

Clean Cities Stakeholder Meeting

June 8, 2023

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Meeting Notes

1:00

Welcome

Welcome Back to the Clean Cities Stakeholder Group!

1:05

VEIC and Strategic Planning Process – DOE Deliverables

- The 2023 Clean Cities Cooperative Agreement includes a new task to create a 5-year strategic plan for the Delaware Clean Cities Coalition to reduce GHG emissions/increase gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) displacements
 - o Prior DOE cooperative agreements have provided \$20k per grant year
 - o In 2023, DE Clean Cities will receive \$55k with additional tasks

1. Sub-task 2.6

Coalition Strategic Plan – Create and maintain a multi-year strategic plan that specifies objectives and activities to be undertaken by coalition stakeholders to achieve yearly increases of GGE displacement by 16% and GHG reduction by 20% in the coalition's designated territory.

2. Sub-task 2.7

Coalition Building and Stakeholder Engagement - Strengthen and grow its coalition by undertaking activities to retain and engage stakeholders, attract new stakeholders, and establish strategic partnerships.

- VEIC has been contracted to assist the coalition with these tasks and will soon be engaging with stakeholders to help create a gap analysis that will show how the coalition can improve and what actions will need to be taken within the coalition and by our stakeholders
 - o Ex: goal of achieving VMT reduction and identifying and implementing strategies to achieve this
- The 5-year strategic plan is a standalone guide that is unrelated to other plans that DNREC and the State of Delaware are pursuing

1:15

Advanced Clean Cars II/ State Policy and Legislative Actions

Update from Kyle Krall, DNREC Division of Air Quality:

- The ACCII public comment period was open from April 26th to May 26th, 2023.
- The Division is currently reviewing comments and preparing responses to them
- The Cabinet Secretary will decide on adoption by the end of the calendar year

Update from Sabrina Shultz, DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal & Energy:

The Division is currently tracking several pieces of legislation that are related to clean fuels and/or electrification:

- **HB 8:** Directs state agencies to develop “Clean Construction Preferences” in the award of public works contracts by 1/1/2025 (Awaiting Hearing on the House Floor)
- **HB 9:** Requires that all state-owned light-duty vehicles are emissions free by 2040 (Currently in the House Appropriations Committee)
- **HB 10:** Establishes targets for incrementally increasing number of ZEV school buses purchased each year – 30% of purchased buses by 2030
- **HB 11:** Requires new commercial buildings over 50,000 sq. ft. to ensure that their roof can support solar panels after 1/1/2025 (Awaiting Hearing on the House Floor)
- **HB 12:** Codifies DNREC’s existing EV rebate program to incentivize purchase of new and used EVs. Takes effect upon enactment into law. (Will be heard in House Committee on June 13th)
- **HB 13:** Directs DNREC to develop residential EV charging rebate program w/ focus on homes with street parking and MFD. Takes effect upon enactment into law (Awaiting House Committee Hearing)
- **HB 99:** The Delaware Climate Change Solutions Act - Establishes process of making regular updates to the Climate Action Plan (CAP). CAP shall be updated by 11/15/2025. (Passed House, Awaiting Senate Committee Hearing)
- **HB 161:** Raises the proportion of those projects that can be funded through grants or loans by the Energy Efficiency Investment Fund. (Will be heard in committee on June 13th)
- **SS1 for SB7:** Updates and expands the duties of the State Energy Office (located in the Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy) to develop and implement state energy policy and programs. Takes effect upon being signed into law. (Passed by Senate, will be heard in House committee on June 13th)
- **SS1 for SB 103:** Requires all new residential buildings to be EV capable. Also requires MFDs to install chargers at 5% of parking spaces and have additional 10% be EV capable. Effective date 1/1/2024. (Passed by Senate, will be heard in House committee on June 13th)
- **SB 170:** Directs DNREC to work with PJM Interconnection, LLC to study the transmission impacts of offshore wind development and work with other states to develop a process for procuring offshore wind power. (Will be heard in Senate committee on June 14th)

For more detailed descriptions of these bills, visit:

<https://legis.delaware.gov/AllLegislation?chamberId=2>

Visit <https://legis.delaware.gov/SessionCalendar> to tune in to live committee hearings

Questions, Concerns, and Comments: In this legislative session, there is little consideration for alternative fuels beyond electrification. While Delaware is interested in emissions reductions by any and all means, they are also very interested in electrification.

In the regulatory process, it is difficult for DNREC to intervene. DNREC outreach and education is mostly focused on bringing awareness to our initiatives and programs. DNREC relies on outside organizations to assist in informing the legislature and the public. For example, the Sierra Club held webinars in partnership with NRDC and the Lung Association to respond to concerns regarding electrification and preemptively address misinformation. The Sierra Club also has a web page with information and links to other helpful resources: [Clean Transportation For All](#) | [Sierra Club](#)

1:30

Coalition Member Updates Round Robin

Dover/Kent County MPO – Helen Wiles

- The Air Quality partnership recently completed a music video featuring the mascot, TROPO, designed to inform school-aged children about the importance of Air Quality. The video can be viewed here: <https://youtu.be/qxvIncEXhUM>
- Dover/Kent MPO is working on Complete Streets projects in helping several municipalities procure funding to complete these projects
- They have just held their first equity roundtable discussion as well

Sharp Energy - Mike Petito

- The consumption of Autogas has increased this year thanks to DART and several school districts using it for their buses
- Planning for the Green Initiative Day which will be held in Dover, DE, featuring many stakeholders and guest speakers

ROUSH Clean Tech - Derek Whaley

- Ground surfaces equipment
- Excited to see a reduction of conventional fuels and the move towards greener and cleaner options
- Enterprise: Amazon and Rivian partnerships

Chesapeake Utilities - Dean Holden & Shane Breakie

- Excited to see customer growth at Dover CNG station and at station in Savannah, Georgia
- Currently working with large agribusiness companies
- Pursuing a hydrogen hub
- Natural gas is a good option for trucks that are owner/operated
- Hoping that attention will be brought to identifying the missing link in Delaware towards CNG/RNG adoption
- Has completed 2nd Sustainability Report which contains RNG, Hydrogen, Autogas, and Propane initiatives that will help communities continue to reduce their emissions

Fleet Services, State of Delaware - Dan Bent

- Currently with the state legislature to pass EV legislation and decrease barriers to adoption, such as lack of supporting infrastructure
- Working on installing 200 charging stations throughout the State of Delaware
- 5% of the state fleet is currently electrified

DeIDOT – Rick Tracy

- Working on establishing infrastructure and meeting the challenges of electrification

Sea Watch - Joe Myers

- Sustainability efforts are focused on seafood sustainability and ensuring that their product maintains the certifications that customers seek from US fisheries
- On the operations side, they have begun diverting solid waste into compost
 - o Once the RNG facility is running in Milford, DE, food waste will be sent to that facility
- Exploring a project on Class 8 tractor trailers

Observation: At CNG stations associated with utilities or public initiatives, gasoline gallon equivalent (GGE) pricing seems to be competitive with gasoline pricing. Nationwide companies offering CNG retailing for vehicles have GGE pricing that is closer to diesel due to growing NGV high class commercial vehicles displacing diesel. This makes using CNG instead of gasoline in passenger and light-duty trucks economically infeasible. However, RCNG displacing diesel in heavy duty applications is still a step in the right direction.

Energize Delaware – Suzanne Sebastian, Drew Slater

- Currently offering incentives to local governments to purchase electric vehicles
 - o New Castle County was the most recent recipient
- Pilot project testing electric lawn equipment with DeIDOT at a rest stop
- Pursuing providing grant funding to school districts that are considering school bus electrification
 - o Funding would cover the infrastructure needs that federal programs don't cover
- Of note, lawn equipment is very important to electrify because they emit far more than vehicles when in use. The emissions are also localized. Electric lawn equipment is twice as expensive as their gas-powered alternatives, but those who use them seem to prefer them.

Delaware Commute Solutions – Kathleen Grier

- Dedicated to moving people to a cleaner commute option
- Every month, DECS hosts events with a different theme
 - o DART will speak on their micro transit option in Newark, DE – “DART Connect” at the next event: [DECS Info Series: June 2023 featuring DART First State Tickets, Wed, Jun 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)
 - o September is “Car-Free Month” and “Car-Free Day” is September 22nd
- Hosts information series once per quarter

Delaware Sierra Club

- Working to support electrification by producing as much data supported information to the legislature about why electrification is important and should be prioritized

1:55 Public Comment

N/A

2:00 Adjourn and Next Steps

- Will be hearing from VEIC to help gather information for the gap analysis
- Setting up dates to reconvene soon, hoping to do so in person

Meeting Participants and Contact Information

1. Athena Bi – athena.bi@deseu.org (Delaware Sustainable Energy Utility)
2. Daniel Bent – Daniel.bent@delaware.gov (Delaware State OMB – Fleet Management)
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21. Derek Whaley - derek.whaley@roush.com (ROUSH Clean Tech)
22. Helen Wiles – helen.wiles@doverkentmpo.org (Dover/Kent MPO)
23. Kevin Yingling - kevin@delaware.coop (Delaware Electric Cooperative)