

## Energy Commission Members 2021



**HALINA BROWN**

As the current Chairperson of Newton Citizens Commission on Energy and member since 2005, 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.

### **MICHAEL GEVELBER**

Michael is an Associate 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 serves on the university's Sustainability Committee, co-chairs the university's energy working group, and is a member of the university's Clean Energy and Environmental Initiative.

Michael's sustainability research includes improving energy efficiency of buildings, and conducting energy assessments for urban housing and universities.

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 of The Brattle Group and has over thirty-five years of consulting experience in the energy industry. He specializes in regulatory and financial economics, especially for electric and gas utilities. He also provides assistance in statistical matters including sample design and data analysis. Prior to joining The Brattle Group, he held teaching positions at the University of the Pacific, University of California at Davis, and Columbia University, and served as a guest lecturer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Stanford University, and the University of Chicago.

Philip holds a PhD in economics from Columbia University.



**ASA HOPKINS**

Asa works as a consultant on policy and analysis at Synapse Energy, 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 KLEIN**

Jon is President of Topline Strategies, a consulting firm that specializes in market strategy, customer experience and investor diligence for business-to-business technology businesses and their investors. Jon has been deeply involved in many of Newton's recent climate initiatives including the development of the Newton Citizens Climate Action Plan and the campaign to increase the green content of Newton's electricity to over 60% renewables.

Jon holds a BS in Electrical Engineering from Cornell University and an MBA from The Kellogg School at Northwestern University.



**JIM PURDY**

Jim is a retired transportation planner; (he co-wrote the EIS for the Zakim Bridge and has done assessments of many transit systems for Federal Transit Administration). He is also Vice President of Green Newton.

As a member of NCCE he helped write the transportation section of the 30-year Citizens Climate Action Plan. He was a member of the City of Newton working group that developed Newton Power Choice. His area of expertise is renewable energy and transportation, including transition to electric vehicles.

Jim holds a B.S. in Physics from the University of Michigan and Master of City Planning from MIT.

### **PUJA VOHRA**

Puja has more than eighteen years of experience leading strategy, technical planning and implementation for energy efficiency, clean energy, sustainability and climate action plans for

utilities, state and local governments and corporations. She is Director of Business Strategy, Clean Energy, Slipstream (slipstreaminc.org) and formerly Principal Analyst at National Grid.

Puja holds a Master of Science degree from Arizona State University, Arizona, and Bachelors in Architecture from the Institute of Environmental Design, Gujarat, India

## **Associate Members**

### **CORY ALPERSTEIN**

Cory is an education consultant who has spent the last six years filling all her free time with climate activism. She is a member of the board of Green Newton, has been a statewide and local node leader for 350 Mass, and has been on the board of both Better Future Project representing 350 Mass and on the board of BetterFutureAction, the 501(c)4 electoral politics arm of 350 Mass. Cory launched the multi-org Newton Coalition for Climate Action, which along with the NCCE pushed for a high renewable content default in the first community aggregation contract. The 40% More Campaign demonstrated strong public support and led to 60% New England Class 1 renewable content in the first Newton Power Choice and later to widespread support for an increased default of 80% in the current NPC contract. As an associate member of NCCE Cory has contributed to a working group on zoning revisions, pushed for electrification of new buildings, and supported efforts to implement the Newton Climate Action Plan.

### **FRED BRUSTMAN**

### **EDWARD CRADDOCK**

### **BEVERLY CRAIG**

Beverly Craig, LEED AP BD+C, manages the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center's Low and Moderate Income programs including the Passive House Design Challenge for affordable housing and the Affordable Clean Residential Energy Program (pairs installation of Air Source Heat Pumps with Solar PV in low income households). Bev implemented energy efficiency and renewable upgrades at affordable housing non-profit Homeowner's Rehab Inc. (HRI) for 12 years, reducing HRI's housing portfolio's carbon footprint by 22% and installing nine PV systems and five solar hot water systems. Ms. Craig holds a BA from the University of Southern California and an MPP from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

### **IRA KREPCHIN**