

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Executive Committee Meeting

April 24, 2025



Agenda & Roll Call



- Agenda & Roll Call
- GMAC Long-Term Strategy
- Review of Upcoming GMAC Agendas
- GMAC Website Design Update
- Other Discussion Areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

GMAC Planning for 2025



From October 2024 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.
- **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 Long-Term Strategy



2026-2029 ESMP Events

2026	2027	2028	2029
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March Biannual Report• May Cost Recovery Filing• September Biannual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March Biannual Report• May Cost Recovery Filing• September Biannual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• March Biannual Report• May Cost Recovery Filing• September Biannual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EDCs submit draft 2030-2035 ESMPs to GMAC• GMAC reviews and comments• EDCs submit ESMPs to DPU• Biannual reports and cost recovery filings

2025-2030 ESMP Implementation

Today we are seeking ExCom feedback on GMAC long-term planning process

Directives and Guidance on GMAC Activities



Section 92C (b) of the 2022 Clean Energy Act directs the GMAC to:

- Seek to encourage least-cost investments, alternatives to the investments or alternative approaches to financing investments that will facilitate the achievement of GHG reduction goals
- Increase transparency and stakeholder engagement in the grid planning process
- Review and provide recommendations on ESMPs that
 - Maximize net customer benefits and demonstrate cost-effective investments
 - Facilitate electrification of buildings, transportation and other sectors
 - Improve grid reliability and resiliency
 - Minimize or mitigate impacts on ratepayers
 - Provide benefits to low-income ratepayers

DPU Guidance in ESMP Order

- Recommends several areas for GMAC & EDC collaboration between draft plan filings (pp. 81-82)
 - EDC presentations on their forecasting method
 - Discussion of least-cost investments in electric distribution systems
 - Identifying alternatives to investments or financing to minimize or mitigate impacts on ratepayers
- Requires the EDCs to collaborate with the GMAC on sensitivity analyses for 2050 long-term demand assessments to be submitted with the next ESMP filing (p. 139)
- Encourages the GMAC to fully explore each company's investment reprioritization process based on updating the updated forecast in the next ESMP (p. 150)

September GMAC Meeting



We propose that the September GMAC meeting be used to **develop a draft long-term strategy for the GMAC** that includes:

- Shared understanding of GMAC's role
- GMAC goals for 2026-2029
- GMAC activities
- GMAC's priority topic areas

Synapse would then produce a draft strategic plan based on the conversation at the September GMAC meeting. This draft plan would then be reviewed, finalized, and voted on by the GMAC.

We expect that having a concrete, actionable outcome of the September meeting will stimulate engagement and discussion among GMAC members.

Do ExCom members have feedback on the proposed plan for developing a long-term strategy?

Process to Develop 2026-2029 GMAC Strategic Plan



Key elements of strategic plan should come from GMAC members

1 Initial Interviews with GMAC Members

- Start by interviewing several initial members to generate a list of ideas to “seed” GMAC member interviews.
- Interviews could include ExCom members and/or other members who are generally less engaged.

2 Interviews with Full GMAC Membership

- Then conduct semi-structured group interviews with GMAC members to (a) get new ideas, and (b) get their reactions to the original list of ideas
- We recommend two or more members per interview
- The results of these interviews can be used to determine an agenda and strategy for the September GMAC meeting

3 September GMAC Meeting

- Consider extending to 3 hours
- The September meeting would be facilitated to (a) generate new ideas, and (b) get all members to express their views
- Facilitation could be by GMAC members, current members of Synapse GMAC consulting team, others at Synapse with facilitation experience, or an outside facilitator

4 Draft 2026-2029 GMAC Plan

- Synapse to prepare draft plan based on September meeting
- GMAC to review and finalize long-term strategic plan

Questions for ExCom

1. Do ExCom members have feedback on the process suggested above?
2. Regarding the September GMAC meeting:
 - Should it be extended to 3 hours?
 - Should GMAC members be required to attend in person?
 - Should ExCom members or other volunteers lead small group discussions?
3. What are good ways to get GMAC member input during the September GMAC meeting?
 - Polls to solicit members ideas and positions
 - “Dot prioritization” of GMAC topics and activities
 - Start/stop/continue exercise: What should GMAC start doing? What should GMAC continue doing?
 - Hire outside facilitation
4. Do ExCom members agree with Synapse drafting a plan based on the September meeting?
 - What is the best way to get GMAC member feedback on the plan once drafted?

Meeting Agenda Review

May – June 2025 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 5/9</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 – August 2025 Meeting Agendas

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
Aug 28	System Resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> How does resilience differ/relate to reliability? How do the EDCs and state plan for resilience? How does climate change impact grid resilience? <p><i>Follow-up from reliability discussions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> High-level summary of recent resilience performance. Resilience planning in general, focused on conventional practice, i.e., prior to ESMPs 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) Amy McGuire and Chris Modlish

September – December 2025 Meeting Agendas

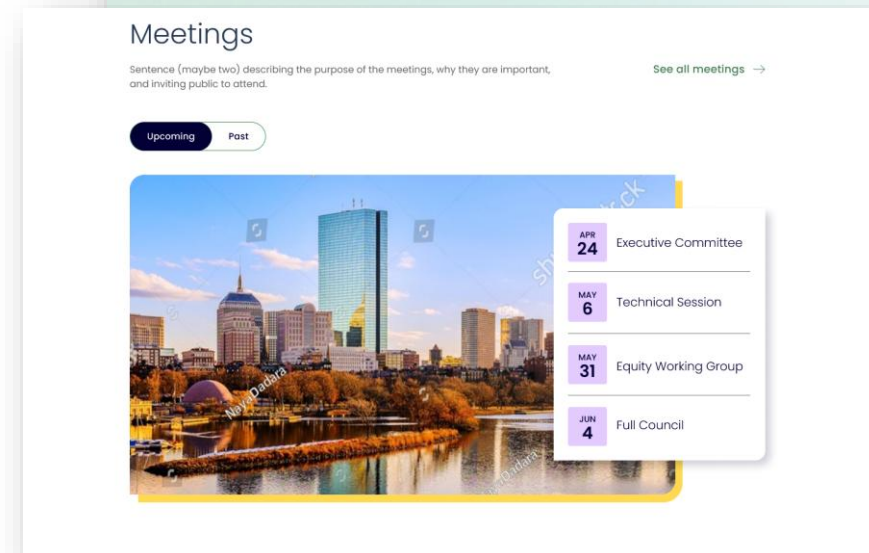
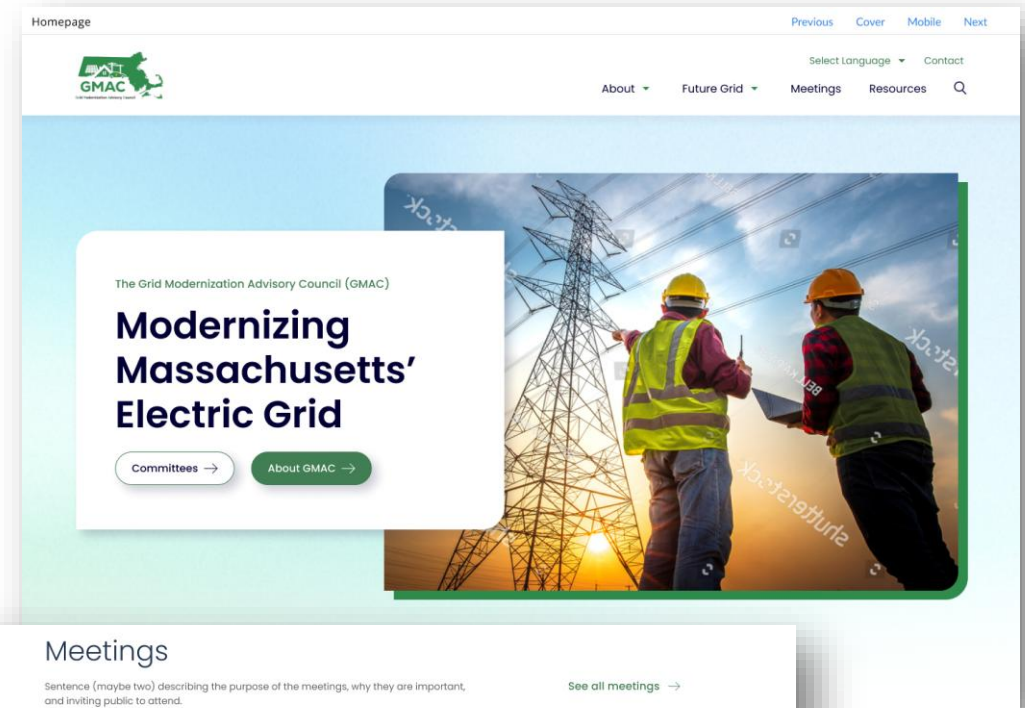


Meeting	Topic	Learning Goals/Events	Draft Meeting Agenda
Sept 18	Strategic Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To develop a draft GMAC long-term strategic plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined based on input from ExCom and GMAC members
Oct 30	Biannual Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the key findings and implications of the September biannual report? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Presentation Synapse Presentation GMAC Member Discussion – Led by: <i>(to be determined)</i>
Nov	No meeting		
Dec 18	Integrated Energy Planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the implications of the Climate Compliance Plans for ESMPs? <p><i>Follow-up from first integrated energy planning discussion</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EDC Presentation HEET Presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss progress on the development of a geothermal siting optimization tool GMAC Member Discussion – Led by: <i>(to invite)</i> Kyle Murray and Sarah Cullinan

Update on GMAC Website Design

- DOER and Synapse are working with subcontractor Communication Via Design (CviaD) to design a new GMAC website.
- CviaD presented conceptual designs for feedback. DOER and Synapse expressed preferences for:
 - Bright and accessible color scheme
 - Filterable resource library
 - Easily searchable meeting tab
 - Future Grid tab for approachable grid modernization and ESMP information
 - Images that relate to MA, grid technology, and distribution system infrastructure
- CviaD will take feedback this week to develop a 2nd conceptual design.
- The site is scheduled to launch on July 2nd.

Do ExCom members have questions and/or feedback on design elements?



Other Discussion Areas



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

Close and Next Steps

- The next GMAC meeting is May 1st from 1 – 3 PM.
- The next ExCom meeting is June 5th from 9:30 – 10:30 AM.
- The next EWG meeting is July 11th from 10 – 11:30 AM.