

Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group Land Use Work Session

October 19, 2022

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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Before we get started

- Presentations from today's session, as well as other Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group materials online here: <https://www.maine.gov/energy/studies-reports-working-groups/current-studies-working-groups/dg-stakeholder-group>
- After this meeting, send any additional written feedback on land use to ethan.tremblay@maine.gov by Wednesday, October 26
- All feedback will be incorporated into a meeting summary provided to the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group and posted at the link above
- Attendees will receive email updates
 - To opt out, email ethan.tremblay@maine.gov

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Ground rules

Please -

- Everyone's input on today's topic is welcome
- Make room for differing viewpoints
- Focus on the topic at hand
- Use Zoom etiquette:
 - Mute your microphone when not speaking
 - Keep your camera off until the breakout sessions
 - Use the chat feature to submit your questions for presenters/panel at any time
 - The chat will not be monitored, but will be incorporated into the meeting summary

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Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group - Land Use Work Session

Today's agenda

- Welcome, meeting objectives, and overview of Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group
- Presentations - 9:15-10:00
 - Nancy McBrady, Bureau of Agriculture, Food and Rural Resources, Maine Department of Agriculture, Conservation and Forestry
 - Rob Wood, The Nature Conservancy
 - Eric Sroka, Department of Environmental Protection
- Break - 10:00-10:05
- Panel discussion - 10:05 - 10:50
 - Eliza Donoghue, Maine Audubon
 - Ellen Griswold, Maine Farmland Trust
 - Matt Kearns, Longroad Energy
 - Neal Goldberg, Maine Municipal Association
 - Presenters
- Breakout sessions - 10:50 - 11:40
 - All attendees
 - GEO staff will take notes
- Report back and closing - 11:40 - 12:00

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Today's discussion

You are welcome to provide any thoughts you have regarding land use in the distributed generation successor program.

Some discussion prompting questions to keep in mind:

- 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?

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An Act To Amend State Laws Relating to Net Energy Billing and the Procurement of Distributed Generation

P.L. 2021 ch. 390

- Directs the GEO to convene the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group with specified membership
 - Objectives: "consider various distributed generation project programs to be implemented between 2024 and 2028 and the need for improved grid planning"
- Directs submission of an interim report to the Legislature
 - Delivered December 31, 2021
 - Established areas of consensus and outline of process for 2022
- Directs submission of a final report to the Legislature by January 2023
- "Distributed generation project" means a renewable energy project with a nameplate capacity of no more than 5 megawatts that has identified residential, commercial and institutional customers.

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An Act To Amend State Laws Relating to Net Energy Billing and the Procurement of Distributed Generation

P.L. 2021 ch. 390 sections 5 and 6 excerpts

- How to cost-effectively incentivize project diversity by:
 - Considering energy storage
 - Limit impacts by being located on previously developed or impacted land, including areas covered by impervious surfaces, reclaimed gravel pits, capped landfills or brownfield sites;
 - Serve load within a low-income to moderate-income community
 - Optimize grid performance or serve a nonwires alternative function
 - Directly serve customer load
- Support the successful development of distributed generation by small companies based in the State

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Stakeholder Group Interim Report

Areas of consensus

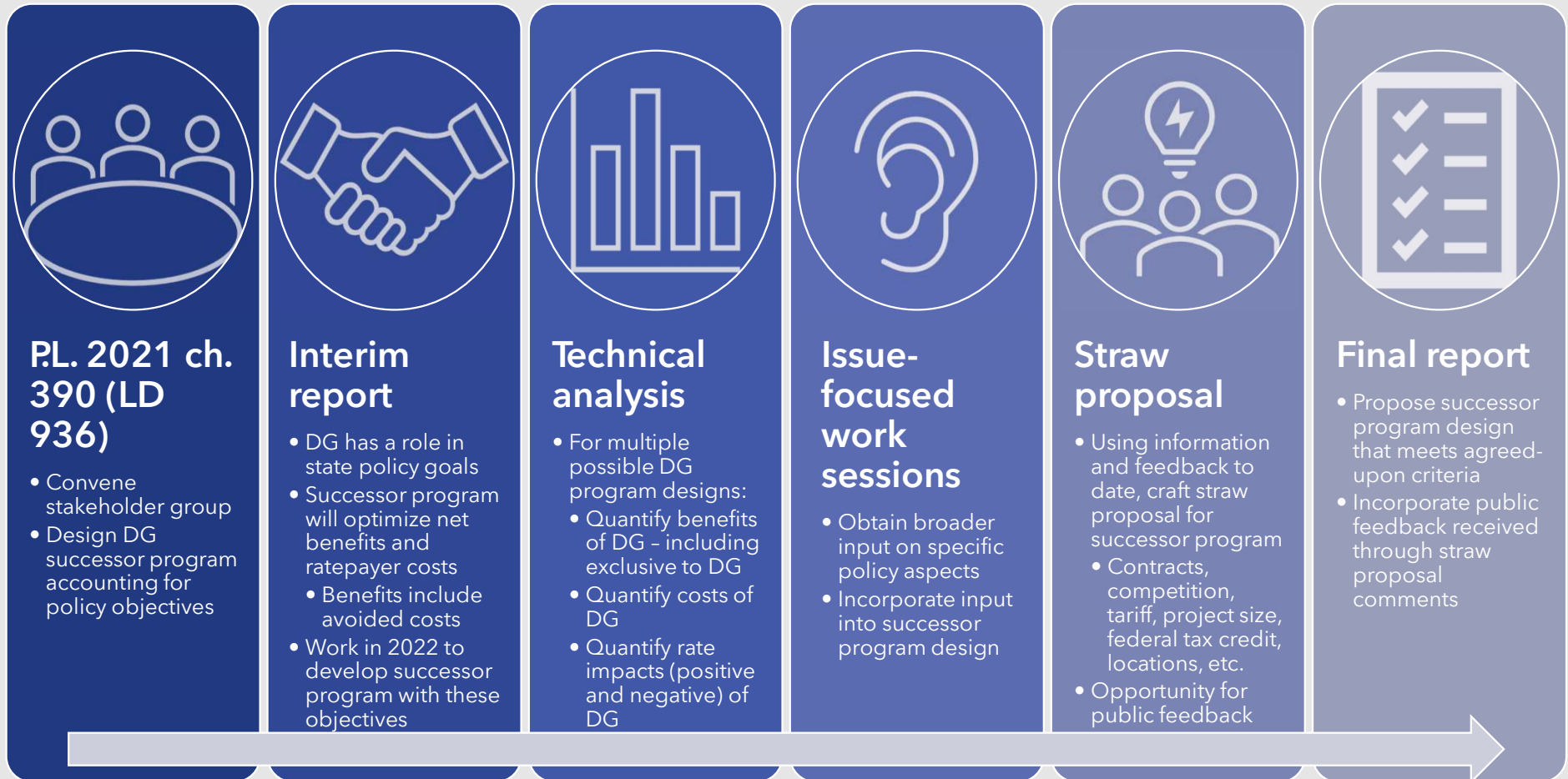
- Distributed generation resources will play an important role in the state's achievement of greenhouse gas reduction requirements, renewable energy requirements, and goals for continued growth of the clean energy sector.
- Distributed generation resources have the potential to produce benefits to the electric system, as well as to the state, through avoided costs as well as resilience, environmental, public health, and economic benefits. The extent to which these benefits should be incorporated as objectives of a successor program requires additional analysis and discussion.
- Any program to promote distributed generation resources should be designed in a manner that optimizes net benefits and ratepayer cost-effectiveness and considers resources developed through existing net energy billing programs – as well as considers input from a broad range of stakeholders, and specifically accounts for barriers faced by low- and moderate-income, fixed-income, and historically marginalized communities.
- The Stakeholder Group intends to continue working in 2022 to refine the approach for optimizing cost-effectiveness and the manner by which a successor program should pursue these objectives.

Interim Report of the Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group.
December 31, 2021.

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Where we are in the process



The Inflation Reduction Act

Enacted August 2022

Investment and Production Tax Credits

Restored to 30% through 2032 subject to labor policy requirements. Also available for standalone energy storage.

Direct Pay for entities not eligible for tax credit

Investment Tax Credit - Adder Credits

Energy Communities

- Brownfields
- Certain areas with histories related to fossil fuel extraction, use and employment

Domestic Content

- CFR 661
- 100% Steel/Iron (661.5)
- 40% Manufactured Products (40/45/50/55%)

Low Income Allocated Credit

- 10%: the project is located in a low-income community or on tribal land
- 20%: the project is part of a qualified low-income residential building project or a qualified low-income economic benefit project
- 1.8 GW_{DC} total per year

[SEIA U.S. Solar Market Overview and Trends presentation to Distributed Generation Stakeholder Group.](#)
October 4, 2022.

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