

Governor's Energy Office

Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group

Equity and Access Work Session

Tuesday, October 18, 2022

9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting via Zoom – register here:

<https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAod-mvqzMjE9Hllq4Q1ETH8k8d8bDursS7>

What is the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group?

The Governor's Energy Office (GEO), pursuant to legislation enacted in 2021, has convened the Distributed Generation (DG) Stakeholder Group to issue recommendations that support continued development of renewable energy in Maine through cost-effective distributed generation (e.g. community solar) beginning in 2024. Distributed generation generally means small- or community-scale renewable energy generators less than 5 megawatts in size. The Stakeholder Group will advise and support GEO in the development of a cost-effective “successor program” proposal, to be delivered to the Legislature in January 2023. [Learn more here.](#)

What is the purpose of this Equity and Access Work Session?

The purpose of the Equity and Access Work Session is to engage additional stakeholders and members of the public to obtain input on considerations for the successor program related to equitable access to distributed generation benefits. All feedback received at the session will be considered by the DG Stakeholder Group when crafting the successor program proposal.

The Work Session is an opportunity to receive public input; it is not a decision-making meeting, nor are attendees expected to come to agreement or consensus on any matters. Rather, please come prepared to share your own thoughts and suggestions.

While attendees are welcome to share their own feedback, broad discussion themes are expected to include:

- How should the future distributed generation program ensure benefits are accessible to everyone?
- How should the future distributed generation program ensure costs are distributed equitably?
- How should the future distributed generation program contribute to lowering energy burdens?

How can I weigh in?

This Equity and Access Work Session is designed specifically to obtain public feedback on relevant considerations as the DG Stakeholder Group crafts a distributed generation successor program. You are invited to provide your feedback during this session, or afterward in writing. Written comments are requested by Tuesday, October 25, 2022 and should be emailed to ethan.tremblay@maine.gov. Accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities. Auxiliary aids will be provided upon advance request, please contact Ethan Tremblay at ethan.tremblay@maine.gov or by phone at 207-530-2603.

Regular meetings and other work sessions are also available and include opportunities for public input. You can learn more at the link above.

What will happen next?

After the Work Session, GEO staff will compile a meeting summary including all public feedback received. The summary will be provided to the DG Stakeholder Group to inform their work and will be posted online with other materials.

Later this year, the DG Stakeholder Group will release a “straw proposal” for the successor program. The public will be invited to provide additional comments at that time on the straw proposal, which the DG Stakeholder Group will consider before submitting their proposal for the successor program. You can sign up to receive updates, including the release of the straw proposal, by emailing caroline.colan@maine.gov.

Equity and Access Work Session Agenda

<i>Time</i>	<i>Agenda item</i>
9:00 – 9:15	Welcome, overview of DG stakeholder process and meeting objectives – GEO
9:15 – 10:15	<p>Presentations</p> <p><i>The work session will begin with a series of topical presentations from experts invited by the DG Stakeholder Group. A brief Q&A will be held after each presentation, primarily for clarifying questions submitted through the Zoom Q&A function and read by the facilitator. Questions submitted by attendees during presentations may also be asked by the facilitator during the panel session.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maine Climate Council Equity Subcommittee Relevant Recommendations – Jessica Scott, Governor’s Office of Policy Innovation and the Future • Sharing the Sun: Community Solar Deployment, Subscription Savings, and Impact on Energy Burden – Jenny Heeter, National Renewable Energy Laboratory • A State Perspective on Equitable Community Solar Program Development – Max Joel, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
	Break
10:30 – 11:10	<p>Panel session (panel in formation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Megan Hannan, Maine Community Action Partnership • Abbe Ramanan, Clean Energy States Alliance <p><i>Presenters will be invited to participate in a panel discussion. GEO staff will facilitate the panel discussion and invite DG Stakeholder Group members to pose questions to the panelists. Attendees may submit questions for the panel using the Zoom Q&A feature. Questions will be read by the facilitator as time allows.</i></p>
11:10 – 12:00	<p>Breakout sessions</p> <p><i>Following the panel discussion, all attendees will be invited to provide input on the topic of the work session. Attendees will be randomly assigned by Zoom to a breakout room. Each breakout room will include a GEO staff member who will act as facilitator and notetaker. Attendees will be invited to share their reactions to the presentations and panel discussion, with discussion prompts provided by the facilitator. Near the end of the breakout session, attendees will consolidate their conversation into a brief summary to be shared with the full group after the breakout sessions end.</i></p> <p><i>At approximately 11:40, breakout sessions will end and a representative of each breakout session will summarize the group’s discussion and feedback for the full attendee list.</i></p>

Suggested background materials

- *Sharing the Sun: Community Solar Deployment, Subscription Savings, and Energy Burden Reduction.* National Renewable Energy Laboratory. July 2021. <https://www.nrel.gov/docs/fy21osti/80246.pdf>
- *Maine Low-Income Home Energy Burden Study.* Synapse Energy Economics, prepared for the Maine Office of the Public Advocate. June 2019. <https://www.maine.gov/meopa/sites/maine.gov.meopa/files/inline-files/Maine%20Low%20Income%20Energy%20Burden%20Study%20June%202019.pdf>