

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)
August 7th, 2020, 9:30 am – 12:00 pm
Virtual Meeting on Windstream
Meeting Minutes (Approved 9/30/2020)

Welcome

David Ismay, EEA Undersecretary for Climate Change, called the meeting to order at 9:32. He welcomed the IAC members/delegates and non-IAC viewers and laid out guidelines for participation in the virtual meeting.

June 11th Meeting Minutes

Eugenia Gibbons motioned to approve the minutes. Steve Long requested a clarification on the minutes: he recalled that Jack Clarke had recommended an IAC member to co-chair the IAC, and asked whether that was included in the meeting minutes. Hanh Chu (EEA) noted that it was included in the “Other IAC Business” section. Caitlin Peale Sloan suggested that the discussion of a second IAC chair be done during “IAC Other Business” agenda item, and seconded the motion to approve meeting minutes. The IAC unanimously voted via the chat box to approve the minutes, with Ron DeCurzio abstaining.

State Agency Updates

Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner of MassDEP, provided a brief update on the Clean Energy Standard. EEA and MassDEP recently finalized changes to 310 CMR 7.75: Clean Energy Standard (CES) to create a “CES-E” requirement for retail electricity sellers to purchase electricity from existing (pre-2011) clean energy generators each year, beginning in 2021. Information including an FAQ is up on MassDEP’s [CES webpage](#).

IAC Working Group discussion on policy recommendations for the 2030 CECP

To frame the IAC discussion for the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 (2030 CECP), Undersecretary Ismay presented key metrics for 2030 based on results of the Decarbonization Roadmap Study’s analysis of 90% emissions reduction pathways to 2050 (see slide 5 of the meeting slide deck for these key metrics). The key metrics represent the outcomes in the transportation, building, and electricity sectors in order to achieve an emissions limit of ~45-50% below the 1990 baseline by 2030. Policies are needed to achieve these outcomes. Questions and comments from the IAC members/delegates and responses from Undersecretary Ismay are summarized and synthesized below:

1. The presentation did not include key metrics for the land sector because these metrics focuses on the levers to get us to 2030. There are another group of policies that prepare the Commonwealth to meet the 2050 emissions limit, which nature-based solutions tend to fall under. A regional approach is likely needed through buying carbon sink in forests in other New England states. The Nature-based Solutions (NBS) IAC

Working Group is looking to change the policy framework for nature-based solutions, including requesting a baseline for carbon sink based on land use and natural solutions. Steve Long suggested Massachusetts also combining with New York, California, and Washington as other states that also have net zero targets. He further requested that EEA consult with the IAC NBS work group for expertise on carbon sink options.

2. The 3,200 MW of offshore wind is the clean energy procurement authorized under Section 83C of Chapter 169 of the Acts of 2008, as amended by chapter 188 of the Acts of 2016 (An Act to Promote Energy Diversity).
3. The 90% emissions reduction pathway is a straight-line projection to 2050 where it crosses 2030 at 47.5%. An 85% emission reduction pathway would cross 2030 at 45%, and an 80% pathway would cross at 43.5%. A couple of IAC members/delegates suggested setting the 2030 emissions limit at 50% or higher indicating broad support for bold policy. One percent emissions reduction is approximately 1 million metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalence which is not insignificant. EEA is trying to both set a 2030 emissions limit that can be achievable while also being in the trajectory for meeting the 2050 emissions limit.
4. The model used in the Decarbonization Roadmap Study is driven by stock rollover. While fuel oil to gas conversion could help reduce GHG emissions in 2030, policy analysis indicates that direct fuel oil to heat pump conversion is needed to be GWSA-compliant in 2050 since new furnaces/boilers installed in the next decade are assumed to still be operational in 2050.

Eugenia Gibbons was joined by Staci Rubin from CLF to report on the policy recommendations from the Climate Justice Work Group (CJWG). Their recommendations are modifications to other IAC work groups' recommendations or additional policies with a people-centered approach (see "[Climate Justice Working Group Memorandum](#)" for a complete list of policies). The CJWG requested that each work group collaborate with them to make these policies even better. Eugenia recommended drafting guiding principles that can help EEA prioritize equity and environmental justice in developing climate mitigation policies for the 2030 CECP.

Undersecretary Ismay invited the IAC to consider recommendations from the CJWG and asked whether they want to vote to endorse the recommendations now or have further work group meetings. There was broad appreciation and support for the CJWG's policy recommendations, and agreement that the sector-specific work groups would integrate these recommendations in their own policy prioritization. For the next IAC meeting in September, each work group was asked to provide 6 top policy priorities from their broader policy recommendations made in August of 2019. The CJWG would also have their own stand-alone policy recommendations. EEA agreed to provide a "cheat sheet" to further clarify the request of the work groups. The IAC also expressed desire for intersectional conversations across work groups.

Other points during the general discussion include:

- MacKay Miller noted that a lot of the recommendations that the IAC is poised to make have resonance with the report from the Select Committee on Climate Crisis. He asks whether these recommendations should be made to the Massachusetts congressional

delegation to help them understand where their priorities should be. An open question is whether it should be EEA or the IAC that make these recommendations. This discussion was tabled for a future meeting.

- Steve Long expressed appreciation for the CJWG developing guiding principles and wondered if the IAC should also vote to develop guiding principles broader than climate justice that can be included in the 2030 CECP. Undersecretary Ismay suggested to have the guiding principles be drafted for September when the IAC can vote to endorse them or not then.

Discussion on release plan and stakeholder engagement around the 2050 Roadmap, Technical Reports, and 2030 CECP

Undersecretary Ismay reviewed the new timeline (see slide 8 of the meeting slide deck) that EEA is currently exploring around the release of the 2050 Roadmap report, accompanying technical reports, and the 2030 CECP. He welcomed the IAC's input as the decision has not been made on the release plan yet. There was confusion among the IAC members/delegations about the different reports and when they can be released. Undersecretary Ismay explained the differences between the 2050 Roadmap report and the accompanying technical reports, and that the 2050 Roadmap won't be completed until December.

The IAC expressed general support for (1) the potential September release of the technical report on the deep decarbonization pathways analysis and (2) allowing sufficient time for an informed, public comment period on the 2030 CECP. There was robust discussion around (1) the level and type of public engagement on the 2030 CECP before its release and finalization and (2) how much of the 2050 Roadmap findings and materials can be released to the general public in advance to facilitate that public engagement around the 2030 CECP.

Cammy Peterson suggests that the IAC could vote on whether it would support:

- 1) the release of the 2050 Roadmap in December so that the public can weigh in on that report before the draft 2030 CECP is released in March 2021 to be followed by a feedback period on the 2030 CECP (finalized by June 2021), or
- 2) the release the 2050 Roadmap and draft 2030 CECP concurrently in December to be followed by 2-4 months of public feedback on both before finalization of the 2030 CECP.

The IAC decided to vote by email on timeline for release of reports. EEA will consider the IAC's input in finalizing the release plan of the 2050 Roadmap report, accompanying technical reports, 2030 CECP, 2030 emissions limit, and public engagement.

Email voting commenced on August 11th and formally concluded on August 14th. Voting materials sent over email to the IAC along with the voting results are included in Appendix A.

Other IAC Business

(Skipped due to time constraints.)

Public Comment

The floor was opened to questions from the members of public observing the meeting. Three questions are asked regarding the 2030 CECP policies, how soon those policies can be shared with the public, and the current legislative process to reconcile and House and Senate climate bills. Responses from Undersecretary Ismay are summarized below:

- The 2030 CECP will include sector-specific policies as well as cross cutting policies that span sectors.
- The 2030 CECP is being developed, with the IAC being the main stakeholder group for policy recommendations during this process. EEA understands that people would like to see a draft of 2030 CECP as soon as possible, but it won't be available before December.
- EEA is still reviewing the various bills under consideration in the Legislature and is aware that some provisions would affect the currently planned timing of the 2050 Roadmap report.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:17.

Documents or exhibits used at the meeting (posted online):

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes of June 11th, 2020
3. Meeting Slides
4. Climate Justice Working Group Recommendations

Attendance

IAC Member/Delegates in attendance

| Organization | Name |
|--|---------------------|
| A Better City (ABC) | Kate Dineen |
| Boston University | <i>Absent</i> |
| City of Boston | Carl Spector |
| Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) | Caitlin Peale Sloan |
| Dismas House / Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition | David McMahon |
| Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2) | Sarah Simons |
| Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM) | Elizabeth Henry |
| Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE) | <i>Absent</i> |
| Health Care Without Harm | Eugenia Gibbons |
| Mass Audubon | Alexandra Vecchio |
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) | <i>Absent</i> |
| Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) | Ronald DeCurzio |
| Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) | Cammy Peterson |
| National Grid | Mackay Miller |
| Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC) | Peter Rothstein |
| The Nature Conservancy (TNC) | Steve Long |
| Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) | Paulina Muratore |

Others in attendance (Note: this may not capture all attendees. There were 21 other virtual participants and phone numbers that were unidentified)

| Organization | Name | | |
|---------------------------------------|--------------------|---|---------------------|
| MA DOER | Alexis Washburn | Green Energy Consumers Alliance | Kai Salem |
| | Alice Arena | MAPC | Kasia Hart |
| | Allan Fierce | ISO New England | Kate Bashford Epsen |
| EEA | Andrew Kimball | Pipe Line Awareness Network for the Northeast Inc | Kathryn Eiseman |
| | Arnie Epstein | | |
| Cadmus | Aurora Edington | EEA | Kurt Gaertner |
| ECA, MOF | Beejay Baatz | Cadmus | Liz Hanson |
| EEA | Benjamin Miller | Climate X-Change | Marc Breslow |
| MA DCAMM | Betsy Isenstein | MA DOER | Marian Swain |
| MassCEC | Bruce Carlisle | | Mark Kalpin |
| Eversource | Catherine Finneran | Brandeis | Mary Fisher |
| | Cathy Kistofferson | Mothers Out Front | Mary Hutton |
| MA DOER | Catie Snyder | WPI | Michael Ahern |
| MA DOER | Chelsea Kehne | Cadmus | Michael Walsh |
| Mass Forest Alliance | Chris Egan | | Mike Duclos |
| | Chris Riddle | Kim Lundgren Associates | Mike Steinhoff |
| MassDEP | Christine Kirby | ELM | Nancy Goodman |
| EEA | Claire Miziolek | Boston University | Pamela Templer |
| MAPC | Darci Schofield | | Patty Ramsey |
| EEA | David Ismay | UCS | Paula Garcia |
| Sierra Club | Deb Pasternak | MassCEC | Peter McPhee |
| Acadia Center | Deborah Donovan | Acadia Center | Rachel Zaff |
| | | EEA | Rachael Zaff |
| Mothers Out Front | Ellie Goldberg | MA DFW | Rees Sweeney-Taylor |
| Mitsubishi Electric Cooling & Heating | Eric Dubin | EEA | Rebecca Quinones |
| Peregine Energy Group | Fran Cummings | National Grid | Rishi Reddi |
| MassCEC | Galen Nelson | Winchester Climate Action Advisory Committee | Rishi Sondhi |
| EEA | Hong-Hanh Chu | | Ruth Trimarchi |
| AMC | Heather Clish | | Ryan Gibbons |
| EEA | Hillary King | MA DOER | Samantha Meserve |
| MA DOER | Ian Finlayson | | Sandy Muspratt |
| ABC | Isabella Gambill | MassDEP | Scott Berthiaume |
| MASCO Inc. | Janice Henderson | CLF | Sharon Weber |
| | Jeffrey Clark | MassDOT | Staci Rubin |
| MA DOER | Joanna Troy | National Grid | Stephen Woelfel |
| MA DOER | Joanne Bissetta | Mothers Out Front | Steve Menges |
| NPR, WBUR-FM | Jon Hamilton | Elder Climate Action | Sue Swanson |
| Eversource | Joy Woolley | | Tina Grosowsky |
| EEA | Judy Chang | Sierra Club | Tony Rogers |
| National Grid | Julia Gold | MassDEP | Veena Dharmaraj |
| | | HCWH | Will Space |
| | | A Better City | Winston Vaughan |
| | | | Yve Torrie |

Appendix A: Voting materials emailed to the IAC regarding input on the release plan of the 2050 Roadmap, technical reports, 2030 CECP, and 2030 emissions limit.

Potential Schedule Options re: Upcoming Reports & Public Engagement

| Option | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July |
|-------------------|--|-------|-------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|------|
| 1 (status quo) | ----- | ----- | ----- | 2050 Roadmap and 5 Technical Reports (Final) 2030 CECP (Final) 2030 Limit (Final) | | | | | | | |
| 2 | Deep Decarbonization Pathways/Energy Supply Technical Report (DRAFT) | ----- | ----- | 2050 Roadmap and 5 Technical Reports (Final) 2030 CECP (Final) 2030 Limit (Final) | 3 month delay | | | | | | |
| 3 | Deep Decarbonization Pathways/Energy Supply Technical Report (DRAFT) | ----- | ----- | 2050 Roadmap and 5 Technical Reports (Final) 2030 CECP (DRAFT) 2030 Limit (DRAFT) | Public Process re: 2030 CECP & 2030 Limit | Public Process re: 2030 CECP & 2030 Limit | 2030 CECP (Final) 2030 Limit (Final) | | | | |
| 4 | Deep Decarbonization Pathways/Energy Supply Technical Report (DRAFT) | ----- | ----- | 2050 Roadmap and 5 Technical Reports (Final) | Public Process re: 2050 Roadmap | Public Process re: 2050 Roadmap | 2030 CECP (DRAFT) 2030 Limit (DRAFT) | Public Process re: 2030 CECP & 2030 Limit | Public Process re: 2030 CECP & 2030 Limit | 2030 CECP (Final) 2030 Limit (Final) | |

6-month delay

| | Sector-Specific Technical Reports <i>Buildings; Transportation; Non-Energy; Land Use & Sequestration; Energy Supply/Deep Decarbonization Pathways</i> <i>These are part of/appendices to the 2050 Roadmap Report.</i> | Decarbonization Roadmap to 2050 Report ("2050 Roadmap") <i>This is the synthesis of all the analysis accomplished throughout the project. The sector-specific reports are appendices to this Report.</i> | Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030 ("2030 CEC") <i>This is a report required by the GWSA to accompany the setting of the 2030 legal emissions limit; the GWSA requires that the CEC be updated once every 5 years.</i> |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Overall Purpose | Catalogues the Decarbonization Roadmap Study's methodology (assumptions, data, scenarios, rationale, etc.) and findings by sector; effectively demonstrates the extensive work conducted to understand all sources of emissions and provides all evidence that informs the conclusions in the 2050 Roadmap; documentation critically important to future members of the Administration, technical experts, and others climate leaders who want to understand the underpinnings of the analyses behind the 2050 Roadmap report. | <p>Synthesizes major transformations needed in each sector and across sectors to enable development of climate policy and to frame needs re: continued research and activities to ensure compliance with the GWSA by 2050.</p> <p>Summarizes and presents integrated, descriptive detail on the full economy-wide transitions that are required to achieve Net Zero in 2050; focuses significantly on decarbonization pathways and breaks down silos between sectors to highlight the transformations necessary in varying cases.</p> <p>Describe available options and early assessment of risks and trade-offs associated with each pathway examined.</p> | <p>Focuses on setting the 2030 emissions limit and the corresponding policy and programmatic agenda for the next decade.</p> <p>Describes both actions necessary to achieve the 2030 emissions limit and actions necessary in the 2020s to maximize MA's ability to achieve the 2050 emissions limit.</p> |
| Core Intended Audience | Technical experts, Administration officials and staff, other states/cities seeking to partner with the Commonwealth on decarbonization strategies or follow its lead; wide variety of business entities and advocacy groups. | The general public; policymakers (legislators, city officials, other constitutional officers, Administration officials responsible for implementation); advocates; business and civic leaders. | State staff; the general public; policymakers (legislators, city officials, other constitutional officers, Administration officials responsible for implementation); advocates; business and civic leaders. |
| General Content | Background information, methodology, assumptions/rationale, findings, information critical to the sector's decarbonization strategy. Each of the 5 reports includes an executive summary. | Economy-wide picture of the pathways that are available to effectively, equitably, and economically achieve GWSA compliance and the associated sector-specific transitions. Detail on priorities and key transformations to ensure trajectory to get to compliance in a way that supports a thriving MA economy and other societal goals. | 2030 emissions limit set based on information learned and reported in the 2050 Roadmap. Key transformations necessary to support GWSA compliance in 2030 and 2050 and the associated policies, programs, investments, and research agendas to be pursued in next decade. Assessment of the impact of pursuing these policies on MA emissions, economy, and equity. |
| Key Differences | Deep dive that focuses on sector-specific findings; points to synergies with other sectors but does not show the full picture of decarbonization economy-wide. Detailed. Cost findings focus on system costs (i.e. capital and operating costs). | Shows full picture of options for getting to 2050 by guiding readers to the most critical findings, referencing back to the technical work done (and detailed in the Technical Reports), and pointing towards the types of policy action likely necessary to achieve net-zero emissions. Discusses societal costs and benefits from decarbonization, including macroeconomic feedbacks, benefits from improved air quality, and employment impacts. A guiding document that takes a step beyond the models and places technical findings in the context of MA economy, businesses, and residents' lives in a way that is generally relevant. | Provides details on the specifics of what activity in the next decade is needed to ensure MA achieves its 2030 emissions limit in a manner that is consistent with one or more GWSA-compliant pathways to 2050 as described in the 2050 Roadmap. Discusses societal costs and benefits from policy implementation, including which groups are likely to bear the cost, accrue benefits, or experience job impacts and need support for the transition to net-zero emissions. |

IAC voting results regarding which release plan option they would most support

| | IAC org | IAC member/delegate | Release Plan Options | | | | Abstention | Notes |
|----|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|---|---|---|------------|--|
| | | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | |
| 1 | ABC | Kate Dineen | | | Y | | | |
| 2 | CLF | Caitlin Peale Sloan | | | Y | | | support a comment period longer than three months (but that still results in a final 2030 CECP by June 30, 2021). |
| 3 | City of Boston | Carl Spector | | | | | Y | |
| 4 | Dismas House | Dave McMahon | | | Y | | | |
| 5 | E2 | Sarah Simon | | | Y | | | suggest allowing between 4-6 months for both public input and completion of the 2030 CECP |
| 6 | ELM | Nancy Goodman | | | | Y | | suggest giving the public a month or six weeks to absorb the 2050 Roadmap and then release the draft 2030 CECP and emissions limit in mid-Feb and give the public until end of March or mid-April to comment. |
| 7 | Fraunhofer | Kurt Roth | | | | Y | | want the option with longest timeline |
| 8 | HCWH | Eugenia Gibbons | | | Y | | | would prefer 6 months between release of draft and release of final 2030 CECP |
| 9 | MMWEC | Jason Viadero | | | Y | | | |
| 10 | Mass Audubon | Alexandra Vecchio | | Y | | | | |
| 11 | MAPC | Cammy Peterson | | | Y | | | suggest final 2030 CECP in April rather than March so that there can be 3 full months for feedback plus one full month for EEA to make revisions/updates and finalize the 2030 CECP |
| 12 | MIT | Sebastian Eastham | | | Y | | | |
| 13 | National Grid | Marcy Reed | | | | Y | | |
| 14 | NECEC | Peter Rothstein | | | Y | | | vote for reports to be issued as shown in September and December in Option 3 but extend the feedback and revision times |
| 15 | TNC | Steve Long | | | | Y | | prefer an option under which EEA 1) educates and engages the public on 2050 Roadmap to share analysis, promote understanding and lays the foundation for the 2030 CECP, 2) provides robust and meaningful public engagement and comment opportunities on the 2030 CECP |
| 16 | UCS | Paulina Muratore | | | Y | | | |

