

**CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

April 22, 2026

9 a.m. – 12 p.m.

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

MEMBERS/ALTERNATES PRESENT:

In-Person:

Chairperson Elizabeth Marx
Steven Krug
Marc Mondor
Vice Chairperson Lindsay Baxter
Adam Walters (for Secretary Rick Siger)

Online:

Patrick Henderson
Joe Sherrick (for Chairperson DeFrank)
Zachery Smith
Jason Kelso
Jaret Gibbons
Rep. Ben Sanchez
Rep. Perry Stambaugh
Terry Bossert
Christopher Sandvig
Jennifer Greenberg
Kevin Warren

MEMBERS ABSENT: Sara Innamorato, Daryl Metcalfe, Meredith Seltzer (for Secretary Cindy Dunn), Paul Morris, Flora Cardoni

PA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION (DEP) STAFF:

In-Person: Lindsay Byron, Kelsey Irvine, Naimul Islam, Megan Porta, Mark Hand, Chris Nafe, Lena Smith

Online: Christine Knapp, Danielle Lewis, Colleen Unroe

INVITED GUESTS: Katie O'Malley, Adam Agalloco

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC:

In-Person: Brad Bartell, Karen Dixon

Online: Trent Machamer, Glendon King, Matthew Rink, Tom Bailey, Christopher Rogers

MEETING: The April 22, 2026, meeting of the Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC or Committee) was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Chairperson Elizabeth Marx. With 16 of 21 seated members present at the start of the meeting, a quorum was established.

MINUTES: The February 19, 2026 meeting minutes were presented to the Committee for approval. Chairperson Elizabeth Marx asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Mark Mondor made a motion and was seconded by Mr. Steven Krug. Vice Chair Lindsay Baxter noted that a minor correction was needed for the name of prior meeting speaker. No

one opposed the motion. Mr. Kevin Warren abstained. The motion to approve the minutes was 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.)

Public Comment

Mr. Thomas Bailey of Allegheny County provided public comment expressing concern that the promotion and expansion of AI-related data centers may be inconsistent with Pennsylvania's existing climate and environmental legal framework, citing the Climate Change Act of 2008, the 2024 Climate Action Plan, and relevant constitutional and judicial provisions supporting environmental protections. Written public comments were provided in full to the committee via email.

Presentations

Vision for 2027 Climate Action Plan & Climate Impacts Assessment: Ms. Lindsay Byron-DEP:

Ms. Lindsay Byron presented DEP's approach for developing the 2027 Climate Action Plan and Climate Impacts Assessment in coordination with ICF and ongoing work under the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant. She explained that, following the loss of dedicated federal funding previously used for Act 70 planning, DEP is aligning the CPRG status report, greenhouse gas inventory updates, and Climate Action Plan development into a coordinated process to support the next planning cycle. She emphasized that the 2027 Climate Action Plan will focus more on implementable actions, expanded public engagement, and stronger integration of adaptation strategies across sectors. Ms. Byron also introduced the concept of an interactive "climate navigator" tool, envisioned as a GIS-based platform to improve public access to climate data, mitigation and adaptation strategies, incentives, and community success stories.

Discussion:

Committee members provided feedback aimed at improving accessibility, usability, and stakeholder engagement in the 2027 Climate Action Plan and Climate Impacts Assessment. Vice Chair Baxter recommended structured focus groups with local officials and stakeholders to test draft materials, noting that the Committee could assist with recruitment. Chairperson Marx requested clarification on the loss of prior federal funding, and DEP explained that U.S. Department of Energy State Energy Program funding is no longer able to be dedicated to this work, with current efforts supported through limited state funds and federal grants. Chairperson Marx also suggested developing policy briefs or white papers to translate technical findings for policymakers, while Mr. Christopher Sandvig encouraged broader outreach through existing climate and sustainability coalitions to strengthen engagement and implementation partnerships.

CPRG Status Report: Ms. Katie O'Malley and Mr. Adam Agalloco – ICF:

Ms. Katie O'Malley and Mr. Adam Agalloco of ICF presented the 2027 Pennsylvania Status Report under the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG), due in June 2027. The report will update prior climate analyses, track progress toward greenhouse gas reduction goals, and inform development of the next Act 70 Climate Action Plan. It will include updated emissions modeling, revised assumptions, and implementation tracking across major sectors including buildings, transportation, agriculture, waste, industry, and power generation. They noted that several sectors, particularly industrial decarbonization and power generation, require updated assumptions due to policy changes, evolving energy markets, and emerging technologies.

Discussion:

Chairperson Marx raised questions about assumptions related to building electrification and federal funding rollbacks. ICF explained that incentives such as federal funding act as catalysts for adoption but do not determine the overall trajectory of emissions reductions. Members also discussed emissions accounting within the plan and noted that electrification benefits are typically reflected in the power sector rather than end-use sectors. Additional discussion addressed transportation modeling using stock turnover approaches, treatment of transmission and nuclear assumptions, and emerging uncertainties such as data center load growth and industrial decarbonization, with ICF noting that updated datasets and expanded scenario analysis will be incorporated.

2027 CAP Working Session: Ms. Megan Porta – DEP:

Ms. Megan Porta presented proposed updates to the structure of the 2027 Climate Action Plan, shifting from a traditional sector-based framework to an implementation-focused approach. The revised structure includes priority areas such as climate-smart transportation, clean energy, building efficiency, industrial emissions reductions, natural lands and agriculture, healthy and resilient communities, and clean economy considerations. She emphasized cross-cutting priorities including environmental justice, public health, utility risk, resilience, workforce safety, and interagency coordination. The goal of the restructuring is to make the Climate Action Plan more actionable, accessible, and implementation oriented.

Discussion:

Committee members discussed the implications of the proposed restructuring for implementation and prioritization of measures. Chairperson Marx suggested refining building electrification strategies to better reflect cost-effectiveness across different building types and heating systems. Mr. Terry Bossert emphasized the importance of clearly identifying implementation barriers such as regulatory, technical, and economic constraints alongside proposed actions. Additional discussion focused on transportation equity, infrastructure investment, and the need to better integrate resilience and public health considerations into planning and implementation frameworks.

2027 CIA Working Session: Ms. Kelsey Irvine – DEP:

Ms. Kelsey Irvine presented the 2027 Climate Impact Assessment working session, outlining four focus areas: economic impacts, mitigation outcomes, transportation impacts, and air quality. She noted that funding limitations require alternative support to update modeling and incorporate current scientific literature. The assessment will produce a technical climate science primer, sector-focused adaptation deep dives, and regional impact analyses intended to inform both the Climate Action Plan and the proposed climate navigator tool.

Discussion:

Committee members emphasized the importance of strengthening air quality and transportation-related analysis and ensuring equitable consideration of impacts across communities. There was strong support for embedding adaptation strategies throughout the Climate Action Plan rather than isolating them within a single section. Members also highlighted the importance of maintaining a clear scientific focus on climate projections while ensuring outputs are both technically rigorous and accessible for public and decision-maker use.

DEP Updates

Mr. Naimul Islam provided updates on DEP's climate planning outreach efforts across the Commonwealth, which began in April and will continue through mid-June. He reported on participation to date and noted upcoming workshops designed to gather additional public input for the Climate Action Plan.

Next Meeting

Ms. Byron requested that the committee consider rescheduling the June 23, 2026 meeting to July 21, 2026 to allow additional time for progress on the greenhouse gas inventory, BAU projections, Act 70 Climate Action Plan and Climate Impacts Assessment work, and climate navigator development before review. The committee accepted the rescheduling to July 21, 2026 and the cancellation of the August meeting.

New Business

No new business was discussed. Mr. Krug requested a presentation on the State Energy Strategy & Governor Shapiro's Lightning Plan at an upcoming CCAC meeting. Vice Chair Baxter requested a presentation the evolving nuclear landscape and Mr. Walters suggested Team PA as a possible presenter on this topic.

Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Adam Walters and seconded by Vice Chair Baxter, motion carried, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:51 am.