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STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENT, GREAT LAKES, AND ENERGY
LANSING



LIESL EICHLER CLARK
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN COUNCIL ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS MEETING
Draft Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 11– 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
Find meeting information at Michigan.gov/Climate

Attendees

Steve Bakkal
Frank Beaver
Liesl Clark
Mary Draves
Kerry Duggan
Dan Eichinger
Rachael Eubanks
Meghan Groen
James Harrison
Judd Herzer
Brandon Hofmeister

Marnese Jackson
Quentin Messer
Jonathan Overpeck
Tanya Paslawski
Cynthia Render-Williams
Joseph Rivet
Phillip Roos
Derrell Slaughter
Samuel Stolper
Ron Voglewede

MEETING GOALS

- Review Draft Michigan Healthy Climate Plan

Meeting Notes

- **Welcome, Attendance (Liesl Clark, Director, EGLE)**
 - The meeting commenced at 1:00 p.m.
 - Attendance was taken.
- **Council Business (Liesl Clark, EGLE)**
 - Mary Draves moved and James Harrison seconded a motion to approve the agenda. The agenda was approved unanimously by voice vote.
 - Dan Eichinger moved and Sam Stolper seconded a motion to approve minutes from the December 14 council meeting. The minutes were approved unanimously by voice vote.

- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Background**

- Today is an opportunity to review an initial draft of the plan, which will be published on Friday, January 14, in order to collect public comment.
 - The Council will have an opportunity to discuss public comments at the next meeting on February 22, 2022.
- Goal is economy-wide carbon neutrality no later than 2050, and to maintain net negative GHG emissions thereafter. The MI Healthy Climate Plan is the action plan to do this.
- EGLE will deliver the final plan to the Governor on March 14, 2022.
- Once plan is submitted, the Council will move to quarterly meetings
- Focuses of the plan:
 - Competitiveness
 - Opportunity (communities and workers will have new opportunity with the transition)
 - Impacts (Michiganders are already feeling the impacts of climate and extreme weather)
 - How peoples' pocketbooks will be impacted
- Have tried to raise up the recommendations coming out of the five workgroups, but also seeking to identify the big pieces that are necessary to move us forward.
- Key focus areas (details for each area listed on slides):
 - Overarching: Reduce GHG by 28% by 2025, 52% by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2050 in a manner that respects all residents of Michigan.
 - Energy production
 - Transportation and mobility
 - Businesses and homes
 - Environmental Justice

- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Overall Comments**

- Applause to the EGLE team and all the hard work that's been put into the process and the plan.
- Appreciation for everything that's gone into this.
- What is the plan for how to fund all of this? Cannot ask the private sector to solely pick up the tab on this.
- Are we talking about scope 1, scope 2, and scope 3? Or just scope 1 and scope 2? Helpful to clarify.
- Note: EGLE is currently working on getting more staff on board to work with the implementation side of the plan. This will also help with working with the private sector on inventorying and accounting.
 - What are the recommendations that need teams?

- EGLE to work with Council members and others to make sure the people that really can make a difference are involved.
 - How can we incorporate the needs and roles of local municipalities, townships, and villages?
 - Plugging into the good work that's already going on and look at the areas that have been neglected.
 - Where do we need to reach out and get input as we design programs for everybody?
 - See this as an economic development document at the end of the day, and pleased that it already reads that way.
 - Zero carbon versus carbon neutrality – the narrative talks about both of these, but important to make clear that they're not the same thing. Best to use carbon neutrality because that's the goal.
 - Workforce – would be helpful to have language that talks about not just training, but also workforce development. And language that talks about development, training, and support for in-demand jobs. That will also be helpful in messaging to the public – we're not just training you for a job, but a job that's in demand. For example, job growth may not be in energy generation, but grid technologies and distributed generation.
 - Want to acknowledge the efforts that have been made to make this Michigan-centric and creating a leadership role for the state. Also want to make sure we're addressing not just the threats of climate change, but the benefits of the actions we can take. For example, how many jobs will be created by the key elements of the plan?
 - May be worth comparing Michigan's Plan to other states.
 - Helps ensure we're not forgetting something.
 - Allows us to better gauge how much of a leader we really are.
 - There's nothing from the NWL group. There's stuff that if we don't start now, even if it's not going to be the biggest chunk of hitting our emissions target, we won't reach carbon neutrality.
- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Messaging**
 - Background – EGLE has talked about the plan as a Russian nesting doll, where you have the tweet or very high-level version, then an executive summary, and then the full plan. Intend to have different pieces that can be pulled out of the plan depending on the level of detail needed. Also working with the state web team to figure out how to convey this visually and make it accessible on the web.
 - What will this document communicate to the general public? How can we emphasize Michigan as a leader state? And clarify that it won't all be the

government doing this, so how can we make Michigan investment-ready?

There's a lot of money out there and want us to be ready for it.

- What's the twitter label or bumper sticker for this plan? What's the thing we're going to remember that characterizes the plan? Thinking it should lead on economy, jobs, and justice.
 - Consider both what this says to Michiganders, and what it says to investors outside the state – both private and the federal government.
 - We should message-test this plan and make sure it resonates and generates buy-in broadly across sectors, different communities, and geographic locations. The workgroups covered a broad swath of Michiganders, so may be able to help with this.
 - Should always keep in mind that if you're explaining, you're losing. Need to keep the messaging relevant to multiple different audiences, including those who may not normally see themselves as impacted by a plan like this. Need to stay true to ourselves while not hitting triggers that will cause people to immediately turn away.
 - Where is the voice of the youth in this?
 - The plan needs to be worthy of our kids.
- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Making the Plan Actionable and Manageable**
 - What's the philosophy behind not having interim goals detailed and quantified by a certain date? When you look at other states, they often focus on what they'll do by when, and then there are things that are more vague. Can we tighten it up and provide clearer dates for some of these, or are there reasons why we can't do that?
 - Aren't there already some specific goals?
 - Yes, there are some, but for example fleet transportation deadlines are 2035 and 2040. Can't we be more aggressive?
 - On this, would suggest aligning with EPA goals.
 - Support the idea of breaking this down into manageable chunks and focusing on the key actions. Might help to say, "these are the first 3 actions, then these are the next 3 actions."
 - Feel there may be too much in here. Concern that we won't see as much progress if we don't focus our energy. Would like to see fewer and prioritized actions.
 - What specifically is too much?
 - Some of the workgroups had 70-80 recommendations, and see that those have been pared down. Energy Production for example – what's it really going to take to get to 100% renewable energy? Doing this might take more resources than we have. Concerned that action will be diluted

because there's too much to do at once, so instead we need a step-by-step plan with ranked order of operations.

- Note that some of these things are already done or underway, such as renewable energy procurement. But hear the larger point that we need to choose the highest impact actions that we can actually do.
 - Also important to consider that we may need to be doing several things at once to hit our goals – may not have the liberty of doing one step at a time.
 - Would be helpful to lay out more explicitly that the percentages are from a 2005 baseline.
 - Might help to say that by 2023 (or whatever date) we will have more detailed modeling and targets to refine the strategies in the plan and align with federal policies.
 - At the December 3rd meeting, there was a matrix of recommendations by category. That was helpful and would like to look at something like that from the latest draft to identify if we're doing enough overall.
 - Really appreciate how the plan uses the state as an example of leadership. Should look to make sure we have the muscle and ambition that's needed to achieve the economy-wide goals, with ambitious action in all sectors.
 - We need to get down to the specifics of how we're going to achieve these goals.
 - While there's a lot in the plan, don't want to get rid of anything, but support analysis and staging to make it more actionable. Also want to acknowledge the cost of emissions reductions may be greater in some sectors than in others. Where costs are higher, we should be trying to bring down those costs through innovation, subsidies, etc., and where things are lowest cost be focused on scaled implementation. Maybe there's use in framing the plan and the priorities of the plan this way.
 - See low/zero carbon electricity and transportation as ready to scale today.
- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Connection to Federal Policy**
 - Suggest to align with federal regulations where possible (or have discussion about that alignment).
 - How does this harmonize with Biden administration goals, and how can we go beyond to become the leader and the model state? Thinking about marrying up the DOE Earthshot program and the Justice 40 initiative. See that as a key area of opportunity to get our communities ready for breakthrough technologies while caring for EJ communities and creating workforce opportunities.
 - Important to call out partnership opportunities with the federal government – both funding opportunities, and things like extending federal energy tax credits. For example,

how will we hit 2 million electric vehicles in the state, and what should the state do versus the federal government?

- There are tons of programs at the federal level (DOE is one of many examples) that can help us to move this plan forward.
- There's a lot going on, so should focus on where the state specifically can help. One of those things is helping companies and organizations navigate federal funding opportunities.
- The state is actively thinking about this and looks forward to positioning Michigan to be as successful as possible with respect to the opportunity around federal dollars.

- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Energy Production**

- There should be some reference to not just renewables, but also supportive technologies like long duration battery storage.
- Would like to see a zero-carbon energy standard or 100 percent renewable energy. That's where we eventually need to go, phasing out coal sooner.
- Would also like to see EJ and health impact assessments required of utilities, so that EJ issues are addressed in all utility territories in the state.
- Do not see rate design heavily featured. Think that it's more important than the plan reflects because it has impacts both on greenhouse gas emissions and on equity. Even if we just redesign rates to make them more affordable, that would be a win.
 - Additional council members supported this point.
- Like the idea of setting a bold goal for renewables and/or zero carbon electricity. Consumers is seeing some challenges with building solar generation, so implementation assistance could help in this area. Need to make sure we get renewable generation sited and built in this decade.
- Challenge to get to 2030 is siting.
 - Local concern, supply chain issues, transmission connection issues
 - Let's dig-in on implementation and figure out how to do it—get things sited and built.
 - Maybe some kind of standards/incentives to standardize siting.

- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Businesses and Homes**

- Feel that electrification is absent in the buildings and homes section.
- Great to increase Energy Waste Reduction (EWR) standards for electricity and gas, but really want to think about transitioning all folks in Michigan, we need to think about energy burden. Energy efficiency efforts should be especially targeted at low-income folks.
- EWR doesn't necessarily equal energy demand reduction, it also includes looking at things like flexibility and dynamic demand response. We will need a more dynamic and resilient grid to meet our goals. Specifically, this might be time-of-use electricity rates, other dynamic rate designs, and demand response programs.
- See flexibility as important.

- **Draft MI Healthy Climate Plan – Council Discussion: Environmental Justice**
 - This is an opportunity to be a pioneer, and to do that would not necessarily mean aligning to the Biden administration. Need to not only lift up Justice 40, but infuse EJ and equity into all the buckets of the plan. Look at states like Illinois as a leader, but acknowledge Michigan has a different political climate. Would suggest taking an EJ or equity lens in the next round of comments.
 - Making sure that all folks can participate as Michigan transitions.
 - How can we incorporate some of the energy justice considerations throughout the plan?

- **Next Steps (Liesl Clark, EGLE)**
 - The next meeting is February 22 from 1:00p.m.-3:00p.m.
 - Meeting materials and recordings are available at [Michigan.gov/climate](https://michigan.gov/climate).
 - EGLE would like feedback from Council members by EOD tomorrow (Wednesday 1/12), and then the draft will be posted and open for public comment for 30 days. The posting will include instructions for submitting public comments by mail, email, or in public listening sessions. Comments can be sent to EGLE-ClimateSolutions@Michigan.gov.
 - Questions to consider:
 - Are we missing any key focus areas we should add to our list?
 - Are there any statements in the report you believe are inaccurate or should be augmented to better capture the concept we are trying to convey?
 - In our summary of workgroup recommendations, we will try to identify ongoing activities related to each recommendation. Do you have suggestions on activities you believe we should mention?
 - EGLE had had one tribal consultation already and is working to set up additional engagement with tribes.

- **Adjournment**
 - The meeting adjourned at 2:48 p.m.

Approved at February 22, 2022, Council on Climate Solutions meeting.