

**Maine Climate Council
Energy Working Group (EWG)
Summary of Meeting on November 21, 2023**

Welcome

- Dan Burgess and Ken Colburn, co-chairs of the EWG, welcomed Energy Working Group members and observers to the meeting. David Plumb, a facilitator from the Consensus Building Institute (CBI), reviewed Zoom etiquette, and the agenda and goals of the meeting.

Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040 – Introduction

- Dan Burgess briefly discussed why the Governor’s Energy Office (GEO) has undertaken the Maine Energy Plan pathways analysis. The technical modeling will support a planning effort for achieving the use of 100 percent clean energy in Maine by 2040, a directive of Governor Mills. This analysis will also serve as the technical volume of the GEO’s statutorily required comprehensive energy plan which will be delivered to the Legislature in 2024.
- Dan introduced Dean Murphy from The Brattle Group and Ryan Jones from Evolved Energy, the consultant team supporting the 2040 Pathways modeling effort.
- The GEO and its consultants have hosted three public meetings to date to engage stakeholders and share modeling results. All public meeting slide decks are available [here](#). At this point in the process, The GEO and consultants are engaging in small group stakeholder meetings to review results and discuss policy options, including engaging the EWG. The GEO and consultants have invited any party interested in a discussion to reach out to GEO staff member, Ethan Tremblay (ethan.tremblay@maine.gov).

Maine Energy Plan: Pathway to 2040 – Overview & Discussion

- Dean and Ryan presented an [overview](#) of the 2040 Plan modeling, results to date, and what’s to come.
- David facilitated Q&A from EWG members and meeting observers. Questions focused primarily on gaining clarity of modeling assumptions and definitions of resources discussed. Questions about customer costs and how those costs will be publicly communicated were also a focus.

Additional Modeling Resources

- Ethan Tremblay from the GEO provided a brief overview of the library of technical modeling and analysis completed as part of the Offshore Wind Roadmap. These resources are available to the public and may be useful resources for the EWG as they assess existing and new opportunities for working group recommendations. The referenced technical studies are available [here](#).

Issue Identification & Prioritization

- Ken Colburn, co-chair of the EWG, introduced the next portion of the meeting, focused on a discussion of priority considerations that the EWG should discuss and dig into in its limited time together as it develops new and updated recommendations for Maine’s 2024 climate action plan. The co-chairs and David emphasized that this meeting is just the beginning of these discussions, but hearing what members each see as “must have conversations” for the EWG will help plan future meeting agendas and presentations to support the working group ultimately developing a discrete set of recommendations to send to the Climate Council in June.
- The Mentimeter application was used to collect thoughts and “upvote” initial topic areas of shared interest for discussion. Both working group members and members of the public were encouraged to participate, answering the following question:
 - *What are the most important considerations the EWG should discuss as it develops recommendations for Maine’s updated climate action plan?*
- A few of the initial topics which received significant shared interest from the group through this preliminary process included:
 - Clean energy siting and permitting reform
 - Cost
 - The impacts of a clean energy transition on energy poverty
 - Shared/regional offshore wind transmission infrastructure
 - Development of effective procurement processes and local supply chains to support achievement of state goals
 - Carbon abatement metrics
 - Rate structures that encourage flexible end uses
 - Interconnection process reform
- A full list of priority considerations mentioned by participants is listed in Annex 1 below.

Next Steps & Adjournment

- The next meeting of the EWG will likely be a virtual meeting in mid-December, date and agenda forthcoming.
- Working group members were asked to spend some additional time thinking about the Mentimeter question and to submit responses through a survey, link to be distributed.
- Feedback and questions can be directed to the EWG through the Maine Climate Council’s [contact form](#).

ANNEX 1

What are the most important considerations the EWG should discuss as it develops recommendations for Maine’s updated climate action plan? Below is full list of typed answers from meeting attendees.

- Ensuring equitable distribution of benefits and costs of clean energy solutions
- How will these scenarios alleviate or exacerbate energy poverty in Maine.

- Establishing an effective procurement process, local supply chain, and port infrastructure to meet the states offshore wind target
- Cost
- Rate structures that encourage flexible end uses
- Clean energy siting and permitting reform
- Evolving siting practices to facilitate co-design/increased community support
- Shared/regional offshore wind transmission (to address cost, env. impact, and speed deployment).
- Centralization of ALL permitting for renewable power plants to speed up the process, in order for the companies to be able to take full advantage of federal tax credits.
- Comparative carbon abatement costs of competing pathways / technologies.
- Barriers to implementing existing policies.
- How do we keep beneficial electrification at the forefront of our recommendations, without policies to encourage electrification of heating/ transportation then 100% clean electricity doesn't matter.
- Transparent utility planning
- The availability of a trained, professional workforce to accomplish these goals.
- Chapter 324 interconnection guidelines, cost causality.
- Permitting urgency: we have solutions; time's a-wasting
- Expeditious clean energy development/policy
- Shaping system load by enabling customer access to markets, aggregating them, and compensating them.
- Do we have necessary agreements now to buy sufficient Canadian hydro during no wind cloudy winter days?
- I believe the plan needs to consider how the State needs to reorganize its agencies and their roles to efficiently promulgate and execute energy policy.