

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 10, 2019  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 105  
Rachel Carson State Office Building**

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Chairperson Mark Hammond	Joseph Sherrick (for Gladys Brown Dutrieuille)
Vice-Chairperson Steve Krug	Adam Walters (for Dennis Davin)
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)	Marc Mondor
Rachel Gleason (for Zachery Smith)	Sam Lehr (for Alissa Burger)
Representative Steve McCarter	Grant Gulibon (for Luke Brubaker)
Robert Graff	Lindsay Baxter
Zakia Elliot	
Griffin Caruso (for Representative Metcalfe)	

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Terry Bossert	Gary Merritt
Representative Ryan Bizzarro	Kimberly Kipin-McDonald
Patrick Henderson	Jaret Gibbons
James Felmlee	

**PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:**

Kerry Campbell, Lindsay Byron, Heidi Kunka, Dave Althoff, Allen Landis, Jessica Shirley, Chris Noble, John Krueger, Amanda Eyer, Allison Acevedo, Bob Bonner

**INVITED GUESTS:**

Roy Gothie

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Dave Gelman, Abby Foster, Mark Szybist, Evan Endres, Nick Troutman, Jacob Newton, Ngani Ndimbie, Hayley Book, Deb McCarter

**MEETING:**

The December 10, 2019 meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairperson Mark Hammond. With 14 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting a quorum was established.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the October 1, 2019 CCAC meeting were presented to the committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Representative McCarter and seconded by Lindsay Baxter. Several minor comments were requested by members of the Committee and all were noted. The motion to approve the minutes with corrections carried by a voice vote and passed. No one abstained.

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

### **Draft 2019 Greenhouse Gas Inventory Presentation**

Ms. Byron provided an overview of the draft 2019 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory for the Commonwealth of PA. She explained that DEP uses EPA's State Inventory Tool (SIT) to develop the inventory, which includes data up to the year 2016. Ms. Byron stated there was a decrease of 5.3% in overall GHG emissions between 2015 and 2016. Since the baseline year of 2005, there was an 18.8% decrease in net emissions. She noted that in 2016 there were small increases in emissions from the transportation and waste sectors, but they were offset by decreases in all other sectors. Ms. Byron and Mr. Hammond both explained how energy exports are included in the annual inventory, which is contrary to the PA Climate Action Plan (CAP), as the CAP was developed with a consumption-based model. She noted that, though there were the same levels of electricity production in 2015 and 2016, there was a GHG emission decrease in that sector, which means the Commonwealth has cleaner energy sources.

Committee members asked clarifying questions on the data, and provided suggested improvements. It was noted that there are some limitations to using EPA's SIT. A copy of the presentation and the 2019 Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory report can be found on the CCAC website:

<https://www.dep.pa.gov/Citizens/climate/Pages/CCAC.aspx>

### **Discussion on Climate Action Plan (CAP) Outreach**

Ms. Byron explained that DEP has been working internally to develop a CAP outreach strategy. She asked the committee for feedback on identifying stakeholders and what form the outreach should take. She explained that the purpose of the outreach is to educate the public on climate action and to gather feedback on the 2018 CAP to inform the 2021 plan.

Mr. Czarnecki said we should focus on our messaging for climate change. Mr. Mondor said that it is important to communicate why climate change matters, and that it is incumbent on CCAC members and DEP to make that case. Representative McCarter agreed with Mr. Mondor and said we should focus on what we have done thus far and what role the CCAC can play. Mr. Hammond said he feels that it is not the Committee's responsibility to do public engagement/outreach, but that members could assist if they'd like. He feels it is DEP's duty to do outreach and the Committee's responsibility to advise. Mr. Campbell said DEP would accept outreach assistance from willing committee members. Ms. Elliot suggested we facilitate conversation with environmental justice (EJ) and faith-based communities by listening, more so than providing them with a big presentation. She said she'd be glad to help connect us with Sierra Club's Ready for 100 communities. Ms. Shirley voiced approval of the roundtable format to share with communities what the CAP includes, and solicit feedback about what would be helpful to the community. She added that DEP needs to talk to labor unions as well. Representative McCarter noted that students are taking off school on Fridays to raise awareness about climate change, and so we should make sure we are engaging PA Department of Education. Ms. Baxter suggested that in-person outreach and engagement will be more effective. She also said we should encourage local governments to work with higher education institutions and nonprofits to further the goals of the CAP. Ms. Acevedo said that the City of Harrisburg used our CAP booklet as a guide for the planning of their meeting, and that this is an indication that the public wants to be educated. Ms. Acevedo agreed with Ms. Elliot in that DEP needs to listen when we engage with the

public on climate action. Mr. Hammond raised the importance of making the next CAP more accessible to local governments. Mr. Krug suggested DEP collaborate more with Mayors and feels climate change curriculum in schools is going to start to increase. Mr. Czarnecki stated that DEP should use state parks as an avenue for gathering feedback and spreading our CAP messages.

Ms. Byron asked for more input on in-person listening sessions, specifically what questions should be asked of the audience. She listed multiple questions about the CAP that DEP could use in their listening sessions. Mr. Graff stated its important for DEP to distinguish between actions that mitigate GHG emissions and those that help us adapt or prepare. Mr. Hammond said that he'd like to see the next plan address how the strategies would be implemented. He said the primary goal of the CAP is to provide cost-effective strategies to reduce GHG emissions and to recommend strategies for local government and state leaders.

### **Pennsylvania's Statewide Active Transportation Plan**

Mr. Gothie, Statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator for PennDOT, provided a presentation on Pennsylvania's Statewide Active Transportation Plan. He explained that active transportation is any self-propelled, human-powered mode of transportation. Mr. Gothie said technology innovation in transportation is growing. He shared information on e-scooters, which are not yet legal in PA. Mr. Gothie explained that e-bikes are a game-changer in urban environments and do not emit CO2 directly. He said 43% of trips are 3 miles or less in the US, so if we didn't use cars for those trips, we could really make a difference in our GHG emissions. A survey conducted for the Plan said that PA residents want better sidewalks & protected bike lanes, in order for those individuals to do a transportation mode shift. He explained that Pennsylvania's Active Transportation Plan aims to get people moving and out of their cars. Mr. Gothie reported that PennDOT wants to do better with minority outreach and aims to support e-bike and scooter legislation, as well as separated bike lanes. He noted how studies show that improving bicycle infrastructure has a better return on investment than road infrastructure.

Several members asked questions about Mr. Gothie's presentation. Those questions focused on pedestrian safety in PA and associated laws, as well as bike share programs and health impact goals. Mr. Gothie explained that improving health is the primary goal of their Active Transportation Plan, not reducing carbon emissions. Representative McCarter pointed out that funding is needed to make PennDOT's plan happen, as well as dedicated space for biking infrastructure. Mr. Graff asked about pedestrian facilities in rural areas, and Mr. Gothie explained that PennDOT is responsible for what is between the curbs, so they do not have control over sidewalks. Local governments are responsible for sidewalks. Mr. Hammond summed everything up by saying how there is a synergy between the Committee's climate discussions today and reducing vehicle miles travelled (VMT) via PennDOT's plan.

A copy of the presentation can be found on the CCAC website.

### **Public Comment(s):**

There were no public comments.

### **2021 Climate Action Plan Milestones**

Mr. Hammond asked about the CCAC meeting schedule for 2020, and Ms. Byron said she would email it to the Committee. Ms. Byron outlined the milestones for development of the 2021 CAP: RFP (Request for Proposals) ready by spring 2020, consultant on board by July 2020, draft report

completed by June 2021, and final report by October 2021.

Ms. Byron asked for feedback on how the CCAC envisions providing input on the 2021 CAP. Mr. Hammond explained the CAP development process for previous iterations of the report. He noted how the consultant was much more involved in decision-making and analysis with the fourth CAP. Mr. Graff stated how he liked the consultant involvement, as they made the process more coherent, since some values and numbers for prior reports were not as solid. Mr. Sherrick would like to see greater transparency in how data is analyzed in the 2021 CAP. Mr. Hammond and Mr. Mondor both want the CCAC involved earlier in the process. Mr. Krug asked if DEP can stipulate in the RFP how many CCAC meetings the consultant will attend. Ms. Baxter suggested having the consultant lead workgroups. Mr. Krug stated how he wants to have the consultant at CCAC meetings at least for certain milestones. Both Mr. Mondor and Mr. Krug would like as much of the RFP shared with the Committee as can be disclosed. Mr. Hammond would like a list of topics that DEP would like to address in the next CAP. He said DEP should think about what type of plan they want: one that provides a bunch of big ideas or one that narrows down the strategies and then lays out how implement them. At next meeting, he wants DEP to present a list of topics that they'd like to address as GHG reduction strategies in the next CAP and gather feedback on them. Mr. Graff said he'd like the consultant to help create the outreach plan. Mr. Hammond said we should invite subject matter experts to speak to the CCAC during the development of the 2021 CAP, as we develop applicable pieces of the document.

### **2021 Climate Action Plan Scope**

Mr. Campbell asked the Committee for input on the scope of the 2021 CAP. Mr. Krug said he thinks the next CAP should focus less on the technical aspect of climate change and more on communications, education, and stakeholder engagement. Mr. Czarnecki recommended the next CAP focus on carbon sequestration, which is a focus currently at PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. Ms. Kunka asked whether health should be a focus of the next CAP. Mr. Krug agreed, but Mr. Sherrick said that health concerns should be addressed in the climate impacts assessment. Mr. Krug said he wants to learn from the health experts first and then decide on which document health should be addressed. Multiple committee members agreed that health should be a focus of the impacts assessment. Mr. Graff explained how health improvements are a co-benefit of GHG mitigation. Mr. Hammond pointed out that decreasing health impacts is cost effective. He went on to express that the next CAP should focus on the three largest GHG emission sectors: transportation, electricity generation, and industrial. Thus, the overall recommendations for focus areas on the next CAP are: carbon sequestration, health, and the transportation, electricity generation, and industrial sectors.

Representative McCarter stated that efficiency is the key strategy in the near term for addressing climate change. Mr. Krug explained how zero code will be an appendix to the International Construction Codes (ICC) 2021 edition. Mr. Krug and Mr. Mondor both briefly explained the code adoption process and where PA currently stands with codes.

Mr. Campbell asked if DEP should come with a list of specific topics for the next CAP at the February meeting to gather input. Mr. Hammond agreed with this approach.

Ms. Baxter asked who represents the industrial sector on the CCAC, and Ms. Kunka responded that there is a new member from Covestro, Kimberly Kipin-McDonald, which is a building materials manufacturer.

For the next CCAC meeting, Mr. Graff asked if we could focus on who we communicate with and what elements of the plan are we communicating. Mr. Mondor also stressed that the 2021 CAP should focus more on communications and developing a beautiful document that flows well, is educational, and appealing.

**New Business:**

Mr. Hammond asked for an update on Committee membership. Ms. Byron announced that Representative Daryl Metcalfe and Kimberly Kipin-McDonald were appointed to the Committee, and Rep. Metcalfe has assigned Griffin Caruso as his alternate. She also announced that Representative Marty Causer has resigned from the Committee. Mr. Hammond requested that DEP reach out to Committee members who had not been in regular attendance.

Mr. Landis provided an update on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the process for drafting the associated regulation. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2019 Governor Wolf issued the Executive Order instructing DEP to join RGGI. The Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee (AQTAC) will be presented the draft Annex in February 2020. By July 2020, the draft regulation will be presented to the Environmental Quality Board (EQB).

He also provided an update on the cap and trade petition that was submitted to the EQB. DEP is currently working with a contractor to conduct an analysis of the petition. By mid-2020, the Department is hoping to have a complete report presented to the EQB.

Mr. Krug asked if the GreenGov Director could present at a future CCAC meeting. He also gave an overview of the Auditor General's Climate Crisis report to the Committee. Mr. Sherrick requested that DEP send the members a copy of the auditor general's report.

Representative McCarter suggested a young person be part of the CCAC. Mr. Krug then made a motion to have a young person attend the CCAC meetings as a guest of the Committee in 2020. He said he'd like that youth representative to be a regular guest at the Committee meetings. Mr. Czarnecki asked if we could have an ad hoc youth committee, and Mr. Hammond did say we can have subcommittees.

Mr. Krug reminded everyone that if their membership appointment is set to expire, they need to contact their sponsor to be reappointed. Ms. Baxter asked whether her appointment was a fill-in for a vacancy, and asked for confirmation of her appointment expiration date. Ms. Byron and Mr. Landis said they will follow up.

The Committee discussed potential topics for the next meeting's agenda. Topics proposed included: CAP workplans/topics for discussion and a presentation on the Climate Impacts Assessment Update by Penn State. Mr. Hammond stated the next meeting is set for February 25<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Mondor asked about next steps for the GHG inventory. Ms. Byron said DEP will make the few edits proposed today and then will post it on the website.

**Adjournment:**

A motion to adjourn was made by Representative McCarter and seconded by Mr. Graff. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.