

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2023  
9 a.m. – 12 p.m.  
Rachel Carson State Office Building,  
and via Teams**

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

**In-Person:**

Chairperson Steve Krug  
Patrick Henderson  
Joe Sherrick (for Gladys Brown Dutrieuille)  
Elizabeth Marx  
Joe Bastardi  
Christopher Sandvig  
Tree Zuzzio (for Rick Siger)

**Online:**

Kim Kipin-McDonald  
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)  
Flora Cardoni  
Lindsay Baxter  
Jennifer Greenberg  
Rep. Perry Stambaugh  
Mark Mondor

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jason Kelso, Jaret Gibbons, Rep. Ben Sanchez, Paul Morris, Terry Bossert, Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe

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

**In-Person:** Lindsay Byron, Megan Porta, Kelsey Irvine, Kerry Campbell, Laura Rigge, David Althoff, Sarah Pinter, Maximillian Schultz, Colleen Unroe, Laura Rigge

**Online:** Special Murray, Abbey Cadden, Brenna Costello, Dawnette DaCosta, Sarah Ely, Rosalee Jodziewicz, Colin Lauer, Gregory Lenahan, Sarah Magee, James Rebarchak, Audra Safter-Myers, Stephen Steirer, Margaret Thompson, Janine Tulloch-Reid, Delaney Williams, Alec Yarnell

**INVITED GUESTS:** Ariella Maron, Adam Agalloco, Cassandra Bhat, Martha Hart, Alec Bernstein, Ryan McNamara, Katie O'Malley

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: In-person:** Franklin Egan. **Online:** Glendon King, Brian Smiley, Antoine Kunsch, Marisa Balanda, Tom Batrone, Braeden Larson, Gwenn Dando, Daniel Mayer, Melanie Carrow Dickersbach, Evan Endres, Noah Glattke, Peter Gleason, Robert Gottlieb, Mark Hand, Jenna Reedy, John Walliser, Josie Gaskey, Attah Mbrah, Andrew McMenamin, Nick Manning, Alisa Otteni, Colin Parry, Peter Daigle, Jessica Quinn, Robert Routh, Susana Abraham, Nick Troutman, Will Dando

**MEETING:**

The August 22, 2023, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:11 a.m. by Chairperson Steve Krug. With 14 of 20 seated members present at the start of the meeting; a quorum was established.

**MINUTES:** The minutes of the April 25, 2022, CCAC meeting were presented to the Committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Sherrick and seconded by Mr. Henderson. Mr. Mondor requested a correction to be added to the “Members Present” list for the prior meeting. 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.)**

### **EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant Panel Discussion**

Ms. Byron provided a brief overview of the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program and the commonwealth’s planning efforts to date. This program has two elements: a planning grant and an implementation grant. EPO started work on the planning grant in July and EPO expects additional guidance on the implementation grant to be released in September. The planning grant will focus on the development of a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) due March 1, 2024 and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) due in July 2025. These action plans will include a summary of current climate pollution, emissions reduction strategies, and benefit analyses with a focus on environmental justice communities. Ms. Byron explained that the PCAP will be focused on the industrial sector because it is one of the largest emitting sectors in the commonwealth. EPO will seek a contractor to support stakeholder outreach and the development of the climate action plans. Stakeholder engagement for this grant will kick off with an interagency meeting for stakeholders within the commonwealth in September and public engagement will begin this fall. In addition to coordination within the state, EPO is also coordinating with surrounding states and the three Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs) within Pennsylvania that received planning grant funding: Philadelphia MSA, whose grant is being managed by Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), Allentown MSA, whose grant is being managed by Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), and Pittsburgh, whose grant is being managed by Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC).

Ms. Ariella Maron from DVRPC provided a short overview of her organization's planning efforts to date and their outreach strategies moving forward. DVRPC represents the greater Philadelphia region including coordination across four states. Their coordination efforts to date have focused on convening an MSA-wide subcommittee to help support the development of their climate action given the wide network of stakeholders that they have to engage across jurisdictions. DVRPC is also seeking a consultant to support the CPRG work.

*Discussion:* Mr. Krug highlighted that this is a significant opportunity for the Commonwealth and that there needs to be close coordination between the different organizations to maximize this opportunity. Mr. Henderson expressed concerns about the exclusive focus on movement away from fossil fuels and offered that there may be opportunities to consider the synergies between renewable development and the fossil fuel industry. He inquired about overall funding availability for the program and metrics that will be used to gauge success. Ms. Byron clarified that the Commonwealth has received \$3 million dollars and each of the three MSAs has received \$1 million dollars in CPRG Planning Grants. She noted that there will be additional funding available as part of the implementation grant phase with guidance to be released in September, and DEP will have more details to share at the October meeting. Mr. Krug noted that there will be conflicting interests within the Commonwealth, but also at the national level given the current inflection point the US faces around decarbonization. Mr. Henderson flagged that there is a need to consider a more holistic vision for the commonwealth energy usage to ensure we consider the many

factors that play into the transition. Mr. Bastardi asked the committee about their current knowledge of trees and their role as a method for CO<sub>2</sub> removal as well as shared his opinions about tree planting as a nature-based solution to climate change. Ms. Marx posted a link<sup>1</sup> in the chat to an article addressing Mr. Bastardi's comment. Ms. Marx encouraged a broader perspective for the planning effort and stressed that it will be important to include workforce and anti-poverty groups within stakeholder outreach conversations. She inquired about how the committee would be able to provide feedback on this plan and the coordination between the state and regional plans. Ms. Byron responded that there will be opportunities within future CCAC meetings to provide feedback and that while the state-level plan will focus on the industrial sector there will be opportunities for coordination with the MSAs. Ms. Maron expressed that DVRPC will be focusing more on buildings and local energy systems, but work with the state to ensure coordination. She shared that the anti-poverty lens will also be critical to their approach and their stakeholder outreach involves community groups to help ensure they are engaged in the planning efforts. Mr. Sandvig expressed the need to ensure all local governments, not just the larger MSAs with planning grants or planning organizations with engagement mandates, can engage with this work and flagged a potential barrier around local governments engaging on the industrial sector topics with the private sector. Ms. Byron affirmed that DEP will be bringing on additional capacity to support community engagement and develop strategies for engaging with the private sector in their outreach efforts. Ms. Maron shared that her organization works closely with community groups to shape community programming, like affordable housing. Mr. Sherrick inquired how the committee will provide input on the plan development for this grant and inquired how it will interact with the existing climate action planning efforts. Ms. Byron the PCAP and the Act 70-required 2024 Climate Action Plan will be developed in parallel, but the upcoming CCAP may serve as the next iteration of the Act 70-required Climate Action Plan. Mr. Sandvig inquired about whether there will be impacts to other sector planning by focusing on the industrial sector. Ms. Byron clarified that the full CCAP will cover all sectors, but the PCAP will focus on industrial to help identify strategies for this sector for the implementation grant. Ms. Marx asked about the division between funding dedicated to the industrial sector compared to other sectors. Ms. Byron and Mr. Althoff explained that this grant spans over four years and that there is not currently specific funding for the Act 70 Climate Action Plan. Ms. Marx also asked if the industrial groups have engaged yet and stressed that it is critical to ensure they are on board. Ms. Byron confirmed outreach to these groups will be beginning shortly. Mr. Krug flagged that there are additional opportunities for considering local building codes and municipal planning ordinances as a tool for decarbonization and climate adaptation.

### **Public Comment**

Mr. Egan, Clear Climate Strategies, offered a suggestion for our climate planning efforts to explore developments in corporate disclosures and potential new regulations from the Securities and Exchange Commission on emissions disclosures for supply chains.

### **2024 Climate Impacts Assessment and Climate Action Plan**

Climate Impacts Assessment: The ICF team introduced themselves, including Mr. Agalloco, Ms. Bhat and Ms. Hart. They provided an overview of their broader team to support the Climate Impacts Assessment (CIA) and the Climate Action Plan (CAP) including subcontractors with InClime, Inch and Meter, and Penn State University. The CIA and CAP will follow similar scopes to the prior additions. Mr.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://climate.mit.edu/ask-mit/how-many-new-trees-would-we-need-offset-our-carbon-emissions>

Agalloco noted that ICF would participate in the next five CCAC meetings and that members can provide written feedback after each session. All interactions with ICF should go through Ms. Porta and committee members should provide feedback via the template within two weeks of the meeting. Ms. Bhat discussed the approach for the CIA stating that it will follow a risk-based approach similar to last year and projections will be updated with the latest climate science. The updated version of the report will incorporate findings for the community engagement process and a more detailed analysis of priority sectors in EJ communities. The report will also be accompanied by supplemental communication materials to help disseminate the CIA to the public. The report outline was shared for committee feedback.

*Discussion:* Ms. Marx asked about the sectors included in the outline, especially around the energy and other economic activities sector. Ms. Byron clarified that these sectors are required by Act 70. Mr. Henderson asked if the Representative Concentration Pathway (RCP) 8.5 scenario would still be used for modeling. ICF shared that the report will be using Shared Socioeconomic Pathways (SSPs) for climate modeling given the latest guidance, but it will be comparable to the RCPs and provide additional explanation about how to contextualize the different scenarios. Mr. Bastardi shared his knowledge about various climate models and offered to send other climate modeling options for evaluation. Mr. Mondor inquired about top-down vs. bottom-up modeling (i.e. EPA's State Inventory Tool) for emissions modeling. Mr. Agalloco said this will be addressed further in the CAP discussion. Ms. Marx wanted to ensure that low-income communities as well as EJ communities' impacts are included and ICF affirmed this would be included as part of the analysis. Mr. Krug urged ICF to review comments and feedback from the committee in prior years in shaping the current CIA.

Climate Action Plan: Mr. Agalloco provided a brief overview of the approach for identifying and modeling actions following a similar approach from the prior year, but this year's plan will take an expanded approach to looking at costs and benefits for recommended strategies. He highlighted that this CAP will aim to provide legislative recommendations to support pathways to decarbonization. The plan will review potential emerging technologies that can be used to support recommended pathways. The plan will also introduce different levels of framing to help evaluate costs and benefits (customer, implementer, society-wide). The plan will also look at the impacts of mitigation strategies on consumer energy rates., Mr. Agalloco shared that the approach for the legislative recommendations is under development and will be shared at future CCACs.

*Discussion:* Mr. Bastardi offered to share carbon capture technologies for consideration for the report. Mr. Sandvig asked about how the executive-level federal mandates (i.e. Justice 40) and other federal programming would be taken into account for this planning effort. Mr. Campbell explained this plan will have an equity focus and consider other new federal programs, but Act 70 does not require alignment to these mandates. Additionally, Mr. Sandvig inquired about which states would be included in the legislative scan (for example, Colorado) and ICF responded that the approach was still under development. Mr. Henderson agreed with an emphasis on reliability and resiliency to be a focus of this plan. Mr. Henderson asked about which definition will be used as an "Energy Justice Community." Ms. Byron confirmed the report will use PA DEP Environmental Justice Communities, but also discuss environmental justice impacts on other communities. Mr. Mondor offered that it is important to consider health concerns, like heat and asthma. Mr. Bastardi shared his opinion about extreme cold as a large concern to be considered and increases in quality of life since the 1930s. Ms. Marx shared it would be important to consider practical recommendations within the plan, like a summer moratorium on turning off electricity, similar to winter moratoriums. Ms. Byron clarified that this plan is a commonwealth-wide

plan with recommendations for both the state – all agencies and legislatures, but also Pennsylvania industry, businesses and residents. Ms. Marx also inquired about the inclusion of RGGI within the projections for a BAU scenario and Mr. Krug agreed this would be important for discussion in future meetings. Mr. Sandvig offered support for including a broader definition of benefits analysis rather than strictly cost-effective analysis.

### **Draft PA 2023 Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventory**

Ms. Irvine discussed the draft 2023 report, which includes data from years 2005 to 2020. The 2020 data showed a net decrease in GHG emissions across all sectors, except waste management. Emissions decreased by 26.4% from the 2005 baseline technically achieving the 2025 emissions goal, however, Ms. Irvine noted that this decrease was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and 2021 data will likely show an increase. Electricity production, industrial, and transportation were the largest emitting sectors in 2020. In the electricity sector, emissions declined as natural gas continues to replace coal, and emissions from natural gas exceeded coal for the first time. The industrial sector did have a slight decline in emissions reversing an upward trend from prior years. The transportation sector saw some of the biggest declines in 2020 due to travel disruptions. The commercial sector has been fairly steady with similar sources of emissions as residential. The waste management sector has remained stagnant. In the agricultural sector, most emissions are from agricultural soil management, enteric fermentation, and manure management and have remained relatively constant. A summary by gas shows that most are from CO<sub>2</sub>, followed by CH<sub>4</sub>.

*Discussion:* Mr. Egan shared that the State Inventory Tool (SIT) does not adequately capture fugitive emissions, so there may be some underestimation, and suggested that examining emissions on a household level could be useful. Mr. Sandvig inquired about data sources (i.e. vehicle miles traveled) for the transportation sector, and shared that the 2020 numbers have been impacted by COVID-19 restrictions in construction. Mr. Sandvig shared he would support not using the 2020 data for CAP planning given the anomalies, and Mr. Mondor was supportive of this. Ms. Irvine highlighted an ongoing project to review potential data sources and improve the quality of the inventory is underway with ICF.

### **Updates**

Ms. Byron provided a summary of climate outreach conducted by state agencies since the last meeting.

#### *Climate Action for Environmental Justice Communities*

Ms. Pinter provided an update that the first phase of Climate Action for Environmental Justice Communities including outreach in seven communities across the Commonwealth has been completed and a final report will be shared shortly on the project's website. There will be a follow-up project focused on developing resources for communities to access local, state, and federal funding.

#### *IIJA/IRA funded programs*

Ms. Cadden provided a short update on IIJA/IRA recently funded programs across DEP including:

- Orphaned Well Plugging: With recent funding, DEP was able to plug 74 wells plugged under the existing \$25 million grant within the last year. The Oil and Gas Office is working on grant for \$305 million to continue this work. DEP will also be creating a new program for funding for eligible well pluggers.
- Emissions Reduction Program: \$1.5 Billion funding to become available in the next month for reducing methane emissions and plugging wells. \$500 million potential funding for the Commonwealth.

- Home Energy Performance-Based Whole House Rebate Program (HOMES) (\$12.9 M per year for PA for 10 years) & Home Electrification and Appliance Rebate Program (HEAR) (\$12.9 M per year for PA for 10 years): EPO submitted two applications for the administrative funding on June 20, 2023. The formal HOMES and HEAR formula grant application opportunities were released July 27th. It will remain open and reviewed on a rolling basis through January 31, 2025.
- Solar for All: Solar for All competition providing up to 60 grants to States, Tribal governments, municipalities, and nonprofits to expand the number of low-income and disadvantaged communities that are primed for residential and community solar investment. (\$7 billion nationally) - EPA announced the release of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund's Solar for All Notice of Funding Opportunity on June 28. DEP/PEDA submitted a Notice of Intent on July 26, 2023.

### **Next Meeting**

Ms. Byron reminded committee members that the Committee that the next meeting will be held October 24, 2023

### **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Sherrick and seconded by Mr. Henderson. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 12:16 p.m.