

Massachusetts Grid Modernization Advisory Council

Meeting Presentation

October 30, 2025



Agenda & Roll Call



Item	Time
Administrative Items • Welcome, Roll Call, Agenda • Public Comment Period • Meeting Minutes Review and Approval • Update on December GMAC Stakeholder Session • Update on GMAC MassCEC Representative	1:00 – 1:20
Updates on ESMP Activities	1:20 – 1:25
2026 GMAC Workplan • Discussion and Vote on Workplan • CY26 Budget Request • Next Steps	1:25 – 2:15
<i>Break</i>	<i>2:15 – 2:20</i>
September ESMP Biannual Reports • EDC Presentation • GMAC questions and discussion	2:20 – 2:55
Close	2:55 – 3:00

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.

GMAC Minutes Review and Voting



Meeting Minutes

- Calling for vote to finalize:
 - September 18, 2025 GMAC meeting minutes
 - October 9, 2025 Executive Committee meeting 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.

Update on December GMAC Stakeholder Session

- DOER is continuing to plan and coordinate presenters for the western MA stakeholder event “The Future Grid from a Municipal Lens” on December 12th 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 have been invited to speak + other recommended contacts.
- **New Afternoon Workshop (2:30 – 4:30 PM)**
 - 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 GMAC members have any questions or suggestions?

EVENT OVERVIEW

-  **Date:** December 12th
-  **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

GMAC MassCEC Representative Update



- **Thank you, Sarah Cullinan!**

- MassCEC representative, Sarah Cullinan, has left her role at MassCEC.
- Thank you, Sarah, for your hard work and contributions to the GMAC since 2023!

- **Welcome, Jim Stanislaski!**

- MassCEC has appointed Jim as its representative on the GMAC and the Executive Committee.
- Jim is the Managing Director of Accelerating Decarbonization on MassCEC's Executive Team, leading efforts on three critical decarbonization areas: 1. Buildings 2. Net Zero Power Grid 3. Clean Transportation.
- Jim is a licensed architect with over 30 years of experience and leadership in the industry.

ESMP Activities Updates

- 1. **ESMP Phase II**
 - 1. **Metrics/biannual reports** (*see slides 18-24*)
 - 2. **Long-term cost recovery**
- 2. **IEP Working Group**
- 3. **LTSP (DPU 25-20)**
- 4. **Other**

Key Upcoming Dates	
ESMP biannual report compliance filing	10/30
IEP Stakeholder Working Group meeting	11/13
Reply comments on ESMP long-term cost recovery	11/26
IEP Stakeholder Working Group listening sessions	12/9 + 12/11

**Stay up to date on ESMP activities via the Activity Tracker!*

Are there any updates on these items?

2026 GMAC Workplan

Draft 2026 Workplan Discussion



- Thank you all for a productive discussion at the last GMAC meeting.
- DOER provided a revised 2026 GMAC Workplan based on feedback from the GMAC, ExCom, and EWG.
- Members were asked to submit comments, questions, or concerns with V3 ahead of this meeting.
- In today's meeting, GMAC members will discuss and **approve a 2026 GMAC Workplan.**
 - The GMAC will vote to adopt the proposed objectives and activities for the coming year.
 - Refinements may be made to the plan throughout the year in response to GMAC members' feedback and recommendations.
- GMAC will also review and discuss the **CY2026 budget request** consulting services and operating expenses.
 - DOER will submit the budget request to the DPU on November 7th.

Draft 2026 Workplan Overview



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

2026 GMAC Workplan

Please refer to the draft 2026 GMAC Workplan document.

2026 GMAC Workplan Vote



- Calling for vote to finalize and approve the 2026 GMAC Workplan. The GMAC will allow DOER to make minor updates consistent with today's discussion:

Motion to approve the 2026 GMAC Workplan [as distributed/as corrected]?

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 have prepared 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 7th 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 **\$340,000** for the year.

Year	Type	Consultant Budget	Operating Budget	Total
2025	Proposed	\$549,560	\$50,000	\$599,560
	Actual + Anticipated	\$402,103	\$7,725	\$409,827
	Actual (Jan - Sept)	\$341,005	\$2,725	\$343,730
	Anticipated (Oct - Dec)	\$61,098	\$5,000	\$66,098
2026	Proposed	\$340,000	\$10,000	\$350,000

- The DPU also approved an operating budget of \$50,000 in 2025 for costs related to expenses such as meeting space rental fees.
- The GMAC did not use a significant portion of this operating budget, we propose requesting \$10,000 for 2026.
- We anticipate using this funding for the in-person end-of-year stakeholder session.

Do GMAC members have any questions on 2025 accounting/the filing process?

2026 DPU Budget Request

2026 Task and Example Activities	Total Budget
Project Management, Administration and Planning - Administrative support for GMAC meetings, sub-committee meetings, and end-of-year stakeholder event (e.g., presentation coordination, agenda development) - Coordination with DOER, including check-in meetings - Monthly website support including hosting, maintenance, posting materials, and other design edits as needed - Support with CY27 strategic planning	\$120,000.00
GMAC Meeting Support - Consultant time to attend meetings and take minutes - Present to GMAC on an as needed basis	\$20,000.00
Objective 1. Identifying and Addressing Load Growth and Impacts on Forecasting - Help prepare for load forecasting meetings (e.g., drafting of discussion questions) - Document and synthesize GMAC forecasting observations and recommendations - Prepare initial draft of GMAC forecast resolution	\$75,000.00
Objective 2. Identifying and Addressing the Cost Challenges of Grid Modernization - Support bill impact analysis scoping - Create summary factsheet on bill impacts - Provide learning support for GMAC members through office hours - Support discussions on options for reducing costs and mitigating impacts on ratepayers	\$50,000.00
Objective 3. Understanding Challenges of ESMP Implementation through Biannual Reports - Prepare summaries of biannual reports and cost recovery filings following EDC presentations - Document and summarize GMAC and EWG member observations	\$70,000.00
Objective 4. Tracking Grid Modernization Efforts in Massachusetts - Develop and manage tracker of concurrent grid modernization activities - Support facilitation and collection of GMAC member representation network feedback	\$5,000.00
GMAC Consultants Total	\$340,000

Do GMAC members have any questions or feedback on the proposed CY26 consultant budget?

Proposed 2026 Meeting Calendar

- GMAC meetings will typically be held on the **last Thursday of the month from 1 – 3 PM**. Dates have been set to accommodate holidays and school vacations.
- ExCom meetings will be held on a quarterly basis on **Thursdays from 9:30 – 10:30 AM**.
- EWG meetings will be held on a quarterly basis on **Fridays from 10 – 11:30 AM**.
- Calendar invitations will be sent after this meeting.
- **The GMAC can establish additional meetings/new subcommittee meetings as needed.*

**Do GMAC members have any feedback?
Are there any foreseen conflicts?**

Quarter	Month	GMAC	ExCom	EWG*
Q1	Jan	1/29		
	Feb	2/26	2/12	
	Mar	3/26		3/6
Q2	Apr	4/30	4/16	
	May	5/28		5/15
	Jun	6/25		
Q3	Jul	7/30	7/16	
	Aug	8/27		8/14
	Sep	9/24		
Q4	Oct	10/29	10/15	
	Nov	11/19		11/6
	Dec	12/17		

**Dates to be discussed with EWG members.*

2026 Planning Next Steps



1

- DOER will finalize and distribute the 2026 Workplan as discussed/approved today.

2

- DOER will file the CY26 GMAC budget request with the DPU on 11/7.

3

- DOER will send Zoom links for the proposed GMAC meeting schedule.

4

- GMAC and ExCom will discuss detailed agendas for the first quarter of meetings in December.

Break

Please be ready to start again in ~5 minutes

ESMP Bi-Annual Report: EDC Presentation

Grid Modernization Advisory Council

10.30.2025

EVERSOURCE
ENERGY

nationalgrid

 **Unitil**
energy for life

ESMP September Bi-Annual Report | Overview

Report Overview



Forward Looking Report -
Activities that will be Completed in
2026



Each EDC follows **Uniformed
Template** for September Bi-Annual
Reports



Submitted to **the Department &
the MA Legislature**

Comparison of EDC Reports

• **Alignment Between EDCs**

- EDCs collaborated to align the report formats and scopes.
- Initiatives where EDCs work together (CESAG, LTSP, CVAs, and IEP) were jointly drafted and included in each report.

• **Differences Between EDCs**

- The length of each report varies due to the difference in portfolio size for each Company.
 - National Grid: \$570M
 - Eversource: \$144M
 - Unitil: \$21M

ESMP September Bi-Annual Report | Components

Introduction

- Provides an Overview of ESMP Activities from 2025, including stakeholder outreach and coordination for:
 - Community Engagement Stakeholder Advisory Group (CESAG)
 - Long-Term System Planning Progress (LTSP)
 - Grid Services Compensation Fund
 - Climate Vulnerability Assessments (CVA)
 - Integrated Energy Planning (IEP)

ESMP Investments

- Summary of significant changes to ESMP investments since last bi-annual report
 - Since this is the first bi-annual report, there have not been any changes, and the EDCs will provide additional information in this section in future reports
- A summary of planned and proposed investments, including:
 - Summary of total spend by category (Customer, Program Admin, Network, and Platform) for 2025 and 2026
 - High-level summary of activities by investment category for 2026 and 2027-2030

Planned Work by Investment Category

- Detailed summary of the work that will be completed in 2025 and work planned for 2026 for each individual investment
- Summary of work planned for 2027-2030 for each individual investment.
- Note that work for some investments does not start until 2027

ESMP September Bi-Annual Report | Components

Integrated Energy Planning

- Each EDC provides company specific updates on IEP efforts
- Provides an update on the joint utility work group, which was started in late 2024 and has held meetings and listening sessions

Forecasting

- Each EDC provides updates on improvements to forecasting methodology

Outside funding

- Each EDC provides an overview of the outside funding opportunities pursued/expected to pursue and funding status

Appendix A – Excel Summary of ESMP Investment Costs

- 2025 Project Spending by Total Capital, O&M, and the total of the two for 2025 and 2026 by project.

ESMP September Bi-Annual Report | Eversource's 2026 Activities

Foundational Work

Eversource will advance its Control Room DERMS and System Planning technology building on the foundation set in the 2022-2025 GMP:

- *Customer:* Incorporate the Grid Services Study recommendations into the plans for Summer 2026 initiative to dispatch customer resources **leveraging the success of Eversource Connected Solutions program to address local (substation/feeder) grid needs.**
- *Platform:* Initiate program to upgrade existing control room technology platforms as required to implement newest version of Grid DERMS software and **expand DERMS Phase I capabilities**, including training and process improvements, to integrate DER dispatch into control room activities.

New ESMP Activities

Eversource will initiate new projects to further modernize grid planning and operations, including integration of DER:

- *Customer:* Implement **Summer 2026 DER dispatch program** to compensate customers for providing local grid services at select substation and feeder locations across MA; deploy technology at Eversource solar site to gain insight to support **decreased cost and complexity of utility-scale DER integration**; and deploy first of two phases of **IEP modeling tools.**
- *Platform:* Integrate Edge DERMS used to dispatch aggregated behind-the-meter DER with Phase I Grid DERMS to **enable use of all DER types based on real time system needs in western MA.**
- *Resiliency:* No investments planned in 2025 or 2026.

In 2026, Eversource will expand efforts to develop foundational operational and planning tools in parallel with initiating programs to utilize customer DER as local grid assets.

ESMP September Bi-Annual Report | National Grid's 2026 Activities

Early-Stage Work

National Grid will conduct outreach, complete analysis and designs, and develop roadmaps to set the groundwork for investments. Some activities include:

- *Customer:* An RFP will be released to select a vendor to audit, design, and integrate protocols for **All-Electric New Construction**.
- *Platform:* The cybersecurity team will scope projects and develop a roadmap for **Device Management, Network Convergence, Penetration Testing, and Security Orchestration Automation & Response**.
- *Network:* National Grid is meeting with Mass DOT on their priorities for the **Bridgewater, Charlton, and Westborough EV Charging Stations** and working to advance permitting, design, and scope documents.

Investment Deployment

National Grid will begin to put projects into service. Some activities include:

- *Customer:* Advance **ConnectNow Portal** by deploying real-time interconnection tracking and guidance tools for DER and load customers and begin customer outreach and battery installations in constrained grid areas for the **Income-Eligible Battery VPP Offering**.
- *Platform:* Build 5 new Tier 3 Field Area Network towers to support **Telecom Infrastructure** and advance **DERMS Deployment** by finalizing vendor contracts, beginning system integration, and expanding flexible interconnection offerings.
- *Network:* Upgrade 6 substations with **Expanded VVO & CVR** and Deploy **Early Fault Detection** on 6-8 circuits to proactively prevent outages.

In 2026, National Grid will continue to implement the Company's ESMP investment portfolio by advancing early stage-work and putting projects into service.

ESMP September Bi-Annual Report | Unitil's 2026 Activities

Continuation of GMP Investments

Unitil will continue the deployment of VVO, DERMS and ADMS in 2026. This includes:

- **VVO:** Installation and commissioning of Beech St. S/S and its associated distribution circuits. Pleasant St. S/S and Princeton Rd. S/S and their associated distribution circuits material procurement.
- **DERMS:** Unitil plans to procure and implement a DERMS addition to its ADMS and integrate its two Company-owned DER facilities.
- **ADMS:** Unitil intends to evaluate the specific requirements and advantages of implementing FLISR functionality within its ADMS with the goal of determining whether to proceed with implementation. The Company also plans to begin the evaluation of “meter-based” VVO functionality as an alternative to the presently used model-based functionality.

New ESMP Investment Deployment

Unitil will continue the implantation of other ESMP investments. This includes:

- **Enable Grid Services:** Unitil plans to work on the implementation of a modelling tool to commence the program and will continue to review planning results for constraint solutions in which Compensation Funds could be utilized for capital project deferral or bridge-to-wires scenarios
- **FERC Order 2222:** The Company will continue to work with ISO-NE and the other EDCs to develop and implement the requirements for FERC Order 2222.
- **Cyber Security Enhancements:** Unitil will continue to monitor the cyber security arenas and will implement new strategies and methods as the needs are identified.
- **Automation:** the Company plans to add SCADA to three existing distribution reclosers.
- **Targeted Resiliency:** Unitil plans to begin implementation of its first targeted resiliency project and identify proposed projects for future years.

Questions & Discussion

Close and Next Steps

- The next GMAC meeting is December 4th from 1 – 3 PM.
- Schedule for remainder of the year:

Date	Time	Meeting	Topic
December 4 th	1 – 3 PM	GMAC	Integrated Energy Planning
December 12 th	9 – 4:30 PM	Public Event	The Electric Grid Through a Municipal Lens Pt. 2
December 18 th	9:30 – 10:30 AM	ExCom	2026 Planning

Appendix

Time	Min	"The Future Grid From a Municipal Lens" Working Agenda December 12, 2025 UMass Amherst
8:15	45	Networking
9:00	25	Welcome, Keynote Address, Opening Remarks - Keynote speaker TBD - GMAC Chair provides introduction to ESMPs/GMAC
9:25	45	Panel: What is in the ESMPs? EDC + GMAC member representatives discuss ESMPs as strategic plans, approved investments and implementation of programs
10:10	15	Break
10:25	25	Municipal Lightning Round 4-5 western MA municipal reps present 1 slide of a challenge and/or success their community is facing while navigating electrification
10:50	25	Q&A – Municipal Lightning Round GMAC member facilitates audience Q&A based on municipal presentations
11:30	40	Facilitated Breakout Discussions Municipalities share their questions and insights about grid modernization in their community
12:10	15	Report Out
12:25	5	Close and Next Steps
12:30	30	Optional: Virtual Tour of a Substation EDCs provide optional presentation on how a substation operates and provide context of what upgrades are happening to substations in local communities.
1:00	90	Break for Lunch
2:30	120	EEA Interconnection Workshop EEA hosts roundtable with municipalities to discuss load connection, electrification barriers, customer knowledge gaps, and potential solutions.