

## **GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting**

April 29, 2022, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Meeting Minutes – Approved 8/11/22

### **Welcome, approving the 2/28/22 IAC meeting minutes, agenda overview**

Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions, Judy Chang, called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM after quorum was met. Undersecretary Chang opened the meeting by introducing and welcoming Dr. Gaurab Basu as the newest IAC voting member. Dr. Basu is a physician and founding co-director for the Cambridge Health Alliance (CHA) Center for Health Equity Education and Advocacy (CHEEA). After Dr. Basu said a few words of welcome to the group, Undersecretary Chang called for a review of the draft minutes from the February 28th IAC meeting. Hong-Hanh Chu from EEA pointed out a few edits to the draft minutes that were made. The draft minutes were approved by the majority (seven votes in favor) with two abstentions.

### **Overview of EEA's proposal for the 2025/2030 CECP (slides 3 through 11)**

Undersecretary Chang provided an overview of EEA's proposal for the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2025 and 2030 (2025/2030 CECP), presenting a few slides that were also included in the 2025/2030 CECP public meetings on April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>, noting that there have been a few updates to the slides since those meetings. She showed the projected 2025 and 2030 emissions level by sector, with a projected 32% statewide reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) in 2025 and 50% reduction in 2030. She also presented the proposed sector-specific sublimits as required by the Climate Law, noting that emissions from cooling buildings and transportation electricity usage are included in the power sector and that the sublimits may still be refined as EEA fine tune the modeling results. She then provided a high-level overview of each sector comparing what was in the Interim 2030 CECP with the key components being addressed in the new 2025/2030 CECP, including proposed key targets and metrics for each sector.

Summary of questions and responses is below.

- What is impact of heating electrification on the 2030 and 2050 targets for building heat versus the power sector? The sublimits are set with a projection of the successful deployment of EVs and electrification of buildings. EEA anticipates some increase of electricity consumption, and believe there is enough capability on the grid to support all of the electrification of transportation and buildings through the end of this decade.
- How is deep weatherization being defined? The level of weatherization includes approximately 30% decline in energy, involving roof, windows, etc.
- If the buildings GHG emissions sublimit only include residential and commercial building heat, what is being left out? The industrial sector energy consumption is being included in the non-energy and industrial sector emissions instead of in the buildings sector emissions.
- How did EEA come up with the goals of 28% by 2025 and 30% by 2030 of NWL in MA permanently protected from conversion? The goal came out of the Resilient Lands Initiative stating that protecting 30% of MA land and water will double the current pace of state-funded land conservation in the Commonwealth.

## **IAC feedback on EEA's proposal for the 2025/2030 CECP and next steps**

### Transportation feedback

Kate Dineen (ABC) noted that A Better City would like the 2025/2030 CECP to prioritize investment in public transit, instead of just focusing on the promotion of ZEVs. She stated this is a contradiction to the findings from the Commission on the Future of Transportation, which focused on mass transit (MBTA and RTA). She would like to see more emphasis on public transit. She noted her appreciation for the reference to MBTA Communities, Housing Choice and the MBTA Bus Modernization Plan, but think the plan still fails to lean into public transit. She gave some examples of where the plan could do more, such as endorsing the electrification of the commuter rail (which is already endorsed by the MBTA's Fiscal Management Control Board), including smart roadway pricing strategies as part of the state's approach to managing load shift and establishing new revenue streams for transit, and adding more emphasis on the role that employers can play in managing commuter patterns.

Undersecretary Chang noted that EEA is proposing to work with employers to reduce commuting, capturing the value we saw in relation to the emissions reduction from less commuting during the early COVID times. Acknowledging that the future of work is different and want to encourage employers to allow virtual work where possible. She also mentioned that EEA has been working closely with MassDOT on these plans, as well as with plans related to both ARPA funds and IIJA funds. With respect to electrifying the commuter rail, there have been a lot of investments ongoing, however right now the primary focus has been getting people back to using mass transit. When it comes to GHG emissions reductions, the primary strategy has been to get people off using fossil fuels.

Dan Gatti (EEA) noted that the smart growth strategies are very important, especially in the Boston area. There are also many challenges with housing that need to be addressed, so EEA is looking at how those two things can best interact. Commuting has changed because of COVID, but that has also opened new opportunities for people and ways to look at transportation. EEA is working closely with our colleagues at MassDOT as they are focused on prioritizing multi-mobile transportation, public transportation investments, and looking at where to best invest the federal infrastructure funds.

Sebastian Eastham (MIT) asked why the hard to electrify program has not been launched yet and what the goals are for that program? He also asked for clarification on harmonizing the electricity sector demands that are expected as a result of more electrification in the transportation and buildings sectors. Dan Gatti responded that MassCEC has been doing a lot of the work with the hard to electrify sector and there is currently pending legislation which would allocate significantly more funding to that initiative. There is interest in looking at things such as refuse trucks, airport equipment, short airline flights, etc. Related to the electric infrastructure, there is a lot of work underway for the utilities to begin coordinated planning, including making investments in advanced metering infrastructure so that we have more flexible load.

Staci Rubin (CLF) provided comments from the Climate Justice Work Group, particularly the desire to see Environmental Justice (EJ) policies integrated throughout the 2025/2030 CECP, with the Transportation chapter including electrification of buses that serve EJ communities. She also reiterated the request for inclusion of means-tested fares and an equitable fare policy to be included in the plan, including on commuter rail to encourage more riders. She noted the concern related to air pollution hotspots and corridors, and asked for the addition of air monitoring, particularly around highways. Staci noted that it

is great to see a rebate available for EVs at the point of sale and would encourage rebates on used EVs and e-bikes to help the LMI populations.

Dan noted in response that there is an adder in the MOV-EV truck program for EJ populations and that may be the format that we will use to target EJ areas and additional incentives for LMI populations.

Sarah Simon (E2) provided comments from the Transportation Work Group that all the charging policies, including school bus policies to get to more emissions reductions from transportation are great. She would like to continue to coordinate on the Work Group agendas as there are a lot of agenda items to discuss during the Work Group meetings, including talking about regional transit and understanding more about the modeling analysis. She also noted wanting to coordinate more with the electric sector about system capacity going forward.

(There was a brief interruption in the meeting due to technical difficulties.)

#### Buildings feedback

Cammy Peterson (MAPC) mentioned that scale of GHG emissions by 2025 seems low and wondered whether that was putting too much pressure on the second half of the decade. She asked whether EEA could look at how to accelerate the timelines to get more reductions by 2025, understanding that many efforts take time. Cammy also encouraged EEA to look at where it is possible to move to whole home electrification or whole building electrification instead of supplementing with other heating systems, that would be preferable.

Undersecretary Chang clarified that EEA is including whole home and partial home electrification in the 2025/2030 CECF. While EEA is trying to push hard on whole home transitions to heat pumps, a more realistic approach is to also encourage people to begin the switch to heat pumps now, even if it is just to add air conditioning, so that they get used to using heat pumps before needing to replace their fuel-based heating system at its end of life (and can switch to whole home at that point). EEA does not want people to stay on partial home heat pumps forever, but want to accelerate the consumer experience and get more workforce trained to be able to ramp up and hit specified goals.

Kurt Roth (CSE) made a comment regarding support for the adoption challenges of clean heat options and clean heat caps to include a revenue neutral carbon tax to incentivize people to do something differently. He used the example of system failure situations where getting a new heat pump system sized and ordered in the time that people need them (typically during a heating season) will not happen quickly enough, so it is important to find a way to incentivize people to make the switch to heat pumps. He mentioned the challenges related to a lower electric rate for electric water heating, including whether people need to install a separate meter, possible panel work necessary, supplemental power, etc. He also commented that the suggested levels of deep retrofit (10% by 2025 and 20% by 2030) seem very aggressive.

Kate Dineen (ABC) recommended 1) prioritizing deep weatherization measures to include passive strategies like building envelope upgrades and digital technologies like building automation systems, as well as 2) the state working with municipalities so there is alignment with reporting (particularly for C&I buildings in Boston that already comply with BERDO) and 3) the allowing hybrid heating for hard to electrify commercial buildings.

Caitlin Peale Sloan (CLF) commented that she was in support of the earlier comments made by Cammy Peterson and, related to the deep energy retrofits comments earlier, she highlighted that it will be important to pick the right size retrofits to be cost effective (something that she thought the E3 report in the DPU 20-80 process did not address properly). She also noted that it is important to get a handle on the actual emissions from the buildings and have a reality-based accounting for emissions from burning biogas and biofuels.

Undersecretary Chang noted that EEA commissioned an early-stage study from Regulatory Assistance Project (RAP) about what a clean heat standard might look like. One of the issues that will need to be addressed is what will qualify as “clean heat” under a clean heat standard (i.e., electricity, biogas, renewable natural gas (RNG), etc.). We do not currently have a way for Massachusetts to do a lifecycle GHG emissions accounting for biofuels and RNG. There is a lot of work to set regulation around biofuels and RNG and to determine whether they even count as “clean fuels.” She reiterated that EEA’s dominant strategy remains electrification.

#### Electric Power/ Non-Energy/NWL

Staci Rubin (CLF) noted that the Climate Justice Work Group would like to see consideration of EJ and cumulative impacts in siting. She commented that the Energy Facilities Siting Board is not great at stakeholder engagement and that the Administration should reconsider how the Commonwealth sites energy facilities to reduce GHG while promoting good high-quality jobs.

Steve Long (TNC) reiterated Staci’s point to make sure EJ is incorporated throughout the 2025/2030 CECP. With respect to the NWL, he encouraged the EEA to set a goal for sequestration, looking at the trajectory of where the Commonwealth has accomplished with land protection. He noted that the IAC work groups did a nice job with cross-cutting strategies and would like to see those in the plan. He recommended that NWL should not just be considered as offsets and should be seen as a sector onto itself. He would like the plan to discuss how decarbonization efforts will be paid for, as well as how to leverage existing funds and bring in new funds. Steve also mentioned that there are a lot of opportunities with blue carbon as an emerging field that should be considered to help both climate mitigation and adaptation.

Michelle Manion (Mass Audubon) noted that the technical work has been impressive. She reiterated Steve’s point that NWL is critical to meeting the goals for 2025, 2030, and 2050 and that having a quantitative goal for this sector (acknowledging this is difficult and there is more uncertainty) would emphasize the importance of investing in this sector early. She also noted that it is great to see MVP funding for NWL projects, but EEA should think of other funding sources.

Hong-Hanh Chu commented that EEA plans on having net carbon sequestration goals for NWL. EEA has also incorporated a lot of the feedback received from the technical workshop on March 28<sup>th</sup> related to setting goals for NWL.

#### **Other IAC Business**

##### IAC meetings:

Unless there’s legislative action to extend the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law, IAC meetings will resume in person or be a hybrid meeting after July 15, 2022. If it is

hybrid, a quorum (nine IAC members/delegates plus the IAC chair) is still needed to be physically present at the meeting. If there is a legislative change that allows for the continuing of virtual meetings, then EEA will let everyone know.

#### IAC work group leadership:

Staci Rubin (CLF) has been co-chairing and serving as the interim chair of the Climate Justice Work Group since the previous chair left. An official IAC member or delegate is needed to chair or co-chair this work group. The IAC should discuss leadership of this work group and possibly other work groups at the next IAC meeting.

#### **Other IAC Questions and Comments**

Summary of questions and responses is below.

- Is there was a timeline for EEA to share the modeling analysis that will be in the 2025/2030 CECP? What is the current timeline of the plan development? The 2025/2030 CECP will contain all the input assumptions and data assumptions. After the plan is released, the EEA team will have time to discuss the modeling analysis in more detail. For the current timeline, EEA is accepting comments through end of April then compiling them and incorporating them as much as possible. The final plan will be issued alongside the translated versions on July 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **Public Comments**

Summary of comments and questions is below.

- A member of the public commented regarding the public education campaign and the efforts regarding that. They noted that the state needs to be bold, even with upcoming change in the administration. They were excited to hear that the EEA is hiring a few people and thinks that they should work on a media campaign to educate consumers quickly as many residents in Massachusetts do not even know what a heat pump is or what the details of the programs are. Mass Save has billboards, radio ads, etc., but Mass Save is run by the utilities, so we need something coming from the state.
- A member of the public commented regarding the DPU docket 20-80 Future of Gas process and that it is focusing too much on hybrid heat solutions.
- A member of the public encouraged the EEA to include a building performance standard and a net zero building code, as well as a goal for 100% clean electricity by 2030-2035.

Meeting was adjourned at 2:58PM.

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

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes of February 28, 2021
3. Meeting Slides

**IAC Member/Delegates in attendance:**

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
A Better City (ABC)	Kate Dineen
Boston University	<i>absent</i>
Cambridge Health Alliance	Gaurab Basu
City of Boston	<i>absent</i>
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	Caitlin Peale Sloan
Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	David McMahon
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	Nancy Goodman
Eversource	<i>absent</i>
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)	Cammy Peterson
National Grid	Mackay Miller
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	<i>absent</i>
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Paulina Muratore

Others in attendance:

<b>Affiliation (if applicable)</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>ABC</b>	<b>Isabella Gambill</b>
<b>ABC</b>	Yve Torrie
<b>CLF</b>	Staci Rubin
<b>Department of Energy Resources (DOER)</b>	Eric Friedman
<b>DOER</b>	Ian Finlayson
<b>DOER</b>	Joanna Troy
<b>Department of Public Utilities (DPU)</b>	Chris Chan
<b>DPU</b>	Megan Wu
<b>Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)</b>	Judy Chang
<b>EEA</b>	Hong-Hanh Chu
<b>EEA</b>	Daniel Gatti
<b>EEA</b>	Dunbar Carpenter
<b>EEA</b>	Ben Miller
<b>EEA</b>	Kurt Gaertner
<b>EEA</b>	Nicole Cooper
<b>Energy Solutions</b>	Eliot Stein
<b>Eversource</b>	Tracy Gionfriddo
<b>Green Energy Consumers</b>	Kai Salem
<b>MA State Senate</b>	Audrey Horst
<b>Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)</b>	Ariel Horowitz

<b>Affiliation (if applicable)</b>	<b>Name</b>
<b>Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)</b>	Sharon Weber
<b>Massachusetts Office of State Senator Mike Barrett</b>	Audrey Horst
<b>MASCO</b>	Janice Henderson
<b>The Northbridge Group</b>	Bruce Phillips
<b>PLAN-NE</b>	Cathy Kristofferson
<b>Pope Energy</b>	Doug Pope
<b>Union of Concerned Scientists</b>	Paula Garcia
<b>Sierra Club</b>	David Zeek Sarah Krame Tina Grosowsky Roger Luckmann Brianna Rockwell Bee Jay Baatz Brendan Brucie Boulton Madeline Goggin David Heimann Mike Duclos