

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Meeting Presentation

December 17, 2024



Agenda & Roll Call



Item	Time
Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda	1:00 – 1:05
Public Comment Period	1:05 – 1:20
Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Meeting Minutes Review and Voting• Equity Working Group Appointment Vote	1:20 – 1:25
Updates on ESMP Activities <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Law• ESMP Phase II• LTSP Working Group• EDC Updates	1:25 – 1:55
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• GMAC Activity Tracker	1:55-2:00
<i>10-minute Break</i>	<i>2:00 – 2:10</i>
2025 GMAC Planning <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GMAC Meeting Norms• GMAC Meeting Topics• Meeting Calendar• Mid-Year Stakeholder Session	2:10 – 3:10
GMAC Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2025 EWG Plan• GMAC Budget Filing• Stakeholder Engagement Materials	3:10 – 3:25
Additional Topics	3:25– 3:55
Close	3:55 – 4:00

Public Comment



- 15-minute period for public comment
- Speakers will have up to **3 minutes** to speak on any topics of interest related to the GMAC. Once everyone who has pre-registered has provided comment, others may speak, as time allows.
- Please state your name and affiliation before delivering your comment.

Meeting Minutes Review and Voting



Meeting Minutes

- Calling for vote to finalize:
 - October 10, 2024 GMAC minutes
 - November 21, 2024 Executive Committee minutes

Motion to approve the October 10th GMAC minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?

Motion to approve the November 21st ExCom minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?

EWG Appointment Vote



- The EWG has a vacant seat for a voting member representing an organization that is not represented on the GMAC.
 - **Thank you, Vernon Walker (Clean Water Action), for your time on the GMAC Equity Working Group!**
- Based on previously expressed interest, DOER reached out to Jollette Westbrook (Environmental Defense Fund) to fill the vacant seat. Her statement of candidacy was circulated to GMAC members.
 - A call for nominations was also expressed at the December 6th EWG meeting.
 - No other nominations were received.
- To fill the vacancy, the full GMAC must vote to appoint a candidate to serve the rest of the unexpired portion of the term.
- **Calling for vote to appoint Jollette Westbrook to the Equity Working Group.**
 - *Motion to appoint Jollette Westbrook to the Equity Working Group.*

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 Chair will monitor GMAC member speaking time.*
- Create opportunities for other collaboration and bonding outside of GMAC meetings.
 - *Hold coffee hour prior to GMAC meetings*
 - *GMAC member field trips (ex. substation tours)*

What other ideas do you have?

ESMP Activities Updates



1. 2024 Climate Law – Chair Troy
2. ESMP Phase II Procedural Notice – Chair Troy
3. LTSPP Working Group – Kate Tohme
4. EDC Updates

Update – New 2024 Climate Law Updates to ESMP Statute



- The recently passed Siting and Permitting Law (2024 Climate Law) amends provisions on the ESMPs by requiring EDCs to prepare and file a **climate vulnerability and resilience plan at least once every 5 years based on best available data**.
- The GMAC’s authority to review and provide recommendations on the ESMPs is outlined in section 92B-C.
- Subsection (c) of section 92B of said chapter 164, as so appearing, is hereby amended to include:
 - (iv) prepare and file a climate vulnerability and resilience plan at least once every 5 years based on best available data, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - (A) an evaluation of the climate science and projected sea level rise, extreme temperature, precipitation, humidity and storms and other climate-related risks for the service territory;
 - (B) an evaluation and risk assessment of potential impacts of climate change on existing operation, planning and physical assets;
 - (C) identification, prioritization and cost-benefit analysis of adaptation options to increase asset and system-wide resilience over time;
 - (D) a community engagement plan with targeted engagement for environmental justice populations in the service territory; and
 - (E) an implementation timeline for making changes in line with the findings of the study such as modifying design and construction standards, modifying operations and planning processes and relocating or upgrading existing infrastructure to ensure reliability and resilience of the grid.

ESMP Phase II Procedural Notice Summary



The summary provides helpful information for individual GMAC members intervening and the public.

DPU Phase II procedural notice outlined three proceedings:

1. **Adjudication and implementation of an interim ESMP cost recovery mechanism**

- EDCs must submit proposals for an interim ESMP cost recovery mechanism by Dec. 18, 2024.
- EDCs must identify and define types of proposed ESMP costs and eligible costs to be recovered and must include cost containment provisions (e.g., budget or revenue caps).
- Proposals for annual filings must include proposed documentary filing requirements, including a summary of planned investments and estimated costs for the subsequent investment year.
- EDCs must include a consideration of alternative investments. DPU will explore whether the EDC's processes for evaluating alternatives should be incorporated into the interim ESMP mechanism and prudency review framework.
- EDCs must also address prudency reviews, alignment of cost recovery filing dates and reporting dates, stranded costs, and the appropriate regulatory lag for ESMP investments.

Interim ESMP Mechanism Schedule

- **12/18/24:** EDC proposals and testimony due
- **1/14/25:** Technical session questions and participation lists due
- **1/21/25 - 1/24/25:** Technical sessions*
- **1/28/25:** Intervenor testimony due
- **2/28/25:** Deadline to request evidentiary hearing(s) and time needed for cross-examination
- **3/4/25:** Updated discovery log and Phase II exhibit list from each EDC due
- **3/11/25 - 3/14/25:** Dates reserved for virtual evidentiary hearing(s), if needed
- **TBD:** Briefing dates

**Technical session(s) cover both interim ESMP mechanism and metrics and reporting issues*

ESMP Phase II Procedural Notice Summary



2. ESMP metrics and reporting templates for September 2025 and March 2026 biannual reports

- EDCs must propose initial metrics and reporting templates by March 18, 2025.
- Proposals may incorporate proposed metrics from initial filings and be informed by existing grid mod metrics and reporting requirements
- EDCs shall identify whether existing grid modernization metrics should be carried forwards and must identify existing electrification metrics

3. Investigation into approaches for cost recovery through base distribution rates

- Department plans to investigate in a separate proceeding innovative approaches to cost recovery through base distribution rates
- EDCs must submit initial comments to DPU to inform subsequent proceedings on September 10, 2025

Metrics and Reporting Schedule

- **1/14/25:** Questions for technical sessions due
- **1/21/25-1/24/25:** Technical sessions covering both interim ESMP mechanism and reporting/metrics
- **3/18/25:** EDC proposals for initial ESMP metrics and reporting templates due
- **4/17/25:** Intervenor comments and proposed metrics due
- **5/15/25:** EDC reply comments due

Long-term Cost Recovery Schedule

- **9/10/25:** Initial comments from EDCs due
- **10/8/25:** Initial comments from intervenors due
- **11/5/25:** Reply comments due

How do GMAC members anticipate engaging in the ESMP Phase II proceedings?

LTSPP Stakeholder Working Group Update to GMAC

Kate Tohme
New Leaf Energy

December 17, 2024



Background

On August 29, 2024, the DPU issued an [Order in the ESMP proceedings](#) (D.P.U. 24-10, D.P.U. 24-11, and D.P.U. 24-12):

- Found Section 92B effectively codifies a long-term system planning requirement for enabling DER development to increase timely adoption of renewable energy and DERs;
- Found the electric distribution companies (“EDCs”) are required to include a proactive, long-term system planning process for DER interconnection (“LTSP”) as part of their ESMP filings;
- Directed the EDCs to coordinate an LTSP stakeholder working group (“LTSP WG”) to develop a proposal and submit the proposal and associated report to the DPU in the spring of 2025;
- Emphasized the need for the EDCs to develop LTSP proposals following the issuance of the Order in a timely manner so as not to delay progress towards accomplishing the Commonwealth’s energy and climate goals directing.

Progress Report

General Update:

- The LTSPW WG is organized and facilitated by the EDCs
- The kick-off meeting was held October 8th and meetings are scheduled every other Tuesday from 10am-12pm
- A [website](#) has been created for the LTSPW WG with upcoming meetings and meeting materials
- You can email amarton@keeganwerlin.com to be added to the LTSPW WG distribution list
- Kate Tohme, GMAC distributed generation (DG) renewable energy industry representative, and the Clean Energy Coalition are coordinating for the DG industry, email ktohme@newleafenergy.com to be added to the DG industry distribution list

Past Meetings:

- October 10th: Kickoff→ Procedure, EDC presentations of D.P.U. 20-75 proposals
- October 24th: EDC presentation on cost allocation
- November 5th: Stakeholder presentations on LTSPW
- November 19th: Stakeholder presentations on cost allocation
- December 3rd: EDC presentation on scope
- December 17th: Discussion forum: planning criteria/factors

Next Steps

Upcoming Meetings:

- Every other Tuesday from 10am-12pm: January 14, January 28, February 11, February 25, March 11, and March 25
- EDCs have committed to provide a first draft LTSP framework proposal and cost allocation methodology proposal by early January for discussion starting January 14th. The EDCs will provide a draft cost allocation tariff as soon as possible with an aim of early January
- By February 3, 2025, the EDCs are directed to provide an interim status report to the DPU
- By April 4, 2025, the EDCs are directed to submit to the DPU a final status report, along with final consensus proposals and a detailed summary of areas of disagreement

Goals and Expectations:

- Develop a full LTSP framework and cost allocation proposal in early January for redlining and discussion
- Discuss topics identified by the DPU for consideration: (1) factors identified by the GMAC and the EDCs that drive development of DG by enabling hosting capacity in specific locations that benefit the Commonwealth as a whole and further the state's clean energy objectives, (2) flexible interconnection, (3) cost allocation methodology, (4) process for changing or updating the LTSP
- Submit a comprehensive LTSP and cost allocation proposal to the DPU in April that is actionable by the DPU for immediate investigation if the DPU so chooses; include procedural recommendations for a phased proceeding
- Conduct targeted in person working sessions amongst EDCs and LTSP WG participants to identify consensus

Thank You



EDC Updates



- **The EDC representatives will provide verbal updates on:**
 - Climate Vulnerability Assessment
 - Integrated Energy Planning
 - Grid Services Study

GMAC/ESMP Activity Tracker – Live Demo

- 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				[Orange bar]																		
Placeholder				[Orange bar]																		
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	[Green bar]																		
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 GMAC members have any feedback on the tracker?

Break

Please be ready to start again in ~10 minutes

Review of 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

How the GMAC Consultants Can Help in 2025

The primary roles of the GMAC consultants in supporting the achievement of the GMAC's goals include:

- (a) *Providing jurisdictional scans and best practices for grid modernization in other states
- (b) Facilitating discussion of key topics among the GMAC members
- (c) Summarizing activities related to ESMPs, as requested by GMAC
- (d) Providing observations on ESMP issues (and activities related to ESMPs, as requested by GMAC)
- (e) Hiring external experts as subcontractors for informational and analytical support
- (f) Supporting GMAC strategic planning efforts
- (g) Be available to answer GMAC members' questions via email

The consultants will provide opportunities for 1:1 communications with GMAC members, including office hours, to answer any questions or discuss meeting topics.

Are there any roles missing?

2025 GMAC Activities

1

Monthly 2-Hour GMAC Meetings

- Meetings held from 1 – 3 PM on 4th Wednesday of the month
- Agendas will 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

- 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
 - **We are looking for interested GMAC members to provide feedback on factsheets during their development**

3

Stakeholder Sessions

- Two events in 2025, June/July & November/December
- Half day in-person events
- Open to the public

4

Strategic Planning

- Reoccurring review of forthcoming presentation topics at the GMAC
- **Planning meeting structure for August – December 2025**
- Planning for 2026 & 2027
- Periodic 1:1 interviews with all GMAC members
- Bimonthly ExCom Meetings to review overall activities

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



Month	Topic	Learning Goals	Reason for Timing
Jan	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
Feb	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)
Mar	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)
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

Calling for GMAC member volunteers for presentations on meeting topics.



GMAC Meeting Dates

- GMAC meetings will be held on **Wednesdays from 1 – 3 PM**. Dates have been set to accommodate holidays, school vacations, and EEAC meetings.
- We invite GMAC members to come early for a 12 – 1 PM coffee hour ahead of the meetings.
- ExCom meetings will be held on **Thursdays from 9:30 – 10:30 AM** every other month.
- EWG meetings will be held on a quarterly basis on **Fridays from 10 – 11:30 AM**.
- Calendar invitations will be sent after this meeting.

Quarter	Month	GMAC	ExCom	EWG
Q1	Jan	Wed, 1/29		
	Feb	Wed, 2/26	Thur, 2/13	Thur, 2/20
	Mar	Wed, 3/26		Fri, 3/28
Q2	Apr	Wed, 4/30	Thur, 4/24	
	May	Wed, 5/28		
	Jun	Wed, 6/25	Thur, 6/5	
Q3	Jul	Wed, 7/30		Fri, 7/11
	Aug	Wed, 8/27	Thur, 8/14	
	Sep	Tue, 9/16		
Q4	Oct	Wed, 10/29	Thur, 10/9	Fri, 10/10
	Nov			
	Dec	Wed, 12/3	Thur, 12/18	
	Jan	Wed, 1/7		

Do GMAC members have any conflicts with the proposed dates?

Draft January Meeting Agenda

GMAC members to provide updates.
Volunteers?

Cost recovery learning goals:

- How are grid investments paid for?
- What is a rate case?
- What costs are recovered outside of rate cases and why?

**Factsheet pre-read will cover these goals.*

DOER/Consultants are drafting potential speakers for monthly meeting topics. **Do GMAC members have suggestions/want to volunteer?**

Item	Time	Mins
Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda	1:00 – 1:05	5
Public Comment Period	1:05 – 1:20	15
Administrative items	1:20 – 1:25	5
Updates on ESMP and distribution activities	1:25– 1:55	30
<i>Break</i>	<i>1:55 – 2:00</i>	<i>5</i>
Cost Recovery Presentations and Discussion	2:00 – 2:55	~60
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Synapse presentation: Cost Recovery 101 • EDCs presentation • GMAC discussion on ESMP phase II 		
Close	2:55 – 3:00	5

Here is a draft agenda for the January GMAC meeting. What do GMAC members think?

GMAC Stakeholder Session #1 – July 2025



Propose the first half-day event invite be:

- **In person** at the 2nd floor conference rooms at **100 Cambridge Street** in Boston.
- **GMAC conference** consisting of speaker panels and facilitated group discussions.

Session Details:

- **Session Purpose:** Showcase GMAC's role in MA grid planning and clean energy transition, and foster stakeholder connections for future engagement.
- **Targeted Audience:** Municipalities pursuing decarbonization or electrification and developers seeking to interconnect projects.
- **Facilitator:** Led by DOER, GMAC members, consultants, or an independent facilitator.
- **Equity in Grid Planning:** Include breakout discussions on panel topics and equity in the grid planning process.
- The following slide contains a draft agenda.

GMAC Stakeholder Session #1 – Draft Agenda



Welcome, Keynote Address, Opening Remarks

Attendees are welcomed by GMAC Chair. Opening remarks are made by EDC representatives.
Potential Keynote: Secretary Tepper

Panel 1 – How is MA Planning the Future Grid?

Presentations and Q&A discussions led by GMAC municipal representatives that outline challenges and solutions for grid impacts on communities.

Panel Objectives

- Educate municipalities on ESMP/GMAC processes and how they can support municipal electrification efforts
- Educate municipalities on the resources available from EDCs
- Solicit comments & recommendations from municipalities

Panel 2 – Navigating Interconnection

Presentations and Q&A discussions led by GMAC developer and EDC representatives that outline topics related to interconnection processes, challenges, and considerations for municipalities.

Panel Objectives

- Educate audience on current interconnection process, future process development - LTSP, etc.
- Educate municipalities on the practices EDCs use for planning, siting, permitting
- Solicit comments & recommendations from developers/muni planners

Breakout Discussion – Panel Topics + Equity

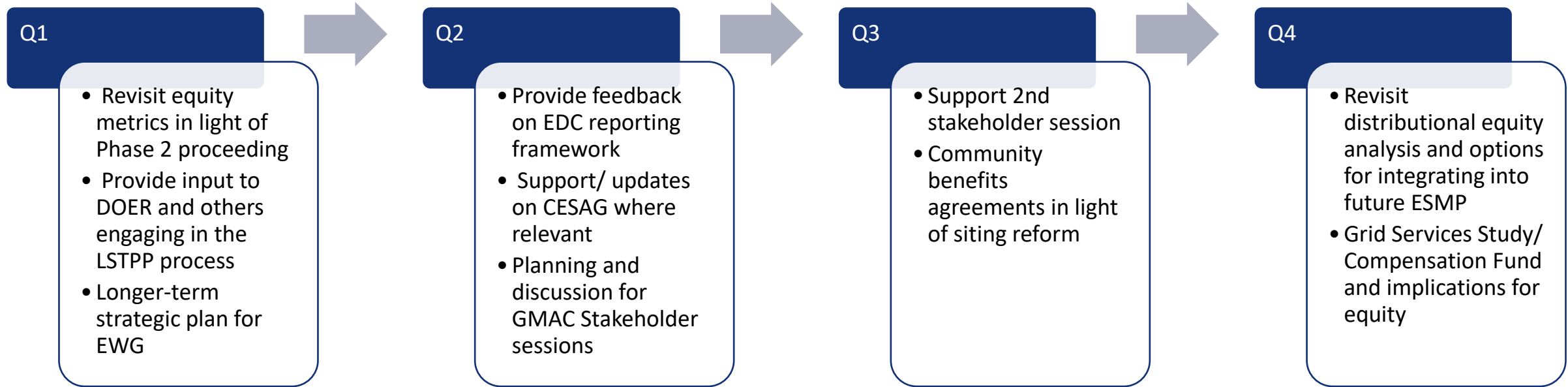
Facilitated breakout discussion led by EWG members that focuses on equity considerations and community engagement strategies for municipalities working towards electrifying their communities.

Panel Objectives

- Connect diverse set of stakeholders to share insights/ideas
- Educate stakeholders on current EDC practices for community engagement
- Solicit recommendations for further GMAC efforts with equity

2025 Equity Working Group Plan

- The EWG plans to discuss the following topics in 2025.



- At the 12/6 EWG meeting, members discussed a proposal to hold equity discussions/breakouts during the GMAC stakeholder meetings in 2025 so that we can talk directly with parties interested in grid planning and the working group.

Do GMAC members have any questions?

Update: 2025 GMAC Budget Filing



- The DPU issued information requests regarding the 2025 GMAC budget filing (24-139) on 11/27.
- DOER submitted responses to the information requests on 12/16.
- DOER will provide updates on the DPU's ruling as soon as it is made available.

Update: Stakeholder Engagement Materials

Please share the GMAC stakeholder engagement materials, including a new landing page and two factsheets! Thank you to those who have already shared. 😊

- [Utilize our Message Testing Toolkit](#)
- Get to know the [Grid Modernization Advisory Council](#)
- **NEW GMAC Resource** [Modernizing Massachusetts's Electric Grid](#)
 - Friendly link: [Mass.gov/GridMod](https://mass.gov/GridMod)
- Grid Modernization 101 [Factsheet](#)
- Grid Modernization 201 [Factsheet](#)

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 through new technologies, equipment, and controls. The electric grid needs innovative upgrades to better support rising electricity needs and be resilient to climate change.

- 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.
- 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 may need to support double the amount of electricity we use now.
- Affordable:** 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

The electric utility companies have developed strategic plans for modernizing the electric grid and advancing an equitable clean energy future. The plans:

- 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 has 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 for regular updates on our activities. Send us questions or public comments at MA-GMAC@mass.gov.

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

Your Electric Grid, Your Community

Have a say in your community's energy infrastructure!

A Closer Look: Innovative grid solutions are becoming a reality in Massachusetts. The Hyde Park Battery Project by EverSource is addressing rising energy demand in several Boston neighborhoods whose electrical substations are already at full capacity. Community input will guide plans for siting and paying for this project to support Boston's clean and reliable energy future.

Why Modernize the Grid?

We need to double our electricity supply by 2050 to meet the Commonwealth's climate goals as more people purchase electric vehicles and switch from fossil fuel burning to electric heating systems. This means that our grid infrastructure needs to be updated to ensure we meet our climate goals.

The Challenge

Our current grid cannot support the rapid electricity growth needed to meet increasing demand and our climate goals. Traditional utility investments (substations, poles, and wires) are not enough. An expanded, modern grid will also need alternative clean energy technologies based in local homes and businesses. All these new resources need to be developed strategically, cost-effectively, and equitably.

Your Community's Involvement

Throughout the state, every town has a role to play in contributing to grid modernization discussions, promoting and installing new clean technologies, identifying cost-effective options for expanding the grid, and minimizing siting impacts from new infrastructure installations.

How Are We Addressing This Challenge?

Massachusetts' electric utility companies have created short- and long-term plans for modernizing the grid that:

- promote an equitable clean energy future that includes renewable energy and energy storage
- improve grid reliability and climate resiliency
- enable electrified transportation and buildings
- maximize net benefits to customers.

What Is the GMAC?

The Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) is a stakeholder group that provides advice and recommendations on best practices for utilities' grid-enhancing Electric Sector Modernization Plans (ESMPs). The GMAC represents many interests and organizations, including low-income consumers, municipal planners, and the renewable energy industry.

How Can I Represent My Community?

- Attend a public meeting, share your thoughts, and sign up for the GMAC newsletters on our website.
- Send us questions or public comments at MA-GMAC@mass.gov.

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

Other Discussion Areas



- Are there other issues or items the GMAC would like to discuss?

Close and Next Steps



- DOER will send calendar invitations for GMAC meetings after this meeting.
- Thank you for a productive 2024! Looking forward to seeing you all in the new year. 😊