

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

August 30, 2018

10:00AM – 12:00PM

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, 2nd Floor, Conference Room C/D

Meeting Minutes

(Approved 10/23/18)

MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg welcomed the IAC members and designees and explained that he is filling in for Assistant Secretary Katie Theoharides who is on medical leave. The meeting was called to order at 10:08AM.

Commissioner Suuberg called for a vote to approve the meeting minutes of August 30, 2018. David Ismay requested that all documents utilized and/or distributed in IAC meetings be specifically referenced in the meeting minutes. A motion was made by Berl Hartman with a second by David Ismay to approve the August 30, 2018 meeting minutes provided that it is revised to list all documents utilized and/or distributed for the meeting. The minutes were unanimously approved.

GHG emissions inventory data for 2015

Christine Kirby and Sharon Weber from MassDEP provided an update of the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, which now include full annual data for 2015 and partial data for 2016. The 2015 GHG emissions are at 19.2% below the 1990 level. The increase in GHG emissions in 2015 is a result of many factors including increased population, low gas prices, Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant closure, and a cold winter and hot summer. The 2016 GHG emissions are currently estimated to be 20.8% below the 1990 level. An IAC member noted that GHG emissions between 2013 and 2015 have been hovering around 75 MMTCO₂e, and that the Commonwealth should analyze the year-to-year variabilities in those years to better understand what policy drivers can impact those GHG emissions.

EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton joined the meeting briefly. He remarked that the Commonwealth has new and ongoing ambitious policy initiatives to decarbonize, especially in the electric sector. He also acknowledged that the Commonwealth needs to address GHG emissions in the transportation and buildings sectors, areas that have not seen as much reductions in GHG emissions as the electric sector. The new 80x50 Study will help policymakers understand the best pathways to meet the 2050 GHG emissions limit under various scenarios and the best policies to implement that are strategic, cost-effective, and equitable. EEA has not intended the 80x50 Study to consider a carbon neutrality goal. Besides the 80x50 Study, the Department of Energy Resources is working on the Comprehensive Energy Plan, and the Commission on the Future of Transportation is taking an in-depth look at scenario planning for the transportation sector. The Commission on the Future of Transportation was not initially tasked with analyzing policy uncertainties from federal actions (e.g. weakening of the CAFE vehicle standards), but the Administration is considering those outcomes and pushing for

action. The Administration will also re-introduce the Home MPG bill to help address GHG emissions in the buildings sector.

Dan Gatti briefly shared that the Union of Concerned Scientists has commissioned a study analyzing the technological pathways and policies (and their economic benefits) to decarbonize the on-road transportation sector in the Northeast. They will share the results of the study in early October.

Presentation and discussion on reference case in LEAP for electric sector, Comprehensive Energy Plan, and 80x50 study scope

Benjamin Miller from EEA presented how EEA is using the LEAP tool to model projected GHG emissions in the electric sector under a reference scenario that consists of only existing policies. Joanna Troy of DOER presented on the modeling approach used in the Comprehensive Energy Plan and the draft results for the “Sustained Policies” scenario. Hong-Hanh Chu of EEA presented the proposed tentative scope for the 80x50 Study. The 80x50 Study will integrate the LEAP modeling work thus far, the results and recommendations of the Comprehensive Energy Plan, and the recommendations of the Commission on the Future of Transportation to help the Commonwealth strategically plan and achieve an 80% reduction in GHG emissions by 2050. The study’s emissions reduction pathways to 2050 in various plausible scenarios could help inform what GHG emissions limit the EEA Secretary should set for 2030 and what policies should be included in the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030. Several IAC members asked for additional opportunities to discuss the study scope, especially with technical experts outside of the IAC.

Report out by the Electric Sector working group

David Ismay reported on the recommendations of the Electric Sector working group for EEA and its agencies to focus on in the early 2020s. These recommendations concern proposed structural and market changes to support a low carbon electricity grid.

Feedback on the table of contents for the GWSA 10-Year Progress Report

Since the meeting was running out of time, each IAC member was given the draft table of contents for the 10-Year Progress Report and was asked to provide feedback and/or suggested edits by September 7, 2018.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:09PM.

Documents or exhibits used at the meeting (posted online [here](#)):

1. Meeting agenda
2. Updated IAC guidance document
3. Slide deck
4. Recommendations from the IAC Electric working group
5. Draft table of contents for the GWSA 10-Year Progress Report

IAC Member/Designee in attendance

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	<i>(absent)</i>
Boston University	Dr. Cutler Cleveland
City of Boston	Carl Spector
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	David Ismay
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Berl Hartman
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Eric Wilkinson
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	<i>(absent)</i>
Mass Audubon	<i>(absent)</i>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	<i>(absent)</i>
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	<i>(absent)</i>
National Grid	Mackay Miller
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Peter Rothstein
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Daniel Gatti
Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute	<i>(absent)</i>

Others in attendance

Organization	Name
ELM	Nancy Goodman
E2	Sarah Simon
MAPC	Darci Schofield
ABC	Yve Torrie
Winchester Climate Action Advisory Committee	Ruth Trimarchi
MA Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Matthew Beaton, Secretary
EEA	Patrick Woodcock, Assistant Secretary of Energy
EEA	Hong-Hanh Chu
EEA	Ben Miller
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
EEA	Eva Murray
MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Martin Suuberg, Commissioner
MassDEP	Christine Kirby
MassDEP	Sharon Weber
MassDEP	Will Space
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Bob Frey
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Joanna Troy
MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Megan Wu