



City of Brighton  
500 S. 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Brighton, CO 80601

February 5, 2025

RE: Recommendation for Appointment to the Sustainability Advisory Board

Mayor Mills and Members of City Council

I am writing on behalf of the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Staff respectfully recommends the appointment of Grace Sullivan, Dennis Gibbons, Arielle Gerstein, Wasim Jabed, and Roma Rodrigues to the City of Brighton Sustainability Advisory Board. Each nominee brings a unique and complementary set of skills, professional expertise, and lived experience that will strengthen the Board's ability to advise the City on sustainability, climate action, and community resilience initiatives.

Grace Sullivan brings an extensive professional background in sustainability and currently serves as a Senior Associate at Lotus Engineering and Sustainability. In this role, she leads strategic planning initiatives for both public- and private-sector clients focused on climate action and sustainability. Ms. Sullivan also serves as Brighton's Regional Project Manager for the Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) Building Policy Collaborative. Her expertise includes building decarbonization, sustainability planning, and strategic sustainability communications, making her particularly well suited to support the City's long-term climate and energy goals.

Arielle Gerstein is the Sustainability Program Administrator for Adams County and has over 11 years of experience working in sustainability and climate action. She has a strong background as a sustainability generalist, managing initiatives that advance renewable energy development, waste diversion, and energy action planning. Ms. Gerstein has worked closely with the City of Brighton on multiple sustainability projects and initiatives, including the City's first regional Earth Day event. Her regional perspective and hands-on experience collaborating across jurisdictions will be a valuable asset to the Board.

Dennis Gibbons is a long-time Brighton resident who has demonstrated a strong commitment to advancing sustainability within the community. He has attended numerous sustainability-related events and has been actively involved in efforts to improve waste diversion across the City. Mr. Gibbons also has a solid understanding of Brighton's existing planning documents and the strategic direction of the City's sustainability efforts. His community-focused perspective will help ensure that Board recommendations remain grounded in resident needs and local priorities.

Wasim Jabed currently serves as the Energy Manager for the 27J School District and brings more than 12 years of experience in energy management. Throughout his career, Mr. Jabed has worked in roles including energy manager, analyst, and consultant. He has a proven track record of identifying practical, cost-effective solutions to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy adoption. His experience working within a large public institution provides valuable insight into operational energy challenges and opportunities relevant to the City.

Roma Rodrigues brings a strong background in environmental policy, data-driven strategy, and sustainability project execution. She holds a Master of Science in Environmental Policy from the University of Denver and has educational, professional, and volunteer experience advancing energy efficiency, water conservation, waste diversion, and financial and economic sustainability. Ms. Rodrigues has volunteered with the Metro Denver Nature Alliance, contributed to the Sand Creek Regional Greenway Project, and helped launch sustainability initiatives within the banking sector as an economist. Her interdisciplinary experience will support informed, data-backed advisory recommendations.

Collectively, these nominees represent a well-balanced mix of professional expertise, community engagement, and regional collaboration. Their combined experience will significantly enhance the effectiveness of the Sustainability Advisory Board and support the City of Brighton's sustainability and climate objectives.

Staff respectfully recommends that City Council approve the appointment of Grace Sullivan, Dennis Gibbons, Arielle Gerstein, Wasim Jabed, and Roma Rodrigues to the Sustainability Advisory Board.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



**Traci McLean**

**Sustainability Coordinator, City of Brighton**