

# Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

## Executive Committee Meeting

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October 9, 2025



# Agenda & Roll Call

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- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stakeholder Session Update
- Draft 2026 Workplan Discussion
- 2026 DPU Budget Request
- Other Discussion Areas
- Close and Next Steps

**Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members**

# The Future Grid From a Municipal Lens – Second Event



- DOER is continuing to plan and coordinate presenters for the western MA stakeholder event on December 12<sup>th</sup> at UMass Amherst.
- **As a reminder:**
  - The EDC panel will include one GMAC representative.
  - One section will include 4-5 municipal representatives in western MA who will provide overviews of challenges they are facing with electrification.
  - Western MA attendees from July will be invited to speak + other recommended contacts.
- **New Afternoon Workshop**
  - The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is planning to hold an interconnection workshop to convene stakeholders to discuss load interconnection barriers and solutions.
  - DOER plans to advertise the events together, as both events will be applicable to municipal representatives.
  - Municipal attendees can register to attend the morning, afternoon, or both events.
  - EDCs will be invited to attend the morning GMAC event only.

**Do ExCom members have any questions or suggestions?**

## EVENT OVERVIEW



**Date:** 12<sup>th</sup>



**Time:** 9 – 1 PM

*(8:15 AM networking)*



**Venue:** UMass Amherst



**Target Audience:** Municipal leaders



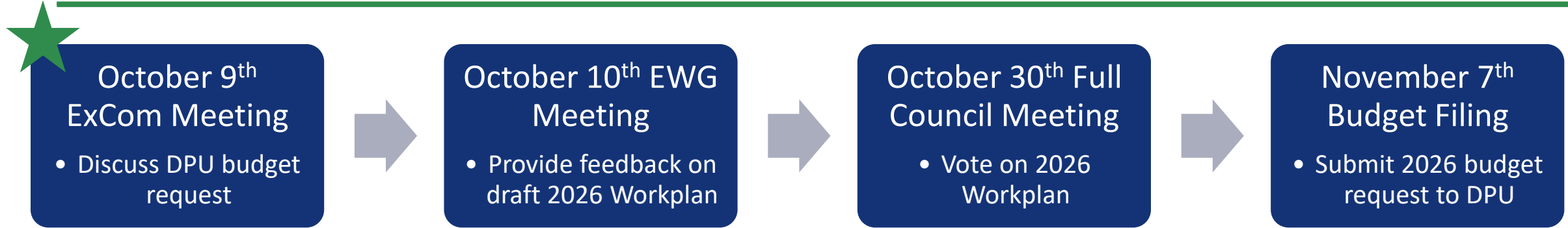
**Expected Attendance:** 100 - 130

## AGENDA OUTLINE

*(Full agenda in Appendix)*

1. *Networking*
2. Welcome, Keynote, Opening Remarks
3. EDC Panel: What is in the ESMPs?
4. *Break*
5. Municipal Lightning Round + Panel Q&A
6. Facilitated Breakout Discussions
7. Report Out
8. Close and Next Steps
9. *Optional: Virtual Tour of a Substation*
10. *Break for Lunch*
11. **NEW** - EEA Interconnection Workshop

# Draft 2026 Workplan Discussion



- DOER is in the process of revising the 2026 GMAC Workplan based on the productive conversation at the September 18<sup>th</sup> GMAC meeting and redlines by voting GMAC members and the EDCs.
  - DOER is aiming to send a V3 Workplan by next week.
- The EWG will review the workplan and their role in Objective 2: Promoting affordable grid investments: Understanding least-cost and cost-effective grid modernization.
- GMAC members will discuss and **approve a 2026 workplan at the October 30<sup>th</sup> meeting.**
- The DPU budget request for consulting services and operating expenses will be submitted on November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Do ExCom members have any questions or Workplan elements to discuss?**

# 2026 DPU Budget Request

- The CY2026 GMAC budget filing deadline is **November 7, 2025**. Information to be provided includes:
  - An accounting of budget spend in 2025
  - Detailed 2025 invoices
  - 2026 consultant work plan
  - 2026 proposed costs by cost category
- DOER and the GMAC consultants are preparing filing materials.
- As a reminder, the current GMAC consulting contract expires on December 31, 2025. DOER posted a [competitive solicitation](#) for a GMAC consultant on October 7<sup>th</sup> and will execute a contract before the end of the year.
- The consultant budget request will be informed by the tasks included in the draft 2026 GMAC Workplan.
- The RFQ includes the draft workplan and a cap of **\$450,000** for the year.

	Approved by DPU	Actual Spend by GMAC Consultant (Jan – Sept)
2025	\$549,560.00	~\$339,000.00

- The DPU also approved an operating budget of \$50,000 in 2025 for costs related to expenses such as meeting space rental fees.
- While the GMAC did not use a significant portion of this operating budget, we propose requesting \$25,000 for 2026.
- We anticipate using this funding for the in-person stakeholder engagement sessions/external experts in 2026.
- The final opportunity to provide feedback on 2026 **budget** will be the October 30<sup>th</sup> GMAC meeting.

**Do ExCom members have any questions?**

## Other Discussion Areas

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

# Close and Next Steps

- The next GMAC meeting is October 30<sup>th</sup> from 1 – 3 PM.

Date	Time	Meeting	Topic
October 10 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 11:30 AM	EWG	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review first ESMP biannual report</li> <li>• Review 2026 Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
October 30 <sup>th</sup>	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote on 2026 Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Review first ESMP biannual report</li> </ul>
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	Integrated Energy Planning
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:30 – 10:30 AM	ExCom	<i>TBD</i>

# Appendix



Time	Min	Proposed Agenda
8:15	45	<b>Networking</b>
9:00	25	<b>Welcome, Keynote Address, Opening Remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Keynote speaker TBD</li> <li>GMAC Chair provides introduction to ESMPs/GMAC</li> </ul>
9:25	45	<b>Panel: What is in the ESMPs?</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDC + GMAC member representatives discuss ESMPs as strategic plans, approved investments and implementation of programs</li> </ul>
10:10	15	<b>Break</b>
10:25	25	<b>Municipal Lightning Round</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-5 western MA municipal reps present 1 slide of a challenge and/or success their community is facing while navigating electrification</li> </ul>
10:50	25	<b>Q&amp;A – Municipal Lightning Round</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>GMAC member facilitates audience Q&amp;A based on municipal presentations</li> </ul>
11:30	40	<b>Facilitated Breakout Discussions</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Municipalities share their questions and insights about grid modernization in their community</li> </ul>
12:10	15	<b>Report Out</b>
12:25	5	<b>Close and Next Steps</b>
12:30	30	<b>Optional: Virtual Tour of a Substation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EDCs provide optional presentation on how a substation operates and provide context of what upgrades are happening to substations in local communities.</li> </ul>
1:00	90	<b>Break for Lunch</b>
2:30	120	<b>EEA Interconnection Workshop</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EEA hosts roundtable with municipalities to discuss load connection, electrification barriers, customer knowledge gaps, and potential solutions.</li> </ul>