

Enabling Sustainable Economic Development

Focus Area Working Group By-Laws

Adopted March 5, 2025

ARTICLE 1. ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME

The Enabling Sustainable Economic Development (ESED) Focus Area Working Group (FAWG) is established by the Office of Energy Transformation (OET) to advise the Executive Director and affirmed by the Energy Transformation Advisory Board (ETAB).

ARTICLE 2. PURPOSE

These by-laws shall govern the organization and operation of the FAWG in carrying out its duties to advance clean energy-ready economic development zones that enable key business sectors to grow in Massachusetts, in alignment with the state's interconnection, land use planning, housing, environmental justice and equity, and economic development initiatives and priorities.

ARTICLE 3. POWERS AND DUTIES

The FAWG has the authority to:

- Develop and execute workplans aligned with mission and outcomes established for the ESED FAWG, which shall include the following elements, at a minimum:
 - Assessment of barriers and priority businesses,
 - Assessment of business needs, by sector,
 - Identification of priority locations,
 - Implementation recommendations. and
 - Alignment with interconnection land use, economic development, housing, and equity efforts.
- Provide supporting resources and analytic capabilities.
- Advise on and approve target sectors including, but not limited to, advanced manufacturing, life sciences, climatech, and AI, as well as potential locations and demonstration sites for energy-ready zones.
- Coordinate with ongoing efforts of other FAWGs and administration-led work on energy transition financing and rate design, among other relevant efforts, as determined by the ESED FAWG.
- Make recommendations to the ETAB and OET on solutions to energy-related barriers to economic development and establishing energy-ready zones, including, but not be limited to:

- Grid capacity and availability
- Interconnection process and costs
- Energy resilience
- Energy rates/costs
- Availability and accessibility of low/zero carbon energy supplies
- Policy, financing, timing, feasibility, cost
- Land use, community, workforce, environmental justice and equity, and environmental impacts, opportunities and needs.

ARTICLE 4. ADDITIONAL GENERAL POWERS

Except as otherwise prohibited by law, the FAWG shall have the following additional general authority:

4.1 Adopt and Amend Bylaws.

The FAWG shall have the power to amend, repeal or adopt these By-Laws and Ground Rules for the conduct of meetings, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members at a FAWG meeting at which a quorum of voting members is present. Amendments shall be provided to the FAWG at least one week in advance of the meeting at which the proposed amendment will be voted on.

4.2 Workstream Teams.

(A) FAWG members will self-select Workstream Teams, as needed, in which each wants to participate.

(B) Workstream teams will provide workplans and milestones for review and approval by full FAWG and provide progress updates at FAWG monthly meetings.

(C) FAWG and Workstream Team meetings will follow the Massachusetts Public Records Laws under M.G.L. c. 66, § 10, with all final FAWG recommendations to the ETAB, with supporting materials, provided to the ETAB and posted on ETAB website.

ARTICLE 5. COMPOSITION OF THE FAWG

5.1 FAWG Composition.

FAWG members will be subject matter experts and interested/impacted parties that have a level of decision-making authority within their organizations.

5.2 Term.

FAWG members shall serve for a minimum term of 1 year. FAWG members may request the ETAB to extend their service for additional 1-year terms, at the ETAB's discretion.

5.3 Chair(s).

The Executive Director of the OET shall serve as the FAWG Chair and may designate Chair duties, as needed.

5.4 Vacancies and Additional Members.

FAWGs are not size-limited. The Chair(s) of the FAWG may recommend additional stakeholders to participate in or to replace a vacancy caused by the departure of an existing FAWG member. Individuals filling a vacancy will do so for the remainder of the 1-year term and will be considered for a new 1-year appointment. All membership additions will be shared with and affirmed by the ETAB.

5.5 Designees.

In cases of emergency or hardship that prevent a FAWG member's attendance at a particular meeting, a FAWG member may appoint a designee who shall have privileges consistent with those of the FAWG member. The member should submit the name of the designee in writing via email to the Chair prior to the meetings at which the designee is to function.

ARTICLE 6. MEETINGS

6.1 Responsibility of the Chair(s).

The Chair(s) shall work with dedicated OET team members to make arrangements for all meetings of the FAWG; notify all members thereof; prepare an agenda for each meeting; keep accurate and complete records of attendance and proceedings of the FAWG, and transmit the actions and recommendation of the FAWG to the ETAB, or others as appropriate.

6.2 Schedule.

FAWGs shall meet at least bi-monthly (i.e., every two months) and be held in accordance with a schedule established by the Chair of the FAWG. Additional meetings of individual work streams shall be held as needed and at the initiation and organization of work stream members, after providing notice to the Chair and dedicated OET staff, who will inform all FAWG members.

6.3 In-Person, Remote, or Hybrid Participation.

The Chair of the FAWG will provide the opportunity for members participate in-person, remotely, or in a hybrid setting. Meeting information and options for attendance will be provided to FAWG members in reasonable amount of time in advance of the meetings.

ARTICLE 7. RECOMMENDATIONS AND GROUND RULES

7.1 Voting

The FAWG shall operate primarily through a process of consensus agreement to provide recommendations to the ETAB. If there are any disagreements in the recommendations being

provided, the Chair(s) may elect to call for a vote and note concerns shared by some FAWG members in the recommendations.

7.2 Ground Rules for Participation.

(A) The Chair of the FAWG, or their designee, will facilitate FAWG meetings in accordance with the By-Laws and procedures that enable the FAWG to effectively carry out its role.

(B) All Members should do their best to attend FAWG meetings, arrive on time, and be prompt in returning from breaks during meetings.

(C) All Members should prepare for FAWG meetings and review all materials provided prior to the meeting. Reasonable efforts shall be made to prepare and distribute materials at least the day prior to meetings, as appropriate. Meeting materials are not to be circulated outside of the FAWG membership, unless otherwise authorized by the Executive Director of OET. All materials will be deemed as work product and not considered final or noted as a formal recommendation of the FAWG, its members, or OET until after a full FAWG vote.

(D) Members should talk one at a time during meetings and all attendees should limit side conversations. If joining remotely, Members should remain muted when not actively speaking.

(E) Members are charged with participating in a constructive manner and shall be respectful of other perspectives. No personal attacks or inappropriate or hyperbolic language will be tolerated.

(F) Members agree to act in good faith during discussions and assume positive intent of each other, meaning Members will be respectful, forthright and communicative about their interests and preferences. Members will ensure they have sufficient knowledge and information of the subject matter on which they are speaking and be able to substantiate assertions or claims in support of comments and positions.

(G) Deliberations of the FAWG and workstreams are to be held under Chatham House rules to enable open conversation on and exploration of topics. All final work products, information, and recommendations, as approved by the FAWG, will be provided to ETAB, at which point, ETAB-conveyed materials will be made public and posted on the OET website.

(H) FAWG members shall not publicly report on, record, AI note take, or live-stream FAWG meetings or conversations outside of such meetings related to FAWG deliberations.

(I) Members will do their best to actively seek agreement wherever possible.

(J) Members should address any concerns about the discussion or the meeting with the Chair. It is the Chair's/designee's responsibility to bring the meeting to order.

(K) Any failure by Members to comply with these Ground Rules, which disturbs, disrupts or impedes the orderly conduct of FAWG meetings, may result in removal from the meeting at the

discretion of the Chair/their designee and with the consent of the Executive Director of OET. ETAB members may be informed of such actions within 24 hours via written communications.

ARTICLE 8. SEVERABILITY

If any provision of these by-laws is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions of the by-laws which can be given effect without the invalid provision. These By-Laws must conform with all applicable laws in place as of the date on which they are adopted by the FAWG.