



Fix-The-Grid Campaign Who /What We Are

Fix the Grid is a grassroots campaign in the six Northeast states that aims to accelerate a just transition to a democratic, transparent, and renewable electric grid. We focus on pushing regional energy regulators to incentivize reducing demand and to invest in clean energy like wind, solar and storage, instead of keeping us hooked on polluting fossil fuels that exacerbate the climate emergency and harm our most vulnerable communities.

www.fix-the-grid.org

Statement for the ISO-New England Board Meeting November 6, 2024 Boston, Massachusetts

We, the signers of this document, urge the ISO-New England Board to support reforms to ISO-NE and its stakeholder process, NEPOOL, that will facilitate the transition to a democratic, transparent, and renewable electric grid that is reliable and affordable for all. We decided not to engage in this board meeting out of solidarity with Unite Here Local 26, whose members have called for a boycott of the Seaport Hotel due to management's refusal to engage in contract negotiations. Our energy transition must bring everyone along through increased access and accountability, without acting at the expense of workers and impacted communities.

We remain concerned that our ISO is not governed as transparently as other ISOs and RTOs across the country.¹ Our campaign is asking you to support the following six changes.

- *Expand and further empower the environmental justice team at ISO-NE*
Fossil fuel infrastructure disproportionately impacts historically marginalized communities and ecosystems. The current transition is an opportunity to intentionally plan for a just and equitable energy transition, but this hinges on crucial governance reforms at ISO-NE. We celebrate the creation of a new environmental justice-focused position starting in 2024, and encourage you to build out a team to support that position. We hope this team within ISO-NE will have the environmental justice expertise to take into account the social costs and benefits of the grid, the authority to influence decisions, and the community relationships to facilitate communication and accountability. The creation of this body is in line with the Biden Administration's "Executive Order on Revitalizing Our Nation's Commitment to Environmental Justice for All," which directs every federal agency to account for and minimize environmental health impacts on environmental justice and low-income communities, and the Justice 40 Initiative.
- *Enhance state voices on the ISO-NE board*

¹ <https://nescoe.com/resource-center/isorto-governance-feb2021/>

ISO-NE should include one representative from each New England state on the ISO-NE Board of Directors to increase accountability to residents across the region and help align the interests of New England states with our grid operator. Reforming the joint nominating committee process to include more state representatives could help to accomplish this.

- *Increase public participation*
Ratepayers must be able to participate in their grid operators' proceedings. ISO-NE should further empower the Consumer Liaison Group to be a space for meaningful two-way conversation (including through funding, staff capacity, and access to information and communication autonomy). In addition, ISO-NE should create and facilitate more public-oriented channels for ongoing questions, resources, and support.
- *Increase transparency and accountability in the stakeholder process*
ISO-NE should open stakeholder process (NEPOOL) meetings to the public and to widely-accessible media outlets to ensure access to information and accountability to ratepayers.
- *Redistribute voting power within the regional stakeholder process*
Reform of NEPOOL's current six voting blocs is crucial to distributing influence among more diverse groups. NEPOOL must extend voting membership to New England governors, attorneys general, and Consumer Liaison Group Coordinating Committee members. In addition to this, we need to allocate more voting power across sectors to groups representing ratepayers, the environment, and the public interest sufficient to actually reflect broader societal needs.
- *Reform ISO-NE's mission statement and goals to include climate concerns*
The current vision of ISO-NE for a clean energy future is not enough. We ask that you change the mission statement to include a rapid and just transition to renewable energy and more rigorous goals for incorporating energy efficiency, demand response, and distributed energy resources into the grid. We would like to see clear, strong benchmarks for decarbonization and reducing energy consumption that align with state legislative goals.

Our grid extends beyond power plants, transmission lines, and markets. It is woven into every moment of our lives through its impact on the lights we see by, the medical devices we rely on, the air we breathe, and the bills we pay. The energy system we all need and deserve requires collaboration, not division, between technical and public interests.

Thank you for creating this forum to engage with us. While we have a long way to go, we look forward to continuing to engage with you to realize our visions through the implementation of these goals and changes. We hope you as the ISO-NE board will work with us to accomplish the great feat of reinventing our grid for the present and the future.

Signed,
The Fix the Grid Campaign
List of Campaign Signers follows

Campaign signers

350 Central Mass
350 MA Newton Node
350 MA North Shore Node
Acadia Center
Andover WECAN: Working to Educate for Climate Action Now
Baird Farm
Berkshire Environmental Action Team
Breathe Clean North Shore
Citizens' Climate Lobby, Mass. North Shore Chapter
Clean Energy Group
Clean Power Coalition
Climate Action Now Western Mass
CT Climate Crisis Mobilization
CT Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice (CCEEJ)
Earthjustice
Fairmount Indigo CDC Collaborative
George Wiley Center
Grace Church Climate Action
Greater Boston Physicians for Social Responsibility
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Jewish Climate Action Network
King's Chapel Environment Committee
Lexington Climate Action Network
Massachusetts Climate Action Network
Natural Resources Defense Council
NH Healthy Climate
No Coal No Gas
No Fracked Gas in Mass
Salem Alliance for the Environment (SAFE)
Salem Democratic City Committee
Sheffield Saves
Slingshot
Springfield Climate Justice Coalition
Springfield No One Leaves
Sustainable Wellesley
The Enviro Show
Third Act Massachusetts
Union of Concerned Scientists
Unitarian Universalist Mass Action

Unitarian Universalist Society of Greater Springfield

