

Mitigation Working Group

Meeting Notes

Tuesday, September 21, 2021 10:00am – 12:00pm

1. Grumbles, MCCC chair, and the MWG Co-Chairs Kim Coble and Mike Powell opened the meeting with welcome remarks.

Members Present: Tom Ballentine, Elizabeth Bunn, Tom Walz, Elliott Campbell, Colby Ferguson, Bruce Ho, Ben Hobbs, Mike Remsberg, Tom Weissinger, Bob Wright, Michelle Dietz, proxy for Tim Purinton, Earl Lewis, proxy for Virginia Burke, Gail Myers, proxy for Steve Darcey, Eric Coffman, proxy for Ryan Opsal

2. Key Findings from E3's Maryland Building Decarbonization Study (20 min) – see attached presentation by Charles Li.
3. Draft Building Energy Transition Plan
 - a. Presentation on Core Recommendations by Mark Stewart, MDE (20 min) – see attached slides
 - b. Business community and environmental organization comments (15 min) - see attached slides by member Tom Ballentine, NAIOP; Washington Gas, RMI, others provided comments posted here: <https://mde.maryland.gov/programs/Air/ClimateChange/MCCC/Pages/MWG.aspx#Buildings>
 - c. MWG discussion and possible amendments to recommendations
Tom Ballentine: Duel fuels is a smaller universe of buildings that need to be fixed.

(Charles Li said E3 will have to analyze building stock.)

Bob Wright: It's too optimistic to think you can reallocate funds. I tend to lean toward the hybrid and start to switch as we learn more.

d. Vote to reject, send-back, or advance the Draft Plan (– vote was tabled. Mike Powell asked for some word smithing for cost-effectiveness and a way to build in re-evaluation. Kim Colbe said she is 80% there. There are some aspects that are problematic. For one, there was no discussion on the 2027 date in the plan. . A special meeting to vote will take place in mid-October, after comments are received and the plan is revised accordingly.

4. Reviewed shared doc for MWG working draft recommendations.

5. Public Comment:

David Smedick, Sierra Club: RE concern for financing, existing revenue streams can be used.

STRIDE program needs to include evaluation of cost benefits.

Diana Younts: Echoed David's comments. We need a rapid transition to decarbonization through electrification. This plan has underestimated GeoThermal.

Ellen Valentino: Report has a disconnect. Heat pumps need backup fuel because they aren't reliable, plus, there is grid stress and interruptions in service, a growing national problem. Heat pumps are not enough. Bio heat hasn't been studied – a huge omission.

People are entitled to affordable energy but there is not enough vetting in this plan.

Ruth Alice White: These choices are brutal. Echoed others' concern for the health and well being of Marylanders. Gas is dangerous, including in homes. Quality of air in homes, asthma in children in homes with gas means we need to electrify.

