

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
October 21, 2025
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rachel Carson State Office
Building, and via Teams**

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

In-Person:

Joe Sherrick (for Chairperson DeFrank)
Patrick Henderson
Jaret Gibbons
Marc Mondor

Flora Cardoni
Kevin Warren
Steven Krug
Rep. Ben Sanchez
Rep. Perry Stambaugh
Terry Bossert
Zachery Smith
Christopher Sandvig
Paul Morris

Online:

Vice Chairperson Lindsay Baxter
Adam Walters (for Secretary Rick Siger)
Jason Kelso

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe, Secretary Cindy Dunn, Jennifer Greenburg, Chairperson Elizabeth Marx

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

In-Person: Lindsay Byron, Chris Nafe, Danielle Lewis, David Althoff, Kelsey Irvine, Lena Smith, Naimul Islam, Maria Solomidou, Josh Dziubek, Chloe Wilson, Megan Porta, Amanda Amsbaugh

Online: Laura Rigge, Catherine Tulley, Robert Reiley, Lauren Imgrund

INVITED GUESTS: Scott Stuccio (PEMA)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In Person: Thomas Bailey

Online: Glendon King, Trent Machamer, David Hess, Nate Eachus, Roy Gothie, Mariana Fletcher, Emily Eyster, Grant Gulibon, Kristina Snurkowski, Andrew McMenamin, Paul DiRenzo

MEETING: The October 21, 2025, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:13 a.m. by Vice Chair Lindsay Baxter. With 15 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting; a quorum was established.

MINUTES: The June 24, 2025, CCAC meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. Vice Chair Baxter asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Marc Mondor made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Joe Sherrick. Mr. Adam Walters suggested a minor change to the attendance list to update Secretary Siger's title. No one

opposed the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was carried by a voice vote and passed, with Vice Chair Baxter abstaining.

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

Public Comment

Mr. Thomas Bailey of Allegheny County expressed concerns around recent developments at the federal level surrounding federal recission of foundational climate science findings, greenhouse gas mitigation programs and climate policies.

Mr. Nathan Eachus of Luzerne County provided public comment regarding public health and safety impacts of the proposed Amazon data center and diesel storage in Salem Township.

Written public comments were provided in full to the committee via email.

Presentation – Scott Stuccio, State Meteorologist (PEMA):

Mr. Scott Stuccio, the State Meteorologist with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency (PEMA), provided an overview of weather trends and flooding risks across Pennsylvania.

Discussion:

Mr. Patrick Henderson asked about non-climate factors contributing to flooding, such as land development, impervious surfaces, and outdated infrastructure. Mr. Stuccio agreed these are major contributors and explained that many communities were not built to handle today's rainfall intensities. He emphasized the importance of updated zoning, drainage planning, and local mitigation to address both climate and human-driven risks. Mr. Steve Krug asked whether PEMA participates in the state's regular Climate Impact Assessments (CIA), which are typically coordinated by DEP. Mr. Stuccio confirmed that PEMA provides both data and subject matter expertise to inform the CIA and would continue to participate in the PreparePA network. Mr. Kevin Warren asked about the best resources for the public education. Mr. Stuccio suggested resources from PEMA's External Affairs, including newsletters, senior center visits, and large-scale events, like the Pennsylvania Farm Show. Mr. Stuccio acknowledged the challenge of public information overload and stressed the need to help residents identify credible sources.

Action Item: Legislator Invitation

Vice Chair Baxter introduced the letter developed by Chairperson Liz Marx to invite the leaders of the relevant legislative committees (House Energy Committee, the House Environment and Natural Resource Protection Committee, and the Senate Environmental Resource and Energy Committee) to present a future committee meeting. A draft of the letter had been circulated via email to committee members on October 9th. Mr. Sandvig made a motion to move the draft letter into discussion and Ms. Cardoni seconded. Mr. Chris Sandvig suggested the inclusion of a list of

current committee members, which was supported by other members. Mr. Mondor clarified that the invitation would be sent to the majority and minority chairs. A roll call vote was conducted and motion passed, with all voting members in favor except one intended abstention (Rep. Perry Stambaugh), and the recommendation to attach the current committee membership list was noted.

Discussion: Act 70 Future Planning

Ms. Byron provided brief overview of the requirements of Act 70 of 2008, the Pennsylvania Climate Change Act and led a discussion on how to approach these responsibilities in the coming years and requested guidance from the committee on several key items given potential lack of data availability and limited funding.

Discussion:

Overall, the committee recommended that future CAP iterations emphasize implementation, accessibility, co-benefits, adaptation, and stakeholder engagement. Mr. Sandvig highlighted the need to focus on implementation, public accessibility, and emphasizing everyday issues such as air and water quality. Mr. Warren and Mr. Krug noted the importance of addressing electrical load growth, energy assurance, and resiliency. Mr. Henderson expressed concern about relying on NGOs for data in lieu of unavailable federal data sources due to potential bias. Mr. Bossert advocated for greater attention to adaptation. Mr. Mondor stressed benchmarking other states, considering triple bottom line impacts, and ensuring accessibility for multiple audiences. Ms. Cardoni supported digestible, public-facing content for legislators and regulators while maintaining a focus on emissions reduction. Vice Chair Baxter suggested “win-win” solutions, workshop-style meetings to prioritize recommendations and committee expertise, and attention to energy affordability.

Finally, the committee discussed meeting frequency and format. There was support for continued bi-monthly meetings during the development and contractor engagement for CIA/CAP and less frequently during non-development periods.

Action Item: Future Planning Subcommittee Formation

Ms. Lindsay Byron outlined the purpose and scope of the subcommittee, suggesting a target size of five volunteer members from the overall committee, ideally representing diverse appointments including the governor, majority party, minority party, and one ex officio member. The committee clarified that subcommittee members would come only from the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) and would not require additional approval from the full committee. Mr. Sherrick provided a motion to establish the subcommittee and Mr. Gibbons seconded, followed by a roll call vote, which passed with the majority in favor and two abstentions (Rep. Stambaugh and Rep. Sanchez). Volunteers were then requested to serve on the subcommittee, with Vice Chair Baxter, Mr. Sherrick, Mr. Krug, Mr. Zachery Smith, and Mr. Bossert volunteering to participate and an intent to solicit additional members via email for those who were unable to attend. The subcommittee is expected to develop its recommendations and present them at the regularly scheduled December 16th CCAC meeting.

Discussion: Upcoming Meeting Topics

Ms. Byron introduced the discussion for future meeting topics. Both committee members and the public have expressed interest in discussing the impacts of data center growth within the Commonwealth. Mr. Warren noted it would be good to include discussion of projections for energy need and emissions projections. Mr. Sherrick noted that it would be critical to account for growth within the PJM region, not strictly within Pennsylvania. Mr. Warren suggested contacts from ACEEE and RMI. Vice Chair Baxter suggested potential speakers Carnegie Mellon University. Mr. Krug noted that we should consult the Pennsylvania Planning Commission and consider water effects for local communities. Committee members were encouraged to submit further suggestions via email.

DEP Updates

Mr. Joshua Dziubek provided a brief update on the most recent round of the Alternative Fuel Incentive Grant (AFIG) program.

Dr. Christopher Nafe provided an update on the Local Climate Action Program.

Ms. Catherine Tulley provided an update on the RISE PA program applications and next steps for the program.

Finally, Dr. Nafe provided an update that Penn State has been contracted to implement the PA Climate Network, now branded as “Prepare PA” and was officially launched during Green Gov Council’s Sustainability Week.

Next Meeting

Ms. Byron reminded the committee that the next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 2025, and shared a proposed agenda for that meeting.

New Business

Mr. Mondor inquired about meeting dates for 2026. Ms. Byron confirmed DEP would share those meeting dates with the committee shortly.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Joe Sherrick and seconded by Mr. Mondor, motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:47am.