



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
EXECUTIVE OFFICE



PHILLIP D. ROOS
DIRECTOR

COUNCIL ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS MEETING

Tuesday, November 18, 2025
1:00 to 3:00 pm
Great Lakes Conference Room, 6th Floor
Deborah A. Stabenow Building
525 West Allegan Street
Lansing, Michigan
OR
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Council Attendees

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Steve Bakkal for Quentin Messer | Grace Michienzi |
| Kate Bell for Susan Corbin | Lana Pollack |
| Frank Beaver | Zach Rable for Brad Wieferich |
| Kerry Duggan | Phillip D. Roos |
| Mary-Elizabeth Estrada | Jill Rusnak for Dan Scripps |
| Ryan Laruwe for Treasurer Eubanks | Derrell Slaughter |
| Aaron Furgeson for Elizabeth Hertel | Sam Stolper, Ph.D. |
| Jim Harrison | Cynthia Williams |
| Jon Mallek for Tim Boring, Ph.D. | |

Not Present: Scott Bowen, Brandon Hofmeister, Marnese Jackson, Kevin Kolevar, Phyllis Meadows Ph.D., Jonathan (Peck) Overpeck, Ph.D.

Meeting Notes

Welcome, Attendance, Business

Led by council chair Phil Roos, Director, EGLE

- The meeting commenced at 1:03 pm Eastern Daylight Time (ET). Director Roos welcomed council members to the 29th meeting of the council overall, and third meeting of 2025.
- Lana Pollack has been reappointed to the Council for another term
- Attendance was taken
- Approval of November 18, 2025, agenda. A draft agenda was sent to council members on Wednesday, November 12.
 - Derell Slaughter moved a motion to approve the agenda. Jim Harrison seconded the motion.
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- Approval of August 26, 2025, meeting notes. A draft of meeting notes was sent to council members on Wednesday, November 12.
 - Derell Slaughter moved a motion to approve the August meeting notes. Kate Bell seconded the motion.
 - The meeting notes were approved unanimously.
- Approval of the 2026 meeting dates. A draft of the proposed dates was sent to the council members on Wednesday, November 12.
 - Derell Slaughter moved a motion to approve the 2026 meeting dates. Kerry Duggan seconded the motion.
 - The schedule was approved unanimously.

Meeting framing

- Updates from OCE and driving implementation of the MI Healthy Climate Plan.
- Mary Liz Estrada, Climate and Energy Jobs Liaison for the Michigan AFL-CIO Workforce Development Institute on the Climate & Workforce Development: Trades of Today and Tomorrow Trailer Tour.
- Adam Wygant, Director of the Geologic Resources Management Division, on EGLE's efforts to plug Orphan Wells.

General Updates

- MI Solar For All: Attorney General Nessel, along with 22 other state directors, has entered into two lawsuits to reinstate the grant - One against EPA administrator Lee Zeldin, and one against the EPA.
 - The Solar for All program was intended to support nearly one million low-income households in Michigan, lower energy bills, and provide more resiliency.

- The State budget, signed in October, included the legislative authority to begin the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program. Originally awarded to EGLE in 2024 and took over a year to get appropriated. This is a fundamental program, led by the Office of Climate and Energy, to get renewables adoption.
 - Renewable Ready Communities Awards
 - Brownfield Renewable Energy pilot
 - This will help Michigan achieve an estimated 58% of what we need to meet our 60% renewable energy by 2030 goal

Office of Climate and Energy Updates and MI Healthy Climate Plan Progress

Alessandra Carreon, Chief Climate Officer, EGLE

Julia Field, Deputy Chief Climate Officer, EGLE

- Climate Survey – Haley Hill, Office Coordinator for the Office of Climate and Energy
 - The survey was sent to the Council in September and included feedback for enhancing engagement, finding ways to uplift our stories, and thoughts on the 2025 annual report.
 - The Office of Climate and Energy compiled the results of the survey and plans to use the responses to educate decision making moving forward.

- MI Justice40 Accelerator –Jordan Power, Senior Climate Action Officer for the Office of Climate and Energy
 - Lieutenant Governor Garlin Gilchrist II and Director Roos joined the cohort to celebrate a successful first year and announce that the program will continue for a second year.
 - The cohort applied for more than 55 grants to build organizational capacity, meet the needs of their communities, and further the goals of the MI Healthy Climate Plan.
 - Looking forward to building capacity in 2026 – The next cohort begins in February.
 - Year 1 Impact
 - Over \$4.5 million received in public and private funding
 - 13 cohort workshops, training, peer-learning, including 2 in-person sessions
 - 32 connections to TA providers
 - Creating a network that can support each other and catalyze climate action

- MI Healthy Climate Fellows - Jordan Power
 - End of Cohort 2
 - Cohort 3 begins service in January and runs through the end of 2026 – will include 15 members.
 - Applications for Cohort 3 closed on 11/17 - had well over 300 applicants.

- Year 2 Impact
 - 31 host site organizations
 - 135 community meetings
 - 329 relational 1:1 meetings
 - 40 volunteers engaged
 - 620 resources shared with the community
- MI Healthy Climate Challenge - Haley Neuenfeldt, Climate Finance and Funding Officer for the Office of Climate and Energy
 - Challenge #1: Solar for Savings
 - Focused on the MI Solar for All pilot projects
 - Still paused
 - Challenge #2: Unlocking Elective Pay
 - Focused on helping communities and entities access tax credits while they are still available
 - Applications were due 11/9/25
 - Received 22 concept papers and 10 full applications
 - \$2 million available for 2-6 awardees
 - Hoping to have grant agreements signed by January 2026
 - Challenge #3: Growing Green Lending
 - A public/private partnership with the Climate Investment Hub
 - Identify barriers to green lending
 - Hoping to launch in the first Quarter of 2026
 - Challenge #4: Go Big, Go Clean
 - Aligns with Office of Climate and Energy's strategy for industrial decarbonization
 - Currently working with industry partners
 - Goal to launch in April 2026 (at the MI Healthy Climate Conference)
- Comprehensive Climate Action Plan – Julia Field, Deputy Chief Climate Officer for the Office of Climate and Energy
 - Final update on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) – Supported through the Climate Pollution Reduction Planning Grant
 - Helped us develop the state-wide Greenhouse gas inventory for the first time since 2005.
 - Engagement for the CCAP
 - In-person meeting in Detroit focused on a collaborative planning session
 - Virtual listening sessions for each pillar of the MI Healthy Climate Plan
 - Looking to get some feedback on public priorities
 - Themes from input include engagement and education as they relate to outreach, raising awareness, and building trust.

- Resiliency, cost reduction, job creation, and prioritizing public health are other common themes
- Hoping to develop a template so an annual report can be published in the future for releasing an annual Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Next Steps
 - OCE is submitting the CCAP to the EPA on November 26
 - Publishing the GHG inventory report in early 2026
 - January 14, 2026 - Environmental Justice engagement session in Detroit
 - Fall 2027
 - Additional climate planning and analysis
 - Additional engagement
 - Costs and funding analysis from University of Michigan SEAS capstone
 - Status report due to EPA
 - Workforce Analysis from the Political Economic Institute (PERI) - University of Massachusetts
- Materials Management Division (MMD) State Energy Office Updates
 - MiHER Program Progress Report
 - HOMES Overview
 - HEAR Overview
 - 9,940 applications received
 - 7,912 applications approved
 - 246 approved MiHER Contractors
 - There is an opportunity to recruit additional contractors for this program. They are looking for ~700.
 - Department of Energy (DOE) Smart Manufacturing & Recycling Tactics for States (SMART) Grant
 - Coordinate existing battery funding and program efforts and to develop a statewide strategy that will enhance the outreach, collection, recycling, and developing a circular economy around battery minerals.
 - Total project of \$4,000,000

Questions and Comments

- **Q (Lana Pollack):** Data Centers – What can EGLE do to be part of this discussion?
- **A (Phil):** These data centers are happening whether we want them or not. Michigan has quite a bit more protection than most other states. EGLE is working to get a comprehensive picture -

- Water - Tax incentives require connection to municipal water utilities, which is regulated at EGLE. Water extraction from groundwater directly would require a permit.
- Energy – MPSC is the regulatory body on that. Utilities are still required to have plans that are consistent with the energy package of laws passed in 2023.
- This could help to accelerate the adoption of renewables and battery storage.
- We need to keep an eye on this moving forward and a lot of us (at EGLE) are looking at that
- **A (Alessandra):** OCE is working to communicate roles and responsibilities across the government to either regulate or ensure that the proliferation of data centers happens in a way that is responsible and something that communities will benefit from.
 - Ensuring alignment with the goals and targets of the MI Healthy Climate Plan, including energy affordability, equity, and industrial decarbonization.
 - Ensuring alignment with our clean energy laws.
- **Q: (Kerry Duggan):** Who can I contact to learn more about MiHER?
- **A: (Alessandra Carreon):** Please contact Julie Staveland at StavelandJ@Michigan.gov

Climate & Workforce Development: Trades of Today and Tomorrow Trailer Tour

Mary Liz Estrada

- The anticipated “Silver Tsunami” is expected to retire tens of thousands of trades workers in Michigan over the next 5-10 years
- The State of Michigan announced millions of dollars in infrastructure investments across the state, including
 - Roads and bridges
 - Public transit
 - Workforce development
 - Brownfield redevelopment
 - Recycling and sustainability
- All of these investments depend on skilled trades
- The top three infrastructure direct job creators are:
 - Clean Energy and Power
 - Roads, Bridges, and Major Projects
 - Broadband Expansion
- Skilled trades are involved in advancing green infrastructure and making our grid more resilient
- Trades of Today and Tomorrow Trailer
 - Purpose: Serve students across the state of Michigan – Targeting 5th – 12th grade, with emphasis on students in underserved communities

- Objective: Showcase careers in renewable energy
- Interactive and engaging for students
- Trailer Art Competition gave high school students an opportunity to submit mural wrap designs
- Michigan's Goals
 - LEO's state-wide workforce goals includes training 5,000 new infrastructure workers by 2030
 - K-12 career awareness
 - The State of Michigan is seeking to expand career pathways for youth
 - Incorporate more STEAM activities into the classroom
- Aligning with the MI Healthy Climate Plan Goals
 - Repair and Decarbonize Homes and Businesses
 - Electrify Vehicles
 - Pursue a Just Transition
- STEAM Camp at Avalon Village
- Where We Are Now
 - Hoping to launch by fall of 2026
 - Currently seeking funding and sponsorships
 - Determining a fee for service model
 - Creating detailed STEAM curriculum
 - Identifying and building relationships with interested schools and afterschool partners
- **Questions and Comments:**
 - **Q (Jim Harrison):** I just have to say, how excited I am about this - aligns with a lot of recommendations made to the energy secretary in both the previous and current administration.

Michigan's Response to Orphan Wells

Adam Wygant, Director of EGLE's Geologic Resources Management Division

- Orphan wells are a major source of methane gas
- There have been over 60,000 wells drilled in Michigan for a variety of reasons
- The State Orphan Well program began in 1996 and since that time the program has plugged ~400 wells and received ~\$1 million a year minimum (or 2% of the gross value of oil and gas, whichever is largest).
- Must have an owner/operator that is unknown in order to use Orphan Well funds.
- Orphan Well Challenges
 - Access
 - Well Control
 - Obstructions
 - Downhole well conditions

- Proximity to or under structures or land use changes
- The Orphan Well program maintains a list of wells and provides oversight to the projects
- Infrastructure & Jobs Investment Act
 - Passed November 15, 2021
 - Provides separate funding opportunities for wells on federal lands and wells on state and private lands
- 3 Federal Grants Awarded to Date
- Possibly 3 future grants
- Michigan Orphan Wells Dashboard
- Orphan Program Methane Data
 - A properly plugged well protects our aquifers and prevents potential emissions of natural gasses.

Questions & Comments:

- **Q (Samuel Stolper):** Are we able to manage this problem with our current funding or will additional funding be needed in the future?
 - **A (Adam Wygant):** The program is on track to tackle these 500 wells (currently 52% of their 2027 goal). Also want to transition from plugging work to cleaning up legacy containment sites. Additional funding should be available until 2033.
 - **Q (Samuel Stolper):** How does the methane data compare to CO₂?
 - **A (Adam Wygant):** We are looking at ~one quarter ton of methane gas per year, which is relatively small. I am encouraged by these low numbers. This may also depend on the geology of the region.
 - **Phil:** This is important work for a variety of reasons.
 - **Ale:** To answer Sam's question, the methane to CO₂ equivalent conversion (conservatively) is 25x the global warming potential - .25 tons per year x that and you are at almost 7x per year CO₂ equivalent.
- General question and comments
 - N/A
 - Next council meeting will be Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 1:00 – 3:00 pm
 - Kerry Duggan motioned to adjourn; Jim Harrison seconded
 - Adjourn at 2:50 pm

Meeting open to the public. Public comments are not scheduled to occur at this meeting.

Individuals needing language assistance or accommodations for effective participation at the meeting should contact Haley Hill in advance of the meeting at 517-582-5656 or HillH7@Michigan.gov to request language, mobility, visual, hearing, translation, and/or other assistance.

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