

GWSA Implementation Advisory Committee (IAC) Meeting

June 9, 2023, 9:30 AM – 12:00 PM

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Meeting Minutes – *Approved*

Welcome, approving the 10/5/22 IAC meeting minutes, agenda overview

Undersecretary Antos called the meeting together at 9:05am with quorum reached. She also introduced herself and asked each IAC member/delegates to introduce themselves.

No discussion of the draft minutes for the last IAC meeting. Steve Long moved to approve the minutes. Meeting minutes were approved by majority.

2050 CECP Update and Priorities Moving Forward

Undersecretary Antos introduced Melissa Mittelman. Melissa then provided a summary of the Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2050 (2050 CECP). The 2050 CECP goal is achievement of the Commonwealth's greenhouse gas emissions limit of at least 85% below the 1990 baseline level and net zero emissions in 2050.

Undersecretary Antos provided an overview of the new Administration's areas of increased focus, noting that the slides do not encapsulate the many other efforts that continue to be pursued and implemented.

Transportation:

Current Decarbonization Tools

- Vehicle emissions standards (via CARB) mandating EVs as an increasing proportion of annual sales
- MOR-EV rebate program
- Fleet charging grants and advisory services
- Zoning strategies like MBTA Communities

Areas of Increased Focus

- Improving EV incentives and support with updates to MOR-EV
- Deploying EV charging infrastructure at scale, accounting for grid integration (via the Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council)
- Exploring the role of EVs in demand response programs

Buildings:

Current Decarbonization Tools

- Electrification pilots and demonstrations
- Building codes (Stretch & Specialized)
- Mass Save incentives

Areas of Increased Focus

- Launching a Clean Heat Standard
- Easing the customer experience of various building decarbonization solutions (currently scoping Clearinghouse models), with a focus on Environmental Justice populations
- Transitioning the natural gas system
- Establishing a “climate bank”

Power:

Current Decarbonization Tools

- Portfolio standards
- Procurements (OSW, solar, regional projects)
- Load management (largely energy efficiency, storage)
- Integration & transmission

Areas of Increased Focus

- Advancing load management with virtual power plants, efficient use of the grid, and demand-side solutions
- Removing barriers to and further engaging with EJ populations on responsible clean-energy infrastructure development
- Working with regional partners on clean generation and transmission
- Increasing opportunities for out-of-state clean generation
- Ensuring an electrification-ready grid

Natural and Working Lands:

Current Decarbonization Tools

- Grants for land acquisition, conservation, and tree planting grants
- Healthy soils incentives & technical assistance
- Forest management incentives
- Wetlands restoration

Areas of Increased Focus

- Developing a holistic land-use strategy
- Incorporating Indigenous technical knowledge
- Deploying sustainable management strategies via the Forest Climate Initiative
- Incorporating resilience in environmental regulations and permitting

Resilience, Workforce, and Equity:

Massachusetts’ Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs views the following as central components of its Climate work, even if they do not have direct GHG mitigation impact.

- Building Climate-Resilient Communities
 - Launching the Office of Climate Science
 - Rolling out MVP 2.0

- Developing a statewide framework for resilience progress tracking
- Building a Climate-Ready Workforce
 - Working with labor unions to increase training for new industry entrants and incumbent workers
 - Developing a Climate Service Corp
 - Expanding awareness & resources
- Ingraining Environmental Justice Into Everything We Do
 - Prioritizing environmental justice populations who have been historically marginalized: low-income residents, communities of color and residents who lack English proficiency
 - Aligning the Environmental Justice Council (EJC), internal EJ Task Force, Interagency EJ Working Group, Massachusetts EJ Table around a consistent mission and vision

A summary of questions, comments and responses is below.

- Kate Dineen encouraged the administration to consider an increased focus on enhancing public transit access.
- Kurt Roth stated that the Commonwealth should streamline retrofits to lower costs and increase benefits, make more cost efficient, as part of customer experience
- Michelle Manion questioned how we could encourage more onsite solar as part of building retrofit efforts.
- Paula Garcia asked when the Technical Potential of Solar Study is being released and will the study go into potential of providing grid modernization. Undersecretary Antos noted the release is imminent and that we can use the study to support municipalities with community aggregation. There will be a story map of the various solar siting areas.
- Steve Long commented that the LU/NBS working group will have more to say about these NWL efforts during the workgroup report out but noted that he's excited NWL are called out as their own chapter, separate from carbon sequestration. He also noted that he supported when the Climate Justice WG met with each WGs to make sure sector-specific policy recommendations consider equity and apply the EJ lens, and appreciated how the EJ chapter in the CECPs reflected those recommendations. Would like a continuation of that approach.
- Michelle Manion seconded Steve Long's comment that NWL standing alone as its own sector is important and supports the wholistic approach to NWL recognizing the intersections with transportation and buildings.
- Sarah Simon questioned if there can be more information about the Climate Bank. Undersecretary Antos noted that more information will be coming soon on what a Climate Bank will look like in MA including how we can initially stand something up and phased overtime. EEA and OCIR are working together on how the many pieces fit together in terms of grants, incentives, etc.
- Gaurub Basu commented that he is excited for OCIR establishment and is interested in collaboration with the state on public health impact research.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Engagement Plan

Undersecretary Antos introduced Jonathan Schrag, Deputy Climate Chief at the Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience (OCIR). Undersecretary Antos noted the importance of OCIR in ensuring a whole-of-government, integrated approach to the administration's climate priorities.

Jonathan Schrag shared his background and more information about the OCIR. The office currently has a staff of 3 and may increase to staff of 8, will have a different focus than EEA—focus a holistic approach to climate action and implementation. Expressed appreciation for the IAC be a part of a courteous and productive participatory process. He then provided an overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant and Commonwealth’s planning process. OCIR will hire a process manager and an engagement manager for the CPRG work.

Non-competitive \$250 million in total:

- \$3 million for each state
- \$1 million for Metropolitan areas (Boston and Worcester and southeastern Massachusetts)

The goal of the CPRG process is threefold:

1. Support analysis into a small number of “priority” climate actions as a foundation to compete for a \$4.6 billion competitive round of funding for CPRG “Implementation Grants” in 2024.
2. Extend analysis of the full suite of measures included in the Clean Energy Climate Plan
3. Match the entire range of federal funds from IRA and BIL programs can help achieve climate action plans.

Timeline:

- Submit applications with a detailed workplan (15 pages) April 28;
- Funds released to states Summer 2023
- Workplan execution June-December
- Priority Climate Action Plan due March 2024
- Implementation Application January 2024

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG): Massachusetts Goals

- Analyze the benefits and costs of measures that reduce climate pollution;
- Plan to optimally match the full range of federal climate funding available under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act with the Commonwealth’s climate actions;
- Deepen state government’s engagement with communities across the Commonwealth around climate investments.

Stakeholder Consultation Elements of the Statewide CPRG Planning Process

1. Environmental Justice Consultation. The primary vehicle for engagement with environmental justice stakeholders will be existing internal and external bodies such as: the EJ Council, the internal EJ Taskforce, the cross-secretariat interagency working group, the advocacy-led MA EJ Table, the Attorney General’s EJ Office, as well as public health institutions to assess public health outcomes on EJ populations.
2. Stakeholders via state-convened councils: GWSA IAC meetings, Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC), Grid Modernization Advisory Council and Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Coordinating Council meetings.
 - Provide feedback on prioritized climate action measures

- Provide feedback on scope of costs and benefits
 - Provide information and perspective on alignment of federal funding with CECF goals
- 3. Municipalities via the Green Communities Program network and communications channels and Regional Planning Agencies bimonthly MARPA meetings and individual RPA consultations
- 4. Labor via monthly touchpoints with AFL-CIO, Building Trades Council and additional labor organizations as relevant
- 5. Others via consistent topical engagement on decarbonization.

A summary of questions, comments and responses is below.

- Steve Long questioned how the CPRG consider retaining carbon storage and enhancing carbon sequestration from NWL? Jonathon Schrag stated NWL is incorporated in the CPRG workplan. Carbon sequestration is talked about as negative emissions.
- Kurt Roth commented that he appreciates the systematic approach but asked how to address sectors that are more challenging to decarbonize? Jonathon Schrag stated that the planning process of the CPRG is where MA maps out what is needed to get done.
- Steve Long asked if the EPA is asking for new sources of funding to be identified. Jonathon Schrag stated that the Commonwealth will need to assess what existing state and federal fundings are available now and what further are needed. He also asked what the timeframe of the CPRG is. Jonathon Schrag stated that it is a 4-year process with 1 year for the prioritized measures.
- Manion commented it would be helpful to get information on how EPA is scoring these grant applications. Jonathon Schrag stated that the EPA has yet to public the guidance on many of the details, but there are a number of technical assistance/training webinars that have been conducted on the US EPA CPRG webpage.
- Paula Garcia stated that the scoring should incorporate potential harms to low income and disadvantaged communities. Jonathon Schrag stated that the commonwealth will be closely working with EJ communities and consider cumulative impacts.

IAC Work Group Updates

Undersecretary Antos thanked the workgroup chairs and members of the workgroups for their important work to date. She then called on the workgroup chairs to provide a report out of any workgroup work since the last IAC meeting.

- Buildings WG: Chair Julie Curti stated that she is looking for a co-chair. She also noted that the WG needs time to dig into the Clean Heat Commission report and looks forward to supporting the CPRG.
- Climate Justice WG: Chair Gaurab Basu is also interested in selecting a new co-chair. The group will continue to measure and understand how to build out a clean energy economy and mitigate EJ issues along with working to measure air pollution.

- Land Use WG: Steve Long have not met formally but have worked collaboratively on shared documents and emails. The WG looks forward to reconvening and providing insight to implementation, identifying gaps and funding needs.
- Power WG: Caitlin Peale Sloan was absent.
- Transportation WG: There have been some changes in the membership. The WG have not met but look forward to reconvening.

Undersecretary Antos appreciated connecting with each IAC member and workgroup chairs before the IAC meeting, and value their interest in cross-disciplinary approach.

Public Comments

Undersecretary Antos invited observers of the IAC meeting to raise their hands to be called on for questions or comments.

- Tina asked when is the media campaign being implemented?
 - EEA is working on a Climate Campaign as recommended by the Clean Heat Commission and included in the 2050 CECP. This project will be launched in the fall.
- Joel Wool noted how multiple state programs, the CECP, etc. do not prioritize public housing and it is critical to ensure in forward thinking planning. It is critical that consideration of the Buildings sector understand the unique needs of, historic disinvestment in, and successfully partnerships achieved through public housing. Particularly true in these areas:
 - Retrofit programs
 - Rate design
 - Pursuing federal resources
- Anna Vanderspek commented that she was glad to see the GWSA IAC working again and is looking forward to engaging on:
 - Offshore wind, making sure projects get online ASAP
 - Clean Heat Standard
 - Transportation particularly rapid electrification and VMT reduction.
- Anna asked about the Grid Modernization Advisory Council and if there are ways for the public to comment on the CPRG.
 - GMAC has been meeting since March, Undersecretary Judge is chairing that commission and DOER is leading the council.
 - Public comments are welcomed on the CPRG and there will be at least 2 distinct points that would be good to provide public input: 1) initial process 2) analysis.
- Janet Sinclair stated that Biomass is still in the APS and can be used by MLPs and asked if the IAC trying to address this?
 - There will be a Biomass Study conducted by the EEA.

Undersecretary Antos asked for a motion to adjourn. Gaurab Basu motioned, Steve Long seconded. Meeting adjourned at 12:00.

Documents or exhibits used at the meeting (posted online afterwards)

1. Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2023
3. Meeting Slides

Attendance 6/9/2022

IAC Member/Delegates in attendance:

Organization	Name
A Better City (ABC)	Kate Dineen
Boston University	<i>absent</i>
City of Boston	Alison Brizius
Conservation Law Foundation (CLF)	<i>absent</i>
Commonwealth Green Low Income Housing Coalition	Dave McMahon
Environmental Entrepreneurs (E2)	Sarah Simon
Environmental League of Massachusetts (ELM)	<i>absent</i>
Eversource	Tracy Gionfriddo
Fraunhofer Center for Sustainable Energy Systems (CSE)	Kurt Roth
Mass Audubon	Michelle Manion
Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)	<i>absent</i>
Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC)	Jason Viadero
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Julie Curti
National Grid	Steve Woerner
Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC)	Tim Snyder
The Nature Conservancy (TNC)	Steve Long
Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS)	Paula Garcia
Cambridge Health Alliance	Gaurab Basu

Others in Attendance:

Affiliation (if applicable)

Affiliation (if applicable)	Name
Boston Housing Authority (BHA)	Joel Wool
City of Boston	Aladdine Joroff
Conservation Law Foundation	Katherine Lee Goyette
Department of Energy Resources (DOER)	Catie Snyder
DOER	Eric Friedman
DOER	Seth Federspiel
Department of Public Utilities (DPU)	Chris Chan
DPU	Megan Wu
Elders Climate Action	Paul Reisberg
Energy Solutions	Claire Miziolek
Energy Solutions	Sarah Griffith

Environmental League of Massachusetts	David Melly
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)	Katherine Antos
EEA	Patrick Forde
EEA	Hanh Chu
EEA	Daniel Gatti
EEA	Stephanie Cooper
EEA	Rishi Reddi
EEA	Prajna Cauvery
EEA	Sarah Basham
EEA	Dunbar Carpenter
EEA	Carline Lemoine
EEA	Maria Belen Power
EEA	Melissa Mittelman
Green Energy Consumers	Anna Vanderspek
Green Energy Consumers	Elizabeth Cameron
Health Care Without Harm	Tim Cronin
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center (MassCEC)	Peter McPhee
MassCEC	Jennifer Applebaum
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)	Sharon Weber
MassDEP	Christine Kirby
Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT)	Hayes Morrison
Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife	Rebecca Quinones
Massachusetts Forest Alliance	Chris Egan
Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC)	Leah Robins
Office of the Governor	Jonathan Schrag
UCS	Kevin Shen
No affiliation specified	Laurie Heffron
	Tina Grosowsky
	Laurie Heffron
	Josie Ahlberg
	Mark Marshall
	Lisa Adams
	Lisa Rodrigues Adams
	Arnie Epstein
	Jeff Clark
	Lynne Greenwood
	Nancy Eriksson
	Dave Damm-Luhr
	Brandon Wood
	Cathy Kristofferson
	Sherry Morgan
	Amy Meltzer
	Allan Fierce
	Janice Henderson

Audrey Horst
Mike Duclos
Carolyn Sellars
Roy Harvey
Amanda
Chris Mesfin
Charlie Myers
Launa Zimmaro
Janet Sinclair
Haley