

From: [Sharon Maxwell](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#); [Wheeler, Mayor](#); [Commissioner Hardesty](#); [Torres, Kellie](#); [Miranda, Adriana](#); mapps@portlandoregon.gov
Subject: Public Testimony- Clean Energy Report and Presentation
Date: Wednesday, March 31, 2021 8:32:44 PM

My Testimony is for :

205 TIME CERTAIN: 2:00 PM – Authorize the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Director to execute grants focused on clean energy, green infrastructure and workforce development for a total allocation not to exceed \$9,235,400 from the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (Ordinance introduced by Commissioner Rubio) 2 hours requested

TESTIMONY:

Good Afternoon Mayor Wheeler, Commissioner JoAnn Hardesty, Commissioner Carmen Rubio, Commissioner Mingus Mapps, and Commissioner Dan Ryan.

I'm Sharon Maxwell, a Small Business Owner for 25 years, and an African American Disabled woman. I am a qualified respondent with a local non-profit to the Clean Energy Grant for the first cycle.

I have data that shows my workforce hires from the local community black men, hispanic men, women, youth and young adults. I can show investment in the community through sponsorships of Good in the Hood Parade Event to provide an outlet for your at-risk children and youth. To date I have hired over 200 local people both male and female from the local community. I used my own profits to pay a living wage and extend opportunities to the community.

I'm very disappointed to see the recommended grantees. The problem is that you are upholding the status quo. Groups are still getting the money that should be really going to organizations led by real disadvantage priority populations. Especially Women and people with disabilities.

I know people don't know because I don't publicize that I was diagnosed with a chronic illness over 25 years ago that caused me to be determined to be disabled while I participated in my apprenticeship program. Long story short, I have kept going. I have strong faith and children that I couldn't give up on. Instead I wanted to show them in spite of my health, if you have a smart mind and the will, you can do anything.

To see Colas Construction, a Large Construction company go under the radar as a non-profit named The Blueprint Foundation is not right. They have received large million dollar projects for the last eleven years. They should be donating to the fund.

These first round funds are being doled out to large status-quo non-profits who say they speak for the Black community, but they are the only ones already benefiting from the million dollars contracts and social services money, philanthropy community. Then to see them get Clean Energy dollars over a qualified Disabled African American Woman business owner in no way feels right.

I know this sounds like sour grapes, but I can't stay silent. This keeps happening to me, the community and other small businesses that are truly struggling but able to lead. We

have to do better and we have to do better now.

The Money should be divided in three tiers, very small businesses making less than \$100K next tier \$101K to \$500K and those \$1million and more. Because the way it's going now... Those businesses who have discretionary funds or budgets to pay a professional grant writer will end up getting all the funds. It's just not right.

Another thing, outcomes , track records, actual results should mean something . We need to see data showing what I already know in my gut. A Multi-million dollar contractor can get funds that are meant for the marginalized priority target populations when they don't even live in the Inner city and never have... When black men, brown men and indigenous, women and disabled are left out of regular commerce.

My Grant proposals were not scored fairly, the information was not even fairly considered , I think that my information was shared by panelists to other grantees. And you rewrote the summary of my proposal without my permission, leaving out critical information and misrepresenting my proposal in your public report. Something is definitely not right.

I don't think the first round should be awarded unless funds from the second round are going to go not only FOR, but also TO, the priority population you have already identified.

I would hope for some guidance to priority population / priority population small businesses that are out here struggling for access to capital in white supremacist culture city will really be addressed to the program manager and team, panelist reviewing the grants.

Sincerely,

Sharon Maxwell, Small Business Owner, Community Advocate

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Sharon Maxwell, 971-225-2835

From: [Yasmin Ibarra](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: 4.1 Testimony on PCEF
Date: Thursday, April 1, 2021 12:33:57 PM
Attachments: [SEIU Testimony-COP Council PCEF 4-1-21.pdf](#)

Hello,

On behalf of SEIU local 49 I'd like to submit this testimony to City Council regarding the PCEF agenda item today. Thank you.

Yasmin Ibarra (She/Hers)

Political Organizer | SEIU Local 49

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Portland City Council
April 1, 2021

Testimony provided by Yasmin Ibarra, SEIU Local 49
Re: 2021 inaugural PCEF funding recommendations



Good afternoon Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners,

My name is Yasmin Ibarra. I am a Political Organizer with Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 49, which represents 15,000 workers in Oregon and Southwest Washington, including janitors, security officers, and industrial laundry workers contracted by the City of Portland. We stand together for fair pay, affordable healthcare, and dignity and a voice on the job.

We recognize the tremendous work the PCEF staff and committees have invested in this first full round of project funding, and we are thrilled to partner with you to launch Oregon's first Green Janitor Education Program (GJEP), a proven model for engaging frontline workers in reducing carbon emissions in commercial office buildings.

As noted in the recommendations, GJEP is a 30-hour course, certified by the U.S. Green Building Council, that teaches janitors about energy and water conservation, reducing carbon emissions, green cleaning, waste reduction, and workplace safety and health. In the first year of the program, we aim to train 50 janitors to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Portland office buildings totaling approximately 2 million square feet.

We see this as part of our long-term partnership with the City of Portland to foster racial and economic justice. Our vision for this project is to engage Portland janitors in the climate justice movement and Portland's Climate Action Plan, as members of frontline communities most impacted by the climate crisis: working-class people of all colors, largely Latinx women, immigrants, and people with disabilities. We will start by training janitors from all over Portland who work in downtown office buildings.

But there is more work to be done to build back better, as we begin to recover from the COVID crisis. We have opportunities to make sure all jobs are good union jobs, where workers have a voice, creating a more just and sustainable local economy. There are other opportunities to put those values into practice, such as with Clean & Safe, and we want to continue the conversation with you about how to do that.

We thank you, and the PCEF staff and committee, for your vision and efforts. We look forward to the success of all PCEF-funded projects, and to our ongoing partnership.

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City Council Meeting - Thursday, April 1, 2021 2:00 p.m.

Agenda No.	First	Last	Zip
205	KyMBERly	Horner	97211