

## NCCE Agenda

February 28, 2024

Room 211, City Hall

Zoom link

[https://newtonma-  
gov.zoom.us/j/86759000778?pwd=aFprV2xvYop5aophYjFLZndVR3hGZz09](https://newtonma.gov.zoom.us/j/86759000778?pwd=aFprV2xvYop5aophYjFLZndVR3hGZz09)

Meeting ID: 867 5900 0778

Passcode: 611317

1. Update on 10 Communities Electrification Ordinance
2. Update on BERDO
3. Update on natural gas leaks

Attending: Jay Snyder, Michael Gevelber, Stephen Grody, Jon Slote, Jonathan Kantar, Asa Hopkins, Philip Hanser, Halina Brown, Demie Stathoplos, Peter Barrer

Rachel White indicated her regrets for not attending because of a meeting with Greg Reibman, which she will report on at the next NCCE meeting.

(Halina Brown requested the agenda reordering.)

### 2. Update on BERDO

The City will not put forward a BERDO ordinance that includes large residential buildings. The City might propose including these properties in the future through an amendment. However, many NCCE members said they were not comfortable with that level of ambiguity.

With a unanimous vote, the NCCE decided to support the immediate inclusion of large residential buildings with central heating systems in BERDO. Other activist groups within Newton have also been pursuing the inclusion of large residential buildings in their discussions with Council members. Michael will put together a straw residential proposal for the Council to modify the City's BERDO proposal.

In support of this position, Phil will attempt to acquire the list of large residential buildings that would be included in BERDO from the City. Stephen will create a plan for communicating the NCCE's position, including identifying key Councilors and which agendas are most relevant.

### 1. Update on 10 Communities electrification ordinance

Based on observing a recent presentation to ZAP, there is concern that ZAP members may not understand that increased building costs will come from meeting the provisions of the stretch building code, not electrification. Regardless, the NCCE does not see the need to provide any input to the ZAP Committee or Council on this Ordinance unless requested by the City or Council.

### 3. Update on natural gas leaks

Peter Barrer made an extensive presentation on his work (with Denise Freed) on gas leaks, which included a gas leak directory showing the amount of each known gas leak in Newton and its volume (shown here: <https://www.gaspipes.org/>). To date, the NCCE, Green Newton, 350.org, and Mothers Out Front have endorsed the report.

Peter and other endorsers of the report will be presenting it to Mayor Fuller on March 19<sup>th</sup>

Asa asked whether we should be asking the City to set explicit gas leak reduction targets for National Grid (for example, reduce total leakage as measured each quarter by 50% over two years).

Michael asked if the City should provide residents with easy access to the gas leak directory by posting it on the City's website. The group agreed that putting the link on the NCCE page of the City site would be a good idea.