

Governor's Energy Office

Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040 Meeting
Thursday, November 16, 2023 – Session #3
2:00pm – 4:00pm – Virtual Meeting via Zoom
Meeting Summary

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This document is a summary of the November 16, 2023, stakeholder meeting for the Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040. Nearly 60 participants joined the 2-hour public webinar meeting about the initiative, which builds upon existing work and will provide a comprehensive basis to inform Maine's best pathway to 100% clean electricity and greenhouse gas emissions reductions. During the call, the Governor's Energy Office and technical consultants with The Brattle Group and Evolved Energy Research (EER) provided an update on Pathway to 2040 modeling work.

The meeting began with a recap of previous meetings and prior results, followed by presentations on the Pathway scenario design and a preview of Pathway analysis results. Opportunity for comment and participant Q&A followed each section.

Presentations

Celina Cunningham, Governor's Energy Office (GEO) Deputy Director provided opening remarks and background on the Maine Energy Plan and Pathway study outcomes (slides 1-4).

Dean Murphy, with the Brattle Group, reviewed prior results and provided an update on the status of the analysis (slides 6-22), with a focus on resources to meet the "last mile" to 100% clean energy by 2040 and draft load flexibility results and implications (slides 25-28).

Public Comment Summary

This session included two separate opportunities for participants to ask questions and provide comments, as well as post comments in the chat. Themes are categorized and summarized below:

- **Model input and resource assumptions.** What percent of transportation, buildings, and industrial sectors does the modeling assume will be electrified? What specific assumptions are included in each pathway? How are efficiencies of different types of storage treated? How are impacts to the distribution system considered? What does the model use for 24/7 supply when the wind isn't blowing and the sun isn't shining? How is "clean fuel" defined?
 - Ryan Jones with EER talked through the assumptions in the modeling, which assume meeting the states clean energy and climate policies and laws. He also shared assumptions around specific technologies and how the grid is expected to operate on average days versus rare occurrences. See full slides for additional information.
- **Contracted versus committed resources.** Are all contracted/committed solar and wind projects assumed to be built? If not, how is the model discounting?
 - Dean Murphy with The Brattle Group notes that there are existing resources in Maine that are not being used to meet Maine's goals. It's an open question if RECs from a particular project will be sold to Maine or another state; this is true of other states as well.

- **Regional considerations.** How is the modeling capturing the ISO New England generation mix? How does recent offshore wind project cancellations in Southern New England, New York, and New Jersey impact the modeling?
 - The modeling approach considers Maine within the context of New England and neighboring electric systems, and assumes that similar pathways are adopted by the rest of the region. The model does not assume specific projects.
- **Costs.** What are the costs of each pathway? Are Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) incentives included?
 - The final modeling results will include cost comparisons, which is still under development. The IRA tax credits have a substantial impact on the overall cost of clean energy over the next decade.

David Plumb (CBI) provided closing comments and an overview of next steps. Over the coming months, the consultant team will finalize modeling, consider policy implications, and prepare a report. This report will inform the State's Energy plan. The Governor's Energy Office plans to conduct key stakeholder check-ins now through the end of the year. The next stakeholder meeting with a draft report will take place in early 2024.