

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Executive Committee Meeting

November 21, 2024



Agenda & Roll Call



- Agenda & Roll Call
- GMAC Engagement
 - Building a collaborative inclusive forum: meeting norms
 - Doing work that members care about: spectrum of engagement
- 2025 GMAC Plan
- Draft Activity Tracker Review
- Other Discussion Areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

GMAC Meeting Norms



We want to...

- Build an environment that promotes a robust exchange of ideas and views.
- Ensure all members' voices are heard.
- Have productive and positive meetings.

How can we nurture this environment? Some ideas include....

- Members attend GMAC meetings in-person, as much as possible.
- Members who attend virtually keep their cameras on.
- Ensure all voting members' views are represented.
 - *Utilize polls or other meeting tools*
 - *Encourage voting members to discuss*
 - *Take more time for voting members to respond*
- GMAC members promote discussion and collaboration
 - *EDCs respond constructively and with an open mind.*
 - *GMAC consultants respond directly to EDC comments.*
 - *GMAC Chair will monitor GMAC member speaking time.*
- Create opportunities for other collaboration and bonding outside of GMAC meetings.

What other ideas do you have?

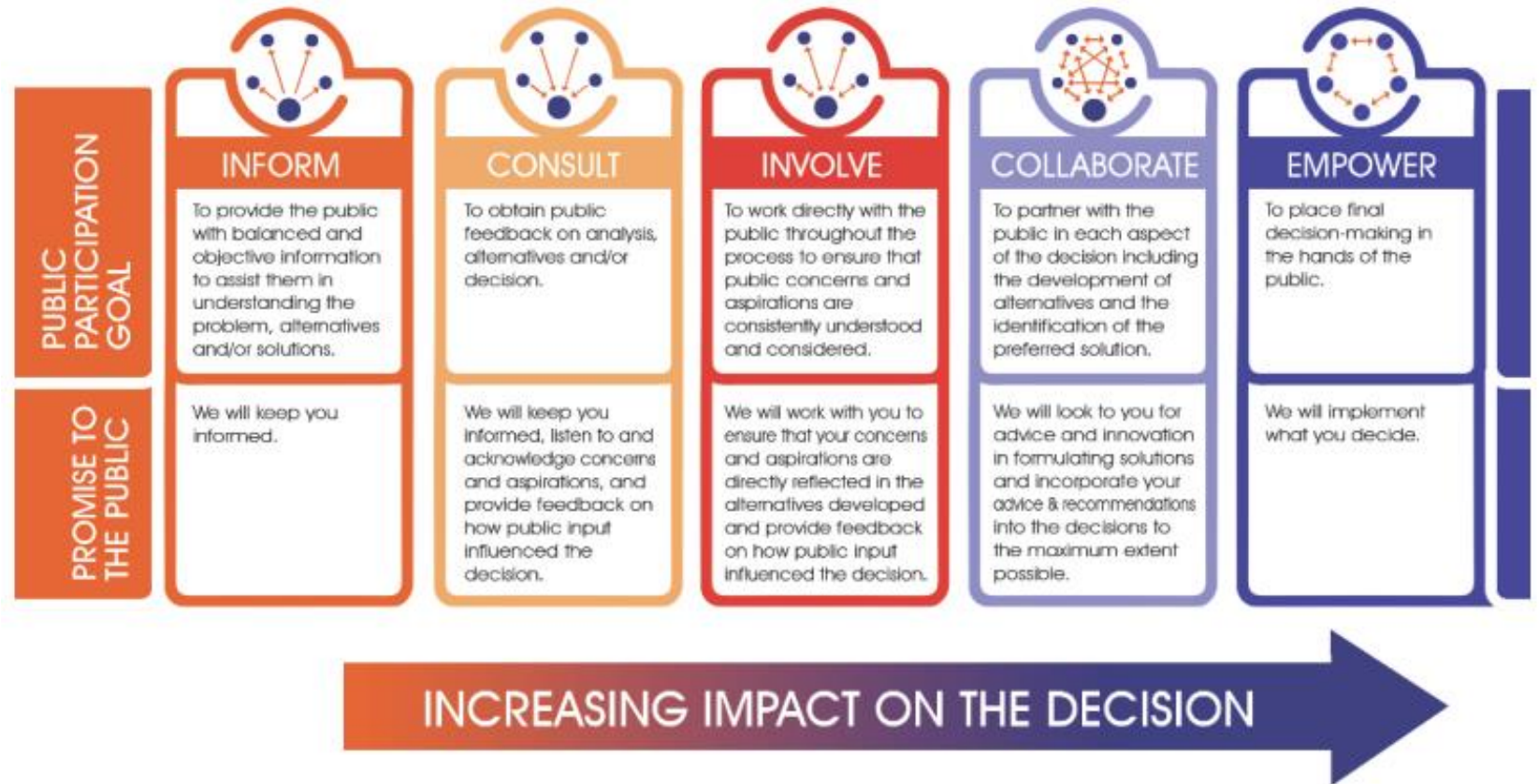
What is the GMAC's Role?



The International Association for Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum of Public Participation

GMAC's Statutory Objectives

- Encourage least-cost investments that will facilitate the achievement of multiple planning goals
- **Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process**
- Review and provide recommendations on ESMPs



Where does the GMAC engage on this participation spectrum?

How the GMAC Consultants Can Help in 2025



The role of the GMAC consultants is to support the achievement of the GMAC's goals by:

- (a) Providing technical expertise on topics related to the ESMPs
- (b) Providing information regarding best practices for grid modernization in other states
- (c) Facilitating discussion of key topics among the GMAC members
- (d) Summarizing activities related to ESMPs, as requested by GMAC
- (e) Providing observations on ESMP issues (and activities related to ESMPs, as requested by GMAC)
- (f) Providing recommendations on ESMP issues (and related activities by GMAC request)
- (g) Supporting GMAC strategic planning efforts

How does the ExCom think the GMAC consultants should be used?

GMAC 2025 Goals



Review from the October GMAC Meeting

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

GMAC Meetings and Activities



GMAC's key statutory objectives:

- Encourage least-cost investments that will facilitate the achievement of multiple planning goals
- Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process
- Review and provide recommendations on ESMPs

GMAC meetings will be used to pursue these goals by encouraging:

- EDCs to share information and answer questions about ESMPs and related issues
- GMAC members to provide their perspectives and views to the EDCs on ESMPs and related issues
- GMAC members and EDCs to discuss, collaborate, and develop shared understandings
- GMAC members to identify opportunities to educate public stakeholders about ESMPs and related issues
- GMAC members to monitor and discuss related ESMP and distribution system planning activities
- GMAC members to develop and refine recommendations on ESMPs

How can the GMAC meetings most effectively meet statutory goals?

2025 GMAC Meeting Topics and Learning Goals (Jan-July)



Month	Topic	Learning Goals	Reason for Timing
Jan	Reporting: existing reports, ESMP metrics	What is the goal of utility reporting? How well do existing utility reports cover ESMP issues? What are the goals of ESMP metrics? How is reporting distinct from metrics?	Ongoing DPU Docket Phase II (biannual reports)
Feb	Reporting: ESMP metrics, biannual report content	What metrics should be used to measure progress towards ESMP goals? What should be in the ESMP biannual reports?	Ongoing DPU Docket Phase II (metrics)
Mar	Cost Recovery	How are grid investments paid for? What is a rate case? What costs are recovered outside of rate cases and why?	Ongoing DPU Docket Phase II (ESMP cost recovery) IRWG Recommendations
Apr	System Reliability and Resilience	What information is included in the annual reliability reports (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 was the outcome and the recommendations the LTSP discussions? What are the implications for ESMPs?	LTSP WG report due to DPU 4/4
June	Integrated Energy Planning	What the implications of the Climate Compliance Plans for ESMPs? How are EDCs and LDCs following up on the Future of Gas Order (DPU 20-80)?	Climate Compliance Plans filed 4/1 Joint Working Group Everett Marine Terminal WG
July	Equity in Grid Planning	How should equity be incorporated into ESMPs? How can the GMAC facilitate community engagement for improved grid planning? What is distributional equity analysis?	On-going CESAG Meetings

Does the ExCom approve of this schedule?

Stakeholder Sessions



- We propose that the GMAC hosts two in-person half-day events in 2025 (June/July & November/December).
- Three potential options are outlined below.

	<u>Option #1: Distribution 101</u>	<u>Option #2: GMAC Conference</u>	<u>Option #3: Technical Deep Dive</u>
Audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMAC members and other technical stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, developers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technical stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, developers) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMAC members and other technical stakeholders (e.g., municipalities, developers)
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate stakeholders about key elements of the ESMP • Solicit comments and recommendations from technical stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host GMAC member panel to educate stakeholders on the GMAC and ESMP processes • Solicit comments and recommendations from technical stakeholders 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate stakeholders on the load forecasting process and its inputs. • Solicit comments and recommendations from technical stakeholders
Content	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Distribution system elements and planning (for technical stakeholders) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentations on the GMAC process • Presentations from GMAC members on their areas of expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deep dives forecasting models, inputs, and assumptions • Interconnection and siting (for municipalities)

What does ExCom think of these options? Who should facilitate these sessions?

Draft Activity Tracker

- The consultants developed an Excel workbook to serve as a central location for tracking GMAC and ESMP related activities.
- This tracker will contain the master list of dates, key events, and links to relevant materials. It will be updated regularly and informed by GMAC member report outs.
- The tracker will be posted on the GMAC website to be accessible for GMAC members and the public.

	START DATE	END DATE	Description	2024												2025						
				Q4			Q1			Q2			Q3			Q4						
				Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025	Jun 2025	Jul 2025	Aug 2025	Sep 2025	Oct 2025	Nov 2025	Dec 2025				
GMAC	10/22/24	12/20/25		[Blue bar]																		
2025 planning	10/22/24	01/10/25		[Blue bar]																		
Excom meeting	11/21/24	11/21/24			◆																	
EWG Dec. Meeting	12/14/24	12/14/24	Equity Working Group December meeting			◆																
Placeholder																						
Placeholder																						
GMAC Meetings	Monthly	Monthly	Monthly GMAC meetings	◆		◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆	◆
Placeholder																						
GMAC Technical Sessions	06/01/25	11/01/25	GMAC technical sessions											◆								◆
CESAG	11/01/24	01/01/30	Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group	[Orange bar]																		
Placeholder	11/01/24	01/01/30	Placeholders	[Orange bar]																		
Placeholder																						
Placeholder																						
LTSP	10/08/24	04/04/25	Long-Term System Planning Program	[Yellow bar]																		
LTSP Process	10/01/24	03/01/25	DPU ordered EDCs to organize a 6-month process starting	[Yellow bar]																		
October meeting 1	10/08/24	10/08/24		◆																		
October meeting 2	10/22/24	10/22/24		◆																		
Placeholder																						
Placeholder																						
Placeholder																						
WG Report due to DPU	04/04/25	04/04/25																				◆
Current ESMPs	10/22/24	03/31/26	D.P.U. 24-10/D.P.U. 24-11/D.P.U. 24-12	[Green bar]																		
ESMP Term	07/01/25	06/30/30	First 5-year ESMP term	[Green bar]																		
ESMP Phase II	10/22/24	01/31/25	Dates TBD. Cost recovery, reporting, metrics	[Green bar]																		
Biannual ESMP report due	09/30/25	09/30/25	First EDC biannual report due to DPU																			◆
Biannual ESMP report due	03/31/26	03/31/26	Second EDC biannual report due to DPU																			
Placeholder																						
Next ESMPs	07/14/28	02/12/29	Five-year term starting July 1, 2030																			
Draft plans submitted to GMAC	02/12/29	02/12/29																				
GMAC develops recommendation	02/12/29	02/12/29																				
Final plans filed with DPU	07/14/28	07/14/28																				
Placeholder																						

Do ExCom members have any feedback on the tracker?

Other Discussion Areas



- Are there other issues or items the Executive Committee would like to discuss?
 - How frequently should the ExCom meet in 2025? Would bimonthly be sufficient?

Close and Next Steps

- The next Equity Working Group meeting is December 6th from 11 – 12 PM.
- The next GMAC meeting is December 17th from 1 – 4 PM.