

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**June 25, 2024**  
**9 a.m. – 12 p.m.**  
**Rachel Carson State Office Building,**  
**and via Teams**

**MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:**

**In-Person:**

Chairperson Steve Krug  
Adam Walters (for Rick Siger)  
Greg Czarnecki (for Cindy Dunn)  
Joe Sherrick (for Chair Stephen M. DeFrank)  
Elizabeth Marx  
Patrick Henderson  
Jaret Gibbons  
Kevin Warren  
Zachery Smith

**Online:**

Marc Mondor  
Jason Kelso  
Flora Cardoni  
Terry Bossert  
Glendon King (for Perry Stambaugh)  
Ben Sanchez

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Paul Morris, Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe, Chris Sandvig, Lindsay Baxter, Jennifer Greenberg

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

**In-Person:** Lindsay Byron, Kelsey Irvine, Megan Porta, Kerry Campbell, Laura Rigge, David Althoff, Christopher Nafe, Alayna Schmeider, Max Schultz, Lena Smith, Maria Solomidou, Megan Bisco, Ouli Sow  
**Online:** Amanda Amsbaugh, Heather Cowley, High Garst

**INVITED GUESTS:** Deb Harris, Adam Agalloco, Alec Bernstein, Peter Narbaitz, Fiona Wissell, Alex Da Silva, Andrew Kindle, Maria Scheller, Hank Tsekerides

**MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:** **Online:** Andrew Ritter Jr, Sarah Beganskas, Brian Smiley, Daniel Mayer, Thomas Donohue, Emily Pugliese, Emily Eyster, Evan Franzese, Roy Gothie, Robert Gottlieb, Isabelle Coupet, Michael Roberts, Maya Bornstein, Nate Eachus, Nick Manning, Richard Freeh, Sara Sayed, Yuto Morishita

**MEETING:** The June 25, 2024, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:09 a.m. by Mr. Steve Krug. With 12 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting; a quorum was established.

**MINUTES:** The February 20, 2024 CCAC meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Henderson and seconded by Greg Czarnecki. Mr. Henderson motioned to amend the February minutes to include the following statement: ‘ICF acknowledged at the outset of discussion that the legislative recommendations were prepared by the Department. Acknowledging this, Patrick Henderson directed several questions regarding the legislative recommendations to Department staff.’ Mr. Smith seconded this motion. Mr. Althoff responded “Meeting minutes are to capture broadly the discussion which occurred. The first sentence brings in an earlier in the

meeting qualifier about the presentation of the legislative recommendations whereby ICF made clear that this information came from shortening a list that was worked on with the Department and which was resultant of a longer list that was commented on previously by the committee. He continued, ICF presents lots of information on behalf of the Department to this committee for review, comment and consideration as a part of the drafting process. Making a point of this (DEP preparing the recommendations) does not acknowledge the nature of the drafting process. The inclusion of this statement can be read like these recommendations that Patrick was commenting on – or anybody on this committee was commenting on were solely of the DEP’s construct. For instance, things presented today will be different than what was presented in February due to comments received, additional and current information, more work being accomplished. etc. This is all draft work presented to an advisory committee to get advice and comments and that will be the process until we have a final document. Making this fine point is not broadly capturing the discussion.”

The committee voted on the motion amendment to the minutes with a roll-call vote. The motion to amend the minutes passed with eleven members voting for, one member against and two members abstaining. The motion to approve the comments with amendments was carried by a voice vote and passed.

Members voting “Yea” to the proposed amendment: Flora Cardoni, Glendon King, Jason Kelso, Marc Mondor, Steve Krug, Terry Bossert, Joe Sherrick, Adam Walters, Patrick Henderson, Zachery Smith, Jaret Gibbons

Members voting “Nay”: Greg Czarnecki

Abstentions: Elizabeth Marx, Kevin Warren

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

**2024 Climate Impacts Assessment & Climate Action Plan**

Ms. Byron shared a summary of the feedback received from committee members on the Climate Impacts Assessment (CIA) and Climate Action Plan (CAP) drafts presented during the February meeting.

Ms. Harris provided an overview of the project status and a timeline update for the committee. Mr. Bernstein reviewed an overview of the contents of the final CIA submitted to DEP and provided commentary on the updated areas for the final version based on feedback from the committee. Ms. Byron clarified that the final version of the CIA is in the final Department review process and that the finalized published version will be shared with the committee once it is available.

Mr. Agalloco provided an overview of the updates to the CAP, including refinements to the modeling for the business-as-usual and policy cases, an executive summary section, an expanded list of adaptation opportunities, and updated legislative recommendations, as well as a new appendix section on embodied carbon. He summarized key takeaways from the CAP noting that the strategies presented in this CAP will enable Pennsylvania to meet the 2025 goal and make significant progress towards net-zero in 2050. He then reviewed the overall portfolio of strategies and adjustments to the business-as-usual case.

Mr. Kindle reviewed the macroeconomic modeling results and highlighted the overall employment trends across different sectors from the implementation of the strategies compared to the business as usual.

Mr. Bernstein reviewed the process to identify adaptation in collaboration with the department and other state agencies to respond to climate impacts and hazards identified in the most recent CIA. He then presented the ten adaptation strategies, including but not limited to strategies that focus on coordination within the Commonwealth, support for local governments, evaluation of equity impacts, and opportunities to introduce adaptation regulations and policies for utilities, buildings, built infrastructure, and workforce. Mr. Narbaitz discussed the energy rate analysis approach and a preview of the initial results.

Ms. Byron discussed the process used to develop and prioritize the legislative recommendations. She then presented the seven legislative recommendations to be included in the CAP and highlighted how the feedback from the last CCAC meeting has been incorporated to refine the recommendations. Ms. Byron clarified the timeline for the final climate action plan with the final draft to be presented in August.

### *Discussion*

Mr. Sherrick noted that it would be useful to see the assumptions underlying the macroeconomic and energy rate analysis and inquired if there would be additional analysis to break down the energy rate changes by sector (i.e. residential, commercial, etc.). Mr. Agalloco noted Appendix B will have full assumptions for the modeling, however, it was limited by the scope of this project and does not include future changes in regulatory or market structure.

Ms. Marx supported this need for a more detailed energy rate analysis, particularly to ensure that it is possible to examine the impacts to low-income communities from these CAP strategies. Ms. Marx also expressed concerns around the timeline for the committee to provide feedback given the cancellation of the April meeting and inquired if there would be opportunities for additional feedback from the committee. Ms. Byron clarified given the April meeting cancellation the opportunity for committee feedback has been extended to this June, whereas in the original timeline final feedback from the committee would have been solicited during the April meeting.

Mr. Henderson inquired if the macroeconomic analysis and energy rate analysis included the enactment of PRESS and PACER. Mr. Agalloco explained that the energy rate analysis aims to model the overall strategies rather than the specific legislative recommendations. Mr. Henderson noted that PRESS will have significant impacts on natural gas production and will result in economic impacts. He also made some recommendations for edits within the CAP and said those recommendations would also be provided in writing to DEP.

Ms. Cardoni stated that she believes Pennsylvania should strive towards a higher maximum for Tier 1 with the AEPS portfolio. Additionally, she praised the inclusion of strategies focused on inactive marginal wells and suggested we update language in the draft to reflect the finalization of the EPA's methane rule. She asked if the Department would be able to comment on how this CAP strategy will interact with the state planning requirements from the new EPA regulations. Ms. Byron responded that the Department will aim to have staff come to future meetings to speak to the Department's implementation plan.

Ms. Marx provided some comments on the adaptation strategies including the need to examine opportunities to add specificity to enhance the strategies. For example, she flagged that there may need to be additional consumer protections around extreme heat (e.g. summertime utility shut-off moratorium).

She further encouraged that the report should continue to provide additional analysis and detail on impacts to low-income and disadvantaged communities to help them adapt to climate change impacts.

Mr. Krug inquired about the illustration of the business-as-usual refinement and timing of the GHG reduction goal line within the image. Mr. Agalloco replied that the goal line aligns to the different goal milestones which start at 2025, so the line starts when the first goal occurs. Additionally, he inquired about the summary of the fuel sources and end use sectors relationship slide. Next, he noted he would provide written comments on the macroeconomic analysis. Finally, he inquired if any of the adaptation strategies would be considered for legislative recommendations. Mr. Althoff encouraged Mr. Krug to provide feedback on legislative opportunities for the adaptation strategies, and Mr. Agalloco clarified Act 70 only requires legislative recommendations for mitigation.

Mr. Henderson provided a comment on the use of the category of “renewables” as a fuel source and recommended specifying specific sources within this category given the level of description for fossil fuels.

Ms. Marx inquired if the plan would model different scenarios based on implementation of individual strategies and potential interactions if not all strategies are implemented. Ms. Harris clarified that this CAP, similar to prior CAPs, presents a potential overall pathway but does not break out individual strategies or explore the sensitivity of strategies’ implementation. Ms. Marx recommended adding a context within the plan for the need for additional modeling for partial pathway implementation.

Mr. Mondor highlighted that in past plans there was more detailed analysis on costs and benefits for adaptation strategies and recommended additional analysis to support policy development and implementation. Mr. Bernstein clarified there are some qualitative benefits and cost analyses included in the plan for adaptation strategies.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment provided at this meeting.

### **2024 GHG Inventory Presentation**

Ms. Irvine provided an overview of the updated 2024 Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory, which includes data from 2005 to 2021. The 2021 data shows an increase from 2020 emissions across most sectors, except agriculture and waste management, due to an increase in economic activity following the COVID-19 pandemic. Industrial, electricity production and transportation were the largest emitting sectors in 2021. She provided commentary on trends within each sector as well as overall emission trends over time within Pennsylvania.

### *Discussion*

Mr. Krug asked Ms. Irvine to clarify the different types of emissions included within the industrial sector emissions. Ms. Irvine clarified each category, and Mr. Henderson flagged that the emissions from the Natural Gas and Oil Systems include both upstream and downstream emissions. Mr. Henderson also commented that while emission data lags, the most recent EIA data on natural gas production shows a decrease in 2023 data. Mr. Gibbons provided some suggestions on opportunities to include and refine

estimates from waste coal use and mining mitigation methane and offered to share recent research on the topic. Mr. Krug reflected on opportunities within the industrial sector in Pennsylvania to help reduce emissions but continue to encourage economic growth.

### **DEP Updates**

Ms. Byron provided a summary of climate outreach conducted by state agencies since the last meeting. She noted that additional public outreach events will be planned for upcoming Climate Pollution Reduction Grant work and progress toward that outreach will be shared in the next meeting.

Ms. Cowley provided a brief history on building code development within Pennsylvania and reviewed the existing process in place used to update the codes. She noted that the last deliberation meeting for the adoption of the 2021 codes happened last week and that there are many energy savings opportunities within the proposed code update for commercial and residential buildings. She also provided an overview of the programming that the Department offers to train and educate the public and key parties on the updates to the codes and highlighted future opportunities through IRA/IIJA for additional training on the new codes.

Ms. Marx asked if the workforce training programming was coordinating with existing state programs and other organizations within the state, and Ms. Cowley confirmed they are working to coordinate as much as possible.

Ms. Schneider provided updates from the Pennsylvania Energy Development Authority (PEDA) and the Energy Accelerator Program, which serves as Pennsylvania's Green Bank. She discussed the two new products that have been launched as part of the program. The first product, the Keystone Energy Efficiency Program (KEEP) Home Energy Loan, provides loans for homeowners to help afford energy efficiency upgrades and reduce energy costs and is administered by the National Energy Improvement Fund (NEIF). Since the program's launch in April, they have had significant interest and have begun processing loans to homeowners. The second product launched in early June was the Municipal Opportunities for Retrofits and Energy Efficiency (MORE), which is targeted to help improve energy efficiency for local government buildings and facilities and provides both a grant and loan option to local governments.

Mr. Warren inquired about the ability to buy down interest rates within both programs, and Ms. Schneider clarified that the MORE program allowed municipalities to use the grant to buy down the loan rate. Mr. Sherrick inquired if the KEEP program was income-restricted, and Ms. Schneider noted she will follow up with that information. Ms. Marx asked if these programs were being coordinated with other existing programs. Ms. Schneider and Mr. Nafe confirmed there are significant efforts to ensure these programs aligned with existing programming for both residents and municipalities through programs, like Shared Energy Manager. Further, Ms. Marx inquired about additional criteria for loan consideration and potential energy savings. Ms. Schneider said she will follow up with additional information on loan review processing.

### **Next Meeting**

Ms. Byron reminded committee members that the next meeting will be held on August 20, 2024. She reminded committee members that there will be elections for new officers. Mr. Krug offered some closing

remarks to reflect on his time as chairperson and praised the work of the committee over the past few years.

**New Business**

No new business was discussed.

**Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Henderson and seconded by Mr. Gibbons. The motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:47 pm.