

# Governor's Energy Office Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group Land Use Work Session

*Wednesday, October 19, 2022*

*9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.*

*Virtual meeting via Zoom – register here:*

[https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ1ldO6pqD8qGNFLXNft0H-k\\_CMO-O2n460r](https://mainestate.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ1ldO6pqD8qGNFLXNft0H-k_CMO-O2n460r)

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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 Land Use Work Session?

The purpose of the Land Use Work Session is to engage additional stakeholders and members of the public to obtain input on land use-related considerations for the successor program. 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:

- What priorities should the future distributed generation program incorporate with regard to land use?
- What creative mechanisms could be used to encourage siting projects on preferred types of land?

How can I weigh in?

This Land Use Work Session is designed specifically to obtain public feedback on land use-related considerations as the DG Stakeholder Group crafts a successor program. You are invited to provide your feedback during this session, or afterward in writing. Written comments are requested by Wednesday, October 26, 2022 and should be emailed to [ethan.tremblay@maine.gov](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:caroline.colan@maine.gov).

### *Land Use 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><b>Presentations</b></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&amp;A will be held after each presentation, primarily for clarifying questions submitted through the Zoom Q&amp;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"> <li>• Agricultural Solar Stakeholder Group Process and Report – Nancy McBrady, Bureau Director, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry</li> <li>• Technical Potential for Renewable Development on Disturbed Land – Rob Wood, Director of Government Relations and Climate Policy, The Nature Conservancy</li> <li>• Maine Brownfields Program Overview – Eric Sroka, Project Manager, Maine Department of Environmental Protection</li> </ul>
	Break
10:30 – 11:15	<p><b>Panel session</b></p> <p><i>Presenters will be invited to participate in a panel discussion, along with additional panelists invited by the DG Stakeholder Group. 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&amp;A feature. Questions will be read by the facilitator as time allows.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliza Donoghue, Maine Audubon</li> <li>• Ellen Griswold, Maine Farmland Trust</li> <li>• Matt Kearns, Longroad Energy</li> <li>• Neal Goldberg, Maine Municipal Association</li> </ul>
11:15 – 12:00	<p><b>Breakout sessions</b></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>

**Materials to review in advance**

- *Final Report of the Agricultural Solar Stakeholder Group.* Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry and Governor’s Energy Office. January 2022. [https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/FINAL%20Report%20of%20the%20Agricultural%20Solar%20Stakeholder%20Group\\_Jan%202022%20with%20Appendices.pdf](https://www.maine.gov/energy/sites/maine.gov.energy/files/inline-files/FINAL%20Report%20of%20the%20Agricultural%20Solar%20Stakeholder%20Group_Jan%202022%20with%20Appendices.pdf)
- *Brownfields.* Maine Department of Environmental Protection. <https://www.maine.gov/dep/spills/brownfields/>