

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 16, 2025
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Rachel Carson State Office
Building, and via Teams**

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

In-Person:

Chairperson Elizabeth Marx
Joe Sherrick (for Chairperson DeFrank)
Patrick Henderson
Jaret Gibbons
Zachery Smith
Meredith Seltzer (for Secretary Cindy Dunn)

Adam Walters (for Secretary Rick Siger)

Jason Kelso
Flora Cardoni
Kevin Warren
Steven Krug
Rep. Ben Sanchez
Rep. Perry Stambaugh
Terry Bossert
Christopher Sandvig
Paul Morris
Joe Morville (for Marc Mondor)

Online:

Vice Chairperson Lindsay Baxter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe, Jennifer Greenburg

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

In-Person: Lindsay Byron, Chris Nafe, David Althoff, Kelsey Irvine, Brooke Coder, Jennifer Stough

Online: Megan Porta, Naimul Islam

INVITED GUESTS: Senator Carolyn Comitta, Senator Gene Yaw, Representative Vitali, Mr. Stephon Petro, Mr. Glendon King

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Online: Thomas Bailey, Laura King, Karen Dixon, Andrew Ritter, Evan Franzese, Trent Machamer, Robert Routh, Nate Eachus, Conard Martin, Grant Gulibon, David Hess, Brian Smiley

MEETING: The December 16, 2025, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Chairperson Elizabeth Marx. With 15 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

MINUTES: The October 21, 2025 meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. Chairperson Marx asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Zachery Smith made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Joe Sherrick. No one opposed the motion. The motion to approve the minutes was carried by a voice vote and passed, with Chairperson Marx 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 provided public comment encouraging committee members to share their support of the CAP publicly and expressed concerns around data center development across the commonwealth.

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

Presentation – DEP Vector Management Climate Change Study

Ms. Jennifer Stough and Ms. Brooke Coder of DEP Vector Management provided a presentation on their recent study on the impacts on climate change within the commonwealth leading to increased risk from mosquitoes and ticks.

Discussion:

Mr. Patrick Henderson commented on the date range selection for historical comparison used in the presentation to present temperature changes and asked if there are additional causes (i.e. decline in bat population) outside of climate change that contribute to the increase in mosquito population across the Commonwealth. Ms. Stough responded that human population increases are a factor contributing to growth of mosquito population.

Legislative Priority Presentation

Chairperson Marx welcomed representatives from House Energy Committee, the House Environment and Natural Resource Protection Committee, and the Senate Environmental Resource and Energy Committee to the meeting, including Senator Yaw, Senator Comitta, Representative Vitali, Mr. Stephon Petro (on behalf of Rep. Fielder) and Mr. Glendon King (on behalf of Rep. Rader). The invited guests shared their priorities around energy and environmental issues they are tackling in their legislative committees, upcoming legislation, and shared concerns they hear from their constituent bases surrounding.

Discussion:

Ms. Lindsay Baxter asked a question about the legislators were able to utilize products of committee (e.g. Climate Action Plan) to inform their work and if there were areas they saw for improvement. Mr. Petro confirmed while their committee was recently formed, they do engage with stakeholders many of whom are CCAC committee members to inform their work. Ms. Comitta encouraged the committee to continue to share information on priorities relevant to upcoming legislation.

Ms. Meredith Seltzer asked about the solar bonding bill (SB 349) referenced in Senator Yaw's remarks to inquire if forest loss was a consideration within the current draft of the bill. Senator

Yaw explained the priority of the current bill is to protect farmers, however, he noted that he was open to amendments.

Mr. Steve Krug inquired around existing support for updates to the building and energy codes, as well as municipal codes relevant to flooding. The panelists acknowledged that this was outside their area of focus for their work.

Mr. Henderson provided a comment to address a reference to the Marcellus Shale Coalition within Representative Vitali's remarks that stated the organization was opposed to renewable energy. He wished to clarify as an employee of the organization that while the Marcellus Shale Coalition does oppose mandates and subsidies renewable energy, they do not oppose the use of renewable energy.

Future Planning Subcommittee Report

Vice Chair Baxter, who was elected the chair of the subcommittee, provided a brief summary of the recommendations from the subcommittee including recommendations around how to better engage the expertise of the committee members through early engagement and working sessions, recommendations on cautious use of third party data sources, use of more modern collaboration tools and potential priority focus areas for the Climate Impacts Assessment including flooding, agriculture and public health.

Mr. Chris Sandvig expressed his support for more in-depth working sessions as a productive opportunity for committee expertise.

Mr. Krug shared his support for use of modern collaboration tools and cited successful stakeholder collaboration in some of his recent work. Mr. Sherrick noted that past use of facilitators for this committee provided limited value.

Mr. Henderson noted he was supportive of the recommendation of careful and caution use of third-party data sources to ensure that it was reliably available and not biased.

The committee discussed if the subcommittee should continue to stay standing. Chairperson Marx and Vice Chair Baxter suggested that the subcommittee continue and reassess if future meetings if needed in the February Meeting.

DEP Updates

Dr. Christopher Nafe provided an update on the Local Climate Action Program and Shared Energy Manager Program, and Prepare PA.

Ms. Byron shared about a potential upcoming technical assistance opportunity through the US Climate Alliance to support the development of the Climate Impacts Assessment and requested committee members to suggest potential vendors to include for consideration.

Next Meeting

Ms. Byron reminded the committee that the next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 19, 2026, and shared a proposed agenda for that meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sherrick and seconded by Mr. Gibbons, motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:00pm.

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