

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

August 11, 2022, 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

### **Meeting Minutes (Approved 10/5/2022)**

#### **Welcome, approving the 4/29/22 IAC meeting minutes, agenda overview**

Undersecretary of Energy and Climate Solutions, Judy Chang, called the meeting to order at 1:35 PM after quorum was met. Undersecretary Chang opened the meeting and introduced a few new members of the EEA team, including Patrick Forde (Deputy Manager of Public Engagement), Sarah Basham (Deputy Manager for Climate Analysis), and Melissa Mittelman (Manager of Energy and Climate Mitigation Policies). She then called for a review of the meeting minutes from the April 29<sup>th</sup> IAC meeting, and one edit was requested and made. The draft minutes were then approved by the majority (eight votes in favor) with two abstentions. Undersecretary Chang then provided an overview of the meeting agenda.

#### **Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP) for 2025 and 2030 implementation**

Undersecretary Chang provided an overview of a new online dashboard that will be launched this fall to track key metrics for monitoring the implementation progress of the 2025/2030. The metrics will align with the key sectors in the CECP. The dashboard will also have links to key resources that will be helpful to residents, municipalities and businesses to connect them with financial incentives and other information. EEA will host the dashboard on the state's website, and will regularly update it with new data as they become available. Undersecretary Chang explained that EEA has top priority metrics for the dashboard launch that are aligned with the 2025/2030 CECP, and welcomes feedback from the IAC on the proposed content. The meeting slide deck listed the different proposed metrics and links to resources.

Summary of questions, comments, and responses is below.

- What is the timeline and process for EEA to receive suggestions and feedback from the IAC or work groups? EEA is planning to roll out the dashboard in different phases (Alpha, Beta, etc.) so this will be an ongoing process to continue to add useful metrics as long as there are reliable data sources for them. EEA will work on a plan to solicit feedback from the IAC and work groups and will relay that back.
- What is the plan for measuring through an equity and justice lens, as well as considering health impacts? This is something that EEA would very much value feedback on from the IAC on which metrics to measure and track both from an equity and justice lens but also looking at health impacts.
- What is the intended schedule of regular updates for the dashboard (weekly, monthly, quarterly, etc.)? The dashboard is designed in a way that EEA staff will be able to make some edits and updates quickly and easily as needed, and others we intend to update/refresh data sources as they are available, whether on a quarterly, annual, or bi-annual basis (depending on the data source).
- It is important to map where measures are being implemented (heat pumps being installed, etc.) and also where there are environmental impacts that need to be addressed such as air

pollution. The Environmental Justice Index (EJI) <https://eji.cdc.gov/> was suggested as an example of a tool that might be useful to look at for this. EEA agrees that tracking metrics at a geo-spatial level, and with an equity lens, is important, and we have work to do to get there with having the right data and being able to incorporate it into the dashboard.

- Will the dashboard use any live data sources (such as air quality data)? The consultants working with EEA to set up the dashboard have set up Application Programming Interface (APIs) to automatically update certain data sources, but we will have to work with the IAC (as well as the consultant) to see if there are other data sources that make sense to also use API for pulling in live data.
- What is the timeline for the consultants to deliver the different versions of the dashboard (Alpha, Beta, etc.) so that the IAC can provide feedback ahead of the next iteration? EEA is currently being trained by the consultants, who are on contract through the end of September, so that we will have internal staff to update the dashboard going forward.
- When tracking and prioritizing the metrics being used, it is important to consider what interventions on the policy side are driving reductions as opposed to extraneous impacts so you can see where the policies have the most impact. EEA agrees and this is generally how we have been looking at this and considering what metrics to track.

## **2050 CECP Discussion**

Undersecretary Chang provided an overview of the statutory requirements for the 2050 CECP and EEA's proposed approach, timeline, policy priorities, and preliminary outline of the 2050 CECP. With respect to the timeline, EEA is planning to have public hearings and comment period during the beginning of October. EEA is not planning to do additional modeling since we did a significant amount of modeling for the 2025/2030 CECP and ensured that the modeling would go out to 2050. Given that the 2025/2030 CECP was recently issued and contains details on the Commonwealth's priorities and commitments for this decade, EEA are expecting the 2050 CECP to be much shorter and not necessarily have as much focus on the sector-based strategies given the details included in the last CECP. EEA is planning to add a new chapter on The Future of Fuels, which will dive into some of the questions and concerns raised around the topic of biofuels, biogas, and hydrogen for heating and transportation. Another area that EEA will include in the 2050 CECP is significant discussion on carbon sequestration, including procuring sequestration beyond the capacity of natural and working lands in Massachusetts, which are likely needed to achieve net zero GHG emissions in 2050.

Summary of questions, comments, and responses is below.

- Aside from the sector emissions limits, will the 2050 CECP be less specific than the last CECP? The CECP needs to be as specific as possible while acknowledging the uncertainties and recognizing that future plans may update this work.
- With respect to biofuels and developing a body of work on the future of fuels, when would that happen? EEA is hoping to do enough development to advance the thinking over the next few months. EEA and its consultant are conducting a literature review and looking at studies that have already been done, and would welcome IAC feedback on what else they should be looking at.
- How does the 2050 CECP consider coordination with other states, particularly with things that require coordination (aviation, long-range rail, energy resources, etc.)? Cross-state and regional efforts are covered in the power sector section as well as the sections on future of fuels and carbon sequestration, but EEA welcomes suggestions on where else to focus multi-state coordination.

- Instead of trying to be “as specific as possible” in the CECP, it may make more sense to frame out the most important targets for the policies to achieve. EEA agrees with that approach and may frame it as “by a certain year the Commonwealth will need to analyze ‘fill in the blank’ or track ‘X’ metric” which should address some of the uncertainty.

Undersecretary Chang noted that EEA would love to get more feedback from the IAC on the proposed content and process (including EJ policies), but would need feedback in the next two weeks given the tight timeline to develop the 2050 CECP. Hanh Chu (EEA) suggested that the best method to collect feedback would be to convene the IAC work groups. EEA could offer times to the IAC members to see when people are available to meet.

### **IAC Work Group Leadership**

Hanh Chu presented on the background and structure of IAC work groups, which were originally formed in 2017 at the request of IAC members to provide them with an opportunity to dive more into specific topics and also be able to consult with other subject matter experts who may not be on the IAC. The IAC work groups need to be IAC-led, but EEA is available to assist either with logistics or supporting the meetings. Work groups should be chaired by IAC members or their official delegates. Any decisions made at the work group level need to be brought back to the full IAC body.

There have been vacancies with the chairs of a few current IAC work groups, so one topic for discussion is whether the IAC would like to nominate and vote for the chairs of the work groups during this meeting, or plan on it for a future meeting. It also is a good time to check in on whether IAC members want to re-focus any of the work groups themselves (such as changing or adding new topics for the work groups to focus on) or keep them as is. Hanh opened it up to the IAC members to discuss and provide feedback.

Kurt Roth (CSE) commented that the IAC should keep the work groups and that he has found the Buildings Work Group to be beneficial, particularly when there were specific questions or issues to address. He found it helpful to have a range of perspectives represented on the issues. Hanh noted that EEA can work with each work group chair to come up with the agenda topics to ensure that there is clear direction on what the work group should be helping to address.

Catherine Finneran (Eversource) noted agreement with Kurt’s points and also noted that the work groups allow the IAC members and their delegates to have more time to digest and react to information before it gets put before the full group.

Hanh raised the issue that the Buildings work group does not currently have a chair as Cammy Peterson has stepped down from the IAC and is leaving MAPC and she asked whether the IAC would like to discuss and possibly nominate a replacement.

Sarah Simon (E2) noted that she never thought of this as a personal appointment but rather that the IAC is made up of organizations representing different sectors and interests and those organizations are selecting who is representing them on the IAC.

Hanh clarified that the Global Warming Solutions Act (GWSA) stated that there shall be an advisory board that is made up of representatives from specific sectors. The law does not specify the term of the service, so as people leave their organizations, sometimes their seat on the IAC is left open and needs to be filled. Membership is assigned to one person and one delegate to make sure quorum is not accidentally tripped outside IAC meetings. When the official member moves on they can select a new

delegate on their behalf. If that new delegate leaves, it goes back to EEA to determine who should be the representative from that organization (or if there should be a new organization for that sector). For IAC work groups, the leads can invite other people from different organizations to participate—they do not need to be the official representative or the official delegate. In the case of MAPC (which had previously held the Buildings Work Group chair), the official member had been Rebecca Davis, but when she left MAPC she designated Cammy Peterson to backfill her role on the IAC. When Cammy recently resigned, the role effectively goes back to EEA to determine who (either at MAPC or another organization) should become a new official delegate for that sector. In the case of the chair for the Climate Justice Work Group, Eugenia Gibbons co-chaired the work group with Staci Rubin until her departure last November. Since then, Staci has been filling in as chair. However, since Staci is not an official representative on the IAC, there should be a nomination for an official delegate to chair that Work Group with Staci as co-chair. Hanh suggested that at a minimum the IAC should discuss chairs for the Buildings Work Group and the Climate Justice Work Group.

Kate Dineen (ABC) mentioned that she feels MAPC has been a great representative both on the IAC and the Buildings Work Group and she would like to see them continue to hold that spot with Julie Curti as Cammy's replacement.

Staci Rubin (CLF) noted that the Climate Justice Work Group has been working well having two co-chairs and she had spoken with the Work Group about nominating Dr. Gaurab Basu to join her as co-chair. She also noted that they have done a good job making sure that climate justice is implemented across all the sectors. Hanh asked if there was a second to the nomination and Sarah Simon seconded the nomination. Michelle Manion (Mass Audubon) motioned to have Dr. Basu serve as the co-chair of the Climate Justice Work Group and it was approved by unanimous consent. After the vote he thanked everyone, encouraged people to call him Gaurab, and noted that Staci has done a tremendous job as the co-chair of the Climate Justice Work Group and he is grateful for the opportunity to take on this role with her.

Regarding who the official IAC representative from MAPC should be, the Secretary of EEA will make that invitation. Sarah Simon motioned to vote to nominate Julie Curti to chair the Buildings Work Group pending the Secretary's invitation. Michelle seconded the motion, and the vote was approved unanimously. Hanh asked if anyone would like to co-chair the buildings working group, with no input it will stay as Julie Curti, pending the Secretary's invitation.

For the Transportation Work Group, Kate Dineen noted that she would like to co-chair the Transportation Work Group. Sarah Simon mentioned that the previous co-chair of the Transportation Work Group had been from Union of Concerned Scientists, which is currently represented by Paulina Muratore. Sarah suggested that Kate, Paulina, and Sarah meet to discuss. Hanh confirmed that the chair or co-chairs of the Work Groups do not need to represent a certain organization from the IAC. Sarah asked that the IAC delay the vote on the Transportation Work Group co-chair until a future meeting. The IAC decided to delay the vote on the co-chair of the Transportation Work Group.

Kate Dineen asked what is the number of IAC members that a working group can have to stay under quorum and Hanh confirmed that a working group must have 8 or fewer IAC members or delegates.

Michelle Manion (Mass Audubon) raised herself as a candidate for co-chair for the Land-Use and Nature Based Solutions Work Group as she had previously discussed it with Steve Long (current chair). The IAC decided to delay the vote on the co-chair for Land-Use and Nature Based Solutions Work Group to a future IAC meeting.

Paulina Muratore (UCS) asked whether there is a process for groups that are interested in participating in the Work Groups to join or whether it is up to the Work Group leads? Hanh confirmed that membership in the Work Groups is up to the Work Group leads and EEA encourages them to bring in representatives with diverse perspectives. Hanh suggested that the Work Group leads add their email addresses to the chat so that if there are people who were interested in joining a Work Group they could reach out directly to the respective Work Group leads.

Paulina also had a suggestion for the Work Group leads to meet and discuss content on the EEA dashboards. Hanh noted that if the Work Groups need any help from EEA to please reach out.

#### **Other IAC questions and business:**

Staci Rubin noted that there were a few things that the Climate Justice Work Group (CJWG) would like to see in the 2050 CECP. She mentioned that they love the section that is dedicated to an equitable and just transition, and would like to see references to climate justice and environmental justice throughout the 2050 CECP, as was done in the 2025/2030 CECP. The CJWG would like to see targeted investments to climate justice populations for all grants similar to the federal Justice40 process. From a transportation perspective, they had recommended specific air monitoring targets for pollutants that are linked to transportation. She noted that they are not seeing improved air quality in pollution hot spots and transportation corridors so this would be good to see in the 2050 CECP. It would be great to also have deadlines for electrifying the commuter rail. Staci also mentioned that another topic they would like to see in the 2050 CECP is equitable siting of energy facilities. Dan Gatti (EEA) mentioned that it would be good to loop them in with some conversations with MassDEP regarding emissions monitoring as they are currently working through some of the issues around targets from an emissions testing perspective. Sarah Simon asked if Dan would help set up a time for the Transportation Working Group to meet over the next two weeks and noted that this could be a topic of discussion for that meeting.

Undersecretary Chang opened the meeting for public comments. No comments were received.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:32pm.

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

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes of April 29, 2021
3. Meeting Slides

**Attendance 8/11/2022**

**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	Dr. Gaurab Basu
City of Boston	Alison Brizius
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	<i>absent</i>
Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	<i>absent</i>
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	<i>absent</i>
Eversource	Catherine Finneran
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	Kurt Roth
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	<i>absent</i>
Mass Audubon	Michelle Manion
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	Sebastian Eastham
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Jason Viadero
National Grid	<i>absent</i>
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	<i>absent</i>
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	<i>absent</i>
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Paulina Muratore

**Others in attendance:**

<b>Affiliation (if applicable)</b>	<b>Name</b>
ABC	Yve Torrie
City of Boston	Kat Eshel
CLF	Staci Rubin
Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Shevie Brown
DOER	Austin Dawson
DOER	Ian Finlayson
DOER	Eric Friedman
DOER	Anett Ludwig
DOER	Joanna Troy
Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Alycia Goody
DPU	Megan Wu
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Judy Chang

<b>Affiliation (if applicable)</b>	<b>Name</b>
EEA	Hong-Hanh Chu
EEA	Daniel Gatti
EEA	Dunbar Carpenter
EEA	Melissa Mittelman
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
EEA	Nicole Cooper
EEA	Patrick Forde
EEA	Sarah Basham
EEA	Mia Mansfield
EEA	Rishi Reddi
EEA	Kurt Gaertner
EEA	David Melly
Energy Solutions	Eliot Stein
Eversource	Tracy Gionfriddo
Green Energy Consumers	Larry Chretien
Green Energy Consumers	Grace Alves

Longwood Collective	Janice Henderson
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)	Ariel Horowitz
MassCEC	Jennifer Applebaum
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Sharon Weber
MassDEP	Christine Kirby
Massachusetts Office of State Senator Mike Barrett	Audrey Horst
Mass Forest Alliance	Chris Egan
MAPC	Julie Curti

Peregrine Energy Group	Fran Cummings
Pope Energy	Doug Pope
TNC	Emily Myron
UCS	Paula Garcia
Sierra Club	David Zeek
Sierra Club	Sarah Krame
Town of Westborough	Pete Dunbeck
	Joel Quick
	Tony Rogers
	Rohan Sinha
	Roger Luckmann
	Mike Duclos