
20 can make sure we talk to the
21 Project team and we can shuffle
22 things around if we have to.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
24 you.

25 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair

1 recognizes Councilmember Young.

2 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
3 you. You mentioned that I guess
4 the priority for the replacement of
5 the streetlights are based on
6 Vision Zero; is that correct?

7 MS. SCHAPIRA: (Shaking
8 head).

9 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Is there
10 any flexibility on prioritizing
11 certain communities? Because for
12 certain areas in North Philadelphia
13 specifically, it's not Vision Zero
14 that those constituents are more
15 concerned with, but it's more of a
16 safety issue, right. And so,
17 Vision Zero may not have taken the
18 safety of that community into
19 account when determining when these
20 lights should be replaced.

21 And so, is it possible that
22 we can change some of the metrics
23 on determining when certain lights
24 are being replaced in certain
25 areas, in certain communities?

1 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah,
2 absolutely. So the formula that we
3 use to determine the ordering is
4 three things. It's Vision Zero,
5 nighttime crime instances and then
6 other demographic and income
7 information. So we're prioritizing
8 the District and parts of those
9 Districts that sort of meet all of
10 those three criteria the most
11 fastest.

12 And so, there's a lot
13 happening right now in the 5th, 7th
14 and 3rd as well as lots of other
15 parts of the City, but we've got
16 multiple crews out there once
17 moving forward as fast as we can.
18 So if there's a particular part of
19 the District where you're seeing
20 issues that just can't wait, just
21 let us know and we'll do our best.
22 We try to take into consideration
23 Councilmember feedback as well as
24 we were putting that together.

25 So, yeah, if there's

1 something that especially has
2 changed. But even if it hasn't,
3 sort of reach out and let us know
4 if there are hotspots.

5 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: I would
6 just ask that the metrics be kind
7 of reversed to have nighttime crime
8 to be at the top.

9 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah.

10 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Same
11 here.

12 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: At the
13 top of the list.

14 MS. SCHAPIRA: Yeah.

15 COUNCILMAN YOUNG: Thank
16 you.

17 MS. SCHAPIRA: Understood.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: It
19 seems like you have some charges
20 here for us. I'm reading your
21 testimony and you closed out with
22 some good recommendations
23 specifically talking about Council
24 and our authority to look at PGW,
25 the Navy Yard and other places that

1 aren't necessarily regulated.

2 Elaborate a little bit on
3 that. In a dream world if you were
4 on this side, what type of
5 regulations would you suggest we
6 implement as it relates to
7 expediting this 2050 Vision plan to
8 more of a 2040 conversation?

9 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure. And
10 I'll just say it's anybody's guess
11 as to whether we're on track for
12 2050 honestly. The stuff we're
13 doing now is kind of the
14 low-hanging fruit. It's things
15 that can be budget neutral and
16 there's an awful lot of that
17 available still. But we have not
18 spent a significant amount of
19 dollars that we're not getting back
20 in the form of energy savings.

21 We haven't reorganized how
22 we do things. We haven't sort of
23 asked for a lot of change and we
24 certainly haven't asked for
25 sacrifice, right. I think we're

1 dealing with what's in front of us
2 on a day-to-day basis. And I think
3 any budget decision that's made we
4 are all hyper aware that that means
5 that they have to say no to
6 something else.

7 And so, I think the City
8 has been doing a great job at a lot
9 of things and has been moving
10 forward the best we can, but I
11 think there are some not
12 complicated institutional issues
13 that Council could really play a
14 role in solving.

15 On the one hand, I think
16 Council can hold departments and
17 utilities accountable. PGW is a
18 City entity. They are the only
19 ones who know how to make their own
20 decarbonization plan and they'll
21 have to, so that's something
22 they've been working on internally
23 and I think have received a lot of
24 feedback on.

25 But this is a moment of

1 change and innovation for them.

2 And I think we can push them more
3 to be more public about that and
4 figure out what that really means
5 for the City and for the utility.

6 (Applause.)

7 MS. SCHAPIRA: I'd say the
8 same thing about the Navy Yard.
9 PIDC owns the utility down there.
10 It's unregulated. It was owned by
11 the Navy. And so, they can take on
12 any amount of innovation that they
13 want and it would be incredible to
14 see PIDC looking to carbon
15 neutrality at the Navy Yard as
16 well. And those are tools that we
17 can sort of push them and support
18 them to take advantage of,
19 especially in this moment of
20 federal funding. There's just a
21 ton of opportunity down there.
22 Philly has really every ingredient
23 to be a global innovator in clean
24 energy.

25 I think the Hydrogen Hub

1 gives us a chance to talk about a
2 regional energy system that
3 benefits us long-term. But I think
4 what it really requires is for
5 Council to figure out where it fits
6 for us to be talking about things
7 that happen 35 years from now, 25
8 years from now.

9 I think that's been tough
10 for us to figure out how to give
11 you guys the things you need in
12 order to be able to do that. And I
13 think it's been tough for every
14 Administration to figure out how to
15 budget for that and how to
16 prioritize that. So that's the
17 conversation we'd love to see
18 Council leading going forward, how
19 do we really look to 2050 and
20 before that and figure out how well
21 we actually achieve it. It's not
22 going to be enough to do the things
23 that don't cost anything.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
25 So when you -- thank you. That was

1 definitely a great response. And I
2 think the next time we have this
3 conversation maybe we need to
4 invite PGW and PIDC as well as some
5 of the other folks, PECO and maybe
6 even some School District folks
7 too. So that was some great
8 recommendations. We appreciate it.

9 One of the things you
10 talked about in your testimony was
11 the fact that you've created 7500
12 jobs while looking at over \$900
13 million in projects. Social media
14 is a way that people get a lot of
15 information nowadays. And
16 ironically often when people think
17 about becoming cleaner, greener,
18 you know, issues like what we're
19 discussing today, carbon
20 neutrality, people think about
21 those jobs being eliminated, not
22 necessarily jobs being created.

23 So talk to me a little bit
24 about the 7500 jobs that you
25 created. What are the credentials?

1 What type of jobs are we talking
2 about? How are these jobs going to
3 impact the future of our City?
4 Elaborate a little bit, if you may,
5 on that part.

6 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure.

7 Thanks so much for that question.
8 So every time we run a project or a
9 program, we're looking at how the
10 contractors are attached to that
11 project and how are they hiring and
12 how do they scale up in order to
13 meet the needs of that project.

14 So, for example -- and we
15 do this kind of small scale and big
16 scale, right. So for
17 streetlighting we have a
18 manufacturing pod out in West
19 Philly. It's five or six young
20 people who are doing final assembly
21 of light fixtures there. That's a
22 process that has to happen
23 somewhere so it kind as well happen
24 here in Philly. And those are jobs
25 that will last for two years, and

1 then hopefully all folks will be
2 hired directly by American Power or
3 a partner at the end of that.

4 And so, I think we look at
5 sort of the short-term workforce
6 development opportunity, how do you
7 get a job today and then bigger
8 term. So all of the other jobs are
9 construction jobs, right. These
10 are electricians. These are --
11 maybe they're engineers and
12 auditors. Maybe they're in, you
13 know, some other related to the
14 energy project that you have in
15 your hand.

16 We also do a ton of
17 development on solar industry.
18 Philly has had a really tiny solar
19 industry until very recently. And
20 so, solar developers were hiring
21 just unskilled construction, you
22 know, general construction folks to
23 come in and learn how to do solar.
24 So we did that training in advance
25 both in high school, we have a CTE

1 program over at Frankford High
2 School, and then also for young
3 adults who work with PowerCorps.

4 For folks that are
5 returning citizens, we work with
6 adults at ECA in Kensington doing
7 training for both residential
8 construction that feeds right into
9 Built to Last, so we really looked
10 at this kind of like a closed loop.
11 The more we can create demand for
12 labor, the more we can fill those
13 positions with folks from our own
14 communities that historically don't
15 have access to this industry and
16 are un- or underemployed.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
18 you.

19 Are there any other
20 questions for this particular
21 witness?

22 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: I
23 have one.

24 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Chair
25 recognizes Councilmember Phillips.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Just
2 a quick comment. Thank you,
3 Chairman.

4 I noticed that you
5 mentioned PGW and you said we need
6 to be holding them a little bit
7 more accountable publicly and so
8 forth. What does that even mean?
9 What does that look like in terms
10 of -- I think you were almost being
11 general. I just wanted to see if
12 you needed to be more specific
13 about what's needed.

14 MS. SCHAPIRA: Sure. So I
15 don't want to make the mistake of
16 prescribing the actual steps I
17 think PGW needs to make because
18 what we need to see from them and
19 also from the Water Department
20 honestly who does wonderful things
21 and lots of efficiency work but has
22 so much further to go. From both
23 of them, we need to see what does
24 their 2050 decarbonization plan
25 look like. Are they on track, are

1 they meeting the City's goals, are
2 they looking at the risks
3 associated with climate change to
4 their own operations. And if so,
5 what are they doing about it.

6 And I think we get kind of
7 lost in the conversation of, okay,
8 this is, for example, a capital
9 project and these are the steps
10 that we take to execute this
11 capital project and maybe we talk
12 about climate later, we have to
13 start talking about it earlier so
14 that as part of the planning
15 process and the design of the work
16 that they do.

17 (Applause.)

18 MS. SCHAPIRA: And PGW I
19 think is a great example of the
20 potential for innovation. The
21 Water Department produces a lot of
22 biogas at the moment and there's
23 potential -- I know there were
24 questions earlier about composting.
25 There's potential to do so much

1 more with the resources that we
2 have and we just so happen to have
3 a gas utility here that knows how
4 to get the most out of biogas and
5 to turn it into things that are
6 actually valuable for people.

7 So we can be working
8 together across utilities as well.

9 And I think as far as the
10 accountability we have the Gas
11 Commission, we have PFMC for PGW,
12 but we're not often asking about
13 climate and I think that's where
14 Council could be really helpful.

15 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Thank
16 you.

17 (Applause.)

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well,
19 thank you, Emily, for your
20 testimony. I think you've gotten
21 everybody in trouble today, right,
22 PGW, Navy Yard, PECO, Water,
23 Schools. No, but I think again
24 when we first started the
25 conversation, the overall purpose

1 was to explore where we are as it
2 relates to our 2050 goals and to
3 see if we can expedite that, and I
4 think you've given us a lot to
5 think about as well as a lot of
6 tasks.

7 Because at the end of the
8 day I'm joking about these
9 departments, but we're serious
10 about the citizens of Philadelphia.
11 So we want to make sure that we're
12 doing our part as a legislative
13 body to hold the proper partners
14 and organizations accountable so
15 you can do your job, right, because
16 that's what you're authorized to do
17 to put us in a position to make
18 sure that Philadelphia is as
19 healthy as we are advertising.

20 So, Emily, thank you for
21 your testimony but more importantly
22 your work as the Executive Director
23 of the Philadelphia Energy
24 Authority is very much appreciated.
25 And we will definitely have Part 2

1 of this conversation and invite a
2 few more folks out so we can make
3 sure that we're all moving in
4 coordination and unison with one
5 another, because I'm hearing that's
6 the only way we even meet this 2050
7 goal, let alone try to move it up
8 to whatever years we may be able
9 to. So with that being said,
10 again, Emily, thank you so much.
11 We appreciate it.

12 I'm going to ask that Rob
13 and Matt both testify now. Rob,
14 you've been here. Please state
15 your name for the record. You may
16 begin with your testimony. Matt,
17 immediately after Robert we're
18 going to ask that you state your
19 name and begin with your testimony.

20 And then members of the
21 Committee, we'll open it up for
22 questions for both members of this
23 particular panel.

24 Professor, you're up first.
25 Thank you for your patience and

1 good morning.

2 PROFESSOR KUPER: Good
3 morning. Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
4 name is Rob Kuper, K-u-p-e-r.
5 Esteemed members of the City
6 Council, thank you for the
7 opportunity to speak today and
8 provide context for the City's
9 progress on its carbon neutrality
10 goals.

11 The history of climate
12 planning in Philadelphia is
13 extraordinarily impressive.
14 Citizens of Philadelphia are
15 fortunate to have so many people in
16 offices working for them on this
17 issue, including the Offices of the
18 Mayor, Sustainability,
19 Transportation, Infrastructure &
20 Sustainability, the Philadelphia
21 Water Department and the
22 Philadelphia Energy Authority,
23 among others.

24 Moreover, Philadelphians
25 are fortunate to have you

1 Councilmembers taking climate
2 change, sustainability and above
3 all inequitable transitions
4 seriously. I'm an Associate
5 Professor of Landscape Architecture
6 at Temple University. I teach
7 construction materials and methods,
8 stormwater run-off and ecological
9 restoration.

10 In 2018, alarmed by the
11 Special Report on Global Warming
12 released by the Intergovernmental
13 Panel on Climate Change, I began
14 studying the climate emergency.
15 Since then I've published
16 peer-reviewed articles on travel-
17 related greenhouse gas emissions,
18 begun working with Temple
19 colleagues to integrate climate
20 change content into classrooms
21 across the University, estimate
22 emissions from campus buildings and
23 ultimately persuade the University
24 Board of Trustees to get aggressive
25 and decarbonized. Why? It's like

1 Temple says, because the world
2 won't change itself.

3 I aim to ensure Temple
4 means it. I try to mean what I say
5 and model low carbon behaviors.
6 For example, I'm a vegetarian who
7 hasn't flown on an airplane in
8 almost five years. I recognize
9 that I'm a person of great
10 privilege because of my skin color,
11 sex, gender, sexual orientation,
12 education, job, rank and income.
13 Many citizens of Philadelphia do
14 not have these same privileges and
15 cannot change their behaviors. And
16 yet, their impact on this earth is
17 smaller and they're likely being
18 and will be affected more by
19 climate change.

20 And what follows, given
21 peer-reviewed literature and other
22 credible sources I've encountered,
23 I offer some context for the City
24 of Philadelphia to be more
25 aggressive, urgent, creative,

1 realistic and honest about
2 addressing the climate emergency.

3 By the way, if you've got
4 my testimony highlight -- some of
5 the numbers on there might change a
6 little bit because I've been double
7 and triple checking my sources and
8 maybe finding a couple new ones.

9 Climate change is real serious and
10 happening now. Hurricane Ida
11 flooded the Vine Expressway in
12 September 2021. Philadelphia
13 recorded only a trace of snow in
14 Winter '22-23, the driest May on
15 record in '23 and had a hazardous
16 air quality from June 2023 Canadian
17 wildfire smoke. Earth has warmed
18 on average 1.1 degrees Celsius.

19 In Philadelphia, the
20 average number of days above 95
21 degrees Fahrenheit as recorded in
22 2014 was 3. With a global increase
23 of 1.5° to 3°C, which is 2.7 to 5.4
24 degrees Fahrenheit, that number
25 rises to 8 and 29. Today due to

1 the presence of large areas of
2 rooftops and pavement and lack of
3 trees and green space, some areas
4 of Philadelphia experience an urban
5 heat island effect of 10 to 12
6 degrees Fahrenheit hotter.

7 For every 1 degrees C, the
8 atmosphere will hold 7 percent more
9 moisture. 2- and 100-year design
10 storms in Camden are now estimated
11 to produce between 1.18 and 1.39
12 times more precipitation. To limit
13 global warming to 1.5 degrees C, as
14 many of us know, the IPCC
15 recommends net carbon dioxide
16 emissions of 45 percent by 2030 and
17 100 percent by 2050.

18 To meet these
19 recommendations, an annual emission
20 reduction of 3.75 percent was
21 needed. That percentage goes up
22 with every day. In 2006 and 2014
23 and 2019, this data was mentioned
24 here today. Each year Philadelphia
25 emitted between 25.6 and 18.68

1 million metric tons -- metric ton
2 is 2,204 pounds -- of greenhouse
3 gases.

4 The cumulative emissions
5 within this time may be about
6 297.98 million metric tons. Now,
7 it's important to note that was
8 from 2019, five years ago. So if
9 the average is about 20 million
10 metric tons, add another 100 to
11 that, so we're talking about 397.98
12 million metric tons. It's also
13 important to note that this is a
14 cumulative problem. So those
15 emissions are up there in the
16 atmosphere doing their work for
17 centuries.

18 In 2019, the most recent
19 year documented, 40 percent of
20 emissions are derived from
21 transportation followed by
22 commercial and industrial
23 activities at 20.5 percent. 46 and
24 12 percent of electricity generated
25 is derived from methane, which is

1 natural and coal respectfully.

2 Over 20 years methane
3 emissions are 83 times worse than
4 carbon dioxide. Each year Philly's
5 emissions contribute to Arctic sea
6 ice loss equal to over 23 square
7 miles or if you can imagine this,
8 the area greater than that spanning
9 from Cecil B. Moore to the Navy
10 Yards, north, south and then east,
11 west from Schuylkill to the Delaware
12 Rivers.

13 Philly's emissions may
14 contribute to over \$16 million in
15 labor productivity losses elsewhere
16 in the world, primarily in
17 equatorial regions due to elevated
18 temperatures and heat exposure.
19 That's \$0.81 per ton adjusted for
20 inflation. The social cost of
21 carbon, the burden of emitting
22 placed on society equals between
23 \$51 to \$185 per ton.

24 For every 4,434 tons
25 emitted, one temperature-related

1 death will occur between now and
2 2100. Again, remember those
3 figures of what Philadelphia has
4 emitted. For a 50 percent chance
5 of limiting global temperatures to
6 1.5°C, we humans have a carbon
7 budget of 250 billion tons. Given
8 global on Philly populations and
9 Philly's 2019 emissions, Philly has
10 2.38 years of this carbon budget
11 left for the indefinite future.
12 For a 50 percent chance of
13 eliminating warming to 2 degrees C,
14 we have 1200 gig tons or billion
15 tons in 11.45 years.

16 The quantity of carbon
17 dioxide in the atmosphere which is
18 as of January, 422 parts per
19 million is comparable to the
20 (inaudible) seen 4 million years
21 ago when temperatures were 7
22 degrees Fahrenheit warmer and sea
23 levels were 16 to 82 feet higher
24 than today. The warming associated
25 with this increase in atmosphere of

1 carbon dioxide will continue until
2 emissions stop and is not
3 reversible on a time scale of at
4 least 1,000 years.

5 Carbon neutral and net zero
6 goals like Philadelphia's assume
7 that the quantity of emissions is
8 equal to the quantity removed from
9 the atmosphere using technology or-
10 nature-based solutions. 2050
11 carbon neutral and net zero goals
12 are inherently problematic. Both
13 are not zero. Absolute, real or
14 true zero must be the goal.

15 Deforestation accounts for
16 one-third of cumulative human-
17 caused emissions in the last
18 two-and-a-half centuries. Burning
19 fossil fuels account for two-thirds
20 of those emissions. Nature-based
21 solutions to remove carbon
22 pollution like that proposed in the
23 Philadelphia Climate Action
24 Playbook cannot possibly sequester
25 into carbon dioxide equal to what

1 is emitted, but can serve other
2 worthwhile purposes like increasing
3 biodiversity, capturing, dispersing
4 and taking up rain water, affording
5 psychological restoration, reducing
6 home energy costs and decreasing
7 the urban heat island effect and
8 cooling neighborhoods.

9 Technological solutions to
10 carbon pollution are problematic.
11 Carbon that has been captured and
12 stored underground may not stay
13 there and it expands. Direct air
14 capture now cost \$750 to \$1,000 to
15 remove one metric ton of
16 atmospheric carbon dioxide. It's
17 cheaper to pollute than it is to
18 extract it from the atmosphere.

19 Neither of these
20 technological solutions has the
21 potential to remove 36.8 billion
22 tons of carbon dioxide humans
23 collectively emit each year. Green
24 stormwater infrastructure can help
25 with more frequent intense storms

1 and the volume and velocity of rain
2 that falls from them. They
3 increase by diversity, clean
4 stormwater run-off and contribute
5 to human psychological restoration.

6 However, some forms of GSI
7 have net positive carbon footprints
8 over 30 to 40 years and rely upon
9 mining and extraction of sand and
10 aggregate to function properly.
11 Electrifying everything with solar,
12 wind and geothermal-powered energy
13 is a worthwhile goal. Besides
14 potential challenges related to
15 intermittency storage transmission
16 with some of these energy-
17 generation sources, some like solar
18 panels in wind turbines have
19 lifespans of 25 years and require
20 extraction of rare minerals that
21 are not realistically as of today
22 recyclable. The demand for steel,
23 concrete and aluminum needed to
24 build this infrastructure one study
25 reports will be substantial.

1 Electric vehicles, which
2 we've heard some about today, also
3 rely on extraction of rare earth
4 minerals. The quantity of material
5 such as copper, lithium, cobalt,
6 vanadium and nickel to replace one
7 generation of internal combustion
8 engine cars with EVs exceeds
9 reported global production and
10 reserves. Also, geopolitics will
11 likely play into accessing these
12 materials.

13 We must move away from
14 fossil fuels now. However, fossil
15 fuels will be needed to build the
16 transformation that Philadelphia
17 and its residents need. For
18 example, most construction
19 machinery is diesel-powered. An
20 alternative engine to fuel is not
21 something easily replaced. Cheap
22 potent fossil fuel energy has
23 benefited many, but not all of us.

24 There are many
25 knowledgeable, skilled people in

1 the industry that mean well, work
2 hard and will encounter hardships
3 that result from a transition away
4 from fossil fuels. But please do
5 not mistake my preceding comments
6 for support of the fossil fuel
7 industry, the continuation of
8 fossil fuel use and hesitancy to
9 transition to renewable energy.

10 Over my entire lifetime of
11 46 years, leadership in the fossil
12 fuel industry has known about and
13 their scientists have accurately
14 predicted the relationship between
15 fossil fuel combustion, elevated
16 concentrations of atmospheric
17 carbon dioxide, elevated global
18 means surface temperatures and the
19 dire consequences in store for
20 humanity. They, their lobbyists
21 and political pawns blatantly lie
22 to the public, deny and cast out on
23 climate science, spread doom and
24 despair and delay necessary action,
25 all while profiting handsomely off

1 of human suffering and ecological
2 destruction.

3 Climate action plans in
4 other cities like Baltimore and
5 Chicago are like Philadelphia's.
6 You could say that Philadelphia is
7 keeping up. But if every city has
8 a flawed target, that being net
9 zero or carbon neutral, Philly can
10 lead and distinguish itself by
11 targeting real zero.

12 Philadelphia has many
13 informative, thorough, useful
14 science-based documents at their
15 disposal. The Philadelphia Climate
16 Action Playbook refers to many of
17 these. Based upon my review of
18 some of the content, and I probably
19 would have more to say with a more
20 detailed review, I hope future
21 actions will include the following:
22 To focus on infrastructure for a
23 hotter, wetter future, including
24 trees, pools, splash pads, cooling
25 centers, parks, various other

1 roofs, be they green which many
2 people know about, brown roofs and
3 light roofs, rain gardens and other
4 green stormwater infrastructure.
5 Focus on the neighborhoods and
6 people who are and will suffer the
7 most. Globally 10 percent of the
8 highest emitters emit more than the
9 bottom 50 percent.

10 Prioritize Complete
11 Streets, and we've heard something
12 about that today, that integrate
13 walking, biking and expanded mass
14 transit as well as stormwater
15 infrastructure and trees. Focus
16 more broadly on city-wide
17 emissions, reductions instead of
18 just municipal. Incentivize or --

19 (Applause.)

20 PROFESSOR KUPER:
21 Incentivize or penalize large
22 non-state actors. I'm talking
23 about commercial property owners,
24 institutions like Temple,
25 developers, corporations,

1 et cetera, to induce necessary
2 change. I don't know if you can do
3 this but I'm going to say it
4 anyway. Put a regressive price on
5 carbon emissions. Invest the
6 income in underserved communities
7 who have and will experience the
8 gravest risks associated with
9 climate change.

10 Require developers to
11 publicly report project-embodied
12 energy and emissions. This goes
13 beyond operational emissions of
14 buildings. It has to do with the
15 materials that they're specifying
16 and the machinery they're using to
17 construct buildings. Ask for all
18 projects.

19 Will this contribute to the
20 urgent transformation of
21 Philadelphia that is needed or will
22 it perpetuate the status quo.
23 Target 100 percent replacement of
24 infrastructure and utilities at end
25 of life with electric only. A

1 massive PR campaign much like
2 Chairperson Phillips -- or
3 Councilmember Phillips who has
4 suggested earlier, I think is
5 needed to educate and garner
6 support for unprecedented rapid
7 changes.

8 I've got three more points
9 here. The transformation that is
10 necessary to achieve a sustainable
11 Philadelphia will take time, time
12 we don't have because of a 40-year
13 delay and an immeasurable inertia.
14 Further, the transformation
15 requires time because unanticipated
16 challenges await. We will make and
17 must learn from our mistakes.

18 Time, as Dr. King wrote,
19 can be used either destructively or
20 constructively. The people of
21 ill-will will have used time much
22 more effectively than the people of
23 good will. We must use time
24 creatively and forever realize that
25 the time is always ripe to do

1 right. Philadelphia is one of the
2 first, if not the first, planned
3 cities in the United States.

4 From what I understand,
5 William Penn envisioned where we
6 sit now as a green country town,
7 that gardens and green spaces would
8 be accessible to residents not just
9 in the five squares but around
10 residences. We cannot achieve
11 Penn's vision without first having
12 reached this point. Now,
13 Philadelphia must model how to
14 become a green country town.

15 Imagine the vacant lots in
16 Philadelphia as opportunities for
17 residents to grow forests, food and
18 community. Imagine an empowered
19 independent citizenry of liberty.
20 I can and I hope you can too.
21 Change is coming. It will be
22 uncomfortable and disruptive.
23 Let's not deny it. Publicly
24 confront the change. City Council
25 must use every lever at its

1 disposal to perform unprecedented
2 acts, influence positive change and
3 protect the citizens of
4 Philadelphia. Thank you.

5 (Applause.)

6 MR. O'MALLEY: Good
7 afternoon, Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-
8 Chair through you to the members of
9 the Committee. My name is Matt
10 O'Malley. I am the Chief
11 Sustainability Officer for Vicinity
12 Energy, which is Philadelphia's
13 largest district energy system. We
14 are situated with about 41 miles of
15 pipes throughout the streets
16 primarily in Center City and West
17 Philadelphia, and our CHP Plant is
18 in Grays Ferry in the Council
19 President's District.

20 Prior to that, I spent 11
21 years on the Boston City Council
22 where I was a District Councilor as
23 well as the Chair of the
24 Environment and Sustainability
25 Committee. It was in my role there

1 that I passed two pieces of
2 legislation that were referenced
3 earlier today.

4 One was our first
5 benchmarking ordinance, BERDO or
6 the Building Energy Reporting
7 Disclosure Ordinance back in 2013.
8 And then in 2021, this was an item
9 that was referenced by Liz Lankenau
10 a little bit earlier. We passed
11 the amendment or BERDO 2.0. We
12 kept the acronym, but we changed
13 the meaning to be the Building
14 Emissions Reduction Disclosure
15 Ordinance. And I have to thank you
16 BERDO fans here.

17 To be completely candid
18 with all of you, my work with the
19 Council on that side of the table
20 is what brought me to Vicinity
21 Energy where I am enormously lucky
22 after having the great political
23 and personal, professional
24 highlight of being a locally-
25 elected official to now work in the

1 solutions business.

2 And we at Vicinity, to
3 harken back to your comment,
4 Mr. Chairman, on what the business
5 community is doing, what private
6 enterprise is doing, how we're
7 standing up to echo the comments by
8 Emily Schapira who I've gotten to
9 know pretty well over the last two
10 years and could not agree more
11 strongly.

12 We at Vicinity are
13 committed to standing shoulder-to-
14 shoulder with the members of the
15 Philadelphia Council, with the
16 Parker Administration to do
17 everything we can to decarbonize
18 our business. We have a firm
19 commitment. We are working
20 literally around the clock. We are
21 national leaders in what we're
22 doing.

23 I'm based in Boston. I'm
24 down here about once a month and
25 I'm so delighted to report that our

1 decarbonization timeline has only
2 been expedited in the City of
3 Philadelphia, and that is because
4 of leadership by the people in this
5 building. That is because of the
6 leadership in so many of our
7 customers, our large institutional
8 customers, who know that we need to
9 meet this moment and we need to
10 look through the lens of equity.

11 We need to look through the
12 lens of making sure we get this
13 right. We simply do not have
14 enough time to continue to set off
15 these guidelines without doing the
16 work. So the way the district
17 energy system works, we have a
18 centralized plan. As I mentioned,
19 it's in Grays Ferry.

20 We have a CHP, combined
21 heat and power, which is how we
22 capture waste heat to help heat
23 about nearly 100 million square
24 feet of property in the City of
25 Philadelphia. We are changing how

1 we create that heat. We are moving
2 from gas-fire boilers to electric
3 boilers. We are introducing some
4 heat pump technology, some massive
5 heat pump, industrial heat pump
6 complexes. I'm talking 40
7 megawatts, which is prevalent all
8 over European cities.

9 We will have the first one
10 in Boston in Cambridge by 2027,
11 2028. The second one will be in
12 the City of Philadelphia shortly
13 after that. We're doing this
14 because we simply have no other
15 choice. We no longer have the
16 luxury to suggest that we can wait
17 and we can get to this in 10, 20
18 years down the road. Action has to
19 happen now.

20 And again, I'm enormously
21 grateful for the leadership of you,
22 Mr. Chairman. We've had an
23 opportunity to sit down. I haven't
24 yet met some of your newer
25 colleagues, but I look forward to

1 doing that soon to see the
2 commitment of this City and how
3 Philadelphia will be a leader, and
4 we at Vicinity are proud to stand
5 absolutely shoulder-to-shoulder.

6 So I wanted to keep my
7 testimony brief to answer any
8 questions you may have. And I know
9 we're going to hear from some
10 wonderful folks behind me as well.
11 But I came down just for this
12 specific hearing because of its
13 importance and to again reiterate
14 the commitment that our company has
15 as a neighbor and as a leader in
16 this great city.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
18 you. Thank you both for your
19 testimony. Of course, thank you
20 for your service as well. As a
21 former member of City Council, we
22 can not say that.

23 Chair recognizes
24 Councilmember Phillips to address
25 this panel.

1 COUNCILMAN PHILLIPS: Just
2 very quickly. Thank you,
3 Professor, and also thank you,
4 Matt, for your testimony just now.
5 I just want to say that all of the
6 information that you have presented
7 is incredibly profound. It's also
8 really important that neighbors
9 across the City of Philadelphia are
10 aware of this.

11 So, Professor, I do agree
12 about a massive advertisement
13 around this particular concern.
14 What I'm also relatively interested
15 in also learning about and have a
16 little concern on is are we
17 incorporating people from our
18 neighborhoods to also rally around
19 this message?

20 The two of you are very
21 highly-intelligent, educated folks
22 who have gone to schools and
23 studied this. But we don't -- I'm
24 not hearing from people in our
25 District, 9th District, where

1 Councilmember Thomas and I reside,
2 that are talking about this
3 constantly. So you may be
4 passionate about this, but if
5 you're not bringing forth people
6 that are from the neighborhoods
7 that you want to see change in to
8 get passionate about this, it's
9 going to fall on deaf ears.

10 And so, then also another
11 thing is a lot of us have gone to
12 nice schools and we're able to
13 understand the words that you are
14 echoing out of your mouth, but for
15 some folks it's too complicated for
16 them. They're like, what are you
17 ultimately saying. So finding ways
18 to break this down on a little bit
19 more elementary school level is
20 going to be really important if
21 we're going to do a massive
22 campaign around this. So these are
23 things I wanted to ask are you
24 working on or considering?

25 MR. O'MALLEY: If I may

1 first, I appreciate the question,
2 Councilmember, and could not agree
3 with you more. I think people care
4 about climate issues, but at the
5 end of the day your constituents,
6 my former constituents, who's
7 having safe streets, who's having
8 good schools, who's making sure
9 that they could get groceries on
10 their table every week. And a
11 former colleague of mine and
12 someone who is a partner in
13 environmental initiatives and now
14 she's in the Congress, Diana
15 Presley would always say, those
16 closest to the pain should be
17 closest to the power. And I think
18 that really has to be part of how
19 we look at and how we communicate
20 about environmental initiatives.

21 When we did BERDO, one
22 thing that I think set us apart
23 from a lot of other municipal
24 decarbonization bills is we created
25 an advisory board. We made sure it

1 was rooted in community. One
2 aspect of BERDO was that we
3 assessed a fine of \$234 for every
4 metric ton equivalent of CO2 to
5 incentivize businesses to basically
6 offer penalty for those who don't
7 comply.

8 And that money is
9 collected -- we haven't collected
10 anything yet because 2025 will be
11 the first year, but it's been ceded
12 by our mayor with about \$3 million.
13 That money that's collected is
14 going to go directly back into
15 community and it's going to make a
16 better economic case. Why does it
17 make sense to plant more trees,
18 because air quality is better.

19 We are so acutely aware of
20 so many respiratory issues,
21 particularly in light of the
22 pandemic and the fact that
23 neighborhoods without as many trees
24 see higher rates. So how do we
25 make that health case, how do we

1 make the economic case.

2 One of the reasons why I
3 support the Green New Deal is that
4 it's been made very much a jobs
5 bill, and that's one way that we
6 need to talk about these
7 initiatives. That's how we have to
8 talk about making sure that our
9 young people in school have the
10 skills that they need to go out and
11 join the green workforce.

12 We're a proud union shop in
13 the City of Philadelphia. We have
14 good-paying jobs. We're always
15 looking for talent, particularly as
16 we make this transition. So how do
17 we -- and its incumbent upon us in
18 business to make a better economic
19 case to get people interested in
20 this.

21 And it's also meeting
22 people where they are when we have
23 these conversations. BERDO passed
24 in large part because I had
25 announced I wasn't seeking

1 re-election. Our mayor at the time
2 Marty Walsh was tapped to be Labor
3 Secretary and we had four members
4 of the Council who were all running
5 for mayor, not unlike what you all
6 went through last year.

7 And I said, we're going to
8 pass this, this is something that
9 we need to do together, we need to
10 engage people, not everyone will
11 agree with us. I'm a firm believer
12 particularly in crafting
13 legislation. We should never let
14 perfect be the enemy of the good.
15 We need to talk to folks.

16 We need to make sure that
17 things are -- some aspects of it
18 are non-negotiable. I would never
19 suggest that you all would
20 compromise the needed action and
21 the urgency of this moment. But
22 meet folks where they are, talk to
23 them, engage other folks. It's
24 just not the same people who live
25 and breathe this stuff every day.

1 We need to build a broader, more
2 reflective coalition on climate
3 issues to actually get traction.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. O'MALLEY: Thank you.

6 PROFESSOR KUPER: I don't
7 have anything to add. I agree with
8 both of you.

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: One of
10 the things that was said in the
11 testimony thus far was something
12 that kind of struck my attention.
13 It was said that each year
14 Philadelphia's emissions contribute
15 to the Arctic sea ice loss equal to
16 over 21 square miles.

17 Help us understand that in
18 specific -- so when you're talking
19 about the impact that our behavior
20 is having, show the correlation
21 between that and some of the issues
22 that we're seeing around global
23 warming and other things that we're
24 impacting by this negligent
25 behavior.

1 PROFESSOR KUPER: So
2 there's been two studies that have
3 been published; one first in 2016,
4 one in 2018. Both studies found
5 that there's a strong robust
6 relationship between emissions and
7 Arctic sea ice loss. And what it
8 came out to be is 1 square meter in
9 the winter months and 3 square
10 meters in the summer months. So 3
11 square meters if you're familiar
12 with a sheet of plywood is 4 foot
13 by 8 foot. That's what 3 square
14 meters is. So with that, I love
15 metrics like this because then I
16 can help visualize and understand
17 the impact of actions.

18 So then it was just a
19 matter of taking the 2019
20 emissions -- I'm trying to find
21 that on my page -- and multiplying
22 it out and getting square miles,
23 and then using Google Earth to
24 determine what that means in terms
25 of square area in Philadelphia.

1 And that's 1 mile. So by 2050
2 they're projecting that September
3 Arctic sea ice would be gone -- or
4 Arctic sea ice would be gone in the
5 summer months.

6 What that means is then
7 you're going to get a feedback
8 where the oceans get warmer because
9 they're darker, they absorb more
10 solar radiation and it's going to
11 melt that Arctic sea ice, so the
12 sea levels are going to rise. And
13 then of course, as the ocean gets
14 warmer it also expands. So those
15 two processes together are going to
16 increase sea level rise. I'm not
17 sure if I answered your question
18 entirely. But if I haven't, I'd be
19 happy to explain more.

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: No, you
21 definitely did. I wanted you to
22 elaborate on that because in the
23 middle of reading and listening to
24 your testimony, that was a stat
25 that was alarming to me. And I'm

1 wondering based on some of the
2 things that you've heard today,
3 what could we do to kind of curb
4 the direction we're going in, what
5 are we doing well, what more do we
6 need to do.

7 I see Emily is still here.
8 She's still on my mind as it
9 relates to her testimony. What
10 could you add to some of the
11 recommendations that she made and
12 how can we put ourselves in a
13 position to be able to curb the
14 efforts that we're seeing so we're
15 not having this lasting impact on
16 our bodies of water around this?

17 PROFESSOR KUPER: Yeah.
18 Well, I think all the things that I
19 heard today are wonderful and I
20 would support all of them. They of
21 course know much more than I do,
22 especially in terms of policy which
23 I'm fairly ignorant about. What
24 could we do more. The only thing
25 that I can think of, I think

1 there's an expectation that the way
2 many of us are living now will
3 continue if we get to zero, whether
4 it's carbon neutral or whatever,
5 whatever you want to call it, I
6 think that's unrealistic.

7 I think some of us more
8 than others, and again if I refer
9 back to this kind of statistic of
10 the top 10 percent of emitters emit
11 more than the bottom 50 percent.
12 Some of us, including myself, have
13 got to use less, want less, waste
14 less and need less. And that's a
15 very uncomfortable message for
16 people to say and receive. But I
17 think it's a necessity.

18 I can't say much more than
19 that. But some of the things I did
20 mention, in Philadelphia I rode the
21 train in today and I see a lot of
22 construction going up. And I teach
23 materials and methods so I'm
24 thinking about concrete. I'm
25 thinking about the things that

1 could be done to improve the carbon
2 emissions associated with concrete.
3 There's a couple of things, but you
4 just can't do much with it.

5 And the same thing with all
6 the steel that's going up. There's
7 many buildings that are going up.
8 You can use electric arc furnaces
9 to make steel. But now, it relies
10 upon coking coal. I mean, it's
11 embedded into everything that's
12 happening and it's a stark contrast
13 in the City of Philadelphia when
14 you ride through Center City and
15 you see all these structures going
16 up, huge structures that are
17 reliant upon fossil energy not only
18 to make but to operate.

19 And then you go to North
20 Philly around Temple's campus.
21 It's a stark contrast. And it's
22 these people around Temple that
23 need the attention and they need
24 the infrastructure and they need
25 the support financial, social and

1 otherwise. How can -- beyond that
2 change, I don't know. How do we --
3 I just don't know. It's perplexing
4 and it's complicated.

5 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Now,
6 that's fair. I completely
7 understand. It's a tough issue to
8 essentially think through. But
9 similar to what was said I think by
10 Matt and people earlier, the time
11 is now to act. So what we do know
12 is that we have to have these tough
13 conversations. We have to
14 participate in brainstorming
15 sessions that might not necessarily
16 lead to the conclusion that we
17 desire, but the effort is there,
18 the will is there. We recognize
19 the problem.

20 I can't help but refer back
21 to what Councilmember Phillips
22 talked about when he talked about
23 education, advertising. Listening
24 to what you're saying, Professor,
25 changing behaviors require in all

1 industries and aspects of life here
2 in the City and there's no way to
3 get to that point without having
4 the proper opportunity to
5 communicate the problem and create
6 platforms to have the dialogue so
7 we're educating people and
8 informing so they know what's going
9 on. So I appreciate you being
10 here, both of you.

11 Are there any other
12 questions from members of this
13 Committee for this particular
14 panel?

15 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: I
16 have one.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Yeah.
18 Councilmember Lozada will close us
19 out with a statement.
20 Thank you both.

21 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
22 you both for your testimony. I
23 think for me just looking at some
24 of your testimony, it's alarming
25 because in Districts like mine,

1 especially in the neighborhood of
2 Hunting Park which is considered to
3 have the highest heat index in the
4 City of Philadelphia, there's still
5 a level of connection that we
6 haven't made between what we are
7 seeing and what some of the
8 universities are researching with
9 the community, right.

10 How do we get them to
11 understand that this could be a
12 health issue with them, right, that
13 if we improve or increase the tree
14 canopy in their community, if we
15 change how we treat the environment
16 in their neighborhoods, that we
17 could better improve their quality
18 of life, and that it's a safety
19 issue, right. It becomes when it's
20 greener and it's cleaner, it's more
21 beautiful. Some of those
22 activities that are not in their
23 best interest tend to kind of move
24 away.

25 So I want to figure out how

1 do we partner with some of the
2 universities who are doing this
3 work on the ground? I will use
4 Drexel University who during my
5 time at Esperanza worked very
6 closely with some of the residents
7 of Hunting Park, but there was
8 still this resistance from
9 residents about just something as
10 improving the tree canopy.

11 So how do we work closely
12 with some of you who do this work
13 every day? What is the language?
14 What is the basic information that
15 we need to share with residents to
16 help them understand that this is
17 not just great for the City, but
18 this is directly impacting them and
19 their families on a daily basis.

20 Whatever we can do to be
21 able to just break the language
22 down in a way that they can
23 understand is something that I
24 really want to work towards doing.
25 And then looking at tree canopy

1 across the City, right. For many
2 years, we planted the wrong trees
3 in certain neighborhoods. And now,
4 we're saying to residents it's your
5 responsibility to take that tree
6 down and pay for that, right.

7 How do we change that
8 process, right? How do we look at
9 the heat index in certain
10 neighborhoods, identify where some
11 of those tree structures are? How
12 do we remove them and then
13 encourage them to plant trees that
14 are better? Even though it's going
15 to take 30 years to really provide
16 the canopy that's necessary, but
17 the tree is there, how do we start
18 that process and how can you all
19 partner with us to make that
20 happen?

21 PROFESSOR KUPER: Well,
22 Philadelphia does have a tree plan
23 and I think it's quite good. I
24 didn't mention that in my
25 testimony. So already Philadelphia

1 is thinking about it and working on
2 it to increase their urban tree
3 canopy. From what I can recall,
4 the tree canopy did decrease so we
5 got to turn that around. And it
6 does require going out and engaging
7 the community and building trust
8 with the community and figuring out
9 the messages that are most
10 effective and getting them to
11 embrace trees and some of those
12 other green infrastructure that's
13 necessary in order to cool the
14 neighborhoods. And to really
15 emphasize the benefits, educate
16 them.

17 I think generally there's a
18 disconnect for many of us,
19 including my children, with nature.
20 And we've got to emphasize the
21 benefits of it, which are many, and
22 get them to educate and appreciate
23 and really instill some wonder in
24 trees and nature and other aspects
25 of the green infrastructure that

1 will ultimately help them.

2 MR. O'MALLEY: If I just
3 very briefly, Mr. Chair.
4 Councilmember, I appreciate the
5 question because I think it is so
6 spot-on, on how we need to talk
7 about these issues. This isn't
8 just about global warming or
9 climate change, although those are
10 important. We need to make a clear
11 and concise connection to public
12 health, to public safety, to job
13 growth and development. And that's
14 how we're going to continue to
15 build coalition. And it's about
16 making sure everyone has a seat at
17 the table.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. O'MALLEY: I met some
20 great friends from POWER
21 Interfaith. They are a powerhouse
22 in terms of advocacy. We need to
23 include them. We need to include
24 other opportunities as well as
25 folks in the business community.

1 And at Vicinity as I mentioned,
2 we're committed and we'll have the
3 uncomfortable conversations that we
4 need to have to make sure that we
5 are living up and fulfilling both
6 the letter and the spirit of any
7 legislation that can come from this
8 Committee that you all will
9 continue to work on because it is
10 that important to do so.

11 So I appreciate the
12 question. Trees are one aspect of
13 it. There's so many other ways
14 that we can talk about it. Gas
15 leaks, fixing gas leaks and how
16 that can have such a profound
17 impact. Having EV infrastructure
18 is important, but I think that
19 that's a luxury that we need to be
20 very cognizant of when we're
21 drafting this legislation, that it
22 just shouldn't be wealthy people
23 who can afford an EV who should
24 benefit.

25 And that's why if you were

1 to create some sort of advisory
2 group the way Boston did, I think
3 it can really prioritize EJ
4 communities to make sure that we
5 invest that money in communities
6 that is equitable across the board.

7 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Thank
8 you so much. I mean, I think that
9 when you start talking to community
10 residents who have so many issues
11 and you start talking about global
12 warming or use terms like global
13 warming, there's no connect -- they
14 can't make that connection, right.

15 But when we start breaking
16 it down and really telling them on
17 the ground how this is going to
18 impact their daily lives and their
19 families, I think that we will get
20 a different reaction. They'll be
21 more receptive to figuring out how
22 we better protect the neighborhood
23 and the City and the environment in
24 general.

25 MR. O'MALLEY: Yeah.

1 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: So
2 just want to be a little more
3 conscious about how we use terms
4 because some folks can't
5 understand.

6 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
7 Language access.

8 COUNCILWOMAN LOZADA: Yeah,
9 and lan -- Councilmember just
10 mentioned with language access,
11 right. We need to understand or
12 remember that folks don't always
13 speak English. And in our city, we
14 also have a real digital divide.
15 And so, information can't just be
16 accessible online. There has to be
17 a grassroots effort to ensure that
18 folks are really getting the
19 information in their hands and at
20 their doors.

21 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: And we
22 have members from the Mayor's team
23 that's still here. We appreciate
24 you staying and being part of the
25 conversation so you can listen to

1 some of the concerns that are being
2 communicated, and I think
3 Councilmember Landau just -- I'm
4 sorry. Councilmember Lozada just
5 raised some great points that we
6 should consider as we continue to
7 explore this conversation as well
8 as other issues related to our 2050
9 goal.

10 So I want to say thank you
11 to this panel for testifying. I do
12 want to apologize because the
13 hearing is running a little -- it's
14 a little lengthy, but I think that
15 this speaks to the importance of
16 the issue. We didn't start that
17 late, right, maybe about 11:00, but
18 we've been here well over two hours
19 because this issue is that
20 important.

21 We care that much about
22 this issue and clearly based on the
23 people who are still here engaged
24 in the conversation, you all care
25 too. But definitely thank you to

1 the Admin for staying to be a part
2 of our dialogue.

3 With that being said, I'd
4 like the Clerk to call the next
5 panel to come testify. Thank you
6 both for your testimony and your
7 expertise.

8 (Applause.)

9 THE CLERK: The Committee
10 will next hear from Clean Air
11 Council, Sean Hoffmann, if you'll
12 come forward; Green Building
13 United, Daniel Marzec who will read
14 testimony from Rich Freeh; Philly
15 Thrive, Shawmar Pitts, if you'll
16 call forward; and POWER, Pastor
17 Rashid, if you'll come forward.

18 (Witnesses approached
19 Witness table.)

20 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We're
21 going to continue with the same
22 path that we've been on. So we're
23 going to ask all four of you to
24 start by stating your name for the
25 record and then beginning with your

1 testimony. And once the entire
2 panel is finished, we'll jump right
3 into it.

4 MR. HOFFMANN: Good
5 afternoon. My name is Sean
6 Hoffmann and I'm an attorney with
7 the Clean Air Council and the
8 Legislative Director for Clean Air
9 Action Fund.

10 MR. MARZEC: My name is
11 Daniel Marzec, Communications and
12 Policy Manager with Green Building
13 United.

14 MR. PITTS: My name is
15 Shawmar Pitts. I'm Co-managing
16 Director at Philly Thrive and a
17 lifelong Philadelphia resident.

18 PASTOR RASHID: I'm Jonny
19 Rashid, Pastor for West
20 Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship
21 and part of POWER Interfaith.

22 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:
23 Mr. Hoffmann, if we can start with
24 you.

25 MR. HOFFMANN: Sure. Thank

1 you so much, Councilmembers, for
2 the opportunity to testify today
3 and thank you so much for holding
4 this very important hearing. As I
5 mentioned, I'm an attorney with
6 Clean Air Council and Legislative
7 Director for Clean Air Action.

8 We fight for your
9 constitutional right to a healthy
10 environment as a Pennsylvanian.
11 I'm also a true believer in Mayor
12 Parker's vision for Philadelphia to
13 become America's cleanest, safest
14 and greenest big city. But that
15 will not happen unless and until we
16 step our game up here in Philly.

17 Last year the Clean Air
18 team that I am a part of lead over
19 80 public health and environmental
20 action campaigns engaging over
21 8,000 people. We achieved 10 major
22 legal victories, including at the
23 Pennsylvania Supreme Court and had
24 26,000 new users utilize
25 GoPhillyGo, an app we designed to

1 encourage fossil fuel-free trip
2 planning via bikes, walking and
3 public transit.

4 Clean Air team works on
5 environmental and lifesaving public
6 health issues, but today I'm here
7 to talk about climate change. And
8 I think it's important. We've
9 heard a lot of fabulous information
10 and data and it can get very
11 complicated, and I think it's
12 important to simply as possible
13 sort of discuss what it is here
14 these problems that we're dealing
15 with.

16 Fossil fuels have literally
17 changed the way the planet
18 functions. The consequences are
19 global and devastating.
20 Philadelphia's made some great
21 strides in the Office of
22 Sustainability and others who we've
23 heard from today should be
24 commended for that. But we are not
25 on track to become the cleanest,

1 safest, greenest city.

2 This is the City of
3 Brotherly Love. And we've
4 addressed this already today, we
5 need to show that love to every
6 Philadelphian, particularly those
7 who live in neighborhoods hardest
8 it by the effects of climate
9 change.

10 The primary driver of
11 climate change just so we're clear
12 for the record is fossil fuels,
13 including coal, oil and frack gas,
14 also known as natural gas. To get
15 energy from fossil fuels, we burn
16 or combust them. Every time we
17 burn fossil fuels, they release
18 emissions that cause climate change
19 and harm our lungs even if we can't
20 see them.

21 Every time you turn your
22 natural gas burner on in your
23 kitchen, that releases emissions
24 into our homes that are bad for our
25 lungs and bad for the planet.

1 There is no such thing as a clean
2 burning fossil fuel, full-stop.
3 It's simply a question of how dirty
4 they are when we burn them.

5 Extracting, transporting
6 and processing them is also very
7 dangerous. A town about 100 miles
8 west of here has been on fire since
9 1962, Centralia, Pennsylvania
10 thanks to the coal beneath it. And
11 I'm sure everyone here has heard of
12 the East Palestine train derailment
13 and public health disaster that was
14 as President Biden recently
15 described it, not an act of God but
16 an act of greed.

17 And we've also talked about
18 plastics here today, which is
19 inextricably linked to fossil fuel
20 use. Most plastics are derived
21 from petroleum, from oil. It is
22 also an immense problem that is
23 totally connected to our use of
24 fossil fuels.

25 The damaging impacts from

1 climate change as we've discussed
2 today are not hypothetical. We
3 have already seen what that looks
4 like here in Philadelphia. Philly
5 went almost two years without
6 decent snow, then 60 degrees in
7 February. And just this past
8 weekend it was unseasonably warm.
9 We see heat records summer after
10 summer and we know what follows.

11 Climate change causes
12 annual flooding that we once
13 considered a once-in-a-century
14 event that now happens almost
15 yearly. The Delaware River is
16 expected to rise as much as a foot
17 within the next 25 years. And
18 these impacts are felt most by
19 those who live in historically
20 disadvantaged neighborhoods, who
21 also cannot afford to relocate or
22 protect themselves from heat and
23 flooding.

24 Neighborhoods like Cobbs
25 Creek, Point Breeze, Strawberry

1 Mansion and Hunting Park are among
2 those most vulnerable to heat in
3 Philadelphia, with some of them
4 showing heat 22 degrees higher than
5 other parts of the City, 22
6 degrees. Eastwick, Germantown,
7 Manayunk and East Falls are some of
8 the most vulnerable neighborhoods
9 in Philadelphia to flooding, but
10 that list will likely grow as the
11 river levels rise.

12 Voters under the age of 40
13 view climate changes as a
14 bipartisan issue. With each
15 election cycle, Millennials and Gen
16 Z make up a greater proportion of
17 the electorate. And nowadays most
18 of us are concerned about climate
19 change and the state of our
20 environment. Elected officials who
21 do not keep up risk getting voted
22 out.

23 Our City's goal is to hit
24 carbon neutrality by 2050. To even
25 meet that let alone claim the title

1 of greenest biggest city in
2 America, we need to move away from
3 the use of so-called natural gas as
4 quickly and completely as possible.
5 That means Philadelphia Gas Works
6 should become the Philadelphia
7 Geothermal Works.

8 (Applause.)

9 MR. HOFFMANN: It's already
10 PGW. You don't even have to
11 rebrand. You keep all trucks, all
12 the signs, it's already there. PGW
13 has been with Philly since 1838 and
14 that isn't something that is to be
15 cast aside lightly. But instead of
16 allowing PGW to waste mountains of
17 money on replacing aging fossil
18 fuel infrastructure, we must become
19 a global model for the transition
20 to clean energy.

21 PGW is currently exploring
22 the viability of geothermal, but we
23 must demand it and accelerate the
24 process. Every new gas line
25 installed, and they're being

1 installed as we speak, pushes us
2 further from our goal and invests
3 more money in dirty fossil fuels.
4 Investing in clean geothermal now
5 just makes sense financially and
6 environmentally.

7 Philadelphia also needs to
8 lean into building energy
9 efficiency and electrification to
10 reduce our emissions, save money
11 and become more climate resilient,
12 and that's something we've heard a
13 lot of great info about already
14 today.

15 Something I like to say a
16 lot is the cheapest and cleanest
17 energy is the energy we never have
18 to use. Helping homeowners with
19 new windows, better insulation and
20 energy-efficient electric heat
21 pumps would go a long way to lower
22 Philadelphians' energy bills and
23 more efficiently heat and cool our
24 homes, all with lessened air
25 pollution.

1 It's been mentioned
2 earlier, we've got an old housing
3 stock here in Philly and we love
4 our old buildings, but they are
5 drafty. We can do a lot to fight
6 climate change just by insulating
7 our homes. Thanks to the federal
8 tax credits from the Infrastructure
9 Investment and Jobs Act and the
10 Inflation Reduction Act, there are
11 more incentives for energy
12 efficiency than ever before, ever
13 in American history.

14 Philadelphia should help
15 its residents tap into those
16 resources, especially in the most
17 vulnerable parts of the City, and
18 it's great that we've already had
19 some good discussion on how to do
20 that. Meeting the challenges of
21 climate change is extremely
22 difficult. And as has been said,
23 we've hit the low-hanging fruit
24 already. We're at a point where
25 major leadership is required and

1 tough decisions have to be made.

2 But it's now or never.

3 And Philadelphia, as I said
4 before, absolutely can be the
5 cleanest, safest, greenest big city
6 in America. We're a world class
7 city. We all know that. And we
8 can pioneer ways to be carbon
9 neutral by 2050 while protecting
10 those most impacted by climate
11 change and saving money along the
12 way.

13 The fossil fuel lobby may
14 have its hand in Harrisburg, but
15 not in Philadelphia. And the Clean
16 Air team and I stand ready to
17 assist in any way we can to ensure
18 Mayor Parker's vision for
19 Philadelphia becomes a reality.
20 Thank you.

21 (Applause.)

22 MR. MARZEC: Good
23 afternoon. Thank you,
24 Councilmembers Thomas and Landau --

25 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Just

1 real quick will you restate your
2 name before you speak for the court
3 reporter.

4 MR. MARZEC: Thanks.
5 Daniel Marzec, Green Building
6 United. My name is Daniel Marzec,
7 Communications and Policy Manager
8 for Green Building United. Through
9 education, advocacy and strategic
10 initiatives, Green Building United
11 promotes the development of
12 buildings that are sustainable,
13 healthy for inhabitants, resilient
14 and cost-effective. Our
15 community's made up of architects,
16 engineers, building operators,
17 policymakers and advocates,
18 individual residents and businesses
19 from across our regions.

20 Thank you so much,
21 Councilmembers Landau and Thomas,
22 for holding this space for this
23 important discussion today. I want
24 to open by first addressing the
25 importance of climate action. As

1 we've heard from others today so
2 far that the impacts of climate
3 change are here. The last three
4 years alone have been some of the
5 hottest on record. Toxic air
6 quality from wildfires have made
7 our air some of the worst in the
8 world last summer. And in 2021,
9 the impacts from Tropical Storm Ida
10 devastated communities across
11 Philadelphia and inundated the Vine
12 Street Expressway.

13 It's not a surprise. At
14 end of the Nutter Administration,
15 the then Mayor's Office of
16 Sustainability published Growing
17 Stronger, a report on expected
18 climate impacts in Philadelphia. A
19 decade later we've seen many of
20 those impacts come true.

21 There is some good news.
22 Thanks to the commitments that the
23 City has made, reductions have been
24 made and we are on track to at
25 least avert the worst-case

1 scenarios reported in Growing
2 Stronger, but it's extremely
3 critical that we continue to act on
4 our commitments and accelerate
5 action to keep on track or exceed
6 our goals as to achieve carbon
7 neutrality by 2050.

8 As you may have heard
9 already, in Philadelphia the entire
10 two-thirds are emissions. Carbon
11 emissions come from the buildings
12 and electricity grid that powers
13 them. At Green Building United,
14 we're focused on our built
15 environment, the buildings that we
16 live, grow and play in. And we're
17 identifying and supporting efforts
18 to cut emissions from existing
19 buildings and new construction,
20 Philadelphia's homes, businesses,
21 schools and nonprofits.

22 Philadelphia has programs
23 in place now that are working to
24 cut emissions in the built
25 environment while reducing energy

1 bills and creating job
2 opportunities for Philadelphians.
3 Thanks to former Councilmember
4 Blondell Reynolds-Brown, for the
5 past decade large buildings have
6 been required to track and report
7 their admissions on an annual
8 basis, a process called emergency
9 benchmarking.

10 In 2019, City Council added
11 a requirement for many large
12 buildings to tune up their existing
13 systems. Green Building United
14 manages this program, and
15 benchmarking alone has led to an
16 average 5 percent reduction energy
17 use over the past decade, and we're
18 starting to see an additional
19 savings of 4 percent for buildings
20 that have completed the Building
21 Energy Performance Policy programs.

22 At the residential levels,
23 City initiatives like the Basic
24 Systems Repair program and Restore,
25 Repair, Renew help residents get

1 their home to state of good repair.
2 These kinds of programs are
3 critical for energy efficiency.
4 While these programs require more
5 funding and could better emphasize
6 emissions reductions, it's
7 important to know that home repair
8 is climate action.

9 Funding these critical
10 programs benefits our most
11 vulnerable neighbors while making
12 progress towards our climate and
13 emissions goals. In recent years,
14 the Philadelphia Energy Authority's
15 groundbreaking Built to Last
16 program has brought together many
17 of these existing home repair
18 programs and brings in the
19 expertise on climate emissions
20 reductions and health while also
21 helping seniors stay in their homes
22 for longer and avoid community
23 displacement.

24 With all that said, these
25 programs alone won't eliminate

1 emissions from buildings. In many
2 buildings, residents are left out
3 of current policies. We need to
4 accelerate this action to meet our
5 climate goals and ensure
6 Philadelphians benefit from the
7 clean energy transition that
8 results in good-paying family-
9 supporting local jobs, affordable
10 housing and a better quality of
11 life for all residents.

12 Now's the time to be
13 talking about decarbonization in
14 Philly. We have a new Mayor, who
15 has renewed pledges to meet
16 Philadelphia's climate goals and
17 the dedicated leadership in City
18 Council who's ready to resource
19 this work and make it possible.

20 We also have the Biden
21 Administration making the most
22 ambitious investments in climate
23 action in history via the
24 Infrastructure Investment Act and
25 the Inflation Reduction Act. This

1 funding is just the beginning to
2 reach -- this funding is just
3 beginning to reach Philadelphia.
4 And over the next 10 years, we'll
5 make it possible for City
6 businesses and residents to
7 accelerate action on climate to
8 meet the goals set forth by the
9 City of Philadelphia.

10 We do applaud Mayor
11 Parker's commitment to upholding
12 meeting Philadelphia's climate
13 goals. We agree with the Mayor
14 when she calls on City leaders to
15 work together and take an all-of-
16 city approach to accomplish our
17 goals, including climate action.
18 It will take concerted efforts from
19 both the private and public sectors
20 to achieve carbon neutrality by
21 2050.

22 City departments and quasi
23 governmental agencies like SEPTA
24 and Philadelphia Gas Works must be
25 resourced and held accountable for

1 their efforts to meet the challenge
2 of climate action in our city. As
3 Mayor Parker has said, if it's not
4 in the budget or not someone's job,
5 it won't get done.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. MARZEC: Over the next
8 month -- thank you. Over the next
9 month, we look forward to reviewing
10 the Parker's Administration budget
11 and meeting with Councilmembers and
12 staff to encourage further
13 investment in climate action in key
14 departments, including the
15 Philadelphia's Office of
16 Sustainability, Department of
17 Licenses and Inspections,
18 Philadelphia Housing Development
19 Corporation and the Philadelphia
20 Energy Authority.

21 We're also convening
22 conversations of private and public
23 sector partners today, in fact,
24 around the next generation of
25 building performance policies,

1 building on the great work that is
2 already in place while recognizing
3 the imperative to move quickly to
4 ensure we are playing our part in
5 cutting emissions to realize the
6 benefits of a cleaner, greener and
7 more sustainable future of all
8 Philadelphians.

9 I would like to close on
10 two themes to keep in mind as City
11 Council pursues further action on
12 climate in Philadelphia. The first
13 one is providing regulatory
14 certainty. Increasing the ambition
15 of climate programs seems daunting.
16 But one message that we have
17 received at Green Building United
18 for members of the building
19 community and others is that they
20 are seeking regulatory certainty.
21 The writing is on the wall. They
22 know they need to reduce their
23 emissions. They need guidance from
24 City government. Giving building
25 owners clarity on how Philadelphia

1 intends to meet 2050 targets will
2 help them plan ahead and make smart
3 investments.

4 The second point, job
5 creation. For almost a decade,
6 Philadelphia Energy Authority has
7 been tracking job creation through
8 their energy campaign. They set a
9 goal of creating 10,000 new jobs.
10 And as you heard earlier, they're
11 on track to meet that goal or
12 exceed it.

13 Thinking about all the work
14 that's still left to do in this
15 important area, think of all those
16 potential jobs just waiting to be
17 created. And each and every one of
18 those needs and should be done by
19 Philadelphians. Thank you so much
20 for your time and I appreciate the
21 opportunity to be here.

22 (Applause.)

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
24 you.

25 MR. PITTS: Yes. My name

1 is Shawmar Pitts. I want to
2 apologize anyway before I even get
3 started because I'm really excited
4 right now from all the testimony
5 that we heard and how important
6 this hearing is and the history of
7 our city. And sometimes I can't
8 contain my excitement, right. So
9 you might see that, right, while
10 I'm sitting here talking, right.

11 I'm a lifelong
12 Philadelphian, and I'm the
13 Co-managing Director of Philly
14 Thrive. Philly Thrive is an
15 environmental housing justice
16 organization that represents
17 hundreds of Philadelphia residents,
18 mostly based in Grays Ferry, but
19 not limited to Grays Ferry. We're
20 worldwide. We'll help people
21 anywhere.

22 Grays Ferry's an
23 environmental justice community in
24 all senses of the word. We are in
25 the 97th percentile in the entire

1 country for rates for asthma and we
2 have a greater than 26 percent
3 chance of being severely affected
4 by flooding over the next 30 years.

5 The majority of residents
6 are low income with a significant
7 percentage of senior citizens.
8 Populations who are most at risk in
9 the face of climate disaster and
10 our community was poisoned for
11 decades by the East Coast largest
12 oil refinery.

13 According to the City's
14 Climate Action Playbook that you
15 all wrote, buildings and industry
16 account for 75 percent of
17 Philadelphian's carbon emissions,
18 75 percent. We have the solutions.
19 We know what it will take for a
20 just transition away from fossil
21 fuels. We just have to act on it.

22 We have a tendency to cling
23 to the past and finance the past,
24 knowing that we need to invest in
25 the future for the sake of our

1 children. The systems we are
2 financing are unhealthy. Last fall
3 Philly Thrive went out and we
4 talked with our community. We
5 surveyed over 100 long-term Grays
6 Ferry residents about their housing
7 needs.

8 By far the biggest need
9 named by over 60 percent of long-
10 term residents is home repairs.
11 People are losing their homes
12 because they can't afford to make
13 essential repairs. We have an
14 opportunity in Philadelphia to
15 address the needs of our long-term
16 residents.

17 And today I just want to
18 elaborate on two things. I want to
19 talk about the opportunities
20 presented by home repairs and I
21 want to talk about the
22 redevelopment in the Bellwether
23 District and PGW so that we can
24 enact this transition. We have an
25 opportunity in Philadelphia to

1 address the needs of our long-term
2 residents and keep them in their
3 homes and meet the City's carbon
4 neutrality goals at the same time.

5 Repairing homes in a way
6 that increases energy efficiency
7 and adds clean energy is a
8 no-brainer way to transition from
9 fossil fuels. This project -- this
10 process reduces energy costs for
11 low-income residents. It improves
12 our air quality and health and will
13 drastically support our city to
14 reach our climate goals.

15 The City has a solution.
16 We need to fund the Philadelphia'
17 Energy Authority's Built to Last
18 program.

19 (Applause.)

20 MR. PITTS: This is a
21 holistic home repair program that
22 includes weatherization, heat pumps
23 and solar energy. Our City Council
24 needs to include \$5 million for
25 Built to Last in this year's budget

1 in the coming year. We'll need
2 much greater investment from all
3 levels of government, but it is
4 crucial for the City to invest now
5 so that the program can continue to
6 develop, improve and expand.

7 Once again, buildings in
8 industry account for 75 percent of
9 Philadelphia's carbon emissions.
10 Grays Ferry borders the Bellwether
11 District at the site of the former
12 PES Oil Refinery. It makes up 2
13 percent of Philadelphia's land
14 mass, the largest redevelopment in
15 Philadelphia's history. Philly
16 Thrive and other RCOs in South and
17 Southwest Philly have been
18 negotiating with Hillco for pretty
19 much four years to make sure this
20 development is fossil fuel-free so
21 we have clean air in our community.

22 If we're serious about
23 carbon neutrality by 2050, then
24 you, our City Council officials,
25 need to mandate that all future

1 large developments in Philadelphia,
2 including the Bellwether District,
3 be fossil fuel-free.

4 (Applause.)

5 MR. PITTS: Now, this is
6 tough. This is tough because
7 financially a lot of people, like I
8 said, we cling to the past. And in
9 our state of Pennsylvania, we have
10 a natural gas reserve and we have
11 Shell and we have frack and this is
12 big business in our state so it's
13 tremendous pressure from that
14 industry to try to keep us on that
15 path so that they can make the
16 money that they're used to making.
17 We got to break away from that
18 because it doesn't help us. It
19 doesn't serve us.

20 And for us to believe, I
21 think that 2050, right, that's
22 why -- I was just sitting there and
23 when Councilman Thomas said, how
24 can we speed this up and make it
25 2040, take 10 years off, right,

1 because we don't have until 2050,
2 right. I don't know where that
3 number came from, but we don't have
4 until 2050 to get it right. We
5 don't. We don't.

6 (Applause.)

7 MR. PITTS: That's wishing.
8 I'm hoping we got until 2050. But
9 from what I'm seeing, we don't have
10 until 2050. We got to act right
11 now. We can't take steps
12 backwards. If you imagine me as
13 the City of Philadelphia and you
14 imagine that carbon neutrality is
15 the door right there, we can't take
16 not one step in that direction that
17 way. We got to go that way. So we
18 got to get away from natural gas.
19 We got to get away from all those
20 natural fossil fuels. We have to
21 do it now.

22 (Applause.)

23 MR. PITTS: We need City
24 Council to take leadership in
25 transforming PGW. One of PGW's

1 plants is right in our neighborhood
2 and we're affected by PGW's
3 decisions as ratepayers and as
4 people who live with gas appliances
5 in our homes. If we're going to
6 move from fossil fuel to clean
7 energy in Philadelphia, PGW has to
8 change drastically.

9 We've been testifying at
10 Gas Commission hearings, at the
11 Public Utility Commission hearings
12 for years. PGW will continue to
13 hold back the transition to clean
14 energy until City Council and the
15 Mayor's Office require them to
16 change. They won't do it on their
17 own.

18 (Applause.)

19 MR. PITTS: Achieving
20 carbon neutrality by 2050 is the
21 bare minimum of what we need to
22 protect the health, safety and
23 well-being of our communities. We
24 have to start now. The City is not
25 currently taking the actions needed

1 to achieve this goal, and it seems
2 as if we know this because that's
3 why we're here for this hearing
4 today.

5 You are the ones who called
6 this hearing and I'm so glad you
7 did. We need energy-efficient home
8 repairs by allocating \$5 million to
9 Built to Last in the City budget and
10 we need all new development,
11 including the Bellwether District
12 to be free of fossil fuels, and we
13 need City Council to make PGW
14 transition away from gas
15 infrastructure.

16 And in closing, I just want
17 to say that I've spoken to the
18 representatives at Hillco about
19 going green, right. And this was
20 my first request in trying to
21 establish some negotiations for
22 community benefit agreement for my
23 community.

24 And a lot of the RCOs they
25 came in and they was talking about

1 how much money, how much money,
2 what you going to give us, what you
3 going to give us. So when I came
4 and I sat down at -- we was in the
5 park, at the picnic table in the
6 park, you know, they said
7 everything about money. You know,
8 I wasn't really concerned with
9 money too much.

10 My first request was that
11 we want 100 percent fossil
12 fuel-free green energy used in the
13 construction for all the heat in
14 all the buildings in the all the
15 energy for these new buildings.
16 This is what we need. And we want
17 this whole place cleaned up from
18 the contamination that was done for
19 over 150 years because it affects
20 us. And everybody looked at me
21 like I was crazy because I wasn't
22 talking about money. But I am
23 talking about money because you
24 need investment to be able to do
25 those things and that's what people

1 couldn't see that far.

2 So we do need money and we
3 do need investment, but it has to
4 be put in a position to be used to
5 make us fossil-free so that we can
6 save this planet and save ourselves
7 at the same time. And we have to
8 be able to -- because the hardest
9 thing for me to do is like when
10 Councilman Phillips said, how do we
11 bring this like all the people that
12 testified, all the language that
13 they use, how do we make our
14 residents just understand what
15 we're talking about when you're
16 using these big words and all this
17 language, right, how can you make
18 that relate to our everyday lives
19 because it's all connected.
20 Environmental justice is connected
21 to every justice that you can name.
22 It's just intertwined like I got my
23 hands locked.

24 It's intertwined with
25 racial justice. It's intertwined

1 with social justice. It's
2 intertwined with economic justice.
3 It's all connected and we need to
4 make a way and we got to stand up
5 and be strong and be forceful, and
6 we have to be resoluting, knowing
7 that we're doing the right thing
8 just because people not going to be
9 able to make the money they used to
10 make. They're going to have to
11 come out of their comfort zone.

12 PGW can't be Philadelphia
13 Gas Works. It got to be
14 Philadelphia Geothermal Works just
15 like he said. We got to be
16 confident and know we're doing the
17 right thing, so we got to do it.
18 We don't have choice. That's it.
19 That's it.

20 (Applause.)

21 MR. PITTS: So thank you so
22 much. I appreciate y'all letting
23 us come here and just give y'all
24 what we need to give y'all because
25 we need y'all. Man, we need

1 legislation. That's how we going
2 to do it. We need legislation on
3 this right here. That's what we
4 need. That's how we going to
5 change it, legislation. Thank you
6 so much.

7 (Applause.)

8 THE CLERK: Pastor Rashid.

9 PASTOR RASHID: I'm Jonny
10 Rashid. I'm Pastor for West
11 Philadelphia Mennonite Fellowship.
12 And I'm a preacher, but I won't
13 preach like my brother just did
14 there. POWER's a multi-racial,
15 multi-faith organizing movement
16 that works for racial and economic
17 justice for a livable planet on a
18 livable planet, and there's dozens
19 of congregations and thousands of
20 people connected to us throughout
21 the City.

22 So your actions as
23 representatives over the next
24 couple of years will determine
25 whether we have the capacity to be

1 a thriving city, not just in the
2 near term but in the future too.
3 We're not on track for a carbon
4 neutrality by 2050 and we're
5 certainly not on track to get there
6 by 2040 which is a more responsible
7 goal. So I'm going to outline two
8 actions that we need City Council
9 to take focusing on repairing
10 Philadelphians' homes and
11 transforming PGW.

12 Our members are harmed by
13 multiple overlapping crises in our
14 city. Unaffordable housing, high
15 rates of poverty and gun violence,
16 unaffordable energy bills and more.
17 And we're also facing a climate
18 emergency, flooding, heat waves
19 wildfire smoke, all that is hurting
20 us. And if we don't respond with
21 urgency to stop fossil fuel
22 emissions, we'll create a legacy of
23 devastating harm.

24 And these problems are
25 intraconnected. We don't have to

1 choose between fighting against
2 poverty, tackling gun violence,
3 preventing displacement and
4 addressing the climate crisis. By
5 focusing on housing and energy, we
6 can tackle multiple crises at once.

7 First, we need large scale
8 public investment to repair and
9 decarbonize our homes. That will
10 improve people's health and it will
11 heal -- stay in their homes and
12 afford their energy bills, create
13 good jobs and stop fossil fuel
14 pollution.

15 The Philadelphia Energy
16 Authority's Built to Last program
17 is a critical initiative that
18 should receive more investment
19 right now, so we urge you to
20 provide at least \$5 million for the
21 Built to Last in the next budget
22 for the City. City Council must
23 work to ensure that PGW is
24 accountable for its role in
25 achieving our City's 2550 carbon

1 neutrality commitment. And we need
2 you to make the City's 2050 carbon
3 neutrality deadline binding into
4 closely supervise PGW's
5 decarbonization to make sure it
6 stays on track.

7 The City owns PGW and
8 fossil fuels that it sells are one
9 of the largest sources of climate
10 pollution in our city, so we must
11 replace those fossil fuels entirely
12 with clean energy over the next 20
13 to 25 years, and we need to protect
14 low-income residents at every step
15 in that process.

16 We've attempted to work
17 with PGW for the last three years.
18 We hope PGW will lead the
19 transition to clean energy. But
20 instead we've seen PGW executives
21 impede it. In two examples, they
22 continue to pursue new gas
23 customers aggressively.

24 Just this year they're
25 proposing to spend \$19 million on

1 infrastructure for new gas
2 customers and they're planning on
3 spending upwards of \$8 billion over
4 the next decade to replace gas
5 pipes even though we need to stop
6 burning gas by 2050. They declined
7 our request to hold even a single
8 stakeholder meeting about potential
9 alternatives to that plan. So we
10 urge City Council to require PGW to
11 implement policies and budgets that
12 match the 2050 carbon neutrality
13 goal with clear milestones along
14 the way and participatory
15 transparent planning.

16 (Applause.)

17 PASTOR RASHID: Dr. King
18 invoked this quote, "The fierce
19 urgency of now." This phrase
20 applies in 2024 as we face the
21 climate crisis. And those of us
22 who have the least wealth and power
23 are harmed most. So what kind of
24 city will you leave as your legacy.
25 Now is the moment for fierce

1 urgency and we're counting on your
2 leadership. Thank you.

3 (Applause.)

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
5 you all for your testimony.

6 In the spirit of time, I
7 want to allow the next panel to
8 come and testify. If you all can
9 just hang right back there. You
10 don't even have to go on the other
11 side. If we can just call the next
12 two panelists up, and then we'll do
13 all six, both the third panel and
14 the fourth panel together for
15 questions just in the spirit of
16 time because I know that we're a
17 little over schedule.

18 THE CLERK: Torrey Fishman
19 from Zipcar and Jay Arzu from
20 Weitzman School of Design, if you
21 would come forward.

22 (Witnesses approached
23 Witness table.)

24 THE CLERK: Mr. Fishman, if
25 you'd state your name for the

1 record, you can begin with your
2 testimony. As soon as he's done,
3 Jay, if you could do the same, that
4 would be great. Thank you.

5 MR. FISHMAN: Thank you.
6 Torrey Fishman from Zipcar. Good
7 afternoon, Chairman Thomas and
8 members of the Legislative
9 Oversight Committee. My name is
10 Torrey Fishman and I serve as
11 Manager of Public Partnerships and
12 Policy from Zipcar.

13 I appreciate the
14 opportunity by provide testimony on
15 how Zipcar and car sharing can help
16 advance the City's carbon
17 neutrality goals and to answer any
18 questions you might have. Zipcar
19 is the world's leading car-sharing
20 network, driven by a mission to
21 enable simple and responsible urban
22 living by reducing the need for
23 personal car ownership.

24 Car sharing allows Zipcar
25 members to reserve vehicles by the

1 hour or by the day typically from a
2 location just a short distance from
3 home. By sharing a car, fewer
4 personal vehicles are on the road
5 which means less congestion, less
6 carbon emissions, less curb and
7 parking competition and more free
8 space in neighborhoods across the
9 City for people, not cars.

10 While Zipcar has a national
11 presence, we consider our
12 relationship with Philadelphia to
13 be a particularly important one as
14 our President Angelo Adams is a
15 proud Philly native hailing from
16 the 9th Councilmanic District.
17 While Angelo regrets that he
18 couldn't be here today, he recently
19 visited to help launch our new
20 partnership with the Philadelphia
21 Housing Authority where Zipcar
22 provides affordable convenient
23 vehicles to residents enabling them
24 to access personal and professional
25 opportunities. A press release

1 outlining that partnership has been
2 submitted as part of my testimony
3 today.

4 Zipcar has operated in
5 Philadelphia since 2007 and has
6 become a vital part of the City's
7 transportation ecosystem. Zipcar's
8 model of car sharing has proven to
9 be an important sustainable
10 transportation option for an
11 increasingly diverse cross-section
12 of Philadelphians at every corner
13 of the City and at every income
14 level.

15 According to our North
16 American Transportation Survey,
17 which we release annually to
18 illustrate the social and
19 environmental impact of Zipcar, we
20 know that nearly 90 percent of our
21 members in Philadelphia do not own
22 a car. Nearly 50 percent of them
23 have postponed buying or leasing a
24 car because of their Zipcar
25 membership and more than 40 percent

1 of them would buy a car if Zipcar
2 disappeared tomorrow. That's a lot
3 of cars that we're helping keep off
4 the road in Philadelphia.

5 According to AAA, the cost
6 of new car ownership was at an
7 all-time high in 2023 and this
8 estimate does not consider the cost
9 of EV ownership and its specific
10 requirements. Because of this, 60
11 percent of our members in
12 Philadelphia report they joined
13 Zipcar specifically to avoid the
14 prohibitively high cost of car
15 ownership.

16 Zipcar is an affordable
17 option because our membership
18 includes gas, electric charging
19 where applicable, insurance
20 options, maintenance, roadside
21 service and dedicated parking spot.
22 Due to the cost and complexities of
23 electric vehicles and many cities'
24 goal of providing affordable,
25 sustainable transportation for all,

1 Zipcar believes that the future of
2 EVs is shared, not owned.

3 Independent studies also
4 show that Zipcar's roundtrip model
5 of car sharing has a positive
6 impact on the environment and
7 supports the City's carbon
8 neutrality goals. For example, one
9 Zipcar takes up to 13 personally-
10 owned vehicles off the road.

11 In Philadelphia where we
12 personally have a fleet of about
13 300 vehicles at 140 locations,
14 that's about 4,000 cars that we're
15 keeping off City streets, enough
16 cars to fill Dilworth Park six
17 times over. Car-sharing members
18 also have a lighter carbon
19 footprint than noncar-sharers.
20 Each member reduces their carbon
21 footprint by up to 1600 pounds per
22 year and each member tends to drive
23 40 percent fewer miles after
24 joining Zipcar because they depend
25 on a diverse mobility network for

1 the transportation needs and only
2 drive when actually necessary.

3 Last year marked the
4 beginning of a new chapter for
5 Zipcar. We further expanded our
6 commitment to reducing carbon
7 emissions by launching EVs across
8 multiple markets, including
9 Philadelphia. And we joined the
10 White House EV Acceleration
11 Challenge, committing to place 25
12 percent of our EV fleet in
13 overburdened communities and expand
14 our EV fleet to double its current
15 size in 2024.

16 A best practice we've
17 inquired from providing shared
18 electric vehicles is that
19 collaboration between the public
20 and private sector is going to be
21 critical to successfully meet and
22 expand sustainable transportation
23 goals. By working together and
24 tapping our broad and deep
25 experience, Zipcar and the City of

1 Philadelphia and other public and
2 private sector partners can help
3 advance a historic and generational
4 transition and ensure that we're
5 paving the way for the future of
6 sustainable transportation.

7 Zipcar's excited to work
8 with the City on innovative
9 solutions to expand EV car sharing
10 to increase the availability of
11 charging infrastructure city-wide.
12 A successful program Zipcar has
13 launched in partnership with cities
14 across the country is Zipcar for
15 Government, a car-sharing program
16 designed explicitly for City
17 government employees.

18 In Boston, New York, D.C.
19 and other cities across the
20 country, they're using Zipcar as a
21 flexible fleet solution that allows
22 city employees to drive EVs and
23 hybrid vehicles to conduct
24 important services, like building
25 inspections and social work home

1 visits.

2 We found that programs like
3 Electric Car Sharing for
4 Governments allow cities to help
5 reduce capital cost, electrify
6 government transportation and
7 promote sustainability. As a
8 mission-driven company, Zipcar
9 shares the City's goals of reducing
10 carbon emissions and help provide
11 innovative solutions to help the
12 City become a national model that
13 runs on affordable, convenient and
14 sustainable transportation.

15 To that end, we look
16 forward to continuing to work with
17 this Committee and the City Council
18 to advance the City's carbon
19 neutrality goals by expanding
20 electric car sharing as an
21 affordable and sustainable option
22 throughout the City. Thank you for
23 the opportunity to testify today.

24 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
25 you.

1 MR. ARZU: Hello. My name
2 is Jayr Arzu. I'm a Ph.D. student
3 in city and regional planning at
4 the University of Pennsylvania
5 Weitzman School of Design. Chair
6 Thomas, esteemed members of the
7 City Council and fellow citizens,
8 it is truly an honor to share
9 insights on a transformative
10 transportation project that
11 promises to significantly reduce
12 carbon emissions in our beloved
13 city, the Roosevelt Boulevard
14 Subway project.

15 The narrative of the
16 Roosevelt Boulevard Subway
17 stretches back to 1913. With
18 subsequent proposals in 1948, 1960,
19 1975, 1985, 1994 and most recently
20 in 2003. Today propelled by
21 federal and state grants, we stand
22 on the cusp of realizing this
23 visionary project through PennDOT's
24 Route for Change program which was
25 recently awarded \$2 million to do

1 NEPA studies.

2 Anyway let's dive into the
3 numbers. In 2003, the last time
4 the Roosevelt Boulevard subway was
5 scrutinized, it was forecast to
6 save motorists and transit users a
7 staggering 12,900 hours of travel
8 time annually. Furthermore, the
9 subway was projected to divert
10 approximately 83,300 daily trips
11 from automobiles to transit with an
12 estimated ridership of 124,500
13 daily riders. While these figures
14 may seem dated, I challenge
15 everyone in this room to critically
16 contemplate their collective
17 implications.

18 Expanding upon these
19 benefits, implementing the
20 Roosevelt Boulevard subway holds
21 multi-faceted advantages for our
22 region. First, reducing vehicle
23 mass travel translates directly
24 into a substantial decrease in
25 carbon emissions aligning

1 seamlessly with our city's climate
2 neutrality goals.

3 By providing a reliable
4 alternative to private vehicles, we
5 are not only mitigating
6 environmental impact, but we're
7 also paving the way for a greener,
8 more sustainable urban future in
9 the City of Brotherly Love.

10 Moreover, the projected savings of
11 12,900 hours of travel time
12 annually implies a significant
13 enhancement in productivity and
14 quality of life of our citizens.

15 Time saved in commuting can
16 be redirected toward more
17 meaningful pursuits, spending time
18 with your family, engaging in
19 community activities or perhaps
20 contributing to our local economy.

21 In addition, the estimated
22 diversion of 83,300 daily trips
23 from automobiles to transit not
24 only reduces traffic congestion but
25 also addresses safety concerns on

1 Roosevelt Boulevard, one of the
2 most unsafe urban roads in the
3 country.

4 The Roosevelt Boulevard
5 subway is not merely a
6 transportation project. It's a
7 catalyst for resiliency and a
8 region for unprepared climate
9 change. The Roosevelt Boulevard
10 subway not only aligns with our
11 city's climate neutrality goals,
12 but also addresses the pressing
13 concerns of overtly car-centric
14 region and the safety challenges
15 faced by pedestrians on Roosevelt
16 Boulevard.

17 In closing, let us
18 collectively envision a future
19 where our region's transportation
20 infrastructure is environmentally
21 conscious, enhances productivity
22 and ensures the safety and well-
23 being of our citizens. That starts
24 here today with getting projects
25 like the Roosevelt Boulevard subway

1 completed. Thank you for having me
2 and I look forward to further
3 questions.

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
5 you. I'm going to be very brief
6 really quick. A couple of
7 questions so please try to be brief
8 in the answers.

9 Does the City have any
10 appetite right now for a shared
11 Zipcar program? Have you spoke to
12 anybody in the Admin about looking
13 at using Zipcar or a model like
14 Zipcar to be able to offset some of
15 the things that we're doing around
16 fleet and car usage right now
17 currently?

18 MR. FISHMAN: We've had
19 informal conversations with members
20 of the Administration and members
21 of City Council, and there was an
22 RFP issued I believe two summers
23 ago. I want to say 2022, but I
24 believe it expired and it was never
25 acted upon. We welcome the

1 opportunity to re-engage in those
2 discussions.

3 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Sure.

4 So I'm not making a push for
5 Zipcar, I want to be clear, because
6 folks from the Administration is
7 here. But we do want to explore
8 the concept of what it means to
9 have a shared car program if that
10 could put us in a position to
11 further our agenda around less cars
12 and carbon neutrality. So thank
13 you for that.

14 I'm like 98 percent in
15 support of the Roosevelt Boulevard
16 project as it relates to the subway
17 going all the way up to the
18 Northeast. I went to Frankford
19 High School. I spent more time in
20 the Northeast than probably most
21 folks know. Let me give you 2
22 percent hesitation. Who's paying
23 for it?

24 MR. ARZU: So for a project
25 this large, we would have a federal

1 package. So most of the funding
2 for the Roosevelt Boulevard subway
3 would come from CIG grants from the
4 Federal Transit Administration.
5 And for a project this big and
6 because our region lacks large mega
7 projects, we probably could get
8 anywhere from 65 to 75 percent of a
9 federal match for this project, so
10 it would largely be through federal
11 grant.

12 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: That's
13 why I'm 98 percent there because I
14 know the federal government isn't
15 going to do 100 percent as far as
16 paying for it. Who offsets the
17 rest of that cost? Is it the
18 state, is it the City or is it
19 private sector?

20 MR. ARZU: So there's a few
21 ways to do that, Chairman. Number
22 one, we could have a situation
23 where of course there's a
24 partnership between the City and
25 the Commonwealth, the state, or

1 there's actually programs from the
2 Federal Transit Administration,
3 U.S. DOT like (inaudible) 49 where
4 we can get low interest loans from
5 the federal government.

6 So there's multiple ways to
7 have a federal aid package for the
8 Roosevelt Boulevard subway. The
9 important thing is actually getting
10 it there and getting it shovel-
11 ready, which we now have the
12 ability to do because of the \$2
13 million grant that we got about a
14 week and a half ago.

15 So -- oh, yeah, to
16 elaborate on that, we got \$2
17 million to do NEPA studies. So
18 once PennDOT is able to move
19 forward and choose a
20 locally-preferred alternative,
21 we'll be able to fully study that
22 and send that to the federal
23 government, the FTA, to move
24 forward and talk about these
25 funding packages.

1 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well,
2 congratulations on that grant.
3 Please push them to get us as many
4 federal dollars as we can for that
5 specific initiative. And whatever
6 the federal government doesn't pay
7 for, I will volunteer Harrisburg to
8 come up with those dollars because,
9 you know, things are a little tight
10 for us on the City level.

11 But in all honesty, I do
12 commend you for the work you've
13 done, you and your entire time.
14 The level of dialogue that now
15 exist around the idea of Roosevelt
16 Boulevard extension for a subway is
17 more prominent than I've ever heard
18 and I think it starts with dialogue
19 if we want to see something
20 actualize itself. So I appreciate
21 your advocacy as well as the other
22 advocates who's been pushing for
23 this specific initiative.

24 And honestly, I'm joking
25 but you know you guys have my

1 support. I think it's a great
2 idea. And whatever I can do on the
3 City Council side, we want to push
4 that as well as the shared car
5 initiative to be able to put us in
6 a position to save a little bit on
7 the City side and do our part.

8 Before I pass it to the
9 Vice-Chair, I also just wanted to
10 commend the efforts happening
11 around Hillco. I think it's very
12 important to encourage the type of
13 development at Hillco that you're
14 encouraging. But anybody in the
15 listening audience or those who
16 might watch this at a later time on
17 YouTube, if you haven't seen that
18 space, it is huge.

19 The amount of land that
20 we're talking about, I remember
21 when the conversations first
22 started and they said that this was
23 like 2 percent of the entire city
24 or something like that, don't quote
25 me on that number, I like to have

1 my facts, my staff does a good job
2 with making sure we have facts, but
3 it's a huge pot of land. And it is
4 going to be an intricate part of the
5 future for the City of
6 Philadelphia. So thank you for
7 your advocacy.

8 To the other folks who
9 testified, thank you for your
10 advocacy as well as your expertise
11 and your patience, because I know
12 this has been a long dialogue.
13 That's my monologue. I'll pass it
14 to Vice-Chair Landau.

15 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: I
16 just wanted to end by thanking all
17 of you so much for your testimony.
18 It was fantastic, especially the
19 last panel, the previous panel. I
20 feel like we've been talking about
21 environmental justice, racial
22 justice for so many years, and it
23 was pockets of conversations around
24 the City, but that it's all coming
25 together now.

1 And to hear the activism
2 coming from the ground that
3 includes the expertise, the
4 technical expertise and then some
5 of the techno-elect expertise
6 that's also focused on our very few
7 goals that we can all reach
8 immediately going towards the
9 future was super helpful to see.

10 For those of us who are not
11 in this field all the time, it's a
12 little complicated, right. But
13 making sure that we know the steps,
14 making sure that we can see that
15 home repair is climate action,
16 making sure that we can see ending
17 fossil fuels is climate action, and
18 that every single day we can be
19 taking steps to educate and do
20 stuff on the ground that gets us
21 towards these goals is super
22 helpful.

23 I don't want to wait until
24 2050. I want to make sure it
25 happens before then and we're here

1 right beside you trying to do the
2 best we can. So please come to us
3 and keep educating us, we need it.
4 And we'll keep having hearings like
5 this to give you an opportunity.
6 So thank you so much, but our doors
7 are always open.

8 (Applause.)

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS:

10 Mr. Clerk.

11 THE CLERK: That concludes
12 public testimony on the bills
13 today. We'll now move to public
14 comment. If the Clerk's -- if the
15 Sergeant-at-Arms can set that up.

16 Ms. Bond, Mr. Ballenger,
17 Connor D., Peter Ferch and Mitchell
18 Chanin. If you'll come forward,
19 we'll hear from you in that order.

20 (Witnesses approached
21 Witness table.)

22 THE CLERK: Just so you're
23 aware, as we've been here an hour
24 and a half longer than we were
25 supposed to, public comment today

1 will be limited to two minutes per
2 witness. Please confine your
3 remarks to two minutes. We will
4 cut you off after that.

5 MS. BOND: Hi. My name is
6 Linnea Bond. I'm a Philadelphia
7 resident and the Health and
8 Environmental Educator Director of
9 Physicians for Social
10 Responsibility Pennsylvania. The
11 only thing I'll really add to
12 Shawmar's excellent testimony is
13 just a couple of things.

14 Historically, our
15 municipally-owned gas utility PGW
16 has operated with minimum oversight
17 which has led to overspending,
18 fighting electrification at the
19 state level and budgeting that
20 invests in our city, our city and
21 (inaudible) assets. I want to
22 underscore what he said about
23 legislation.

24 I also would like to
25 encourage both of you to -- I made

1 a documentary in partnership with
2 Hunting Park NAC and Sierra Club.
3 It's a 20-minute documentary
4 interviewing six women who went
5 through the Built to Last program
6 and I would recommend watching it.
7 I'll send it to both of you after
8 this.

9 And I also want to
10 highlight one thing that I don't
11 think people commented on, which is
12 that as we're moving toward our
13 climate goals, we need to make sure
14 that looking at MACH2, that it is
15 not a backslide in our
16 environmental work. There are few
17 more ways to do hydrogen production
18 wrong than right. And many
19 powerful people financially
20 invested in the proliferation of
21 fossil fuel hydrogen and end-uses
22 of hydrogen where electrification
23 would be a more sufficient
24 solution.

25 So far the MACH2 Process

1 has followed the fossil fuel
2 playbook, keeping communities in
3 the dark with the first and only
4 scheduled meeting being held far
5 away from the neighborhoods likely
6 to be affected by this
7 infrastructure during the workday.
8 And that's all I'll add. Thank
9 you.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
11 you for your testimony. I'm not
12 going to comment on every public
13 comment. But if you could get us a
14 copy of the documentary --

15 MS. BOND: I'll send it
16 right now.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: -- that
18 would be appreciated. Thank you.

19 MS. BOND: No problem.

20 MR. BALLENGER: Good
21 afternoon, Chairperson Thomas and
22 Vice-Chair Landau and members of
23 the Legislative Oversight Committee
24 who didn't stick around, but I hope
25 that they will listen to what has

1 happened here, there's a lot of
2 great information. My name is
3 Robert Ballenger. I'm an attorney
4 at the Energy Unit at Community
5 Legal Services. I represent
6 families to ensure they have access
7 to affordable heat, electricity and
8 water in their homes. I also
9 represent groups to try to advance
10 energy affordability and I
11 represent all PGW customers as
12 public advocate in budget
13 proceedings before the Gas
14 Commission.

15 I submitted written
16 testimony in advance. I'm not
17 going to really touch upon what's
18 in there today, but just to help
19 lift up some of what I've heard.
20 We need to approach this racial
21 justice issue of the energy
22 transformation in a clear and
23 equitable way. And we need to
24 focus on efficiency and
25 electrification for low-income and

1 moderate-income families first to
2 avoid what's known as the death
3 spiral.

4 We also have to reject the
5 mindset that can paralyze us, and
6 this is something that I've fallen
7 into from time to time. We can't
8 do it because it will make it
9 unaffordable for poor people. We
10 have to start there and embrace the
11 fact that the home environment is
12 part of our overall environment and
13 we need to start by protecting it
14 and investing in low-income
15 housing.

16 I was before the
17 Transportation and Public Utilities
18 Committee almost five years ago
19 talking about PGW's diversification
20 and nothing has happened. It's
21 past time to act. The energy
22 transformation is here. There are
23 opportunities potentially in
24 geothermal. And I would submit to
25 you that there are future

1 opportunities in demand response
2 and distributed energy that the
3 City should be exploring as a rule-
4 making going on at the PUC.

5 And finally, jobs. They
6 are estimated 38.2 million jobs in
7 renewable energy and as many as 139
8 million total jobs in the energy
9 sector. I believe City Council
10 should be acting here and I would
11 just point out when the General
12 Assembly passed the law that
13 brought PGW under the PUC for rate-
14 making, it didn't take away your
15 legislative power to determine the
16 mission of PGW and the steps
17 necessary to fulfill it. And I
18 would look forward to working you
19 as I have with many people in this
20 room on that, on that issue. And
21 with that, I'll hand it off.

22 MR. DESCHEEMAKER: Can you
23 hear me all right?

24 THE CLERK: We can, yes.

25 MR. DESCHEEMAKER: Thank

1 you so much. Wonderful. So my
2 name is Connor Descheemaker. Good
3 afternoon now to Committee Chair
4 Thomas, Vice-Chair Landau, members
5 of the Committee on Legislative
6 Oversight. I'm from Transit
7 Forward Philadelphia. We're a
8 coalition of over 30 Greater
9 Philadelphia organizations,
10 including labor unions, business
11 associations, neighborhood groups
12 and CDCs, senior disability rights
13 advocates, immigrant refugee
14 support groups and environmental
15 and public policy MGOs.

16 Our goal is to advocate for
17 a safe, accessible and sustainable
18 transit network and to amplify the
19 voices of underrepresented riders
20 and promote transit equity.

21 Philadelphia's known as bedrock of
22 American democracy and also the
23 poorest big city in the country, a
24 center of industry and port
25 activity while playing host to

1 numerous superfund sites, as has
2 been mentioned in earlier
3 testimonies today.

4 With that history comes an
5 unparalleled legacy of just
6 building infrastructure. It's been
7 here for a long time. And with
8 that, we have a lot of choices that
9 come up. One example of a choice
10 that comes with that is approval in
11 the last 10 years of a SEPTA
12 natural gas plant near the center
13 of Nicetown-Tioga, historically
14 disinvested in a Black legacy
15 neighborhood that doesn't have
16 heavy rail infrastructure that
17 stops in it but does have heavy
18 rail infrastructure that passes
19 through it.

20 The strengths and
21 weaknesses mean that we have lots
22 to gain and lots at risk when
23 considering how to pursue a future
24 of carbon neutrality rooted in
25 environmental justice. With

1 transportation taking up 29 percent
2 of U.S. carbon emissions in 2021,
3 mode shift in public transportation
4 play a prime role in helping
5 Philadelphia meet its goals.

6 With our city's high
7 poverty and 30 percent of
8 households without access to a car,
9 that means that electrification and
10 electric vehicles will not be the
11 only means by which we achieve
12 success here. By making transit
13 easier for those dependent on it,
14 we can attract new riders to the
15 system and remove the incentive and
16 at times imperative for lower
17 middle-class residents to spend the
18 thousands of dollars required
19 annually to own and maintain a
20 private car.

21 This also reduces traffic
22 congestion and emissions from
23 idling cars as well as the wear and
24 tear on our roads that is actually
25 going to increase with heavier

1 electric vehicles. Currently the
2 City of Philadelphia provides one
3 of the lowest local funding
4 contributions for public transit,
5 despite being among the top 10
6 transit systems in the United
7 States for generated revenue, we
8 provide less local support than
9 peer cities like Chicago, Seattle
10 and Phoenix.

11 Increased local funding can
12 make transit more effective for
13 residents that depend on it whose
14 livelihoods were drastically
15 improved by being able to rely on
16 transit. City-controlled solutions
17 like bus-only lanes, signal
18 prioritization, corner daylighting,
19 well-lit shelters with seating, bus
20 stop parking enforcement can help
21 make the most of our existing
22 resources.

23 In particular, these policy
24 changes will provide for faster,
25 more dependable buses. The

1 backbone of our transit system
2 representing a vast majority of
3 trips and riders. We've had
4 catenary wires and other really
5 incredibly tools in our trans
6 system since Simon Memorial. We
7 just continue on this path and move
8 towards sustainability --

9 THE CLERK: Connor --

10 MR. DESCHEEMAKER: --
11 goals. Thank you for the time.

12 MR. FERCH: Hi. Good
13 afternoon. I'm Peter Ferch,
14 resident of Philadelphia. Part of
15 POWER but speaking just for myself
16 today. I first want to thank
17 Councilmembers Landau and Thomas
18 for pulling this together. This is
19 great. My comments might be a
20 little disorganized because I
21 didn't prepare anything ahead of
22 time. I wanted to listen to
23 everything that had to be said and
24 kind of pick some things to comment
25 on.

1 I think we got some really
2 great testimony today. You guys
3 got a lot of things to think about.
4 I just want to kind of emphasize a
5 couple of things. And one is that
6 what has been achieved so far has
7 been low-hanging fruit, right.
8 It's been the easy stuff.

9 We took credit for PECO
10 converting from coal to gas, right.
11 That really wasn't anything that we
12 did, right. We benefited from
13 that. Right now PECO has
14 absolutely no plans for the next
15 five years of changing their fuel
16 mix and right now it's half a
17 percent solar, right. So we're not
18 going to get any benefit from
19 changes from PECO.

20 POWER, we are actually
21 working with the PUC and with PECO
22 to try to get them to up that. We
23 welcome you to come to testify if
24 you would like. But you had asked
25 what can you do, and there's been a

1 lot to talk about, PGW. Why is PGW
2 in 2025, why do they have \$20
3 million in their budget to build
4 more pipelines?

5 PGW should be legislated to
6 stop selling gas. Why are they
7 lobbying the Parks Department to
8 get off the steam loop and put
9 natural gas burners in the Parks
10 Department? That should stop. You
11 guys I think have the power to tell
12 PGW or certainly the members of the
13 Gas Commission with which one City
14 Councilperson has not even been
15 named is missing, could tell PGW to
16 stop selling more gas.

17 We could legislate no gas
18 in new buildings. The Temple
19 professor mentioned that 20 million
20 tons I think it was of greenhouse
21 gases are emitted by Philadelphia.
22 PGW is responsible for 5 million of
23 those tons. A lot of that gets
24 represented by buildings. A lot of
25 buildings are burning natural gas

1 so it comes out in theirs, but PGW
2 is responsible for that product as
3 being sold that's causing that.

4 Ban gas in new buildings.

5 Require green building materials.

6 We talked about the cost of --

7 again, the professor talked

8 electric art steel versus coke

9 steel. Require green materials in

10 new buildings. The City could buy

11 green energy. Again, PECO's

12 standard energy has half a percent

13 of solar in it.

14 You guys can legislate more

15 protective bike lanes. You can

16 take care or deal with the parking

17 in the bike lanes. Lots of people

18 would ride bikes except people

19 think it's just too dangerous,

20 right. Obviously -- oh, you can

21 provide the funding that the

22 Sustainability Department and the

23 Energy Authority require. I

24 thought the Energy Authority did an

25 outstanding job of very clearly

1 talking about what needs to be
2 done. And again, what we've done
3 is the low-hanging fruit. It's
4 going to be harder. It's going to
5 get more expensive.

6 If you look at the numbers
7 that they talked about, 1300 houses
8 with heat pumps over the last five
9 years or something, we've got five
10 more sets of that before, right, so
11 that's five times 1300. That's not
12 anywhere near being on target to
13 reach our goals. Same with the 27
14 homes with over seven years with
15 solar panels on them. Four times
16 that is about 10,000 homes with
17 solar panels by 2050.

18 I don't think we're on
19 target, right. I think we have a
20 lot of work to do. Anyway enough.
21 Thank you very much for your time.

22 MR. CHANIN: Thanks so much
23 for the opportunity to testify. My
24 name's Mitch Chanin. I'm a member
25 of both the Philly Thrive and POWER

1 Interfaith, also Reclaim Philly and
2 a bunch of other groups around the
3 City. I know everyone wants to go
4 home. I will be brief. I didn't
5 prepare, but I wanted to just share
6 a few comments after hearing what
7 was shared today.

8 I fully support the
9 testimony from POWER and Philly
10 Thrive and pretty much everything
11 that's been said today. I wanted
12 to just emphasize a couple of
13 things that maybe didn't get quite
14 enough attention. One is that I
15 think instead of thinking about
16 goals or targets, we should be
17 thinking about deadlines.

18 2050 could be a deadline
19 and City departments and agencies
20 and public entities could be
21 required to meet the deadline. I
22 agree that 2050 is too far in the
23 future and the deadline should be
24 sooner. But at a minimum, I think
25 we should be doing something to

1 require compliance with a deadline.
2 Through POWER Interfaith
3 I've been participating in our
4 interventions in the review of
5 PGW's budget and their rate case
6 when they ask for a 10 percent rate
7 hike from the Public Utility
8 Commission. Something that became
9 really clear is that though the Gas
10 Commission reviews PGW's budgets in
11 order to basically make sure
12 they're not wasting money and
13 protect ratepayer interest, they
14 don't have any statutory mandate to
15 require PGW to comply with the
16 City's climate goals. So the City
17 has this 2050 target, but there's
18 no law of any kind that I'm aware
19 of that requires anyone to do
20 anything to comply with the 2050
21 target, including the very large
22 fossil fuel utility that the City
23 literally owns.
24 They are planning according
25 to an independent analysis that we

1 helped with a little bit, they're
2 on track to spend upwards of \$8
3 billion on gas infrastructure over
4 the next 30 years or so, which
5 would be designed to last for 50
6 years or more beyond that, even
7 though we say we're not going to be
8 using fossil fuels after 2050. So
9 we need every single dollar we can
10 muster to transition to clean
11 renewal energy in a way that is
12 reducing poverty, making sure
13 everyone can afford their energy
14 bills and improving public health.
15 \$8 billion could go a long
16 way if it were spent on the things
17 we actually need and not fossil
18 fuel infrastructure. And PGW
19 management executives have totally
20 refused to engage in meaningful
21 dialogue. Last year in a case
22 before the Gas Commission we asked
23 them to require a single
24 stakeholder meeting about
25 non-pipeline alternatives that

1 could achieve those goals rather
2 than \$8 billion on fossil fuel
3 infrastructure. They said no, PGW
4 didn't want to do it and the Gas
5 Commission declined to mandate
6 that. So I think we really need
7 legislation that changes this
8 framework for PGW.

9 (Applause.)

10 THE CLERK: Mr. Chanin,
11 please wrap up.

12 MR. CHANIN: That's my two
13 minutes. I will leave it there.
14 Thank you very much.

15 THE CLERK: Thank you, sir.
16 Mr. Chair, that concludes
17 public comment.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: I do
19 want to say thank you to all of the
20 people who stayed for public
21 comment and listened to the entire
22 hearing. You truly care deeply
23 about this issue and about our
24 city.

25 Vice-Chair, do you have any

1 final remarks?

2 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU:

3 (Shaking head.)

4 MS. ABENDROTH:

5 (Inaudible).

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Well,
7 let's do this because I can't do it
8 that way, how about you come up,
9 say your name for the record, ask
10 your question and let us answer
11 your question on the record.

12 (Witness approached Witness
13 table.)

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: State
15 your name for the record.

16 MS. ABENDROTH: Emily
17 Abendroth.

18 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Okay.
19 And what was your question?

20 MS. ABENDROTH: My question
21 is that I am both a member of the
22 Sierra Club, the Program Manager
23 for Philadelphia Climate Works and
24 the Sierra Club of Pennsylvania is
25 also a proud member of Here For

1 Climate Justice Coalition, which
2 stands for Housing, Equity Repair
3 and Electrification for Climate
4 Justice. A number of the
5 (inaudible) that already spoke
6 today are also part of that
7 coalition.

8 And as a member of HERE 4
9 Climate Justice, I want to echo
10 what so many others have said
11 around the need to allocate \$5
12 billion in the budget for the Built
13 to Last program. This program, as
14 many have already named, would
15 allow for more long-term residents
16 to stay in their homes while also
17 addressing energy efficiency and
18 expensive public utility bills for
19 low-income residents.

20 Mr. Thomas, one of the
21 things that you were asking early
22 on, Councilman Thomas, was for
23 examples of what people are doing
24 in other places that this city
25 should be considering. When we put

1 together our testimony, we put
2 together a bunch of examples and
3 links to those examples as well as
4 some things that we think that the
5 City should be doing. Some --

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: What
7 you can do is you can submit your
8 testimony for the record.

9 MS. ABENDROTH: Yep.

10 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We will
11 collect all that information and
12 we'll consider it. And what I also
13 suggest is the next time we have
14 this hearing, that we include you
15 and your organization in the --

16 MS. ABENDROTH: Absolutely.

17 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: --
18 actual planning of the hearing.

19 MS. ABENDROTH: Yeah. I
20 would just say my question was we
21 weren't entirely clear about how to
22 submit testimony, and some of the
23 things included a bunch of links.
24 So we would love to have the
25 Councilmembers get it if there was

1 any way to do it.

2 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: So

3 we'll do -- my Chief Clerk is

4 behind me for this hearing --

5 MS. ABENDROTH: Yep.

6 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: -- Dave

7 Maynard. You can have a

8 conversation with him when we

9 adjourn the hearing to be able to

10 give us the testimony for today's

11 conversation. But I mean, clearly

12 you've been here the whole time.

13 You can tell by the energy of the

14 Councilmembers as well as some of

15 advocates that are here today that

16 this is probably going to be a

17 series of conversations, right.

18 MS. ABENDROTH: Yeah.

19 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: We are

20 serious. I got a whole list of

21 people that we're going to invite

22 the next time we do this, so PGW is

23 clearly at the top of that list.

24 PECO, Schools -- I don't know where

25 I put it. I don't want to start

1 naming and miss --

2 MS. ABENDROTH: Yeah. No,
3 you're --

4 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: --
5 people. But based on today's
6 testimony, the Navy Yard, we're
7 going to have the School District.
8 We're going to have a list of
9 people that we invite to be a part
10 of this conversation as we move
11 forward, and we need to do it in
12 phases because we have these
13 subsectors of government.

14 We're going to have these
15 organizations and community
16 advocates. And clearly, based on
17 today's conversation it's a huge
18 appetite for it. So I can assure
19 you that this is just the
20 beginning. We're going to continue
21 to push this issue to the
22 Legislative Oversight Committee,
23 both myself as the Chair as well as
24 the Vice-Chair.

25 We have a huge appetite to

1 really try to put a dent in this
2 problem, and we want you all to be
3 a part of the conversation because
4 you're the advocate. So get us
5 the information --

6 MS. ABENDROTH: Awesome.
7 Deeply, deeply appreciate you and
8 that appetite. I think all of us
9 are here because we have that
10 appetite also.

11 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Thank
12 you so much.

13 MS. ABENDROTH: Thank you.

14 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Let me
15 say thank you to the Council staff
16 as well too. This is a much longer
17 hearing than what we anticipated,
18 so thank you, Lopez, to the entire
19 team, Sergeant-At-Arms, our Clerk.
20 Everybody involved, thank you all.
21 I know this was a much longer
22 hearing than we were supposed to
23 have. We definitely appreciate
24 your patience and your commitment
25 and service to the City of

1 Philadelphia.

2 There being no further
3 questions from members of the
4 Committee or no witnesses to
5 testify, I will ask if there is
6 anyone present whose name I haven't
7 called would you speak up now?

8 (No response.)

9 COUNCILMAN THOMAS: Hearing
10 none, I want to say thank you to
11 all the panels of witnesses for
12 their participation today. Of
13 course, we value your opinions.

14 And this concludes the
15 business of the Committee. We are
16 now in recess to the call of the
17 Chair. And I can assure you this
18 conversation will continue. Thank
19 you everybody.

20 And thank you, Vice-Chair
21 Landau. And congratulations on
22 your first hearing.

23 COUNCILWOMAN LANDAU: Thank
24 you.

25 (Committee on Legislative

1 Oversight concluded at 2:41 p.m.)

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1 C E R T I F I C A T I O N

2 I, hereby certify that the proceedings
3 and evidence noted are contained fully and
4 accurately in the stenographic notes taken by
5 me in the foregoing matter, and that this is a
6 correct transcript of the same.
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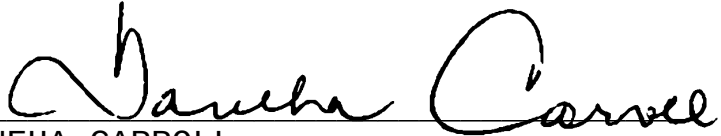
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