



MASSACHUSETTS
**DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY RESOURCES**

Solar Canopy Working Group

Virtual Kickoff Meeting

28 March 2025

Chaired by

Cobi Frongillo



Background

- **2024 Climate Act (“An Act Promoting A Clean Energy Grid, Advancing Equity And Protecting Ratepayers”)** directs DOER to convene a stakeholder working group to **develop recommendations to support solar canopies in the Commonwealth**
- Timeline coincides with DOER’s review and revision of the Solar Massachusetts Renewable Target (SMART) program
- Massachusetts’ *Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050* identifies 27 – 34 GW of solar needed by 2050

Group Charge

Section 124 of Chapter 239 of the Acts of 2024 direct the group to:

*“...develop **recommendations for regulatory and legislative changes** that may be necessary to encourage the construction and operation of solar power generating canopies. The recommendations shall be designed to contribute to the state’s greenhouse gas emission limits and sublimits established pursuant to chapter 21N of the General Laws and **facilitate the development and deployment of solar canopies** in a cost-effective manner...”*

Solar Canopies

- SMART [Straw Proposal](#), as last presented on July 30, 2024, defines canopy projects as:
 - “a Solar Tariff Generating Unit with the majority of the solar capacity installed on a raised structure elevated high enough to maintain the function of the area beneath the canopy”
- **Example projects:** parking lots, walkways, canals, gazebos, carports, pergolas
- For the purposes of this group, solar canopies will **not** include agrivoltaics projects



Membership

In accordance with the legislation, the following 11 members have been appointed:

Role	Appointee
DOER Designee (<i>Chair</i>)	Cobi Frongillo <i>Deputy Director, Renewable & Alternative Energy, DOER</i>
Commercial Real Estate Sector	Matthew Connolly <i>Co-Chair, Environment and Energy, Nutter</i>
Residential Real Estate Sector	Sonia Patano <i>Senior Vice President, Property Management, GID</i>
Organized Labor Industry	Kevin Brousseau <i>Secretary-Treasurer, Massachusetts AFL-CIO</i>
Solar Energy Industry	Valessa Souter-Kline <i>Northeast Regional Director, SEIA</i>
Environmental Group	Amy Boyd Rabin <i>Vice President, Policy & Regulatory Affairs, ELM</i>
Construction Industry	Gregory Beeman <i>President, ABC Massachusetts</i>
Electric Utility	Brian Rice <i>Director, Customer Solar Programs, Eversource</i>
Local Government	Mike Ossing <i>Chair, Energy and Environment Policy Committee, MMA</i>
Expert in energy siting	Jessica Robertson <i>Director, Policy and Business Development, New Leaf</i>
Expert in solar and energy efficiency	Heather Takle <i>President & CEO, PowerOptions</i>

Proposed Timeline

In accordance with the legislation, we propose the following timeline:

Date	Deliverable	Details
March 28	Virtual kickoff: Overview	
April 11	Hybrid Meeting #1: Level-setting	<i>review of MA policies/data, developer/agency presentations</i>
April 25	Hybrid Meeting #2: Brainstorming	<i>discussion of stakeholder ideas, other states</i>
May 2	Hybrid Meeting #3: Outlining	<i>report outline, proposed recommendations</i>
May 16	Draft recommendations	
May 19-30	Group review and revision	
May 30	Hybrid Meeting #4: Finalizing	<i>if needed</i>
June 2-13	DOER/EEA review	
June 16-27	Governor review	
June 27	Hybrid Meeting #5: Wrap up	<i>if needed</i>
June 30	Submit report	

Next Steps

Scheduling meetings.

- Chair will send a survey shortly for meeting availability
- Currently planning on 2-hour hybrid meetings (in person option at DOER's Beacon Hill office)
- Eyeing Friday or Wednesday afternoons, if that works for the team

Preparing topics.

- Chair will reach out to some members and external stakeholders about preparing a short presentation for an upcoming meeting
- Please let me know if you have any topics or stakeholders that you think would be valuable!



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Thank You!