

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

# Grid Modernization Advisory Council Executive Committee

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August 9, 2024

# Agenda & Attendance

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- Welcome, Agenda, Roll Call
- 2024 GMAC/ESMP Schedule
- 2025 GMAC Budget Filing Update
- Expanding ExCom Participation
- Stakeholder Engagement Materials Update
- GMAC Logo
- Strategic Planning Post-DPU Order
- Other Discussion Areas
- Close

Roll call alphabetically by voting and then non-voting members

# 2024 ESMP/GMAC Schedule

## AUGUST

M	T	W	TH	F
			1	2
5	6	7	8	9  ExCom Meeting
12	13	14	15	16
19	20	21	22	23
26	27	28	29	30 ESMP Order

## SEPTEMBER

M	T	W	TH	F
2 Labor Day	3	4	5	6
9	10 GMAC Meeting	11	12	13
16	17	18	19	20
23	24	25 EWG Meeting	26	27 ExCom Meeting
30				

## OCTOBER

M	T	W	TH	F
	1	2	3	4
7	8	9	10 POTENTIAL GMAC Meeting	11
14 Indigenous People's Day	15	16	17	18
21	22 POTENTIAL GMAC Meeting	23	24	25
28	29	30	31	

Questions?

## 2025 GMAC Budget Filing Update

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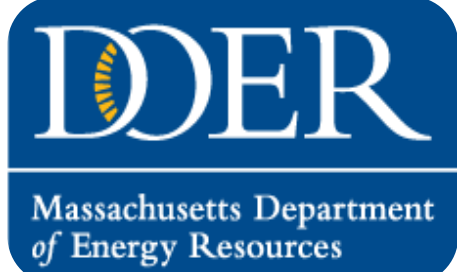
- The DPU **approved our extension request** for the CY2025 GMAC budget filing deadline to on or before **October 18, 2024**. Information to be provided includes:
  - An accounting of budget spend in 2023 and 2024
    - Detailed invoices
    - 2025 consultant work plan
    - 2025 proposed costs by cost category
- DOER and the GMAC consultants are preparing the filing deadline materials and will continue to do so after the ESMP Order.
- The ExCom will meet on September 27, 2024 to review and discuss the CY2025 budget.

## Expanding ExCom Participation

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- A GMAC member expressed interest in participating in the Executive Committee.
- The ExCom Charter specifies 5 voting members that serve three-year terms.
  - 1. Voting Members:
    - a. Department of Energy Resources, acting as the Council Chair
    - b. Attorney General
    - c. MassCEC
    - d. Elected Member
    - e. Elected Member
  - 2. One Non-Voting representative of the Electric Companies
- The Charter and the bylaws are silent on other GMAC voting members listening-in and/or participating but not voting.

**What do ExCom members think about allowing GMAC members to participate (without voting) in the Executive Committee?**



# **Grid Modernization Advisory Council Stakeholder Engagement Materials**

# Background: Structure of Engagement Materials

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## 1. New Page on GMAC Website:

### ➤ Introductory Information

- Concise summary of ESMPs and outcomes of the Order
- Role of the GMAC and why it is important for the clean energy transition
- Roles of different grid planning entities (ex. DOER, DPU, EDCs, CESAG)

### ➤ Supplementary Linked Information

- GMAC pages, relevant DPU orders, utilities' ESMP pages, [MassCEC "Clean Energy Lives Here"](#), EFSB, DOER Office of Community Engagement
- Resources: incentives, bill assistance, contact information

**2. 2“Grid Impacts” Factsheets:** These will be digital and live on a separate GMAC web page dedicated to the ESMPs.

- Primarily fact sheets, incorporating both plain-spoken written language and graphics/images.
- Could include first person narratives and story-telling elements.
- Translated into the top 5 spoken languages in the Commonwealth.

# Factsheet Designs

2 Factsheets Answering 1 Question at 2 different levels

Question example: What is happening with the grid and why should I care about the GMAC/ESMP process?

Factsheet 1  
**101 Level**

**Audiences:**

- Ratepayers
- Low-moderate income (LMI) ratepayers

**Key Messages:**

- Overview of MA Climate goals + relation to grid
- Role of GMAC/ESMP
- Ways for audiences to engage with GMAC/ grid planning

Factsheet 2  
**201 Level**

**Audiences:**

- Municipal leaders
- Communities hosting infrastructure

**Key Messages:**

- How do these processes of updating the grid help MA meet climate goals?
- Ways for audiences to engage with GMAC/grid planning



## Factsheet Feedback Questions

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- What do you think of the design (ex. layout, colors, graphics, etc.)?
- Is the language we are using appropriate?
- Do you think the messages best target the intended audiences at the 101 and 201 levels?
- What are we missing?

101 Level  
Target Audience:  
Ratepayers/LMI  
Ratepayers

# Your Electric Grid, Your Future: Get Involved

Because your electricity should be clean, affordable, and reliable.

## The Grid Modernization Challenge

**1 Climate:** To make our energy use climate-friendly and fossil-fuel-free, we have to update our grid to support electrification for homes, vehicles, and renewable energy projects. Reliability (with minimum outages) needs to be a priority.

**2 Electrification:** The electric grid powers our homes, transit systems, electronics, and so much more. To meet rapidly growing demand, we need to roughly double our electricity supply in the coming decades.



**3 Smart investment:** Grid modernization is a major investment ultimately paid for by you—electricity customers. We need these upgrades to be as cost-effective and strategic as possible.

## How is Massachusetts Addressing This Challenge?

Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Law requires utilities to develop strategic plans for modernizing the electric grid and advancing an equitable clean energy future. The plans must:

- promote renewable energy and energy storage adoption
- improve the grid's reliability and resiliency to the impacts of climate change
- enable electrified transportation and buildings
- minimize impacts on customers

## Get involved with updating your grid!

We want to hear from you! Members of the public are invited to comment on any topics of interest related to the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC). Attend a public meeting, share your thoughts, and sign up for the GMAC newsletter at [mass.gov/gmac](https://mass.gov/gmac). Send us questions or public comments at [MA-GMAC@mass.gov](mailto:MA-GMAC@mass.gov).

The GMAC provides recommendations on best practices for grid modernization planning. The stakeholder group represents many interests and organizations, including low-income consumers, environmental advocacy groups, and the renewable energy industry.



**201 Level**  
 Target Audience:  
 Municipal Leaders/  
 Communities hosting  
 infrastructure

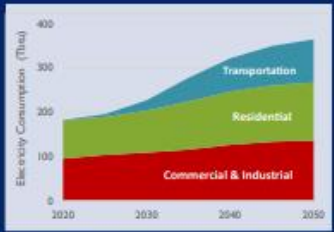
# Your Electric Grid, Your Community

Have a say in your community's  
energy infrastructure!

**A Closer Look:** The Hyde Park Battery Project by Eversource is addressing rising energy demand in several Boston neighborhoods whose electrical substations are already at full capacity. Community input will guide plans for siting and paying for this project to support Boston's clean and reliable energy future.



### Why Modernize the Grid?



We need to double our electricity supply by 2050 to meet the Commonwealth's climate goals as more people purchase electric vehicles and switch from fossil-fuel burning to electric heating systems.

### The Challenge

Our current grid cannot support the rapid electricity growth needed to meet increasing demand and our climate goals. Traditional utility investments (substations, poles, and wires) are not enough. An expanded, modern grid will also need alternative clean energy technologies based in local homes and businesses. All these new resources need to be developed strategically, cost-effectively, and equitably.

### Your Community's Involvement


Throughout the state, every town has a role to play in contributing to grid modernization discussions, promoting and installing new clean technologies, identifying the most cost-effective options for expanding the grid, and minimizing siting issues from new infrastructure installations.



### How Are We Addressing This Challenge?

Massachusetts' 2022 Climate Law requires utility companies to create short- and long-term plans for modernizing the grid that:

- promote an equitable clean energy future that includes renewable energy and energy storage
- improve grid reliability and climate resiliency
- enable electrified transportation and buildings
- maximize net benefits to customers.



#### What Is The GMAC?

A new stakeholder group established by the Climate Law, the Grid Modernization Advisory Council (GMAC) provides advice and recommendations on best practices for utility grid modernization plans.

#### How Can I Represent My Community?

- Attend a public meeting, share your thoughts, and sign up for the GMAC newsletter at [mass.gov/gmac](https://mass.gov/gmac).
- Send us questions or public comments at [MA-GMAC@mass.gov](mailto:MA-GMAC@mass.gov).



## Communications Plan

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- Push communications through distribution channels:
  - State-level email distribution lists (GMAC listserv, EEA's EJ Office)
  - DOER X account
  - DOER Green Communities Division
  - GMAC member organizations and distribution lists
  - EDC communications → aligning messaging on ESMPs/GMAC

**ExCom Members: What channels could you use to amplify these materials?**

## Timeline

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- **August:**
  - Convening focus group on 8/13 (thanks to Marybeth Campbell)
  - Potential message testing through Barr Foundation (thanks to Kathryn Wright).
- **September:** Edits to materials based on DPU Order/feedback.
- **October:** Release materials to the public.



# GMAC Logo Options

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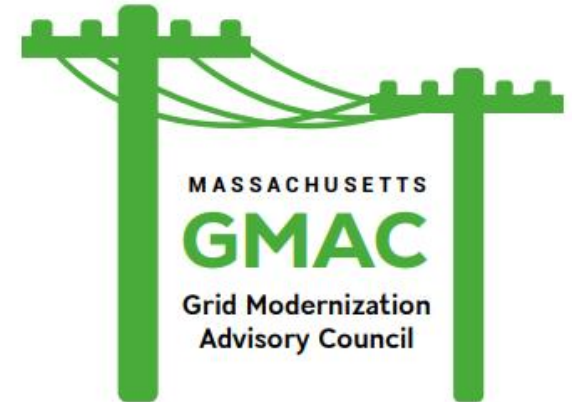
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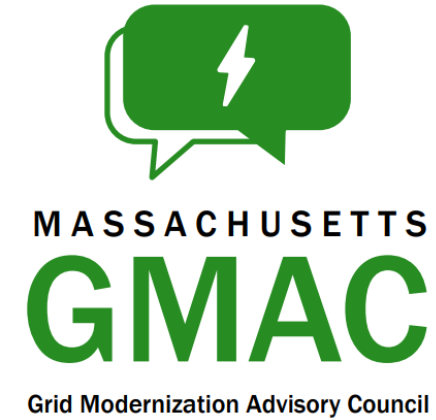
What do you think of these logo designs?

# GMAC Logo Options

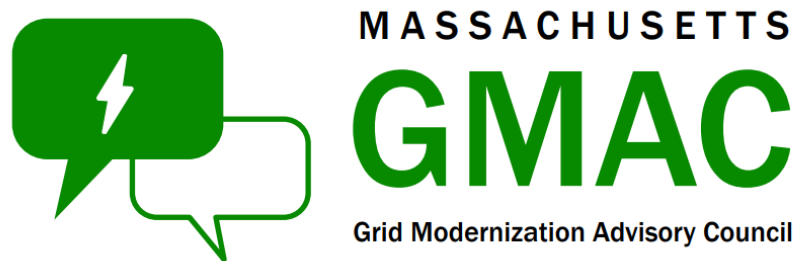
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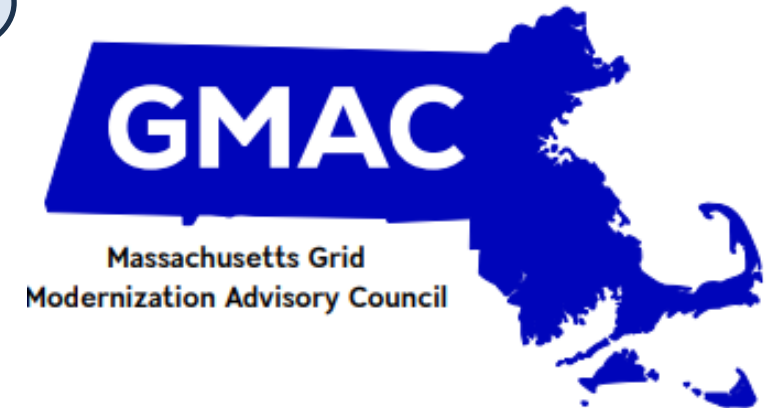
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What do you think of these logo designs?

# Strategic Planning Post DPU Order

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- **Questions for Discussion:**
  - What would the GMAC like to do in 2025?
  - How often should the GMAC meet in 2025?



## Other Discussion Areas

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- **Any other issues or items the Executive Committee would like to discuss?**

## Close and Next Steps

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- Next Executive Committee Meeting is September 27, 2024 from 11 – 12:30 PM.
  - Agenda items:
    - Discuss 2025 GMAC budget filing
    - Discuss October GMAC meeting agenda