

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Executive Committee Meeting

February 13, 2025



Agenda & Roll Call



- Agenda & Roll Call
- Updates
- EWG Membership
- Summer Stakeholder Session
- Feedback on Upcoming GMAC Agendas
- Other Discussion Areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

- **New GMAC Website**

- Synapse is in the process of hiring a vendor to develop and design a new GMAC website.
- DOER and Synapse will have a kickoff meeting with the selected vendor this month.
- The target date for the new website launch is May 31st.

- **GMAC Substation Tours**

- DOER is coordinating with the EDCs to host 4 substation site visits in 2025 (2 in the spring, 2 in late summer).
- Stay tuned for a sign-up poll.

- **Open Meeting Law**

- Due to COVID, a temporary provision of OML allows public bodies to hold meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present. This provision is *set to expire on March 31, 2025*.
- There is pending legislation to make this remote policy provision permanent, but it is unknown if it would pass before the expiration. DOER will monitor this.
- For now, DOER will plan for **all GMAC meetings (ExCom and EWG included) to have members in person at 100 Cambridge St. beginning in April 2025.**

Question on Expanding EWG Membership

- Andrew Schneller has expressed interest in adding Marc Lucas from National Grid as an **additional EDC representative on the Equity Working Group** to allow National Grid to be more responsive to EWG outcomes and help shape the EWG discussion.
- The current bylaws outline the following 7 members:
 1. Voting Councilors or their designees:
 - a) The Department of Energy Resources (DOER),
 - b) Office of the Attorney General,
 - c) Two or more Councilors selected by the GMAC.
 2. Two voting members representing organizations that are not represented on the GMAC selected by the GMAC,
 3. One representative of the EDCs
- The GMAC would have to vote to amend the EWG bylaws **and** vote to appoint the candidate.

**What do ExCom members think of this?
Should the EWG give feedback on this decision prior to a GMAC vote?**

GMAC Stakeholder Session #1 – July 2025



- DOER has considered GMAC feedback and proposes that the first stakeholder event is narrowly scoped for **municipal planning interests**. For future events, we anticipate a larger scope that serves a broader audience.
- We propose the event is held in person in the 2nd floor conference rooms at 100 Cambridge Street in Boston on **Thursday, July 17th from 9 – 12 PM**. Light refreshments will be provided.

Session Details:

- **Session Purpose:** Raise awareness of grid planning processes for municipalities seeking to electrify their communities. 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
- **Equity in Grid Planning:** Include breakout discussions on panel topics and equity in the grid planning process.

Please refer to the draft agenda presented at the December GMAC meeting in the Appendix.

Do ExCom members have questions or suggestions for the July stakeholder session?

Feedback on Upcoming GMAC Agendas

- We are seeking ExCom feedback on GMAC meeting agendas through July. Specifically, we would like direction on:
 - **Presentation speakers**
 - **Focus of presentations**
 - **Facilitated discussion leaders**
- At least one hour of the meeting will be dedicated to the monthly meeting topic. Factsheets will cover a 101 level of the topic. DOER will solicit feedback from GMAC members on monthly factsheets during their development.
- At our April meeting, we will discuss strategic planning for the rest of 2025 through the ESMP term.
- *See monthly meeting learning goals and agendas on the following slides.*

March – May Meeting Agendas



Meeting	Topic	Learning Goals/Events	Draft Meeting Agenda
Mar 27	Reporting: biannual report content; metrics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the goal of utility reporting? How well do existing utility reports cover ESMP issues? What should be in the ESMP biannual reports? <p><i>Ongoing DPU Docket Phase II</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDCs present proposed Biannual Report template (filed with DPU on March 18th) GMAC Consultant Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting requirements in other jurisdictions GMAC Member Discussion – Led by: (to invite) Kyle Murray and Sarah Bresolin Silver <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Discussion points to include:</i> Function of March versus September reports What goes in reports beyond metrics? Grid Mod reports versus ESMP reports Should ESMP reports contain information in one central location, even if it is reported elsewhere?
May 1	System Reliability and Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What information is included in the annual reliability reports (ARRs)? How do utilities plan and measure grid reliability? How does climate change impact this? <p><i>ARR filed 3/31; Service Quality filed 3/1; CVAs Implementation</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level summary of recent reliability and resilience performance. Reliability and resilience planning in general, focused on conventional practice, i.e., prior to ESMPs Reliability and resilience considerations in the current and future ESMPs, focused on long-term needs and uncertainty ResilientMass Action Team (RMAT) Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presentation on state resiliency planning processes and ResilientMass Plan implementation Reliability and resilience planning requirements in Massachusetts, standards, metrics, targets, incentives GMAC Member Discussion – Led by: (to invite) Andy Sun and Chris Modlish <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the various resilience reporting requirements and planning processes by the state and EDCs

May – June Meeting Agendas

Meeting	Topic	Learning Goals/Events	Draft Meeting Agenda
May 29	Proactive Grid Planning (LTSP Updates)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What was the outcome and the recommendations the LTSP discussions? What are the implications for ESMPs? <p><i>LTSP WG report due to DPU 4/4</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary LTSP process, outcomes, and next steps. GMAC Member Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DOER’s, AGO’s, and DG developers’ perspectives of LTSP process Other members’ perspectives DOER Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Next steps regarding LTSP discussions GMAC Member Discussion – Led by: (to invite) Kate Tohme and Jonathan Stout <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss how GMAC can engage with long-term system planning before next ESMPs
June 26	Integrated Energy Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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)? <p><i>Climate Compliance Plans filed 4/1; Joint Working Group</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Outside Expert Presentation: Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory and Regulatory Assistance Project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Opportunities for integrating electric and gas planning from recent LBNL Report EDC Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of the Joint Working Group (JWG) and non-pipeline alternative (NPA) process, discussions, proposals, and next steps. Coordination of integrated energy planning and ESMP. Coordination between the JWG and GMAC. GMAC Member Discussion – Led by: (to invite) JS Rancourt and Alex Worsley <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share member perspectives on the Joint Working Group.

July Meeting Agenda



Meeting	Topic	Learning Goals/Events	Draft Meeting Agenda
July 31	Equity in Grid Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How should equity be incorporated into ESMPs? • How can the GMAC facilitate community engagement for improved grid planning? • What is distributional equity analysis? <p><i>On-going CESAG Meetings</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GMAC Consultant Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present summary of practices from other states, including equity in grid planning and distributional equity analysis • EDC Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on process, discussions, and next steps for CESAG <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Engagement Framework • EDC’s approach to addressing equity in (a) implementing ESMP investments and (b) planning for future ESMP investments • EWG Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of EWG’s goals, priorities, and recommendations • EWG’s response to EDC presentation • GMAC Members Discussion – Led by: (to invite) Marybeth Campbell and Julie Curti <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equity issues and concerns of other GMAC members • Next steps on addressing equity in ESMPs

Other Discussion Areas



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

Close and Next Steps

- The next Equity Working Group meeting is February 20th from 10 – 11:30 AM.
- The next GMAC meeting is February 27th from 1 – 3 PM.
- The next ExCom meeting is April 24th from 9:30 – 10:30 AM.

Appendix

GMAC Stakeholder Session #1 – Draft Agenda



Welcome, Keynote Address, Opening Remarks

Attendees are welcomed by GMAC Chair. Opening remarks are made by EDC representatives.

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 for Munis

Presentations and Q&A discussions led by GMAC developer, regional planning, 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