

Energy Commission Members 2024



MICHAEL GEVELBER Michael is an Associate Research Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Boston University, where his research includes modeling and control for sustainable buildings: optimization of building HVAC systems and building energy use. He is director of the university's Campus Climate Laboratory, serves on the university's Sustainability Committee, and is a member of the group that is revising the university's climate action plan.

Michael's sustainability research includes developing decarbonization strategies for existing buildings and improving energy efficiency of buildings (for large commercial as well as smaller residential buildings). Michael holds a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from MIT.

STEPHEN GRODY Stephen Grody is Director of Known Presence, a location-aware business unit at OneVideo Technology Corporation. Stephen has led innovative teams which delivered management advice, competitive strategies, and developed services and technology products at times when the familiar was not yet common practice. He was first appointed to the NCCE by the League of Women Voters Newton in 2018. Stephen holds a BSEE in Electrical Engineering and Mathematics from Tufts University and an MBA from Harvard Business School.



PHILIP HANSER Philip Q. Hanser is a principal emeritus at The Brattle Group and has over forty years of consulting experience in the energy industry. He specializes in regulatory and financial economics, especially for electric, gas, and water distribution utilities and electric transmission and gas transportation companies. He also assists in statistical matters, including sample design and data analysis. He is currently a lecturer at Northeast University's Department of

Economics. He has held teaching positions at various universities, including Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and Boston University's Questrom School of Business, and served as a guest lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago.

ASA HOPKINS Asa works as a consultant on policy and analysis at Synapse Energy Economics, with a particular focus on climate planning and deep decarbonization in the buildings sector. He was Director of Energy Policy and Planning at the Vermont Department of Public Service from 2011-2016, and was responsible for developing Vermont's Comprehensive Energy Plan and for review of utility integrated resource plans. Prior to 2011, he was an AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow in the Office of the Under Secretary for Science at the U.S. Department of Energy. Asa holds a B.S. in Physics from Haverford College and a Masters and PhD in Physics from California Institute of Technology.

JONATHAN KANTAR Jonathan's more than 30 years in the construction field include project management, client services, real estate development, residential design and construction, and consulting. He is the principal of Sage Builders LLC. He has directed numerous projects that have received industry-leading HERS and LEED certification. Jonathan is a respected presenter on topics of sustainability, energy conservation, and high-performance building. Jonathan also serves as chair of Newton's High Performance Buildings Coalition, and is a member of Newton's Design

Review Committee and is a board member for Historic Newton. Jonathan serves on the Governor's Zero Net Energy Buildings Advisory Council. He holds a B.A. from the University of Michigan and a Master's in Sustainable Design and Construction from the Boston Architectural College.



JON SLOTE Jon has been involved in sustainability since 1970, when he organized the first public recycling program in the City of White Plains, NY. He was the senior Technical Director and Executive Director of the Midland Energy Institute, an energy research organization, and participated in the Presidential Solar Domestic Policy Review, which established many of the policies that are in place today across the country. He was also a Solar Engineer for Acorn

Structures, participating in the design of homes that won awards from the US Dept of Energy for their efficiency. Jon has published technical papers and spoken at national conferences in the solar field, including talks at MIT, Harvard, Princeton and the International Solar Energy Society. He has also applied his research skills to projects like the Newton Climate Change Listening Project, which documented the barriers residents say prevent them from taking more green actions, and organized Newton's Sustainable Streets Tour program, which showcases green homes around the City and encourages neighbor-to-neighbor conversations about their journeys towards a lower carbon future. Jon has a B.E.D. degree from Miami University.



JAY SNYDER Jay has been a business/technology leader at energy service and product providers since 2005. He currently manages all technology partnerships for CPower Energy, the US's largest demand response aggregator. Before his tenure at CPower, he served as a project manager at multiple organizations, implementing systems to support EV charging networks, energy efficiency, and smart meters. Always seeking opportunities to use technology to advance

society, he began his career in government consulting but saw more potential in the nascent energy transition. Jay has a BS and Masters from Carnegie Mellon University, both in the field of Information Systems.



RACHEL WHITE Rachel is CEO of Byggmeister Design/Build, a 40 year-old residential remodeling and retrofit company that preserves and adapts older homes to meet the challenges of the 21st century. She speaks regularly to community and industry groups about retrofitting homes for comfort, efficiency, durability, and low carbon emissions. Rachel also serves on the board of directors of the Northeast Sustainable Energy Association.

Associate Members



HALINA BROWN As the Chair Emeritus of Newton Citizens Commission on Energy and former member from 2005-2024, Halina has been involved in numerous technical projects and campaigns in Newton. Most recently she led the Commission's collaboration with the City staff to produce the official Newton Climate Action Plan. She was actively involved in the development of Newton Power Choice program. Until her retirement in 2017 Halina was a Professor of

Environmental Science and Policy at Clark University. She is also a co-founder and board member of the Sustainable Consumption Research and Action Initiative, SCORAI, an international

knowledge network dedicated to reducing greenhouse gas emissions by reducing consumption.
Halina holds a PhD in Chemistry from New York University.