

Maryland Commission on Climate Change

Mitigation Working Group

February 1, 2018 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Meeting Minutes

Attendance: Ben Grumbles, Michael Powell, Tom Walz, Susan Payne, Christine Conn, Heather Murphy (for Colleen Turner), Yinka Bode-George (for Tamara Toles O’Laughlin), Larry Kasecamp, Jim Strong, Ben Hobbs, Brian Hug, Snuller Price (presenter, E3), Tory Clark (presenter, E3), James Bradbury (Georgetown Climate Center), Jette Findsen (ABT Associates), Rachel Marks (DNR), Catherine Menking (RESI/Towson), Mike Siers (RESI/Towson), Elliott Campbell (DNR), Jim Frazier (Michael Baker International), Suseel Indrakanti (MDOT), Earl Lewis (MDOT), Bihui Xu (MDP), Ken Choi (MDP), Cheryl Arney (Climate XChange MD), Larry Lieberman (CCL and Climate XChange), Stuart Clarke (Town Creek Foundation), David Costello (IEER), Luke Wisniewski (MDE), Chris Hoagland (MDE), Megan Ulrich (MDE), Lisa Nissley (MDE), Jess Herpel (MDE), Hannah Brubach (MDE), Erick Thunell (MDE), Joe Lutz (MDE), Christopher Beck (MDE)

Phone: Colby Ferguson, Drew Cobbs, Jana Davis, Doug Allen (E3), John Kumm (ECO Co-Chair), Megan Goold (EPA R3), Mike (Sierra Club)

10:00AM MWG Meeting Began

1. Welcome and Introductions

- Brian Hug called the meeting to order and noted the recent resignation of Mike Tidwell as co-chair of the Mitigation Working Group, and that a search will begin for his replacement.
- Mike Powell mentioned that while last year we spent a large amount of time studying various measures, this year we need to focus on drilling down substantive proposals for the upcoming plan, keeping in mind that it must not only mitigate climate change but also be beneficial for the economy and jobs in the state.
- Introductions were made around the room and on the phone.

2. Review Final Work Plan

- Brian Hug briefly reviewed the latest draft of the work plan (posted on the website under materials for this meeting), noting that it would be presented to the Commission for approval in April. There were no questions or concerns voiced.

3. Basic Overview: 40 by 30 Draft Plan

- Brian Hug and Chris Hoagland (MDE) provided an overview of the 40 by 30 schedule and timeline, and any updates to the information which had previously been presented to the group. This presentation can be found on the Commission website under this meeting’s materials.

4. 40 by 30 Draft Baseline Modeling

- Tory Clark from E3 presented the background and preliminary results of their baseline and reference case modeling runs, part of the modeling for the 40 by 30 Plan. Their presentation can be found on the Commission website under this meeting’s materials.

5. Discussion on Analyses and Procedures

- Ben Hobbs questioned the numbers used for percent growth of vehicle miles traveled (VMT), stating that the traffic volume trends showed flat from 2005 to 2015, and that it is higher than the latest U.S. DOE projections for VMT over the next 30 years.
 - Heather Murphy (MDOT) noted that we have seen increases in VMT more recently as the economy improves, and the no-growth trend is not expected to continue.
- Regarding Calvert Cliffs retirement:
 - Mike Powell noted that assuming the retirement would occur at the time the license expired may not be accurate and makes a large difference in the emissions outcome
 - This was generally agreed upon, however noted that alternative outcomes would be worked into the future policy scenarios, and the current results only took into account programs which were definitely on the books, not assuming any extensions of licensing or programs that were not explicitly defined.
 - Larry Kasecamp inquired regarding the assumptions surrounding that generation which replaced the lost nuclear (mainly combined-cycle natural gas).
- It was confirmed that the model is sensitive to land use and smart growth policy, as expected changes can be modeled in PATHWAYS, though there is not a specific feedback for price elasticity. It was further emphasized that there are a lot of policy decisions to consider for inclusion during the next phase when this can really be addressed.
- Mike Powell noted that, for the purposes of the MWG, it would be most helpful to see scenarios organized into what policies and programs are likely, then adding in those that are possible, then adding in those that are emerging.
- Brian Hug also noted that while it is difficult to tease out the contribution to reductions of specific programs (as has been discussed previously with the group), MDE will make an attempt to do so roughly for the purposes of decision-making.

6. New Business

- Brian Hug went over the upcoming meeting.
- No other new business was brought forward by members.

7. Public Comment

- No comments were given by the public during this time

11:45PM Meeting Adjourned