

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC)

February 26, 2020, 10:00AM – 12:00PM

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

Meeting Minutes (Approved 6/11/2020)

EEA Undersecretary for Climate Change, David Ismay, called the meeting to order at 10:06AM. He then called for a vote to approve the minutes of the November 19th IAC meeting. Jack Clarke moved to approve and Eugenia Gibbons seconded. Meeting minutes were unanimously approved. Undersecretary Ismay also asked for a volunteer to chair the Electric Sector Working Group. Caitlin Peale Sloan from Conservation Law Foundation volunteered to chair. This was unanimously approved by the IAC.

Presentation from the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)

Stephen Pike, CEO of MassCEC, presented on the work of MassCEC and its role in the decarbonization challenge. MassCEC pushes on market facilitation and innovation, and answers the question of “How do we do it?” MassCEC’s solar programs have helped to bring the cost of solar PV in Massachusetts down from \$7.00 per watt to less than \$3.50 per watt. Their new passive house program piloted the first multifamily passive home in MA in 2017, and has already established a project pipeline of more than 5,000 housing units.

Summary of the IAC discussion points and questions & answers:

- Steve Long asked how MassCEC defines clean energy systems. Clean energy systems include solar PV, clean heating and cooling (air-source and ground-source heat pumps), hydro, and off-shore wind.
- Eugenia Gibbons asked how MassCEC overlaps with MassSave programs. There is not a formal coordination with MassSave and MassCEC’s programs, but MassCEC does inform MassSave as voluntary partners. They share lessons learned and other resources.
- Jack Clark asked if MassCEC’s charter would allow it to spend money on areas of climate change resilience. MassCEC’s charter is focused on clean energy innovation rather than adaptation, but there is a desire to consider whole systems rather than singular technologies.
- Dan Gatti asked if Stephen Pike believes MassCEC has a role to play in the transportation sector. Transportation is a new area for MassCEC.
- Jack Clark asked if MassCEC has enough funding to implement deep decarbonization for 2050. MassCEC could do a lot with more funding, and is working on a plan for how to integrate into the 2050 Roadmap.
- Some members of IAC would like to talk with MassCEC about how to deploy renewables in the most sustainable and resilient way possible, in accordance with E.O. 569.

2050 Roadmap: Progress Update, IAC Engagement

Hanh Chu, Benjamin Miller, and Claire Miziolek of EEA provided updates on the 2050 Roadmap Study, and identified areas for IAC engagement during the remainder of the Study. Hanh provided the proposed IAC workplan for 2020 to IAC members. The Roadmap Study is about halfway complete. Seven public meetings throughout the Commonwealth were planned for March.*

Climate Justice Work Group Update

Eugenia Gibbons of Green Energy Consumers Alliance and Staci Rubin of Conservation Law Foundation updated the IAC on the work of the IAC's Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) thus far. Specifically, Eugenia and Staci explained the memo that was provided to the IAC in response to EEA's request for feedback on a draft policy framework. The memo included a preliminary list of terms and draft definitions related to Climate Justice.

Jack Clarke moved to endorse and adopt the work-to-date of the CJWG as presented (with the understanding that the work will continue). This motion was seconded by Caitlin Peale Sloan and unanimously passed by those present.

Summary of IAC discussion points and questions & answers:

- Eugenia and Staci were asked if the CJWG will consider the costs associated with rising rents. They responded that they want to consider costs as broadly as possible and look at displacement impacts, among other considerations.
- Eugenia and Staci were asked if they will be incorporating MAP modeling on infrastructure investments. They will look into this and incorporate.
- Eugenia and Staci were asked about their proposed weighting system of the policy framework, whether the magnitude of GHG emissions reduction should be weighed less important than climate justice impacts. They clarified that the overall assumption is that all policies being considered must collectively help the Commonwealth achieve GWSA compliance; where there are policy options, policies that have positive effects on historically marginalized populations should be weighted more important.

2050 Emissions Limit

Undersecretary Ismay reviewed Governor Baker's net-zero announcement during his State of the Commonwealth speech. The Undersecretary discussed what net-zero might mean, and provided a presentation of a proposed definition. A request for public comments was announced (concluding on April 10, 2020), which would help inform a letter of determination from the Secretary of EEA with a proposed 2050 emissions limit and wording about how to define net-zero emissions.

Summary of IAC discussion points and questions & answers:

- Undersecretary Ismay was asked if offsets from the Amazon would be acceptable as carbon sink. The Undersecretary responded that EEA is thinking about the types of negative emissions that can count towards net-zero emissions but is not defining them at this moment.

Other Work Group Updates

Steve Long of The Nature Conservancy presented on recommendations from the IAC Nature-Based Solutions and Land Use Working Group. The recommendations led to a bill filed that would require the Commonwealth to develop a detailed biogenic carbon plan.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:01PM.

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

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting minutes of November 19, 2019 (posted online²)
3. Meeting Slides
4. GWSA IAC Climate Justice Working Group Memo
5. Natural Climate Solutions Amendment Summary Memo
6. IAC 2020 Work Plan

IAC Member/Designee in attendance

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	Kate Dineen
Boston University	(absent)
City of Boston	Carl Spector
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	Caitlin Peale Sloan
Dismas House / Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	(absent)
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Elizabeth Henry
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	(absent)
Green Energy Consumer Alliance	Eugenia Gibbons
Mass Audubon	Jack Clarke
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	(absent)
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Jason Viadero

¹ <https://www.mass.gov/event/february-26-2020-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2020-02-26t100000>

² <https://www.mass.gov/event/november-19-2019-meeting-of-the-gwsa-implementation-advisory-committee-iac-2019-11-19t130000>

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Rebecca Davis
National Grid	Mackay Miller
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Jeremy McDiarmid
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Daniel Gatti

Others in attendance (Note: this may not capture all attendees as this attendance list was developed from memory)

Organization	Name
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	David Ismay
EEA	Hong-Hanh Chu
EEA	Benjamin Miller
EEA	Claire Miziolek
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
MA Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Christine Kirby
MassDEP	Will Space
MA Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Maggie McCarey
DOER	Ian Finlayson
DOER	Eric Steltzer
DOER	Samantha Meserve
DOER	Joanna Troy
DOER	Marian Swain
DOER	Alexis Washburn
MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Kate Tohme
DPU	Megan Wu
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)	Stephen Pike
MassCEC	Galen Nelson
MassCEC	Ariel Horowitz
MassCEC	Peter McPhee
MassCEC	Elizabeth Kennedy Cleveland
Alternatives for Community & Environment	Hajar Logan
Cadmus	Liz Hanson
Citizen	Michael Duclos

*Due to COVID-19, the March public meetings have been cancelled. A [virtual alternative meeting](#) was provided.