

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

August 22, 2019, 1:00PM – 3:00PM

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

(Approved 11/19/2019)

EEA Undersecretary of Energy Patrick Woodcock welcomed everyone. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 PM. Undersecretary Woodcock called for a vote to approve the meeting minutes of June 27, 2019. A motion to approve was made by Jack Clarke and seconded by Eric Wilkinson. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Brief updates from state agencies

Christine Kirby, Assistant Commissioner of MassDEP, gave an update on the 2019 regional policy process of the Transportation and Climate Initiative (TCI). The state has hosted several state-level listening sessions with the 6th taking place tonight (August 22nd) in Fall River. These listening sessions have had great turnout and MassDEP has been proactively asking for feedback on what the public would like to see in the TCI proposal. MassDEP, EEA, and MassDOT are also planning to host another round of stakeholder engagement sessions later in the fall ([detailed here](#)), which will discuss a [draft framework](#) for comment.

Christine Kirby also provided an update on the Volkswagen settlement. MassDEP is close to making funding recommendations for \$7.5 million in Open Solicitation grants, and a further \$2 million in Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program's Public Access Charging station grants.

Kate Tohme from DPU shared that they have an open docket, 1955, that is investigating distributed generation interconnection.

Joanna Troy of DOER shared that bids for the 83C proceeding were due to DOER in the next weeks.

Steve Woelfel of MassDOT mention that MassDOT recently released the [Congestion In the Commonwealth Report](#).

Maggie McCarey of DOER shared that the 2016-2018 energy efficiency program evaluations have been completed and that the energy efficiency programs exceeded their goals.

Patrick Woodcock of EEA mention that a straw proposal on the [Clean Peak Standard](#) had been released, as well as [SMART program revisions](#) which are expected to be shared publicly next month.

Decarbonization Study: High Level Update

Claire Miziolek, EEA, walked through a high-level update of the 80x50 Study. This included a reminder of the study's goals, stakeholders being engaged, project timing, and the anticipated activities over the next few months. EEA emphasized the role that the IAC would play regarding policy analysis.

Summary of discussion points and questions & answers:

- A net-zero emissions pathway is being modeled.
- EEA was asked to share the composition of the Technical Steering Committee which has been added as an appendix to the 8/22 meeting minutes.
- IAC Work Groups are interested in learning more about the study's modeling efforts. Those work groups are organized by the IAC members, though EEA offered to help coordinate a modeling-focused work group meeting for any workgroups that were interested. The Land-use work group expressed interest.

IAC Work Group Policy Discussion

The lead for each IAC Work Group presented a summary of policies that their Work Group members have drafted for the full IAC's consideration before recommending to EEA for analysis in the 80x50 study. Staff from The Cadmus Group, the consultant EEA has hired to conduct the 80x50 Study, facilitated this portion of the meeting.

Buildings Sector Work Group Policies and Discussion

Main policies for recommendation, presented by Cammy Peterson of MAPC:

1. Set Mandatory Emissions Reduction Limits on Building Sector Statewide by 2020
2. Make the Building Code 2050-Compliant
3. Require Expanded, Detailed Building Performance and Emissions Reporting, Benchmarking, and Improvements
4. Require a Cross-Sectional Focus

Discussion:

- It was recommended to revise #1 to reflect a stakeholder process which would be in place by 2020, but the actual limits would be in place by 2030.
- It was clarified that several of these policies may be analyzed but not modeled in the 80x50 study.
- The issue of authority for actions, such as state versus municipal, was raised and EEA noted that it would be examined during the policy analysis phase of the study. One recommendation was connecting the energy efficiency activities administered through the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council to the goals of the GWSA.
- A regional approach, perhaps including a cap on emissions from the buildings sector, was suggested for consideration, referencing other regional activities such as RGGI and TCI.
- It was noted that specific industrial strategies were not spelled out in these recommendations.
- For policy #4, it was suggested that the cross-sectional focus could be applied to all policies from all work groups. Some additional potential synergies between the land use and buildings sector were raised, including considering MEPA and the Green Communities programs as areas of collaboration.

- Ultimately, members of the IAC agreed to recommend these four policies from the Buildings Sector Work Group for analysis in the 80x50 study.

Electric Sector Work Group Policies and Discussion

Policies for recommendation, presented by Eric Wilkinson of ELM:

1. Promote consistent GHG accounting methods within MA and among New England states.
2. Conduct a strategic review and alignment of the Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard, Alternative Energy Portfolio Standard, and Clean Energy Standard regarding the participation in each of biomass, landfill gas, and MSW "waste-to-energy" electricity generators.
3. Conduct a strategic assessment of the role of Municipal Light Plants in meeting the state's GWSA obligations.
4. Ensure the electricity distribution system that are maintained and operated by the state's Electricity Distribution Companies is transformed as needed to actively support and further statewide deep decarbonization efforts.
5. Ensure the New England electricity system's markets and planning processes are transformed as needed to actively support and further statewide deep decarbonization efforts.

Discussion:

- The potential role of hydrogen was raised as a consideration. EEA affirmed that hydrogen for both electricity production as well as transportation was planned to be considered in the 80x50 study.
- For policy #2, there was a recommendation to include combined heat and power systems in the strategic review, as well as further considering what should qualify in what program, as well as municipal aggregation.
- The issue of vehicle electrification impacting the electricity sector was raised, including the potential for EV batteries to be discharged in the future.
- Ultimately, members of the IAC agreed to recommend these five policies from the Electric Sector Work Group for analysis in the 80x50 study.

Nature-Based Solutions and Land Use Work Group Policies and Discussion

Policies for recommendation, presented by Steve Long of The Nature Conservancy:

1. Avoid conversion of forests – especially resilient, interior forests – to other land uses
2. Invest in the restoration, maintenance, migration, and protection of blue carbon systems (salt marshes and eelgrass beds) through funding, strengthening coastal wetland protection, and enabling salt marsh migration with land conservation and/or limited development/land use in the coastal zone

3. Continue, and greatly expand, urban tree planting and stewardship programs, such as Greening the Gateway Cities program, ReGreen Springfield, and other tree planting efforts within the metro Boston region
4. Make the value of forest carbon visible and quantifiable in state policies
5. Improve Forest Management
6. Increase the carbon sequestration potential of soils
7. Reward municipalities that use Smart Growth and other climate-friendly actions

Discussion:

- For policy #4, members of the IAC flagged that this was not just carbon offsets, as well as the opportunity to reward landowners for forest carbon through efforts such as the Chapter 61 Tax Program. It was also suggested to add other types of terrestrial carbon to #4, such as blue carbon and non-forest soil.
- The issue of additionality was raised which is an open issue for measuring sequestration impacts, as well as the potential impacts of a changing climate on the land.
- When looking at #5, it was recommended to consider DCR's designated zones.
- Green Roofs were flagged as a cross-cutting policy with the Buildings Sector.
- Ultimately, members of the IAC agreed to recommend these seven policies from the Nature-Based Solutions and Land Use Work Group for analysis in the 80x50 study.

Transportation Sector Work Group Policies and Discussion

Policies for recommendation, presented by Dan Gatti of UCS and Sarah Simon of E2:

1. Reduce GHGs from vehicles
2. Invest in mass transit and promote alternatives to driving
3. Price transportation externalities
4. Integrate transportation and land use planning

Discussion:

- It was noted that policies 1-3 could be revenue generating.
- The IAC also discussed some of the nuances of the transportation policies, including the issues of charging networks, MBTA Facilities, and various congestion improvement considerations (notably referencing the recent [Congestion Report](#)).
- The topic of economy wide carbon pricing to capture the range of externalities was raised and discussed amongst the IAC members, ultimately ending in the recommendation that "Economy wide carbon pricing" be added as a cross-sector recommendation to the policy list coming from the IAC.
- Ultimately, members of the IAC agreed to recommend these four policies and a cross-sectoral economy-wide carbon pricing policy for analysis in the 80x50 study.

Wrap up & next steps

The meeting concluded by summarizing the policies being recommended for analysis in the 80x50 study. EEA also offered to help convene IAC Work Groups to discuss 80x50 modeling in depth if there was interest. The next meeting was flagged as taking place as a scenario workshop later in the fall.

Undersecretary Woodcock adjourned meeting.

Documents or exhibits used at the meeting (posted online¹):

1. Meeting agenda
2. Meeting minutes of June 27th 2019²
3. Slides for 8/22 Meeting
4. Master Policy List from the IAC Work Groups

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/event/august-22-2019-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2019-08-22t130000>

² <https://www.mass.gov/doc/meeting-minutes-approved-8222019/download>

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)	<i>(absent)</i>
Dismas House / Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	<i>(absent)</i>
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Eric Wilkinson
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	<i>(absent)</i>
Mass Audubon	Jack Clarke
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Sebastian Eastham
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Jason Viadero on phone
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Cammy Peterson
National Grid	<i>(absent)</i>
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	<i>(absent)</i>
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Dan Gatti

Others in attendance (Note: this may not capture all attendees as some did not sign in)

Organization	Name
Cadmus	Julie Curti
Cadmus	Liz Hanson
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Patrick Woodcock, Undersecretary of Energy
EEA	Hanh Chu
EEA	Andrew Kimball
EEA	Benjamin Miller
EEA	Claire Miziolek
Eversource	Kevin Cahill
Hydro Quebec US	Carolyn O'Connor
MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Christine Kirby
MassDEP	Sharon Weber
MassDEP	Will Space
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Maggie McCarey
DOER	Samantha Meserve
DOER	Catie Snyder
DOER	Marian Swain
DOER	Joanna Troy
DOER	Alexis Washburn
MA Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Steve Woelfel
MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Kate Tohme
DPU	Megan Wu
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Sean Davenport

Appendix: List of Technical Steering Committee Members

Name	University
Ajla Aksamija	UMass Amherst
Ali Malkwai	Harvard
Betar Gallant	MIT
Christopher Knittel	MIT
Christoph Reinhart	MIT
David Cash	UMass Boston
Desiree Plata	MIT
Eric Gonzales	UMass Amherst
Gilbert Metcalf	Tufts
Gina McCarthy	Harvard Public Health
Heidi Peltier	UMass Amherst
Jennie Stephens	Northeastern
Jesse Jenkins	Princeton
Kelly Sims Gallagher	Tufts
Michael Ahern	WPI
Pamela Templer	BU
Patricia Fabian	BU
Randall Field	MIT
Suchi Gopal	BU
Sumeeta Srinivasan	Tufts