

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2021
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.
Via WebEx**

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Representative Ryan Bizzarro, Zakia Elliot

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

Kerry Campbell, Lindsay Byron, Heidi Kunka, Dave Althoff, Darek Jagiela, Sarah Pinter, Andrew Hansrote, Stephen Hepler

INVITED GUESTS:

Cassandra Bhat, Deb Harris, William Prindle, Adam Agalloco

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

Travis Gery, John Bell, Sam Lehr, David Hess, David Gelman, Larry Carlson, Eli Brill, Peter Gleason, Trevor Dennehy, Chandrima Dasgupta, Robin Mann, Missy Barnes, , Martin Williams, Nina Siegel, Chad Coy, Matt Genchur, Glendon King, Rachel Gleason

MEETING:

The February 23, 2021 meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Krug. With 12 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

MINUTES:

The minutes of the December 22, 2020 CCAC meeting were presented to the committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Bossert and seconded by Ms. Baxter. 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.)

Summary of CCAC Feedback

Ms. Byron gave a presentation that summarized the feedback that had been received from CCAC members on the December meeting materials. Comments were received on the 2021 Impacts Assessment (IA) Draft Final, 2021 Climate Action Plan (CAP) Initial Draft and December 2020 Meeting Slides.

Mr. Graff asked if DEP was planning to share a more complete summary of committee feedback and DEP's responses with the committee. Ms. Byron replied that DEP has not developed a formal comment response document at this time, and that the summary presented and accompanying PDF is what can be expected by the committee. Ms. Byron also stated that DEP is available to have separate conversations with individual members regarding their specific concerns.

ICF Presentation on 2021 Climate Impacts Assessment

Ms. Bhat of ICF provided updates on health consequences, impact risks scores and climate trends. She also talked in depth on key findings from the final risk assessment results. She finished her presentation by going over the next steps for the climate impacts assessment.

CCAC members had many questions. Mr. Merritt asked, in regard to sinkholes and landslides, how one separates or defines what is a result of land development versus climate change. Ms. Bhat stated they tried to clarify what they do and do not know about the role of climate change with sinkholes. Representative McCarter asked if the risk assessment should include extreme events such as extreme cold in Texas or wildfires in California. Ms. Harris agreed this is a good point and should be considered moving forward to include stress testing in modeling.

ICF Presentation on 2021 Climate Action Plan

Ms. Harris provided updates on the CAP development and timeline, integration from IA, business as usual (BAU) scenario and greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies. The presentation was paused following the slides for each sector for discussion of the GHG reduction strategies, and to gather committee feedback. Several committee members engaged with DEP and ICF during the discussions.

Ms. Harris presented information on supporting energy efficiency through building codes. She also presented on improving residential and commercial energy efficiency and incentivizing building electrification.

Ms. Harris continued the presentation with transportation GHG reduction strategies, such as increasing fuel efficiency for light-duty vehicles and reducing vehicle miles traveled for single-occupancy vehicles. She also explained the multi-state medium-duty heavy-duty memorandum of understanding, increasing adoption of light duty electric vehicles, and implementing a low carbon fuel standard.

Ms. Harris also presented on strategies to increase industrial energy efficiency and capitalization opportunities for fuel switching.

Ms. Harris continued the presentation with more GHG reduction strategies including: increasing production and use of biogas/renewable gas within the Commonwealth, incentivizing and increasing use of distributed combined heat and power (CHP), reducing methane emissions, creating a carbon emissions free grid, and programs/incentives to increase energy efficiency for agriculture.

Ms. Harris finished the presentation by providing next steps and the climate action plan timeline. The CAP will be finalized by June 2021.

Mr. Krug stated that comments are due from the committee by March 2nd and they'll have another chance to provide feedback in April. Mr. Graff inquired if they could have two weeks after the meeting to provide comments. Ms. Byron explained that DEP is under a quick turnaround for materials but would try to extend the comment deadline as they are able.

Public Comment(s)

There were no public comments provided at this meeting.

New Business/Next Steps

Mr. Krug mentioned Philadelphia submitted their climate action plan and he'd share it with committee members. Mr. Krug asked how members' comments can be shared with the committee going forward. Multiple committee members agreed they were fine with having their comments shared.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Graff and seconded by Representative McCarter. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:54 AM.