

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 24, 2023
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rachel Carson State Office Building,
and via Teams**

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

In-Person:

Marc Mondor
Elizabeth Marx
Adam Walters (for Neil Weaver)
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)
David Edinger (for Gladys Brown Dutrieuille)

Online:

Chairperson Steve Krug
Jason Kelso
Lindsay Baxter
Kim Kipin-McDonald
Jarret Gibbons
Jennifer Greenberg
Perry Stambaugh
Glendon King
Christopher Sandvig
Zachery Smith
Flora Cardoni
Pat Henderson
Ben Sanchez

MEMBERS ABSENT: Paul Morris, Terry Bossert, Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

In-Person: Lindsay Byron, Megan Porta, Kelsey Irvine, Kerry Campbell, Laura Rigge, David Althoff, Christopher Nafe, Justin Dula

INVITED GUESTS: Adam Agalloco, Cassandra Bhat, Martha Hart, Alec Bernstein, Joel Hicks

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: In-person: Franklin Egan. **Online:** Alex Da Silva, Jenna Reedy, Grant Gulibon, Roy Gothie, Melissa Laffen, Joseph Cullen, Daniel Mayer, Alice Lu, Elizabeth Davis, Nick Troutman

MEETING:

The October 24, 2023, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairperson Marc Mondor. With 14 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting; a quorum was established.

MINUTES: The minutes of the August 22, 2023, CCAC meeting were presented to the Committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Ms. Marx and seconded by Mr. Czarnecki. The motion to approve the minutes was carried by a voice vote and passed.

MEETING SUMMARY: (This narrative provides a summary of the discussions that took place during the meeting. It is not a transcript of the proceedings.)

2024 Climate Impacts Assessment & Climate Action Plan

Ms. Porta provided a brief summary of the comments received from the committee on the CIA/CAP drafts highlighting their feedback and responses from EPO. Their feedback included comments around EJ considerations, health impacts, inclusion of droughts within the report, and analysis of carbon capture utilization and storage.

Mr. Agalloco reviewed the overall status of the “Climate Impacts Assessment” and upcoming milestones for this project and reminded committee members that these drafts will continue to evolve and change based on feedback. Mr. Bernstein shared progress to date on the CIA and updates to the report from the prior 2021, including improved models based on the latest science (CMIP6), updated climate projects (Shared Socioeconomic Pathways – SSPs), the latest attribution science to understand impacts of climate change, new literature, and additional deep dives on environmental justice and health. Mr. Bernstein highlighted key findings about the climate impacts Pennsylvania will face. Pennsylvania will see increased temperatures, increased rainfall, and increased weather variability.

Mr. Bernstein provided an overview of the discussion of climate attribution science that will be included in the report and shared the plan to provide analysis on climate events outside of Pennsylvania that will have impacts within the state (e.g. summer 2023 wildfires). This report will also include findings from the community outreach in environmental justice communities led by PA DEP EPO around strategies to address climate change. Mr. Bernstein shared that the next drafts of the CIA will include an additional risk analysis of primary hazards Pennsylvania will face due to climate change, a new section on economic opportunities, and three deep dives for further analysis.

Discussion: Ms. Marx asked a question about the framing for the “economic opportunities” section especially given the negative economic impacts that communities will face (i.e. where will costs around insurance or additional heating costs be addressed). Mr. Bernstein shared that these impacts will be addressed across the different chapters since they are interconnected, but the economic opportunity will be a section that can highlight opportunities for job creation (i.e. EV charging network installation). Ms. Bhat clarified that Act 70 specifically calls for this type of analysis and responds to prior feedback from the committee. Mr. Krug shared that he believes additional economic opportunities exist in both tourism and agriculture. He also shared a few additional references for consideration within the report.¹² Mr. Sandgiv asked a question about priorities for the EJ assessment and Mr. Bernstein shared that we have 3 deep dives planned that will consider the EJ impacts, however, the EJ analysis will be continued throughout the report. He also inquired about the impacts of climate migration to Pennsylvania and referenced the Pittsburgh Resilience Plan. Mr. Bernstein confirmed that this will be considered within the report for both human and flora/fauna

¹ <https://climateintegrity.org/uploads/media/Pennsylvania-ClimateCostStudy-2023.pdf>

² https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231004-laudate-deum.html

migration. Mr. Mondor shared that this could have impacts on potential zoonotic diseases from animal migration. Mr. Agalloco shared that economic opportunities need to be better articulated around benefits within Pennsylvania compared to more national benefits (i.e. EV creation jobs within Pennsylvania, Clean Hydrogen). Mr. Walters clarified that there will be additional analysis for these types of economic benefits within the CAP and that there will be an updated analysis given the national hydrogen hub investments. Mr. Czarnecki suggested that future drafts have a system to differentiate new and changed content. Ms. Byron clarified that we do want comments on earlier drafts from the committee to help steer the direction and will work with ICF to clarify which elements need to be reviewed by when.

Mr. Agalloco reviewed the progress and approach for the 2024 Climate Action Plan (CAP) including updates to existing CAP strategies, analysis of migration and adaption, and updated strategy modeling. He shared a quick overview of the projects and modeling and stressed the importance of early feedback to help inform these strategies so they can be incorporated into modeling. Ms. Hart reviewed the initial draft strategy list across the various sectors (electric power generation, industrial, transportation, residential and commercial building, fuel and gas systems, carbon capture and sequestration, land use and agriculture, and waste) for mitigation. The CAP will include adaption strategies as well and engagement is underway with commonwealth agencies to help define and shape these approaches. Mr. Agalloco provided an overview of the template for each of the strategies to consider costs, benefits and implementation considerations. Finally, Mr. Agalloco reviewed the framework and criteria for DEP's legislative recommendations. Mr. Sandvig shared his support for the inclusion of transportation shift within the strategies and asked about the inclusion of land-use to encourage transportation use within the strategies. Mr. A shared that there is still the ability to shape the specifics of the policies and stated that the funding mechanisms are still in review. Mr. Campbell shared that PennDOT will be exploring funding sources within this area. Mr. Mondor asked about the evolving nature of IRA/IIJA funding availability. Mr. Campbell shared that Pennsylvania is working to maximize funding and will operate under those assumptions for the CAP. Ms. Marx inquired about what will be included in the modeling to help understand the cost comparison and impacts for the policy options (i.e. onsite solar vs. grid-scale solar for individual consumers vs. systems). Mr. Agalloco shared that the modeling will be a bottom-up approach and examine the costs associated with those measures at a systems and state scale. Additionally, there will be additional analysis to examine these reviews how these costs will be shared at the household/individual lens (i.e. energy burdens, costs of a retrofit), however, he clarified that it is not the expectation at this time to include place-based analysis for all measures. Mr. Krug shared ideas for a few additional measures including low-carbon procurement for the state, municipal planning code, Commonwealth-owned net zero buildings, and new low-carbon materials (mass timber, low-carbon steel, low-carbon concrete). Mr. Agalloco shared that these can be taken into consideration for further development of the strategies. Mr. Krug also inquired about the different BAU cases, especially, the inclusion of RGGI. Ms. Byron clarified that in the 2021 plan RGGI was included as business as usual and will be included in BAU for 2024 plan. Mr. Agalloco clarified that RGGI revenues won't be included. Mr. Krug responded that it will be critical to note the assumptions made around RGGI. Ms. Kim shared that aluminum should be included and that there are opportunities for industrial clusters to support with stakeholder engagement for different types of decarbonization approaches. Mr. Walters shared some feedback on the categorization of the sectors that there may be potential benefits across the different groups, especially around hydrogen and CCUS.

Public Comment

Mr. Egan shared a few comments on strategies including within the land-use around land conservation and referenced his recent work with Shippensburg University analyzing farmland management and preservation. Additionally, in the fuel systems category, he encouraged the report to examine methane emissions from coal mines. Mr. Agalloco shared that mining emissions are included in the current inventory and welcomed Mr. Egan to share his research.

DEP's Updated EJ Policy

Mr. Dula, Director of DEP's Office of Environmental Justice, provided brief background information on how environmental justice relates to DEP's missions and the historical legacy of EJ. He highlighted key moments in the environmental justice movement and important legislation nationwide and within Pennsylvania, such as the 2021 Executive Order. He stressed that environmental justice concerns are interdisciplinary and require coordination across agencies to ensure concerns are addressed. The EJ participation policy was introduced to provide feedback. In 2018, there were efforts to update the policy and in 2022 there was a new initiative to collect additional feedback for a new policy. There were significant changes between spring 2022 and the release in 2023, there will be an additional public outreach for the final policy adoption. Within the new policy, there is an emphasis on proactive community engagement, enhanced public participation, consideration of incorporating EJ into regulatory and compliance, and inclusion of climate initiatives. Mr. Dula reviewed the tools available to view EJ communities within the state and shared about the new updates to the "Penn EnviroScreen" tool that includes 32 additional factors to identify environmental justice areas (i.e. pollution burden, vulnerabilities analysis) and shared that methodology for this tool is available publicly. This tool both allows analysis by official DEP EJ areas but also allows analysis by other factors if relevant for stakeholders. Mr. Dula shared the contact information for the central office and regional staff.

Mr. Adams inquired about the definition of "environmental crisis" and Mr. Dula shared that there is not a specific definition but would include to events like the recent East Palestine train derailment. Ms. Marx shared she felt that this work included many of the comments she heard in the process but wanted to inquire if the Penn EnviroScreen tool will incorporate future climate impacts (i.e. how the flooding will impact environmental justice communities first). Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Agalloco confirmed that the CIA analysis will leverage the PA DEP maps and information will be shared with the OEJ.

Local Climate Action

Mr. Joel Hicks of the Carlisle Borough shared a brief overview of their engagement with DEP's Local Climate Action Program in 2017 and the initial inventory work produced as a result of that engagement. Following this work, the Borough developed a climate action plan and climate action committee in 2020 to help inform this work. He shared their approved reduction pathways to help mitigate their emissions and their progress to date across the residential buildings sector, transportation, commercial buildings, municipal operations, and waste management. He shared highlights from their work to date such as, investments to support residential updates, efforts to reduce vehicle miles traveled in partnership with Vision Zero work, and work within the local government operations to examine local ordinances around parking requirements. He highlighted a few areas that local communities could use additional support from the state to reach their targets, for example, updated building codes, addressing incentive issues for

energy efficiency with landlords, community solar and soft costs of rooftop solar, traffic control, and EV charging networks.

Mr. Sandvig asked about which part of NEVI he needs clarification on and how his experience has been working with PennDOT. Mr. Hicks shared that he has struggled a bit in engagement with PennDOT with the thru traffic and heavy vehicle diversion, but there has been some success in the past. Ms. Marx shared that the PA PowerSwitch may not be accomplishing the goal of clean energy targets given the requirements for the definition of “green energy” within that program. Mr. Hicks recognized the limitations but also emphasized the gap in knowledge for most residents about the opportunities. Mr. Agacollo shared that adding authority to review can be a best practice to help focus efforts. Mr. Mondor shared he also sees opportunities for community solar and he suggested Mr. Hicks articulate the benefits to the Carlisle community. Mr. Hicks shared that there is a missed opportunity in Carlisle from the lack of the community solar. Mr. Nafe shared that borough codes specifically allows for the “opt-out” for electricity distribution and several other communities across the state have models for solar co-ops that may be relevant for the borough.

Updates

Shared Energy Manager

Mr. Nafe shared an update on the shared energy program. The Shared Energy Manager (SEM) program was designed to assist local governments in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with on-the-ground, practical support from a professional energy manager contracted by the DEP Energy Programs Office to conduct energy assessments, renewable energy studies, and other services to implement elements of their climate action plans. The final contractor will be confirmed by the end of the week and 20 participants have been selected for the cohort for this year.

Climate Action for Environmental Justice Communities

Ms. Byron shared an update that the information collected during this effort is being incorporated into the CIA/CAP and the final version of the report will be distributed to the committee. There is a follow-up project with the contractor, Fourth Economy, to help act on the recommendations from this engagement.

IIJA/IRA funded programs

Preventing Outages and Enhancing the Resilience of the Electric Grid (40101(d))

Ms. Byron provided an update on the 40101D program to to improve the resilience of the electric grid against disruptive events. EPO announced the Pennsylvania Grid Resilience Grants (PA GRG) Program is available to eligible applicants for the 2023 program year. The program will collect and review all Concept Papers submitted by 11:59PM on November 14, 2023.

Inflation Reduction Act (IRA)-Home Energy Rebates

Additionally, Ms. Byron provided an update on the Inflation Reduction Act Home Energy Rebates, Home Efficiency Rebate Program (HOMES) and Home Electrification Rebates Program (HEAR). The HEAR Program will provide point-of-sale consumer discounts to enable low- and moderate-income households across America to electrify their homes. These point-of-sale rebates are an immediate, off-the-top discount when making qualifying electrification purchases. The HOMES Rebate program is meant to encourage performance-based residential energy efficiency retrofits. EPO contracted with Deloitte for

technical assistance related to the development of the HOMES and HEAR programs. EPO has received the early administration funds awards for both the HOMES and HEAR programs on 9/28/23 and a kickoff with the United States Department of Energy was held on 10/16/23. These funds will be used to hire a 3rd party contractor to design and then implement each program. The contractor will assist EPO in developing the program applications and blueprints required for the full award of each program.

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG)

Ms. Byron provided a brief update on climate outreach over the past few months, including CPRG engagement with MSAs and state partners. DEP is coordinating with the regional planning organizations which are the lead organizations managing CPRG grants for the MSAs - Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), and Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC). DEP has also held two inter-agency meetings to coordinate across state government on the CPRG Plans. These meetings were held on September 5th and October 31st, and engaged participants from 33 state agencies, offices, and bureaus. DEP is planning additional stakeholder outreach within communities with Environmental Justice concerns, with industrial-sector stakeholders, and with local government stakeholders in the coming months.

Next Meeting

Ms. Byron reminded committee members that the Committee that the next meeting will be held December 19, 2023.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Walters and seconded by Mr. Czarnecki. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:59 p.m.