

Governor's Energy Office

Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group

Meeting Summary

Tuesday, December 20, 2022

2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Hybrid meeting with attendees in person in Augusta and via Zoom

Attendees

Stakeholder group members: Dan Burgess, Governor's Energy Office; Phil Bartlett, Maine Public Utilities Commission; Bill Harwood, Office of the Public Advocate; David Norman, Versant Power; Fortunat Mueller, ReVision Energy; Jesse McKinnell, Coastal Enterprises, Inc./Bright Community Capital; Sharon Klein, UMaine School of Economics; Tony Buxton, Preti Flaherty Beliveau & Pachios on behalf of Industrial Energy Consumers Group; Jeremy Payne, Maine Renewable Energy Association; Jessica Robertson, New Leaf Energy; Mike Judge, Coalition for Community Solar Access; Bob Cleaves, Dirigo Solar; Peter Cohen, Central Maine Power.

Staff: Celina Cunningham, Ethan Tremblay, and Caroline Colan, Governor's Energy Office (GEO)

Consultants: Tim Woolf and Elijah Sinclair, Synapse Energy Economics, Inc. (Synapse)

Members of the public.

Welcome and introductions

Ethan Tremblay welcomed all stakeholders and members of the public to the final meeting of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group. After stakeholder members introduced themselves, Ethan reviewed the agenda for the meeting which included a presentation from Synapse Energy Economics and a discussion of public comments received in response to the Proposed Successor Program Framework.

Presentations

Synapse Energy Economics

Tim Woolf and Elijah Sinclair of Synapse presented economic impact results for the hybrid distributed generation proposal. The analysis included projected macroeconomic impacts of the program on spending, supply chains, and consumer responding as indicated by job activity, income levels, and GDP within Maine and across all goods and services.

Governor's Energy Office

Ethan Tremblay reviewed the key themes identified in comments responding to the Proposed Successor Program Framework. He also proposed a number of changes to the final successor program proposal in response to the public feedback for discussion by the stakeholder group. Ethan thanked all who

submitted comments, noting the substantial volume and effort reflected across submissions. All comments received can be read on the GEO website [here](#).

Discussion with stakeholder group members in response to public comments highlighted several program design elements that will require additional consideration by the program administrator of the successor program prior to implementation in 2024. Some of these elements included project maturity requirements, the value of bid preferences based on final Treasury guidance for the Inflation Reduction Act, and how to provide additional support to address barriers to entry unique to entities identified for participation in the community access block.

The final report to the legislature will convey areas of consensus, areas with multiple perspectives, and topics that will require additional consideration.

Public Comment

Ethan opened the floor for public comment.

Trevor Laughlin, Standard Solar: Suggestion that storage be incentivized, rather than required by bidders into the successor program, potentially through an adder in an effort not to limit development.

Next steps and timeline

The GEO will share the draft final report with stakeholder members for review prior to the end of the year and intends to submit the report to the Legislature the first week of January.