



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

# Grid Modernization Advisory Council

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October 10, 2024

# Roll Call & Agenda

Item	Time
Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda	9:30 – 9:35
Administrative Items GMAC Logo Vote Update on Stakeholder Engagement Materials	9:35 – 9:45
2025 GMAC Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2025 Vision</li> <li>• Summary of GMAC Interviews</li> <li>• Recommendations for Meeting Topics</li> </ul>	9:45 – 10:50
<i>10-minute Break</i>	<i>10:50 – 11:00</i>
2025 GMAC Budget Proposal	11:00 – 11:45
Five Year Plan	11:45 – 12:00
Additional Topics	12:00 – 12:25
Close	12:25 – 12:30

# Administrative Updates

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## Membership Updates

- Commissioner Mahony will be designating Deputy Commissioner Joanna Troy as Chair of the GMAC.
- Julie Curti will be rejoining as the representative for municipal or regional interests, replacing Jeremy Koo.
- Liz Anderson will be designating Chris Modlish as the representative for the AGO
- Thank you Commissioner Mahony, Jeremy Koo, and Liz Anderson!

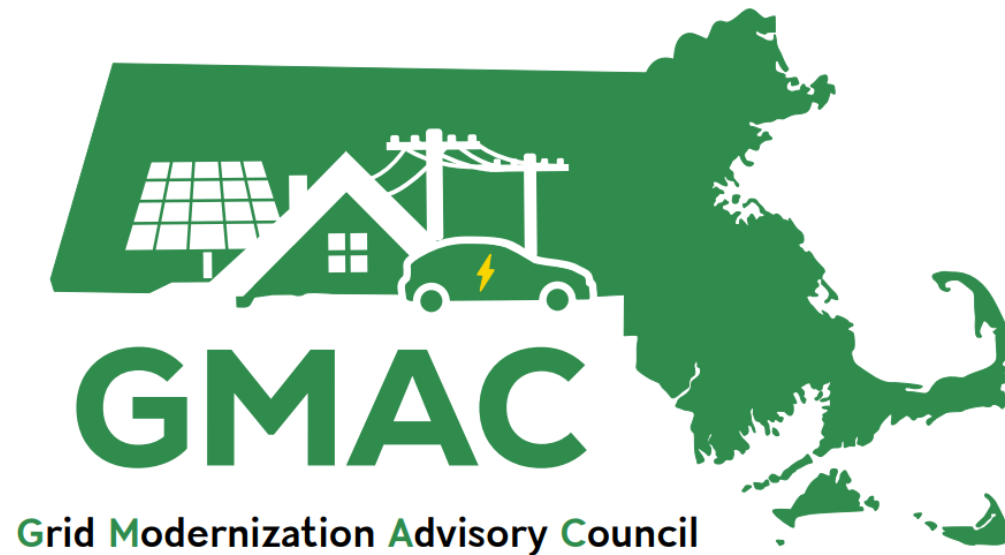
## Meeting Minutes

- Calling for vote to finalize:
  - September 13, 2024 GMAC minutes
  - September 27, 2024 Executive Committee minutes
- *Motion to approve the September 13<sup>th</sup> GMAC minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?*
- *Motion to approve the September 27<sup>th</sup> ExCom minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?*

## GMAC Logo Vote

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- Based on the poll emailed to GMAC members, the following design was most popular.
- Calling for vote to approve the following design for the GMAC Logo.
- *Motion to approve the Logo [as distributed/as corrected]?*



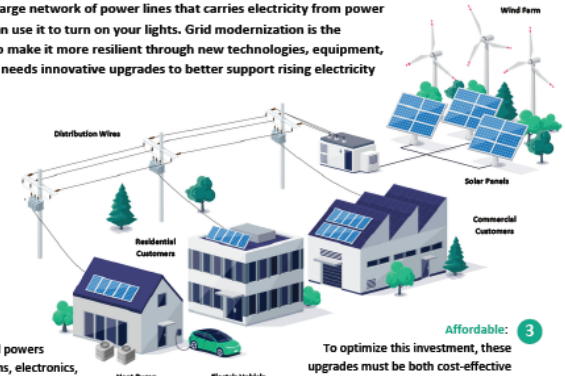
# Update on Stakeholder Engagement Materials

- DOER and the consultants have been working on stakeholder engagement materials and plan to release the factsheets early November.
  - Message testing will be conducted through the Barr Foundation.
  - We plan to translate the factsheets into the top 5 spoken languages in the Commonwealth.
- A simplified landing page for the GMAC website will be made live concurrent with the factsheet release.
  - This webpage will be more inviting
  - It will host the factsheets and provide links to other related webpages, as well as the existing GMAC webpages and materials

**Your Electric Grid, Your Future: Get Involved**  
Because your electricity should be clean, affordable, and reliable.

### The Grid Modernization Challenge

Think of the electric grid as a large network of power lines that carries electricity from power plants to your home so you can use it to turn on your lights. Grid modernization is the process of updating the grid to make it more resilient through new technologies, equipment, and controls. The electric grid needs innovative upgrades to better support rising electricity needs.



**1 Clean:** To reduce the harmful impact of fossil fuels on the climate, we need to make our energy use more sustainable and clean. Updating our grid to support electrification for homes, vehicles, and renewable energy projects is essential.

**2 Reliable:** The electric grid powers our homes, transit systems, electronics, and so much more. Just like our roads, we need to update our grid infrastructure (wires, poles, and substations). To meet future demand our grid infrastructure will need to support double the amount of electricity we use now.

**Affordable: 3**  
To optimize this investment, these upgrades must be both cost-effective and strategic. By carefully planning our future grid, we can address today's high utility bills and create a more affordable energy solution.

**Turning Massachusetts' Challenge into Progress**


Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Law requires utilities to develop strategic plans for modernizing the electric grid and advancing an equitable clean energy future. The plans must:

- promote renewable energy and energy storage adoption
- improve the grid's reliability and resiliency to the impacts of climate change
- enable electrified transportation and buildings
- minimize impacts on customers

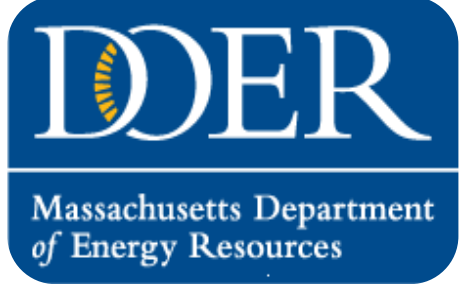
**Learn More About Your Electric Grid!**

Massachusetts is convening a stakeholder group that provides recommendations on best practices for grid modernization planning. The Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) represents many interests and organizations, including low-income consumers, environmental advocacy groups, and the renewable energy industry.

Take the next step to learn more about your electric grid by visiting our website! Sign up for the GMAC newsletter at [mass.gov/gmac](https://mass.gov/gmac) for regular updates on our activities. Send us questions or public comments at [MA-GMAC@mass.gov](mailto:MA-GMAC@mass.gov).



<https://bit.ly/MA-GMAC>



# 2025 GMAC Planning

## GMAC Planning for 2025

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- Building foundational knowledge on distribution system planning, investments, and activities. This will include:
  - Continued stakeholder engagement and informational materials.
  - Collaboration with the EDCs.
  - Ongoing monitoring of ESMP phases at the DPU.
  - Ongoing monitoring and updates on related distribution system dockets and working groups (Ex: ARR, Service Quality Reports, EV investment plans, LTSP, CIPs, Joint Working Group, CESAG, Interagency Rates Working Group).
  - Development of a work plan beyond 2025 and leading up to the next draft ESMPs.

### **Activities in 2025 will:**

- Feature productive dialogue and collaboration, and develop shared understanding
- Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement in broader grid planning activities
- Prepare the Council for more in-depth collaboration in 2026 and 2027

# 1:1 Interviews with GMAC Members

The GMAC consultants had 1:1 meetings with GMAC members to collect ideas on 2025 GMAC activities.

Feedback	2025 Proposal
GMAC as the central source of information on distribution system planning (DSP)	Monthly meeting topics to build knowledge and ongoing DSP activity tracking
Member contributions based on expertise and represented interests	Member presentations and guidance on monthly topics and factsheets. Continue 1:1 check-ins with members
Open dialogue and collaboration with EDCs	EDC presentations – prescheduled and as needed
Focused dialogue on relevant topics	Monthly meeting topics to build knowledge
Increased stakeholder engagement with the public	Up to 2 half-day technical sessions/workshops
Tracking and updates of DSP related activities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phases of DPU ESMP dockets</li> <li>• Long-Term System Planning Process Working Group</li> <li>• Integrated Energy Planning Joint Working Group</li> <li>• Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group</li> <li>• Other areas like CIPs, EV investments, Grid mod, etc.</li> </ul>	Monthly updates on ongoing distribution system activities Commentary from GMAC consultants

Do GMAC members have any additional thoughts to share from their 1:1's?



# Ideas for GMAC in 2025

## 1 Monthly 2-Hour GMAC Meetings

Agendas to Include:

Administrative items & GMAC planning Updates on ESMP and distribution activities	~45 mins
Presentations on specific topics Collaborative dialogue amongst GMAC members	~1 hour
Public comment	~15 min

## 2 Presentations on Specific Topics

- Each GMAC meeting will spend ~1 hour discussion a predetermined topic
- Presentations may come from members, EDCs, consultants, and other external experts
- In advance of each meeting, GMAC consultant will work with relevant members to develop a factsheet. These factsheets will :
  - Include level-setting background information on the topic and how it fits within grid planning efforts.
  - Be translated and be hosted on the GMAC website to serve as a permanent resource

## 3 Stakeholder/Technical Sessions

- Two events in 2025, June & November
- Half day in-person/hybrid events
- Open to the public
- Topics might include:
  - Distribution System 101
  - Forecasting
  - Flexible interconnection

## 4 Strategic Planning

- Reoccurring review of forthcoming presentation topics at the GMAC
- Planning for 2026 & 2027
- Periodic 1:1 interviews with all GMAC members
- ExCom Meetings to review overall activities

# Distribution System Activities for GMAC to Monitor [Draft]

High Priority	Moderate Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ESMP Phase II (Biannual reports, cost recovery, metrics)</li> <li>• Long-term System Planning Process (LTSP) Working Group</li> <li>• Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group (CESAG)</li> <li>• Biannual ESMP filings</li> <li>• Joint Systems Working Group</li> <li>• Climate Compliance Plans</li> <li>• Grid modernization plan dockets (annual reports)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisional System Program updates</li> <li>• Electric Vehicle dockets (EV Midpoint modification, annual reports, managed charging programs, ESMP EV investments)</li> <li>• Annual Reliability Report filings</li> <li>• Service Quality filings</li> <li>• Rate cases</li> <li>• Interagency Rates Working Group</li> <li>• Grid services study</li> <li>• Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC)</li> <li>• Distributed Generation Working Groups</li> <li>• Technical Standards Review Group (TSRG)</li> <li>• Interconnection Implementation Review Group (IIRG)</li> <li>• Federal funding awards and opportunities</li> </ul>

What other ongoing dockets, investments, processes does the GMAC want monthly updates on?  
 Further consideration needed on how to update on activities in an efficient manner.

# 2025 Planning: Monthly Topics [Draft]

Month	Topic	Learning Goals	External Factors
Jan	Reporting (Existing reporting, biannual reports, metrics)	Why is utility reporting important? What existing utility reports are there? What will be in the ESMP biannual reports?	Ongoing ESMP Phase II (biannual reports)
Feb		How is reporting distinct from metrics? What role do metrics have in evaluating progress towards ESMP goals?	Ongoing ESMP Phase II (metrics)
Mar	Cost Recovery & Rate Design	How are grid investments paid for? What is a rate case? What costs are recovered outside of rate cases and why?	Ongoing ESMP Phase II on ESMP cost recovery IRWG Recommendations
Apr	System Reliability and Resilience	What are the ARRs? How do utilities plan and measure grid reliability? How does climate change impact this?	ARR filed 3/31; Service Quality filed 3/1 Climate vulnerability assessments & ResilientMass Implementation
May	Proactive Grid Planning (LTSP Updates)	What about current grid planning is not proactive? What is going on the LTSP?	LTSP WG report due to DPU 4/4
June	Integrated Energy Planning	What did the Future of Gas Order require? What is in the Climate Compliance Plans and how does it impact the grid?	Climate Compliance Plans filed 4/1 Joint Working Group Everett Marine Terminal WG
July	Equity in Grid Planning	How should equity be incorporated into grid planning? What is distributional equity analysis? What role can the GMAC have in facilitating community engagement for improved grid planning?	CESAG Meetings

- Aug – Load Forecasting #1
- Sept – Load Forecasting #2
- Oct – Biannual Reports
- Nov – Alternatives to Investments
- Dec – Electric vehicles

## 2025 GMAC Budget Filing with DPU

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- **2025 GMAC Budget Filing**
  - The CY2025 GMAC budget is due to the DPU by **October 18, 2024**.
  - DOER and the GMAC consultants are preparing filing materials.
  - The ExCom provided their feedback at the last ExCom meeting.

# 2025 GMAC Consultant Activities

Administration and Meeting Support	Informational Support	Technical Analysis	Website Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project management</li> <li>Attend and prepare materials for GMAC, ExCom, and EWG meetings</li> <li>Communicate with GMAC members and EDCs</li> <li>Planning support for public GMAC events</li> <li>Hire a subcontractor to host and manage external GMAC website</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Summaries and observations on subsequent phases of ESMP proceeding               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Metrics</li> <li>Biannual Reports</li> <li>Cost Recovery</li> </ul> </li> <li>Monitor and report on related working groups               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ex: LTSP, IEP, CESAG</li> </ul> </li> <li>Present at GMAC technical sessions</li> <li>Develop stakeholder materials</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Equity implications</li> <li>Items for consideration beyond 2025:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent forecasts:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Peak, EE, DR, PV, storage, heat pumps, EV, etc.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Compliance with GHG goals</li> <li>Avoided costs for DERs</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Subcontractor of Synapse</li> <li>Create and host external GMAC website</li> <li>Maintain up to date information on GMAC activities</li> <li>Communicate grid planning efforts to stakeholders</li> </ul>
<b>\$169,600</b>	<b>\$264,960</b>	<b>\$97,600</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>

- Are there any activities or focus areas that are missing?
- Should the GMAC consultants attend working group meetings? (Ex. LTSP, IEP Joint Working Group, CESAG).
- What do GMAC members think about hosting informational/technical sessions open to the public in 2025?

**2025 Total Proposed Consultant Budget: \$592,160**

# Additional Information on Proposed 2025 Budget

	Total budget
<b>Task 1. Admin &amp; Meeting Support</b>	<b>\$169,600</b>
Manage project	\$34,400
Provide meeting support	\$103,520
Communicate with members	\$13,280
Manage web site subcontractor	\$18,400
<b>Task 2. Informational Support</b>	<b>\$264,960</b>
DPU ESMP docket	\$48,320
Develop stakeholder materials	\$61,680
Biannual reports	\$40,640
Related working groups	\$64,000
Technical sessions	\$50,320
<b>Task 3. Technical Analyses</b>	<b>\$97,600</b>
Equity implications	\$51,520
Analyses to be determined	\$46,080
<b>Total days</b>	-
<b>Staff budget</b>	<b>\$532,160</b>
<b>Total budget</b>	<b>\$532,160</b>

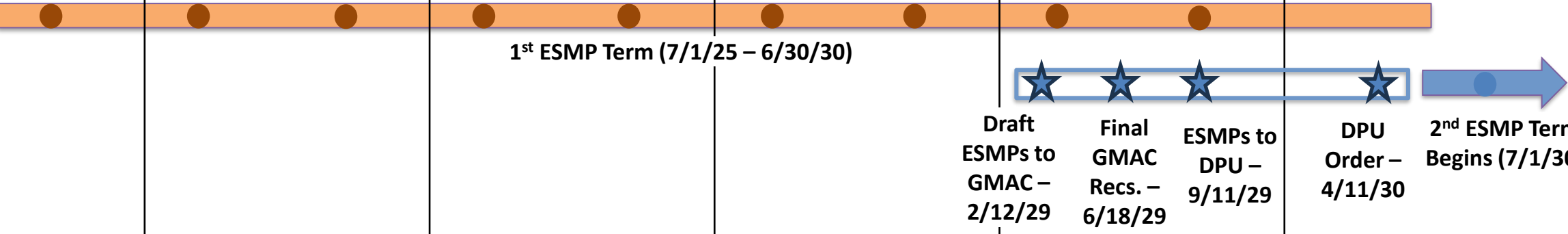
<b>Subcontractor:</b>	
<b>Task 4. Website Development</b>	<b>\$60,000</b>
<b>Total GMAC Consultants</b>	<b>\$592,160</b>

## 5-Year Plan

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- In the ESMP Order, the DPU recommends several areas for **GMAC & EDC collaboration** between draft plan filings.
  - EDC presentations on their forecasting method, including differences in assumptions and methods (p. 82)
  - Discussion of least-cost investments in electric distribution systems (p. 82)
  - Identifying alternatives to investments or financing to minimize or mitigate impacts on ratepayers
  - Sensitivity analyses for 2050 long-term demand assessments (p. 139)
  - GMAC should explore each company's investment reprioritization process based on updating forecasts (p. 150)
  - We do not need to limit our discussions to these topics
- The next ESMP review period begins in 2029.
  - Draft plans submitted to GMAC by 2/12/29 (125 days to review & 210 days before DPU filing),
  - GMAC issue recommendations by 6/18/2029 (85 days before DPU filing),
  - Final plans filed with DPU by 9/11/29, DPU Order 4/11/2030 (seven-month docket) (p. 148).

# 5-Year Plan

2025				2026				2027				2028				2029				2030			
Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
 <p style="text-align: center;">1<sup>st</sup> ESMP Term (7/1/25 – 6/30/30)</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Draft ESMPs to GMAC – 2/12/29      Final GMAC Recs. – 6/18/29      ESMPs to DPU – 9/11/29      DPU Order – 4/11/30      2<sup>nd</sup> ESMP Term Begins (7/1/30)</p>																							
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GMAC education and information sharing</li> <li>Plan 3-year roadmap</li> <li>Set up robust stakeholder engagement framework</li> <li>Monitor &amp; participate in related activities</li> </ol>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and discuss forecasting methods, assumptions, and sensitivities</li> <li>Review and discuss investment prioritization</li> <li>Monitor &amp; participate in related activities</li> </ol>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and discuss least-cost investments and financing</li> <li>Review and discuss alternative investments (NWA, VPPs)</li> <li>Monitor &amp; participate in related activities</li> </ol>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up framework for 2<sup>nd</sup> ESMP review</li> <li>Evaluate 1<sup>st</sup> ESMP process and on-going implementation</li> <li>Monitor &amp; participate in related activities</li> </ol>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> ESMP Review Period</li> <li>Monitor &amp; participate in related activities</li> </ol>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Goals</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2<sup>nd</sup> ESMP Order review</li> <li>Plan 3-year roadmap</li> <li>Monitor &amp; participate in related activities</li> </ol>			

Goals will be reviewed and updated by the GMAC periodically.



## Additional Topics

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- Are there additional topics that the GMAC would like to discuss?

# 2024 ESMP/GMAC Schedule

- GMAC activities
- ESMP activities from Order
- Holidays

## SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13 GMAC Meeting
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25	26	27 EWG Meeting + ExCom Meeting
30 NGrid Rate Case Order				

## OCTOBER

M	T	W	TH	F
	1 LTSPP Initiated by EDCs	2	3	4
7	8	9	10 ★ GMAC Meeting	11
14 Indigenous People's Day	15	16	17	18 2025 GMAC Budget Due
21	22	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

## NOVEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
				1
4	5	6	7	8
11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15
18 New CIP Proposals filed	19	20	21 Thanksgiving	22
25	26	27	28	29

## DECEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
2	3	4	5	6
9	10	11	12	13
16	17 GMAC Meeting	18	19	20
23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
30	31			

Questions?

## Close and Next Steps

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- **Next GMAC Meeting:** December 17, 2024, from 1 – 4 PM.