

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES**

**October 26, 2021**

**9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Rachel Carson State Office Building,  
and via WebEx**

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

Chairperson Steve Krug	Patrick Henderson
Vice-Chairperson Marc Mondor	Luke Brubaker
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)	Jaret Gibbons
Stephen McCarter	Kimberly Kipin-McDonald
Robert Graff	Jason Kelso (for Gary Merritt)
Glendon King (for Representative Metcalfe)	Zachery Smith
Alissa Burger	Paul Morris
Joe Sherrick (for Gladys Brown Dutrieuille)	Terry Bossert
Adam Walters (for Dennis Davin)	Lindsay Baxter

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Zakia Elliot, Jim Felmlee, Representative Sara Innamorato

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

Kerry Campbell, Lindsay Byron, Heidi Kunsch, Dave Althoff, Darek Jagiela, Sarah Pinter, Andrew Hansrote, Allen Landis, Allison Acevedo, Megan Porta, Deb Klenotic, Stephen Hepler, Robert Reiley, Nate Wardle

**INVITED GUESTS:**

DEP Secretary Patrick McDonnell, OEJ Director Allison Acevedo

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:**

Eli Brill, Benjamin Dannels, Michael Yoder, David Hess, Curtis Schreffler, Rachel Gleason, Bob Donnan, Melissa Laffen, Laura Legere, Josephine Martin, Robert Routh, Barbara Sexton, Brian Smiley

**MEETING:**

The October 26, 2021 meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order at 9:06 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Krug. With 11 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

**MINUTES:**

The minutes of the August 24, 2021 CCAC meeting were presented to the committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Czarnecki. There were no requests to edit the minutes by any members. The motion to approve the minutes 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.)**

**Open Discussion**

Secretary McDonnell addressed the CCAC regarding the 2021 Pennsylvania Climate Action Plan (CAP) and started a discussion with the committee on how they can best advise the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP or Department) on outreach and implementation of the Plan.

Mr. Henderson commented that he thinks the DEP needs to evaluate CAP strategies based on a net greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction approach rather than if it will lead to a reduction of emissions in Pennsylvania alone. Secretary McDonnell responded that Pennsylvania is a large emitter within the country so one of the ways we meet global GHG emissions reduction goals is by Pennsylvania doing its part. He also stated that he looks forward to and would like to engage in discussions with the committee on federal climate change policy.

Mr. Graff commented that he thinks there is an opportunity to coordinate with PEMA through the building resilient infrastructure and communities (BRIC) program. He also shared that he thinks it is correct that the CAP focus on reducing fossil fuel combustion. Secretary McDonnell responded stating that there is coordination with PEMA on BRIC and other priorities. Mr. Althoff shared projects being worked on as part of BRIC, such as DEP's Energy Programs Office (EPO) building codes project. Mr. Graff suggested that the committee have a speaker at a future meeting on these efforts.

Ms. Acevedo commented how critical it is for people to access the CAP and use it as a blueprint. She added that the latest version is even more detailed and usable. She also asked the committee to think about how to engage communities disproportionately impacted by climate change. Mr. Graff replied that is important to understand the impacts in a particular community and target programs toward those specific impacts. Ms. Acevedo also shared that there are some tools, including mapping tools that could be used for this purpose.

Ms. Baxter asked if there were any updates on PA Solar Plan implementation. Mr. Althoff answered that it is ongoing, and DEP is discussing siting issues with stakeholders and focusing disseminating information to local communities with regards to ordinance and rule development.

**CAP Outreach & Implementation Activities – Planning for Future Meetings**

Ms. Byron gave a presentation on DEP climate outreach efforts. She discussed available outreach materials such as the CAP Booklet, StoryMap, presentations to internal and external stakeholders, and social media posts.

Mr. Mondor commented that he has had some success in presenting the CAP at conferences and mentioned it would be helpful to have toolkit to help committee members promote the CAP. Ms. Byron replied that the Department would look into developing such a toolkit, and is hopeful that the Booklet will meet some of those needs.

Ms. Byron continued the presentation by going over some topics for future CCAC meetings. Mr. Graff commented that when hosting guest speakers at meetings, it would be helpful to include both subject matter experts and industry representatives to discuss barriers and challenges. Ms. Kipin-

McDonald asked if DEP would be interested in hearing from businesses or organizations who are pursuing energy efficiency efforts to share the challenges they face. Ms. Byron answered that DEP would be interested in such a discussion. Mr. Bossert encouraged the Department to look internally to ensure current policies do not inhibit some of the goals. Mr. Althoff responded that EPO is in the process of conducting outreach to ensure other program areas in DEP are aware of the CAP.

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

Ms. Martin inquired in the WebEx chat about tracking methodology for GHG reporting, as GHG reporting is only required for sources emitting over 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> and smaller sources emitting less than 25,000 metric tons of CO<sub>2</sub> do not report. Ms. Byron answered that the 25,000 metric ton reporting requirement is part of EPA's greenhouse gas reporting requirements. She continued that Pennsylvania's annual greenhouse gas inventory uses additional data sources that are not reported, so the inventory captures a broader range of greenhouse gas emissions.

### **Pennsylvania Energy Jobs Reports Presentation**

Mr. Campbell of EPO gave a presentation on Pennsylvania Energy Jobs Reports. He started the presentation with an overview of DEP's EPO and the State's interest in workforce development. He also discussed findings from the 2020 PA Energy Employment Report and the 2020 PA Clean Energy Employment Report. Mr. Campbell continued the presentation discussion of the 2020 US Energy Employment Supplemental Report, types of clean energy jobs in Pennsylvania, hiring difficulties pre- and post-COVID-19, and highlighted key findings of the Clean Energy Jobs Gap Analysis. Mr. Campbell then provided updates on the 2021 PA Energy Employment Report and the 2021 PA Clean Energy Employment Report. He finished his presentation with expected next steps for the Department.

Mr. Graff asked who the providers of common certifications are. Mr. Campbell responded that DEP did not yet know where each one comes from. Mr. Graff also mentioned there is a shortage of skilled labor in general and a lack of technical education options. Ms. Acevedo commented that the Philadelphia Energy Authority worked with the School District of Philadelphia to create three-year vocational programs.

Mr. Henderson commented that he does not agree with the terminology of clean energy. He also suggested that the life cycle of greenhouse gas impacts should be looked at. Mr. Graff commented that this analysis had been done by the National Renewable Energy Lab and shared a link in the chat to the Life Cycle Assessment Harmonization page. [Life Cycle Assessment Harmonization | Energy Analysis | NREL](#).

### **DEP Updates**

Ms. Kunsch of EPO gave updates on the Local Climate Action Program (LCAP), support for LCAP implementation, and the Pennsylvania Climate Leadership Academy. Mr. Landis of EPO gave updates on the status of Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Rulemaking.

Mr. Henderson commented that the legislative process for the RGGI rulemaking may not be

complete until March. He also commented that RGGI allowance prices have skyrocketed and asked if the program review currently taking place would necessitate an additional rulemaking by the Commonwealth to conform or align, or if the current rulemaking automatically includes any programmatic changes. Mr. Landis responded market prices have seen an uptick recently and provided some potential factors of what may be causing this. Mr. Landis also stated that if there are any changes made to the RGGI program, it is agreed to by all participating jurisdictions. PA's regulation covers the budget between 2022 and 2030. If RGGI program review resulted in substantive changes, PA may need to pursue an additional regulatory process to update the current regulation.

Mr. Gibbons asked if it is still the expectation for the program to begin the first of the year. Mr. Landis responded that it is, assuming the legislative process is complete. Mr. Bossert asked if the Department has developed a plan on how to spend RGGI proceeds. Mr. Landis responded that the draft investment plan has not been released yet for public comment, but it will be.

### **New Business/Next Steps**

The next meeting is Tuesday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, and will be held both in person in room 105 of the Rachel Carson State Office Building, and via WebEx.

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Mr. Bossert. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:56 PM.