

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting

September 29, 2023, 2:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Meeting Minutes – *APPROVED*

Welcome, approving the 6/9/22 IAC meeting minutes, agenda overview

Undersecretary Antos called the meeting together at 9:05am with quorum reached and welcomed all participants to the meeting. She first introduced Sarah Arman, a IAC new member from Greenroots. She then introduced Jeremy Koo from the Metropolitan Area Planning Council who will be Julie Curti's delegate and acting Chair of the Buildings Work Group. She then introduced Amy Boyd-Rabin from ELM, the new delegate for Elizabeth Turnbull.

No discussion of the draft minutes for the last IAC meeting. Kate Dineen (A Better City) moved to approve the minutes which was seconded by Caitlin Peale Sloan (Conservation Law Foundation). Meeting minutes were approved by majority.

Agenda:

1. Review of Meeting Minutes
2. Updates and Introductions
3. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Development of Priority Measures
4. IAC Work Group Updates
5. Public Comments

General Updates

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Engagement Plan

Undersecretary Antos introduced Jonathan Schrag, Deputy Climate Chief at the Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience (OCIR). Undersecretary Antos noted the importance of OCIR in ensuring a whole-of-government, integrated approach to the administration's climate priorities and that the EEA fully supports OCIR's efforts.

Jonathan Schrag thanked all participants that have already provided feedback and looks forward to continuing working with the IAC. He emphasized what Undersecretary Antos has said about the CPRG and that this is a partnership between OCIR and all 12 secretariats. He then provided a detailed presentation about the CPRG, its importance, and opportunities for engagement.

What is CPRG?

A two-phase federal funding opportunity administered by US EPA:

- Phase I (Planning) awards to states \$3M in formula funding for decarbonization planning
 - Priority Climate Action Plan due March 2024

- Comprehensive Climate Action Plan due March 2025
- Phase II (Implementation) is a competitive process which draws on Phase I to award up to \$500M grants for a specific implementation project.
 - Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to be released September 2023
 - Implementation Grant Proposal due April 2024

Why Is the CPRG Significant?

- A way to ground the policy commitments of the Clean Energy and Climate Plans (CECPs) in quantifiable GHG-reduction and EJ impact measures, allowing us to prioritize which ones to implement first
- A way to plan how federal funding can help Massachusetts achieve its climate goals and which federal opportunities will yield the most GHG emission reduction impact
- A way to pick 1-2 projects to support with significant implementation funding

How Can the CPRG Help to Prioritize Decarbonization Investments and Policies?

Key Questions to Guide Decarbonization Investment:

- What is the GHG emissions reduction potential of particular climate measures within each sector?
- Which climate measures provide the most benefit (co-pollutants, workforce, etc.)?
- Which climate measures provide the most benefit to environmental justice populations?
- For each climate measure, how much investment is necessary?
- For each climate measure, what are the sources of state and federal funding available over the next decade?

Priority Measures: "A focused list of near-term, high-priority, implementation-ready measures to reduce GHG pollution."

Preliminary Concepts for Priority Measures for Transportation (~37% of MA Emissions):

Electrify Medium and Heavy-Duty Vehicles:

- Potential Implementation Idea: Narrow focus to medium and heavy-duty electrification by prioritizing the electrification of municipal garbage trucks or delivery vehicles (diesel-powered, registered in MA), concentrating on fleets active among EJ populations. Target enabling factors, including truck charging economies, to maximize impact of current Advanced Clean Truck (ACT) Standards.

Electrify Light Duty Vehicles:

- Potential Implementation Idea: Make additional progress in passenger vehicle electrification by enhancing EV incentives.

Preliminary Concepts for Priority Measures for Buildings (~35% of MA Emissions):

Electrify Building Heating and Cooling:

- Potential Implementation Idea: Use CPRG Implementation funding as a pool of funds to encourage uptake of building-sector tax credits, extending the impact of the CPRG funds over the building sector.
- Potential Implementation Idea: Create a Cities of the Future Decarbonization Project that would focus multiple interventions in 2-3 neighborhoods to incrementally retire fossil fuel infrastructure, modernize electrical infrastructure, and transition buildings (and potentially transportation) to all-electric operation.
- Potential Implementation Idea: Develop the model for statewide school decarbonization (buildings, fleets, land, curriculum), with a focus on schools in Gateway Cities.

Other Sectors: Power, Natural & Working Lands, Waste

- Challenge: Identify measures that preserve and enhance forestation or other natural sequestration techniques while also providing significant benefits to environmental justice populations.
- Challenge: Identify opportunities that are incremental to ongoing grid modernization and renewable energy procurement processes.

Next Steps:

- Continue to refine set of Priority Measures
- Solicit feedback from stakeholders in September and October
- Initiate analytic work in October

We look forward to engagement over the coming months around the following:

- Identification of Priority Measures
- Categories and metrics to include in a quantification of benefits
- Categories and metrics to include in a quantification of benefits for environmental justice populations
- Review of Priority Measures Results

Thank you! For questions please contact:

- Dyanna Jaye dyanna.jaye@mass.gov
- Matt Connolly matthew.connolly@mass.gov
- Jonathan Schrag jonathan.schrag@mass.gov

A summary of questions, comments and responses is below.

- Sarah Simon commented that she is glad to hear that the largest emission sector, transportation is high on the list. The CECP policies she recommended included MDV and HDV focus, buses. Asked if OCIR is thinking about enhancing the fleet and delivery fleet work being done by MassCEC, which currently doesn't have a lot of funding?

- Jeremy Koo commented it's been a pleasure working with the State and MACP looks forward to continuing to do so. He noted the many opportunities for funding and that we should maximize impact.
- Kurt Roth noted this is a great discussion and asked when the funding would actually be awarded and then distributed. Jonathan noted funding awarded in July 2024 and money distributions by Q4 2024. He noted the importance of focusing on areas where there are less policy initiatives and facing challenges. Then that it's important to understand how these programs continue when the federal money runs out and how best to streamline these efforts especially when it comes to decarbonization.
- Kate Dineen seconded Kurt's point about supporting efforts that are difficult to decarbonize such as deep energy retrofits for commercial and industrial buildings and that there's been a lot of fruitful conversation in the working group of about this over the past couple of years. Also encouraged the IAC to think about electrification measures that also have the potential to encourage mode shift at the same time.
- Caitlin Peale Sloan noted it would be helpful to see a more detailed timeline for the input opportunities so the work groups can plan for input.

IAC Work Group Updates

Undersecretary Antos thanked the workgroup chairs and members of the workgroups for their important work to date. She then called on the workgroup chairs to provide a report out of any workgroup work since the last IAC meeting.

- Power WG: Caitlin Peale Sloan noted that there has been some turnover in the membership and put an announcement out to please contact her if there is anyone interested in joining.
- Transportation WG: The Transportation WG has also been updating their membership and are open to having new members for anyone that would like to join. They will be meeting a week from this meeting to debrief on the presentation and provide detailed CPRG feedback.
- Buildings WG: Jeremy Koo introduced himself in his new role as acting chair and will be reaching out to members in the coming weeks to meet and discuss the CPRG.
- Climate Justice WG: Gaurab Basu noted that he has had successful meetings with Undersecretary Power and with Johnathan, thinking about how to best do data collection. The group is also updating memberships and will be reassembling during the fall.
- Land Use WG: Michelle Manion had technical difficulties at the time and could not provide a verbal update.

Public Comments

Undersecretary Antos invited observers of the IAC meeting to raise their hands to be called on for questions or comments.

- Tony Beattie introduced himself a farmer in Pepper and noted his concern for working lands and recognizing the lands provide the ability to both sequester carbon and provide food sources.
 - Undersecretary Antos noted that that this sector is a key factor to achieving net zero carbon emissions by 2050. NWL WG Chair Michelle Manion also noted NWL WG's focus is on interplay of NWL goals within CECP along with other goals for energy, biodiversity, Resilient Lands Initiative, and what are policy measures and funding for achieving goals.

- Tina Grosowky shared concerns about reaching the CECP's 2025 goals and asked about the Climate Campaign development.
 - Katherine noted that we are currently on pace for 2025 greenhouse gas emissions but there is going to be a sharp increase in progress required which makes the implementation efforts the State is currently working on ever more important. Patrick Forde noted that the campaign development has been progressing as planned and will be launching in early 2024.

Undersecretary Antos asked for a motion to adjourn. Caitlin Peale Slon motioned, Kurt Roth seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:43PM.

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

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2023
3. Meeting Slides

Attendance 9/29/2023

IAC Member/Delegates in attendance:

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	Kate Dineen
Boston University	Cutler Cleveland
City of Boston	Alison Brizius
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	Caitlin Peale Sloan
Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	Dave McMahon
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Amy Boyd Rabin
Eversource	Tracy Gionfriddo
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	Kurt Roth
Mass Audubon	Michelle Manion
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Sebastian Eastham
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Jason Viadero
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Jeremy Joo
National Grid	Melissa Lavinson
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	<i>Absent</i>
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	<i>Absent</i>
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Paula Garcia
Cambridge Health Alliance	Gaurab Basu
Greenroots	Sara Arman

Others in Attendance:	
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Affiliation (if applicable)	Name
CLF	Seth Gadbois
CLF	Katherine Lee Goyette
DEP	Will Space
DOER	Seth Federspiel
DPU	Megan Wu
DPU	Alycia Goody
EEA	Melissa Mittelman
EEA	Maria Belen Power
EEA	Sarah Basham
EEA	Oleander Stone
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
EEA	Hanh Chu
EEA	Daniel Gatti
EEA	Dunbar Carpenter
EEA	Bob Wilber
EEA	Stu Iler
MA Senate	Audrey Horst
Mass Forest Alliance	Chris Egan
MassDEP	Sharon Weber
MassDOER	Eric Friedman
MassDOER	Ian Finlayson
MassDOT	Chris Aiello
Umass	Roger Luchmann
	David Zeek
	Allan Fierce
	Tony Beattie
	Ellen Sheets
	Tina Grosowsky
	Doug Pope
	R Harvey
	Carolyn Sellars
	Cathy Kristofferson
	Augustin Villarreal
	David Lyons
	Fran Cummings