

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Equity Working Group Meeting

October 10, 2025



Meeting Agenda



Item	Time
Administrative Items <ul style="list-style-type: none">Welcome, Agenda, Roll CallMeeting Minutes Review and Approval	10:00 – 10:05
Updates	10:05 – 10:10
ESMP Biannual Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none">Summary of DPU Memorandum on Report RequirementsSummary of September 30th Biannual Report	10:10 – 10:40
Draft GMAC 2026 Workplan	10:40 – 11:25
Close	11:25 – 11:30

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

Roll Call



Equity Working Group Voting Councilors

Larry Chretien

Julia Fox

Chris Modlish

Kyle Murray

Mary Wambui

Jolette Westbrook

Kathryn Wright, Chair

Green Energy Consumers Alliance

Department of Energy Resources

Attorney General's Office

Acadia Center

Planning Office for Urban Affairs

Environmental Defense Fund

Barr Foundation

Non-Voting Councilor

Marc Lucas (non-voting)

National Grid

Consultants

Sophie Schadler

Synapse

Tim Woolf

Synapse

Meeting Minutes



- To finalize:
 - July 11, 2025 Equity Working Group minutes

Are there any requests for edits to the minutes?

On behalf of the Council, the Chair may approve the minutes as distributed/as amended.

- **New EDC Representative on EWG**

- Marc Lucas, National Grid, was appointed as the EWG EDC representative. Thank you, Erin, for your work on the EWG.

- **MassCEC Grid Services Study**

- Grid Services Study was completed with recommendations for EDCs. Incorporates feedback from members of the EWG.

- **GMAC Stakeholder Session**

- The second in-person GMAC stakeholder session “The Future Grid from a Municipal Lens” is Friday, December 12th from 9 – 1 PM. The event will take place at UMass Amherst.

- **GMAC Activity Tracker**

- Stay up to date on ESMP-related activities with the monthly activity tracker posted on the GMAC website.

ESMP Biannual Reports

ESMP Biannual Reports Memorandum Overview



- The DPU issued a Memorandum on September 9, 2025 to finalize reporting requirements for the September (*prospective*) and March (*retrospective*) biannual reports.
- **The DPU required additional reporting elements in its Memorandum, including:**
 - Updates related to the Grid Services Study
 - New step/spot load interconnection requests (March report)
 - Geographic data for metrics
 - Reporting on community benefit agreements (CBAs)
- The DPU directed the EDCs to file their September 2025 ESMP Reports in the newly-opened Docket 25-ESMP.
 - **These reports were filed on September 30, 2025.**
- The DPU directed the EDCs to file a revised March 2026 reporting template by October 30, 2025.

Summary of EWG Comments v. Final Memorandum



EWG March Comments	DPU Memorandum
Summarize input received community and stakeholder engagement	Include summary information on stakeholder discussions and outcomes from stakeholder meetings in the narrative of the March biannual reports. In addition, the Companies shall provide a summary of the EFSB community engagement, if applicable, to ESMP investments in the non-ESMP investment section.
Report on CESAG framework implementation	Department expects that the Companies will continue working with the GMAC EWG to develop, review, and evaluate stakeholder engagement and equity metrics during the first ESMP term.
Provide information on ESMP investments in EJC and LIC communities	DPU requires that DERMS, VVO and resiliency investments be reported for EJCs at census block or zip code level. The DPU also requested the VVO and resilience investments be reported at the feeder level.
Reporting and locational on CBAs	The Department directs the Companies to report if they enter into a CBA in the biannual report narrative including: discussing (1) if the CBA is related to an ESMP project or not; (2) which communities(s) are part of the CBA; and (3) a summary of the benefits provided through the agreement.
Reporting and locational information on Grid Services Compensation Fund and CBAs	Updates on the Grid Services Compensation Fund and stakeholder engagement to be provided in both biannual reports.
Provide visualizations or a more accessible alternative to Excel for related reporting metrics from other proceedings	DPU Memo asks for editable, backwards compatible Excel files for ease of use. The DPU also requested the EDCs list any Working Groups where more than one EDC is involved in addition to listing related dockets.
Report on EDC plans steps to respond to community feedback	Include summary information on stakeholder discussions and outcomes from stakeholder meetings in the narrative of the March biannual reports

ESMP Biannual Reports Overview



Prospective September Report

Filed Sep. 30th 2025 in D.P.U. 25-ESMP

- Information through June 30th, 2025

Report contents

- Narrative Report
 - ESMP investments and reprioritization, CESAG stakeholder framework; integrated energy planning; forecast improvements; outside funding
- Appendix A: Summary of ESMP Investment Costs
 - Actual 2025 spending
 - Projected spending for 2025 and 2026

Attachments:

- CESAG materials (Att. 1, 2, 3, 4)
- Grid Services Study (Att. 5, 6)
- IEP Stakeholder Working Group (Att. 7)
- Electric Highways Study (National Grid)

Retrospective March Report

Filed by March 31 2026 in D.P.U. 26-ESMP-01

- Information will be through December 31st, 2025
- Updated template and appendices must be filed by October 30th, 2025

Report contents:

- Similar narrative structure to September report
- Appendix A: Summary of ESMP Investments - Actuals
- Appendix B: ESMP Metrics on outreach, resiliency, GHGs, DERMS, and VVO
- Appendix C: List of Non-ESMP docketed and non-docketed proceedings
- Appendix D: Summary of non-ESMP metrics and reports

D.P.U. directed modifications:

- Additional geographic data for EJ population investment analysis; updates on Grid Services Study and Compensation Fund; CBA information; new step/spot loads; report on comprehensive peak demand reduction;

Summary of September Biannual Reports

- ❖ **ESMP Investments** (Section II): Detailed descriptions of planned investments in customer, platform, reliability, and network investment categories
 - ❖ **Reprioritization:** Eversource replaced the Southampton BESS project with the Springfield Volt-Var Optimization/Advanced Inverter project. National Grid and Unitil did not reprioritize any investments
- ❖ **Integrated Energy Planning (IEP)** (Section III): Standard language across utilities about IEP Working Group and data sharing updates; individual updates discussing targeted electrification progress
- ❖ **Forecasts** (Section IV): Narrative updates to current and anticipated forecasting methods
- ❖ **Outside Funding** (Section V): Few opportunities available with federal funding uncertainty

CESAG Framework & Stakeholder Report (Attachments 1-4)

- The EDCs and stakeholders collaborated to develop a framework for engaging stakeholders and communities in decisions about clean energy infrastructure projects.
- The EDCs submitted the final CESAG framework and final CESAG report as attachments to the September report.
- The CESAG framework uses measurements for implementation and documentation that reflect procedural, distributional, and structural equity.

2025-2026 ESMP Projected Spend (\$M)

EDC	2025	2026	Total
Eversource	\$5.5	\$35.2	\$40.7
National Grid	\$26.9	\$94.2	\$121.1
Unitil	\$5.9	\$5.9	\$11.8
Total	\$38.3	\$135.3	\$173.6

2026 GMAC Workplan

Reminder: Workplan Development Process



- EWG members were asked to indicate a priority activity for 2026 in August. **A majority indicated exploring bill impacts as a 2026 priority.**
- GMAC members provided feedback on a first draft of the 2026 GMAC Workplan on 9/18. A new version of this Workplan (V2) was circulated after the meeting. GMAC members provided additional written feedback that informed the current V3 Workplan.
- Discussion and feedback from this meeting will inform a final 2026 Workplan and DPU budget request.
- The DPU budget request for consulting services and operating expenses will be submitted on November 7th.

Draft 2026 Workplan Overview



	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Ongoing Administration	<p>Monthly GMAC Meetings</p> <p>■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■ ■</p> <p>Quarterly Executive Committee Meetings</p> <p>✕ ✕ ✕ ✕</p> <p>2027 Planning Budget Filing End of year stakeholder event</p>											
Objective 1: Identifying and Addressing Real World Electric Load Growth Challenges	<p>Intro</p> <p>Load Growth Area Deep Dives</p> <p>Load Growth Area 1 Load Growth Area 2 Load Growth Area 3 Load Growth Area 4 Load Growth Area 5 Resolution</p>											
Objective 2: Identifying and Addressing the Cost Challenges of Grid Modernization	<p>Quarterly Equity Working Group Meetings</p> <p>✕ ✕ ✕ ✕</p> <p>Scope and Commence Bill Impacts Analysis Present and Discuss Results of Bill Impact Analysis Discuss Options for Reducing Costs & Bills Continue Discussion & Next Steps</p>											
Objective 3: Understanding ESMP Implementation Challenges via Biannual Reports	<p>Biannual Report Filing 3/31 Summary Memo and Discussion</p> <p>★ ★</p> <p>Cost Recovery Filing 5/1 Summary Memo and Discussion</p> <p>Biannual Report Filing 9/30 Summary Memo and Discussion</p> <p>★ ★</p>											
Objective 4: Stakeholder Materials on Grid Modernization Efforts	<p>Align on format</p> <p>Update #1 Element 1: Grid Modernization Activity Tracker Update #2 Update #3 Update #4 Update #5</p> <p>Element 2: Review DOER Guide to Grid Mod. Activities</p>											

EWG 2026 Workplan Proposal



- The draft GMAC workplan includes **Objective 2: *Identifying and Addressing the Cost Challenges of Grid Modernization*** as a workstream to be overseen by the Equity Working Group.
- The EWG and GMAC will investigate and discuss strategies to promote affordability in the clean energy transition by reducing costs of grid infrastructure upgrades. The objective includes:
 1. Understanding cumulative spending for grid investments and bill impacts for residential and commercial customers
 2. Establishing definitions of affordability, cost-effectiveness, and least cost investments
 3. Working with full GMAC to evaluate cost-effective and alternative approaches to reduce bills
- **In addition to this Objective, the EWG will:**
 - Discuss observations on equity and stakeholder engagement reporting/implementation in the ESMP biannual reports.
 - Support planning and execution of GMAC end-of-year public event to provide interested stakeholders an overview of ESMP implementation progress.
- In 2026, we propose the EWG continues to meet on a quarterly basis with the option for additional ad-hoc meetings as needed.

2026 GMAC Workplan

Please refer to the draft 2026 GMAC Workplan document.

Questions for EWG Members

1. Do you have any thoughts about the scope of analysis for costs and bill impacts, specifically ESMP vs. non-ESMP investments?
2. In addition to the data/analysis, are there external groups that we would like to hear from on the subject of bill impacts, alternative funding and/or cost management? We have suggested integrating some of the findings from the Rates Task Force and Financing the Peak Working group (Energy Transformation Advisory Board.)
3. What does the ideal breakout of this work look like between the EWG and the full GMAC? We are suggesting that the EWG take on the bill impacts analysis and that discussing cost-effective investments would be a GMAC-led process.
 - a) Do you have thoughts about what we could accomplish in 2026 v. 2027?

Close and Next Steps

- After the 2025 Workplan is approved at the end of the month, we will send an email to schedule 2026 EWG meetings.
- Schedule for the remainder of the year:

Date	Time	Meeting	Topic
October 30 th	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Vote on 2026 Workplan• Review first ESMP biannual report
December 4 th	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	Integrated Energy Planning
<i>December 12th</i>	<i>9 – 1:00 PM</i>	<i>Public Event</i>	<i>The Electric Grid Through a Municipal Lens Pt. 2</i>
December 18 th	9:30 – 10:30 AM	ExCom	<i>TBD</i>