

**Maine Climate Council
Energy Working Group (EWG)
Summary of Meeting on November 8, 2023**

Welcome & Introductions

- David Plumb, a facilitator from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), introduced himself and explained virtual meeting logistics. David reviewed the agenda and goals of the meeting.
- EWG co-chairs Dan Burgess and Ken Colburn welcomed working group members both new and returning to the first meeting, introduced themselves, and kicked off member introductions, asking for each member to share their name and affiliation(s), and what expertise or lived experience they bring to EWG's work.
 - The EWG has 33 members. The full member list can be found [here](#).

Setting the Scene – Overall Maine Climate Council Update Process

- An overview of the structure of the Maine Climate Council (MCC) was provided, as well as a review of *Maine Won't Wait's* high-level recommendations and a timeline of the process to develop EWG recommendations in advance of the deadline to deliver an updated 2024 *Maine Won't Wait* plan to the Legislature.
- The charge of the working groups is to, by early June 2024, recommend updates to existing strategies and such new strategies as may be necessary and appropriate.
 - Take stock of progress to date on existing *Maine Won't Wait* strategies and equity recommendations.
 - Priorities for working group efforts—where should the working group focus its time?
 - The working group will develop its strategy recommendations using guided templates for discussion.
 - Finally, EWG will report out to the MCC a list of new and updated strategy recommendations for the 2024 *Maine Won't Wait*.

Energy Recommendations and Progress

- Dan and Ken reviewed the energy-related goals primarily contained in Strategy C of *Maine Won't Wait* and detailed the progress made towards each since 2020. See meeting slide deck for detailed progress on each goal.
 - Ensure Adequate Affordable Clean Energy Supply
 - Initiate a Stakeholder Process to Transform Maine's Electric Power Sector
 - Accelerate Emissions Reductions of Industrial Uses and Processes
 - Encourage Highly Efficient Combined Heat and Power Facilities
- Working group members were asked what additional progress related to existing *Maine Won't Wait* goals they had seen in recent years. Members highlighted:
 - New availability of significant federal funds to support deploying of clean energy resources
 - The impact of the state's Community Resilience Partnership and Community Action Grants on municipal level climate and resiliency planning

- Significant new state legislation enacted in support of *Maine Won't Wait* goals and now in the implementation phase

Enhancing Energy Equity

- Following the release of *Maine Won't Wait* in December 2020, the Equity Subcommittee was established and made recommendations regarding equitable implementation of strategies.
- As working groups review and develop their 2024 recommendations, equity considerations including goals and metrics to track implementation must be incorporated throughout.
- The working group briefly discussed energy-specific recommendations from the Equity Subcommittee and examples of how they might be incorporated into future goals.
 - Members highlighted the importance of equity considerations and community engagement when siting renewable energy projects, as well as structural challenges that disadvantaged communities face in accessing clean energy, including the cost of interconnecting to the grid.

Moving Forward – Initial Ideas

- Dan and Ken shared their initial thoughts on new and continued opportunity areas for discussion and exploration by the working group:
 - Maine has established a new energy goal - 100% clean energy by 2040. A comprehensive assessment of pathways to 2040 is underway, but many issues and opportunities will surely arise in realizing this goal.
 - Ensuring Maine households and businesses have access to clean, affordable, reliable and adequate energy in the coming decades.
 - Optimizing the operation of the grid, and reducing its cost as demand increases, through the adoption of distributed energy resources, grid planning, and demand management strategies.
 - Building the workforce necessary to support a clean energy transition.

Next Steps

- The next meeting of the EWG will be held virtually on Tuesday, November 21 from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Register [here](#).
- Working group members were strongly encouraged to attend a public meeting hosted by the Governor's Energy Office on the *Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040* analysis to inform future discussions of the EWG.
- Feedback and questions can be directed to the EWG through the Maine Climate Council's [contact form](#).