



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RESOURCES

# Grid Modernization Advisory Council Equity Working Group

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October 23, 2023

# Agenda

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Item	Time
Welcome and roll call	11:00
Review of meeting goals and agenda and approval of October 10 EWG meeting minutes	11:05
Presentation and discussion: equity metrics not included in the plan (Synapse)	11:10
Review and discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Workforce / economic benefits</li><li>b. Health</li><li>c. Resilience and reliability</li></ul>	11:35
Discussion: draft recommendations	12:15
Public comment	12:30
Preview of upcoming meeting / process for sharing recommendations with the GMAC	12:45
Meeting feedback	12:55

# Review of Meeting Goals and ESMP Review Reminders

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- **Listening Sessions**

- Two sessions have been scheduled with language interpretation services available on an as-needed basis:
  - Monday, October 30, 6–7:30 p.m.
  - Wednesday, November 1, noon to 1:30 p.m.
- GMAC members have received Zoom invitations for these sessions
- 130 individuals have registered to date

- **EDC Technical Sessions**

- Wednesday, November 15, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Tuesday, November 28, 1–5 p.m.

- As practiced in the GMAC meetings, the EDCs should respond to questions or make comments, time permitting, during EWG discussion periods.

# Roll Call

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## Equity Working Group membership

Kathryn Wright, Chair

Chris Modlish

Julia Fox

Erin Engstrom (non-voting)

Mary Wambui

Vernon Walker

Kyle Murray

Larry Chretien

Barr Foundation

Attorney General's Office

Department of Energy Resources

Eversource

Planning Office for Urban Affairs

Clean Water Action

Acadia Center

Green Energy Consumers Alliance

## Consultants

Jennifer Haugh

Chelsea Mattioda

Tim Woolf

GreenerU

Synapse

Synapse

## Meeting Minutes

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- Calling for vote to finalize:
  - October 10<sup>th</sup> GMAC Equity Working Group minutes
- *Motion to approve the October 10 minutes [as distributed/as corrected]?*

# Presentation: Additional Equity Considerations

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- Consultant presentation (10 minutes)
- Equity Working Group discussion

# Additional Equity Considerations: Benefit Cost Analysis

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- Rate impacts can be mitigated by *optimizing* the infrastructure investments and choosing the lowest cost options.
- Optimization of investments requires rigorous and extensive *benefit-cost analyses*
  - Including as much articulation, quantification, and monetization of benefits as possible
  - Including analyses of multiple alternative investment options
    - conventional technologies, DERs, NWAs, delayed investments, etc.
  - Including analyses of discretionary versus non-discretionary investments
  - Including analyses from the utility system perspective
    - This perspective indicates how the investments will affect revenue requirements
- Optimization of investments also requires rigorous and extensive *rate impact analyses*
  - These impacts should be considered as part of the optimization of investments
    - As opposed to an after-the-fact check
  - Rate impact analyses should account for (a) increased costs, (b) reduced sales due to some types of DERs, and (c) increases sales due to other types of DERs

## Additional Equity Considerations: Distribution of Benefits

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- The primary benefits proposed by the EDCs include reliability, resilience, installation of DERs, and compliance with MA climate goals.
- Benefit-cost analyses and rate impact analyses do not provide information on the distribution of costs or benefits (e.g., between EJC and other customers).
  - The distribution of costs is an issue for the DPU and not within the scope of the GMAC review
  - But the distribution of *benefits* is very much within the scope of the GMAC review
- Some benefits are valued differently by different customers.
  - What value do EJC customers place on improved reliability?
  - What value do EJC customers place on improved resilience?
  - Will EJC customers be able to install DERs as much as other customers?
- The ESMPs include a lot of discretionary spending.
  - How much will this discretionary spending benefit EJC customers?
- Most of the infrastructure investments are to reduce risk.
  - How much should EJC communities be required to pay to reduce risk?
- At a minimum, ESMPs should articulate how benefits will be experienced by EJC customers relative to other customers.
  - This will allow for a more informed discussion and decision-making regarding equity



# Equity Metrics Assessment Table

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- *See document:* GMAC Equity Working Group equity metrics assessment table
- Review and discussion:
  - Workforce / economic benefits
  - Health
  - Resilience and reliability

# EWG Draft Recommendations

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- *See document:* GMAC Equity Working Group draft recommendations

## Recommendations process:

<b>Monday, October 23</b>	EWG discusses draft recommendations
<b>Monday, October 30</b>	Written additions and edits to recommendations due by EOD
<b>Monday, October 30</b> <b>Wednesday, November 1</b>	Public listening sessions: additional edits may be suggested
<b>Wednesday, November 1</b>	Updated recommendations document to be sent to EWG with meeting materials
<b>Friday, November 3</b>	EWG to discuss, finalize, and vote on recommendations
<b>Thursday, November 9</b>	EWG to present recommendations to the GMAC

## Public Comment

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- Members of the public are invited to provide comments to the Equity Working Group on any matter related to equity and/or the ESMPs.
- Comments will be limited to 3 minutes.
- Participants may raise their virtual hand to be recognized to speak. Please indicate your name and affiliation when providing a comment.
- Written comments are welcomed at any time to [MA-GMAC@mass.gov](mailto:MA-GMAC@mass.gov). Written public comments will be posted to the GMAC website.

## Close and Meeting Feedback

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- **EWG Meeting #4: Friday, November 3, 2023, 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM**
  - Meeting goal:
    - Vote on final recommendations for the GMAC
- **Upcoming GMAC meetings**
  - Thursday, November 9, 1–4 p.m. — discuss draft recommendations
  - Thursday, November 16, 1–4 p.m. — approval final recommendations
- **Meeting feedback**
  - Strengths and improvables