



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

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



PHILLIP ROOS
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN COUNCIL ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS MEETING
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, November 12, 2024 – 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Great Lakes Conference Room, 6th Floor
Constitution Hall
525 W. Allegan Street Lansing, Michigan
OR
Virtual via Microsoft Teams

Council Attendees

Phillip D. Roos	Jonathan (Peck) Overpeck, Ph.D.
Niles Annelin	Tanya Paslawski
Kate Bell	Lana Pollack
Tim Boring, Ph.D	Jill Rusnak
Aaron Ferguson	Larry Steckelberg
Brandon Hofmeister	Sam Stolper
Marnese Jackson	Scott Whitcomb
Phyllis D. Meadows	Cory Von Achen

Not Present: Frank Beaver, Susan Corbin, Kerry Duggan, Rachel Eubanks, Jim Harrison, Kevin Kolevar, Quentin Messer, Grace Michienzi, Dan Scripps, Derrell Slaughter, Brad Wieferich, Cynthia Williams

- **Welcome, Attendance, Business**

Led by council chair Phil Roos, Director, EGLE

- The meeting commenced at 12:05 p.m. Eastern Daylight Time (ET). Director Roos welcomed council members to the 26th meeting of the council overall, and third meeting of 2024.
- Attendance was taken
- Approval of 11/12/24 agenda. A draft agenda was sent to council members on Wednesday, November 6.
 - Larry Steckelberg moved a motion to approve the agenda. Marnese Jackson seconded the motion.
 - The agenda was approved unanimously.
- Approval of 8/27/24 meeting notes. A draft of meeting notes was sent to council members on Wednesday, November 6.
 - Lana Pollack moved a motion to approve the meeting notes. Brandon Hofmeister seconded the motion.
 - The meeting notes were approved unanimously.
- Approval of the 2025 schedule. A draft schedule was sent to the council members on Wednesday, November 6.
 - Larry Steckelberg moved a motion to approve the schedule. Phyllis D. Meadows seconded the motion.
 - The schedule was approved unanimously.
- Framing for today's meeting:
 - Focus for EGLE in 2024, and by extension the Council: (1) implementation of MI Healthy Climate Plan; (2) implementing the 2023 legislation and FY 24 budget; and (3) pursuing federal funding and implementing awarded funds.
 - Today's presentations will be related to pillar one of the MHCP: a commitment to environmental justice and pursuing a just transition

- **Office of Climate & Energy Update**

Presenter: Cory Connolly, Chief Climate Officer, EGLE

- OCE will form a subcabinet of Council members from State of Michigan departments and agencies to meet monthly throughout 2025
 - To engage relevant SOM programs and initiatives throughout the creation of the CCAP – EGLE is lead on many aspects of the climate plan, it is not possible without collaboration and coordination across State of Michigan programs
- OCE has welcomed three new staff members
 - Sayon Ghosh, Climate Research Officer
 - Haley Hill, Climate Office Coordinator
 - Dr. Joy Wang, MI Solar for All Director
- Michigan is leading on climate initiatives which has been highlighted through federal investment, public and private partnerships, business and industry development, and much more.

- See slide decks for more news coverage on climate wins
 - Implementing the MHCP: Comprehensive Climate Action Plan
 - Kickoff engagement meeting in October to gather input on benefits of climate action to EJ communities; ongoing pillar focused engagement between November 2024-January 2025
 - MI Healthy Climate Corp
 - Cohort 1 ends its service in November and Cohort 2 begins its service in November
 - MI Solar for All
 - This program will aim to deploy as much affordable solar energy as possible – with a focus on residential rooftop solar, community solar, and energy storage for low-income and disadvantaged communities
 - MI Climate Investment Accelerator
 - Initiative with two strategies: Michigan Climate Investment Fund and Michigan Climate Investment Hub
 - Investment Hub: public-private partnership that will foster partnerships among the State of Michigan, GGRF awardees, private investors, commercial lenders, community lenders, community organizations, philanthropic organizations, and local governments
 - Investment Fund: \$11 million fund to support community lenders in securing federal funds and effectively deploying this capital in Michigan communities
 - Additional Funding Updates
 - Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority and the EGLE have been awarded \$27,905,782 through EPA’s Clean Ports Program
 - Michigan soft launched its Home Energy Rebates programs with pilots in Marquette County and Holland
 - Michigan Tribal Nations awarded CPRG funding to support renewable energy, electrification, and energy efficiency projects
 - Bay Mills Indian Community, \$17.3 million
 - Lac Vieux Desert Band of Lake Superior Chippewa, \$14.9 million
 - Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi, \$1.2 million
 - Pokagon Band of Potawatomi Indians, \$5 million
 - Comment: Would like to have additional communications and storytelling around all the work that is being done to implement the MHCP.
 - Response: Messaging continues to be developed and many of these wins are still in the works. Recognize the need to share this stage of implementation because it is having direct impacts on Michiganders. EGLE and OCE are continuing to develop and provide more story-based updates around this implementation work.
- **Office of Environmental Justice Public Advocate**

Presenter: Regina Strong, Environmental Justice Public Advocate, EGLE

- The MACEJ welcomed four new members to the council
- \$20 million approved by the legislature to create EJ Impacts Grants
 - Support projects that reduce environmental health burdens and impacts to Michigan EJ communities
 - Positively impact residents in environmental justice communities by funding place-based and equity-focused projects
- Received 186 applications requesting \$80 million
- First cohort of awardees announced in November and projects are expected to be completed by September 2027

- **MI Justice 40 Accelerator**

Presenter: Hudson Villeneuve, Senior Program Manager, Elevate Energy and Latia Leonard, Justice 40 Accelerator Program Manager, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition

- Joint initiative with OCE, OEJPA, and Elevate Energy to meet MHCP goals by directly supporting climate and environmental justice organization in building capacity, readiness, and partnerships to access government funding and implement community designed solution
 - National initiative that Elevate Energy has coordinated; implemented at a state scale in Michigan
- Eligible recipients include nonprofits and Tribal serving organizations with project identified for which they intend to pursue public funding
 - Projects should address climate change, resilient infrastructure, energy efficiency, clean transportation, affordable and sustainable housing, agriculture and food systems, legacy pollution, clean water and waste management, training and workforce development, etc.
- 12-month J40 Accelerator Cohort will have access to trust-based unrestricted funding, a peer learning community, workshops, access to key resources and partnerships, technical assistance, and an alumni community
- Application review – committee of community members who were guided through discussion and review process to identify the most useful projects to pursue
 - All community member reviewers were provided a stipend for their time and work
 - 4+ hour review sessions
- 80+ applicants applied, and 25 applicants were selected

- **Community and Worker Economic Transition Office**

Presenter: Jonathan Smith, Senior Chief Deputy Director, LEO

- Office was created from the historic clean energy and climate action legislative package passed in 2023
- Michigan's economic transition is unique and important
 - Other states that have implemented just transition offices have mostly focused on utility or mine communities' transitions

- Michigan’s office will focus on coal transition communities, but also the auto industry transition
 - Auto sector transition – big opportunity to engage early and proactively with workers and employers to take the right steps
 - Growing energy sector can be an opportunity for growth and good jobs – want to continue prioritizing state work towards climate resilience
 - Office mission: Ensure that communities, workers, and employers impacted by transitions have the support they need to proactively prepare for, benefit from, and shape Michigan's future economy.
 - Office capabilities
 - Create data driven central source of information
 - Currently developing a supply chain mapping tool
 - Statewide transition plan due to the Governor and Legislature by end of 2025
 - Proactively engage employers and identify and facilitate diversification opportunities
 - Developing supplier playbook to support auto manufacturers
 - Help secure DOE funding for small and medium sized manufacturers retooling
 - Help communities develop a clear vision for a vibrant and diversified economy
 - Hosted 13 community roundtables, attended by 264 individuals representing a diverse array of organizations
 - Create 75-member advisory committee to regularly meet
 - Support workers through resource navigation and programming
 - Selected one of four national EV workforce hubs designed to prepare Michigan workers for transition
 - Developing framework and tools to study and define measures related to job quality standards
- **Questions**
 - Question: Given the results of the election, how is the state thinking about messaging as it relates to the auto industry transition from internal combustion engines to EVs?
 - Answer: The global auto industry market is shifting. While EVs can often be viewed as a mandate or policy pushed for environmental reasons, it is the industry that is leading these competitive changes. Interested to see how this plays out in the next few years. There’s a strong desire by the incoming administration to focus on manufacturing and national and economic security. Shift messaging to these priorities to appeal to incoming administration.
 - Question: Can the Community and Worker Economic Transition Office speak more to the employment commitment measurement tool?

- Answer: This is a pilot tool that the office is just beginning to kick off. It will aim to look at a variety of measurements and holistically assess employment commitment.
 - State competitiveness fund – created job quality commitment check list
- Question: Is there/where is the right venue to discuss the ongoing challenges and barriers to climate plan implementation?
 - Answer: There are several venues where these conversations are taking place (cross agency, cross department), and the climate council could certainly be one. The annual climate conference is a great space to have these conversations.
- Question: How are displaced workers considered in the energy and auto transition?
 - Answer: There are many factors being considered and is a priority for the office. During the 2008 recession, Michigan’s auto industry experienced lots of layoffs and small manufacturers going out of business. There was a huge structural shift that needed to occur in a short time. With this transition, there has been a more gradual shift away from internal combustion engines with the rise of EVs. Want to maximize this transition and act preemptively where possible. Workers who started in internal combustion engines auto industry are retiring, so aiming to match incoming workforce with new production through supportive programming.
- **Next Steps and Discussion**
 - Next Meeting: Tuesday, February 25, 2025, 1:00-3:00 p.m.
 - Meeting materials and other resources can be found at Michigan.gov/Climate
 - Written comments can be submitted via email to EGLE-ClimateSolutions@Michigan.gov
- **Adjourn**
 - Larry Steckelberg moved a motion to adjourn the meeting; Phyllis D. Meadows seconded the motion.
 - The meeting was adjourned at 3:00 p.m. ET