

Delaware's Climate Action Plan Virtual Public Workshop Series

Workshop No. 1, Option A – Minimizing Greenhouse Gas Emissions

September 15, 2020, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Closed Caption Transcript (edited)

Below you will find a slightly edited version of the live closed caption transcript that was taken during the Climate Action Plan virtual public workshop held via Zoom on September 15, 2020, 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Closed captioning services were provided by a third party vendor, and the unedited transcript provided to the state was modified for readability by DNREC staff. Due to the nature of live captions, there may be misspellings, missed or miscaptions or other errors in this transcript. We regret these errors.

This transcript was also modified to align with the presentation slides presented during the workshop. The slide numbers are indicated before the captions associated with that slide.

BEGIN TRANSCRIPT

Slide 1

>> Good morning, everyone. We will get started in a couple minutes.

We're just going to give it a couple minutes to make sure everyone can get on, and we will start in two minutes.

I will go ahead and get started, if everyone is ready. I think some people are still slowly being added into the webinar, but we will go over some stuff first.

I am hearing a little bit of sound from someone. So if our team could make sure we are all muted that would be great. Okay, great.

Good morning. Welcome to Delaware's Climate Action Plan Workshop Number One, Minimizing Greenhouse Gas Emissions. Thank you for taking time to be here today and engaging with us about climate action in Delaware. My name is Susan Love, and I am the administrator of the Climate and Sustainability Section in the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control.

Can we please get the slide deck up? I will keep moving ahead and the slides will catch up with me.

Slide 2

I will be joined today by our Secretary, Shawn Garvin, and our consulting team, in addition to a number of other really dedicated staff and consultants who are behind the scenes today making sure that this virtual workshop runs without a hitch, and they will be helping to facilitate discussions later on.

Slide 3

Before we get started, I want to make sure that you know how to negotiate this Zoom webinar. We have all been learning a lot about webinars. You will be on mute when you first join us. To test incoming sound, click the up arrow on the microphone button at the bottom of your screen, and we should have that up here shortly. I am still seeing – there we go. There's your microphone button. To test incoming sound, click the up arrow of the microphone button at the bottom of your screen, and select test speaker and microphone. If your computer or mobile device audio does not work, try relaunching Zoom or switch to phone audio.

Second, and importantly, make sure you can find the Chat button, and hit that. You can request technical support from the meeting hosts, Teresa Townsend and Prahallad. There you can send them a private message to get some assistance, if you're having some trouble. You can also ask the Climate Plan team questions, and we will do much more of that in breakout sessions. We may not be able to get all of your questions during the workshop; however, we will capture all questions from the chat box and include a Q&A section to the workshop summary.

Slide 4

Closed captioning is available, if you would like to use it. To turn on the captions, just click the closed caption icon at the bottom of your screen. If you do not see that icon, click the "More" icon. You may need to expand your screen a little bit. Later on we will use breakout rooms. If you want to utilize closed captioning in the breakout groups, send a message to the host. We will make sure that you are in the breakout session with the closed captioning available. If you need help, you can always reach the chat button for assistance.

I want to make sure the slides are catching up. We are still having a little bit of technical issues there with the slides. I will continue moving on, hoping the slides will catch up as I move on. But, again, if you do want to use closed captioning please go ahead, and find that button.

Now that we are mostly having our Zoom working, I want to go ahead and get started. I am hoping that the slides will catch up with me soon. It is still on the looping slide, not the slide deck.

Slide 5

Today's workshop will focus on opportunities for Delaware to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions that cause climate change. We will talk about potential actions we are considering for the Climate Action Plan and understand which types of actions have the greatest potential to reduce emissions and then engage in exercises about prioritizing actions.

Slide 6

For the first half hour or so we will do an overview presentation. This will be followed up by breakout groups, and then we will have a brief wrap up and some polling questions for everyone.

Slide 7

Do we have Secretary Garvin on the line yet? We do. I think I heard an affirmative. At this time I want to introduce Secretary Shawn Garvin, formerly the EPA Region 3 administrator, prior to joining our team. Secretary Garvin is no stranger to working for action that helps prepare us for climate change. I'm hoping the slide deck will catch up, but I do want to keep moving ahead. Secretary Garvin, if you would like to go ahead and do your opening remarks.

>> Thank you. On behalf of the governor and me, we thank you all for taking time out of your busy schedule to attend this virtual public workshop on Delaware's Climate Action Plan. Even though Delaware is small, we have big ideas to share and contribute.

Climate change is and will continue to be a very important issue for Delaware. We have seen how climate change is affecting our state. The decade from 2010 until 2019 was Delaware's hottest in recorded history. We also just experienced Delaware's hottest July in recorded history. Moreover, the number of days each year above 90 degrees will double from an average of five days per year to over ten days per year by 2040.

Delaware has also seen sea level rise of over 1 foot since the 1900s. And sea levels could rise nearly 2 feet above 1900 levels by 1950. These are very serious issues. More frequent and severe storms bring heavy rain and flooding, and they are projected to increase.

It is because of these serious issues that we are engaging residents to help put together Delaware's Climate Action Plan. At our last round of public workshops in March, we had over 250 people provide input to the Climate Action Plan. We also had hundreds of people provide ideas about the plan online. Residents submitted over 850 ideas for how to take action on climate change. This is an indicator to the commitment you have to our state.

The goal of today's workshop is to focus on solutions to minimize greenhouse gas emissions in Delaware. We look forward to hearing all of your ideas. Next week we will focus on adaptation and resiliency in three additional workshops. As you can see from the slide on the screen, climate change is not a just an environmental issue. By taking action on climate change we are working to protect the many things we value in Delaware: Our public health, economy, environment, the natural places we enjoy for recreation, our infrastructure, and access to clean energy and transportation for all of Delaware. So, thank you again for taking time out of your very busy schedules to participate in this very important conversation.

>> I appreciate you taking time out of your very busy day to be with us for a little bit, and I really appreciate your leadership and support on these efforts.

Slide 8

Before I jump into more of my presentation, we are going to do a quick poll with everyone here to see who is with us today and what brought you here. The poll should be popping up here in just one second.

The first question is to get to know who is joining us today and where you live. Please take a moment and click a button about which county you live. We'll give that a couple minutes. A couple seconds. Hopefully that will be popping up in a second – there we go.

The majority of us are from New Castle County. Several people don't live or work in Delaware but love it regardless and are here. So we have a good mix of folks today, and that is great.

We're going to move on to question number two, which is, did you participate with us in the first round of workshops that we had in in a March or take the online survey that was available in March? Whether we have new folks engaging for the first time in the climate plan or folks coming back to continue the dialogue. So, the possible responses are: I attended a workshop and completed online survey in March, I only attended a workshop, I only completed the survey, I was not able to do either, or I did not know about the Climate Action Plan until just now, and here I am. We will give a couple seconds to get everybody's input on that. Then we will see our results. Then we will follow up with one more question here about

what your primary interest in Delaware's Climate Action Plan is. There we go. Very good.

We have quite a number of you who were able to join us in March and have come back to provide more input and learn more. This is great. We also have people who were not able to participate in March but are now able to participate, and there are people who may have just found out about our efforts recently, and you are here. So that is wonderful. I think we will have enough context for you today for those of you who weren't here in March so you can get an idea of what we're doing and help us craft our plan.

The third question is, what is your primary interest in Delaware's Climate Action Plan? I am concerned about climate change and want to support state plans to address it, I am curious to learn more about climate change and the state's plans to address it, I am on the fence about climate change but I am looking for more information, I don't think climate change is an issue but I want to know what the state is proposing, and lastly, I like to engage on many civic issues and climate change just happens to be one of them. So go ahead and submit your answers. We will take a second to find out our results of the final question. I love going to webinars about lots of issues. And I'm sure some of you have been on lots of webinars this summer. All right. Our answer should pop up here any moment. There we go.

Almost 80% of you are concerned about climate change and want to support state plans to address. It appears that tracks pretty well with our state wide climate change survey that shows 80% of folks in the state believe that climate change is an issue and want to move forward on actions. So we have curiosity. This is great. And with a smaller group that likes to engage in every issue, and some of folks are not really sure that climate change is an important issue but do want to try to see with the state proposing.

We will keep moving on in the interest of time. I want to remind you one more time, in case you were not with us earlier in the webinar, that if you need closed captioning in the breakout room, message the host in the chat box at this point because we want to make sure that we split you into the group that will have the closed captioner. So, if you need closed captioning, raise your hand and we will make sure that captioning is available for you as we move forward.

Slide 9

Okay, so here we go: the presentation. Some of you may be wondering why we need to take action on climate change now. We know that human activities, primarily the burning of fossil fuels, caused the global climate changes that we see today. There is broad consensus that in order to avoid the most catastrophic of climate change impacts, everyone across the globe

must significantly reduce our greenhouse gas emissions to near zero. There is not one answer or one easy path to accomplish this goal, and we know that any path forward demands a comprehensive strategic and equitable response.

Slide 10

Many countries, 16 U.S. states, and hundreds of local governments have adopted targets to reduce emissions by at least 80% by 2050. And Delaware currently has a short-term target to reduce the emissions by 26-28% by the year 2025. And we will spend a lot of time today talking about that.

Slide 11

Delaware's Climate Action Plan will outline a path to reach the 2025 goal and set the state up for further emission reductions beyond 2025. The plan builds on a foundation of decades of state actions that help to achieve this goal including renewable energy and energy efficiency commitments.

Slide 12

But that's not all, Delaware's Climate Action Plan will also outline a path to becoming more resilient and prepared for the impacts of climate change: increased temperatures, rising sea levels and increased precipitation. Workshops next week will cover these topics. There is still time to sign up. But today we will hone in on the greenhouse gas emissions.

Slide 13

Delaware's Climate Action Plan will be released this winter. This workshop is part of the second round of public engagement. The first occurred in March. Since March, our staff has worked to review feedback and conduct greenhouse gas emission modeling, which is the focus of the rest of our discussion today.

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Today I am going to share with you what we heard from you during our round of workshops and our online survey and then what we learned this summer from modeling of various climate strategies. After reviewing this information — hang tight, there is a lot, but it's interesting — we will ask you questions in breakout rooms about what actions should be prioritized based upon their effectiveness and benefits.

Slide 15

I want to review what we heard during our first round of public workshops. More than 250 of you participated across three counties, and we received 870 comments for action. Many wanted to see more renewable energy and more energy efficient buildings and more public transit and more electric vehicle options and more protection from flooding. We also heard repeatedly that equity and accessibility are important, as well as concerns about the cost of these actions to households and businesses.

We used all that input, coupled with expert consultations, to select a suite of actions to investigate further that would reduce emissions. We looked at what our emissions are today, as compared to 2005, and looked at what they would be in the future with no new actions to reduce those emissions. Then we looked at a suite of 20 options to see how implementing the strategies would affect emissions.

Slide 16

What we learned is that, without any new emission reduction actions, Delaware will be just shy of its goal of reducing emissions by at least 26% by 2025. We also learned that, without additional actions, emissions would start rising again around 2032 due to population growth.

But looking at a suite of potential actions we found that Delaware could exceed its 2025 goal, and put in place significant emission reductions beyond 2025, while also benefiting from lots of co-benefits.

Slide 17

I will show you two graphs in a second, but I want to share with you the high level takeaways that these graphs are going to highlight. One, decarbonizing the electricity grid, meaning making electricity cleaner from non-carbon sources: This has the greatest emission reduction potential in the long term. Energy efficiency actions are very effective in short term to help meet our short-term goal and remains an important strategy in the longer term. Also, longer-term, electrification of transportation and building is an important strategy, and what I mean here by building electrification is that buildings would rely on electricity — clean electricity — for heat and cooking rather than propane oil and natural gas.

Slide 18

Okay, here come the graphs. Don't get scared, there is a lot of information in this graph, and

I'm going to go over it.

This graph shows the emissions from 2005 through 2050, if no additional actions are taken to reduce emissions. Actual emissions are shown through 2017, so this is what we have actual data for. And then projected emissions are beyond that, and that's because we don't have all of the data for the years of 2018 through 2019, so the projections start after 2017. And the vertical black line shows where the projections split begins.

So, each year on this graph is represented by one bar. The higher the bar, the more emissions in that given year. And then each bar, as you can see, has a variety of colors appear, for these colors represent the contribution of different economic sectors.

So, from this one graph you can see both overall emissions plus the contribution of each sector. And by each sector I mean industrial processes, transportation and electric power generation [and others]. What this graph and results show is that our state greenhouse gas emissions will reduce by 25.4% by 2025. We're just shy of our goal. And then the trend of decreasing emissions from 2005 until 2025 results from existing state and federal policies like renewable power goals and federal tailpipe emissions standards coupled with energy trends, primarily due to a shift introducing electricity and natural gas instead of coal. It also shows that emissions will rise after about 2030 that by 2050, Delaware's emission will have fallen by 19.6% from 2005 levels overall.

It is important to look many decades out because, as I discussed earlier, worldwide emissions must be near zero by mid-century to avoid the worst consequences of climate change. This shows us that that additional action is needed in the short term to meet the 26% by the 2025 goal as in the long-term to bring emissions close to zero by 2050.

So, I want to point out to you the red, blue and yellow part of this graph. This represents industrial, transportation and electric power generation. These three sectors account for over 90% of total emissions and represent the largest opportunities for emission reductions.

Slide 19

Now I will show you emissions with these additional actions that we looked at. You can see the graph looks much different. With the actions that we modeled, if we implement them, those emissions will come down over time. Results indicate if all of these actions we selected to model are fully implemented, Delaware's net greenhouse gas emissions will decline by 31.2% by 2025. And this would definitely exceed our 2025 emission reduction goal. In addition, full implementation of these actions could achieve further reductions beyond 2025.

Implementing these actions would result in nearly 60% reduction by 2050.

So, what are these actions? I will share with you more information about what these actions are and how they reduce emissions.

Slide 20

There is a lot of information on the slide. I will walk you through it.

We modeled 20 strategies. Time and resources meant that we had to make choices about what we needed to look at in a modeling exercise. Although these 20 strategies represent well-known actions to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, there are certainly other actions the state can take that could result in even greater reductions.

It is very important to note that not every strategy that we modeled will necessarily be selected for incorporation as an action in our Climate Action Plan. In addition, we know that there are important actions that don't lend themselves well to modeling. So, the Climate Action Plan itself will contain a mix of strategies that were modeled and some that we don't have model data for. So, the information from this modeling exercise is meant to inform the choices that we make in Delaware's Climate Action Plan.

Most of the 20 strategies that we model can be grouped into several categories: Renewable energy, zero emission vehicles, building energy efficiency, fuel and roadway efficiency, building electrification, and waste diversion and reduction. We also modeled actions from methane and industrial chemicals that we won't discuss today, due to time constraints, but these actions also have significant reduction potential.

As you can see here, renewable energy, zero emission vehicles, like electric or hydrogen, and energy efficiency reduces the most emissions between 2005 and 2050. The reduction potential is measured in terms of metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent. I know this is a mouthful. But this is just so we can compare actions across different greenhouse gas types equally.

Each strategy varies in cost to implement and how quickly they can be fully implemented. And another important thing to note is that many of these strategies have significant co-benefits: improving air quality, creating new job opportunities, saving residents and businesses money, improving the resilience of our power supply and improving mobility options across our state.

So, at this point I will dig into each one of these categories just for a second to give you a flavor of what we looked at.

Slide 21

So, for renewable energy: Increasing the amount of renewable energy that runs in our electricity grid has the greatest potential to reduce emissions in the long term, with 4.3 million metric tons reduction between 2005 and 2050. This includes actions like increasing solar and geothermal in our homes and businesses and phasing out the burning fossil fuels for electric generation. Co-benefits include improved air quality, job creation and energy resilience.

Slide 22

The next category, converting our cars and trucks and buses to zero emissions, is the second-largest emission reduction potential in that time, with 1.2 million metric tons of reduction between 2005 and 2050. This includes converting to electric and hydrogen fueled vehicles. This also means increases to the fueling infrastructure for those vehicles, and co-benefits include better air quality, cost savings and job creation.

Slide 23

Using less energy in our homes and offices and manufacturing centers through a variety of energy efficiency measures can save over 700,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by 2050. Because these measures can be put in place relatively quickly, it could be an important strategy for short-term emissions reduction and meeting our 2025 goal. But these benefits go much longer than that. Co-benefits include cost savings, job creation, energy resilience and air quality.

If we are piquing your interest, I will remind you that the full report of all of these measures is available on our website declimateplan.org.

Slide 24

Just a couple more I want to highlight for you, hang in there with me. Making our existing transportation system more efficient, making it easier to walk and bike, increasing the efficiency of gasoline powered cars — this plays an important role in reducing emissions with 650,000 tons of emissions reduction potential. These measures can save money, help improve air quality and help provide transportation choices.

Slide 25

Rounding the curve here, building electrification can help reduce up to 550,000 tons of carbon emissions. As pointed out before, this measure looks at powering appliances like stoves and furnaces with renewable power. This includes electrifying new buildings and retrofitting existing buildings over time. The benefits are job creation, air quality and energy resilience.

Slide 26

Finally, the way that we manage waste products also plays a role. Although smaller than the other strategies we discussed, reducing, reusing, recycling and composting can reduce up to about 200,000 tons of emissions, with opportunities for job creation and cost savings.

Slide 27

Thank you for hanging in there as I reviewed the results of the emissions model conducted to help inform the actions we choose to focus in on the Climate Action Plan. With that, I will turn it over to our consultant from Planning Communities who will move us to the next and much more interesting part of our agenda where we actually get to hear from you.

Slide 28

>> Thank you, Susan. Next we will break this great crowd up into smaller groups to participate in an exercise with a series of questions. This exercise will help you learn more about the greenhouse gas reduction potential of the different climate action measures being considered. It will allow you to consider the co-benefits of the measures and provide your input on how the measures should be prioritized by the state. You will be automatically assigned to a breakout room. No need for action on your end — we will transport you to a small group. Each group will have a facilitator to guide you through the exercise, and we will have a small chat box there as well. All participants will be brought back to the full group at the end of this exercise for discussion and the final part of today's public meeting.

The breakout rooms were not recorded, so captions from the breakout rooms are not included in this transcript.

During the breakout room activity, participants were asked to provide input on which emissions reduction actions they felt were most impactful and most cost-effective. Participants were also asked to indicate which actions they felt Delaware should implement first.

Additionally, participants were asked to rate the extent to which emissions reduction actions provided personal economic benefits, local or state economic development, local or state preparedness, natural resource protection, health benefits, and more transportation choices.

Results from the breakout room activity will be posted at declimateplan.org.

Slide 29

>> Welcome back everybody. We hope you had fun engaging in a little interactive exercise to understand a little bit more about the benefits of each of these reduction strategies, as well as what the various rankings are in terms of which ones have the most potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

We want to take a moment here to give everybody an opportunity – I'm going to ask each facilitator to report back a couple of key takeaways from each of your breakout sessions, which co-benefits seem to rise up amongst folks. I know in our group there was definitely a great understanding of the co-benefits of improved health as well as improved natural resource protection amongst several strategies, particularly those around transportation. So those were a couple of key takeaways for my group in particular. But maybe I will ask each of our facilitators to share what their group discussed. And, not to pick on anyone in particular, but Sonia I will ask you to go next because I thought of you first.

>> My group was terrific but we had a technical glitch, so we did it a bit differently. They did not get to see everything we wanted them to, but nevertheless the benefits that they saw were very heavily in the health area and healthier natural resources, which are important to them, preserving natural healthy resources and biodiversity retention in the long run and better air and soil quality. Those came up, and, by and large, for each of the categories. People in our group — there were eight voting members — felt strongly there were lots of co-benefits to be had.

>> I will mention one, in our word cloud that our group mentioned, sort of motivation for continued change and I thought that was an interesting thing to bring up in our word cloud because once you see some of the benefits of these reduction activities, it doesn't motivate

folks to invest in more changes and we will see the ease with which some of these things can be implemented. Maggie, I will go to you next.

>> My group, looking at the co-benefits, health also was a big one, and it popped up as the top choice for a lot of the options, and local and state preparedness was also frequently up there for us. We had a word cloud and cleaner air and job creation were some of the big ones from our word cloud.

>> Thank you Maggie. And now we will go to Kim.

>> Breakout group eight was awesome. Total rock stars. We didn't even have one single technical difficulty. The team was on it. Really good comments. A lot of focus similarly on health benefits. We talked quite a bit, there were a lot comments around personal and local and state economic development. And in our word cloud, really what struck us was three things: improved health around environmental quality, economic and job opportunities, and then really thinking about just all the alternatives that are available for getting to renewable fuels and low carbon liquid fuels, and we did have a mention of equity which was important. Another big piece that came up was the reminder that the focus on fuel and roadway efficiency is really, super important, and while zero emission vehicles are helpful and a good transition, we need to get used to not being in a car so much and think about planning to help communities. A great group.

>> I will go down to Larissa next.

>> Our group was great. It looks like they was solid agreement among many of them around all of the co-benefits. Many of them, it seems like, they strongly agreed on a lot of the co-benefits. The only one that was fairly different was the waste diversion reduction. A lot of people are pretty neutral on that. And around our word cloud, we had jobs, clean air, and health that stood out for most people. And there was also a lot on agriculture, food, health, and that was very interesting to see. That is it for us.

>> All right. Next will go to Karen.

>> Our group did their homework. We were asking about measures for largest greenhouse gas reduction impact, and the group got the right answer each time, so looking at zero emission vehicles or renewable energy or fuel and roadway efficiency, it was great. And in terms of potential benefits, across the board, whether it was building electrification or fuel and roadway efficiency, even down to waste diversion and reduction, natural resource protection and health benefits were leading potential benefits there with local or state

economic development catching up. So, a lot of agreement across the group for potential benefits.

>> All right. Ann.

>> Breakout room two we had participation by those on Mentimeter. We also had a phone participant, so we had some offline dialogue as well from the actual activity, but some of the interesting things that came out in the other benefits dialogue: We had folks bring up issues of coastal erosion and water quality and just general beautification of the environment vistas and less trash and restoration. So, some co-benefits that were not listed. We also had, in our phone conversation, making sure that the state, in making decisions, is looking at negative impacts like cost and some of the trade-offs that may come. That came up a bit in the first question when we were looking at cost effectiveness, but making sure to look at cost and externalities, as well. And we have an offline follow-up there, as well. So we had a great group, and we're looking forward to the collective results.

>> I like those comments. We had some questions come up around the boundaries and obviously we referred folks to the technical report for the methods and boundaries, but how deeply when you're thinking about industrial-related emissions or fuel and roadway emissions, you know, what are the life cycle things that we talk about as far back as where we are extracting materials and those kinds of questions. A very thoughtful group of folks. I think we have one more facilitator. Last, but not least, Brandy.

>> I was surprised by how much agreement we had about some of the co-benefits. There was some strong agreement showing up. I think that when we talked about other benefits our group had some of the same things we already heard, but there are a few that popped out to me that I have not heard people bring up. We had a few responses around reducing sea level rise. We had a few responses around more moderate weather and temperature reductions and a few responses around future generations that came up in our group.

>> Thank you Brandy. That all sounds great.

Slide 30

The next thing we will do is poll you all again, and I believe that Ann, Brandy or Teresa will pull up the next round of polling. So, we asked you this in our breakout groups, but thinking about it one more time, based on everything that you have heard about greenhouse gas reduction potential and the co-benefits and the cost effectiveness and the overall time scale of how quickly we need to reduce impacts, what are the first actions that you think Delaware

needs to take to minimize emissions? We will give this another second for folks to make their votes. We will go ahead and close this out and see what folks had to say.

All right, Delaware, you have your answer: Renewable energy first. A strong showing for this because we see the tremendous amount of greenhouse gas reduction there is as well as the co-benefits with it there, so really great to see that. Closely following, building energy efficiency, of course, and zero emission vehicles had a good showing there, as well, so we're not going to only do one of these, and these are also not the only strategies, so really helpful to think about how we should be prioritizing these things.

We have one more question. Susan talked about the context in which are operating here that we are trying to make significant reductions in greenhouse gas reductions by mid-century. Susan talked about the short-term target that Delaware has adopted, but should Delaware adopt a long-term greenhouse gas reduction target to align with some countries and states and cities? So, we have five different options here: No, we do not need to worry about greenhouse gas emissions; no, Delaware is doing enough without setting specific targets; yes, Delaware should have a target of 80% reductions by 2050 based on 2005 levels; yes, Delaware should set a target of more than 80% emissions reductions; and then finally, yes, Delaware should set a target but less than 80% reductions. I will say that the result here is not a commitment from the state for any of these, but really want to get your input on where they should be headed when considering these. We will give this a few more seconds here, and then I will let you guys go ahead and close this poll and we can see results. All right.

We have some general consensus here for mid-century target of at least 80% reduction. So 34%, just over a third of you, think we should aim for 80% emissions reduction by 2050. 54% say we should be more aggressive than that. Perhaps many of you are thinking of carbon neutrality goals we are seeing popping up in a number of states. So, great feedback and food for thought, and with that I will hand it back over to Susan to close us out and open any closing thoughts.

Slide 31

>> Thank you so much, and thank you everyone who stuck with us through the exercises. I won't take too much longer to wind us up, but I have some important information to share with you. Again, thank you for taking the time out. We know your time is valuable and we really appreciate you being here to have this conversation with us today. And we don't want the conversation to end here.

Our web portal will remain open for your input and ideas through Friday, October 16. I will

say that date again: Friday, October 16. We are looking for the feedback by that time because then we will start drafting our plan, and we want to have your ideas in hand. We also have what is known as a MetroQuest survey available where you can provide feedback on both emission reductions and do this in interactive way, if you want to do that. You can also send us an e-mail or letter on the portal with your comments ideas or suggestions. So, some of you may have many specific things that you want to highlight or reports you may want to point us to, and that will be a good way to do that. And, in fact, many of you have already done so.

Also, this was the first online workshop that our team has put on, and we are interested to know how the format works for you and what you like and what you did not like and how we can improve for next time. I am the kind of person that would love engaging with you in a room. That was not possible here. We're trying to do the best we can, and we may want to do this more in the future because it is quite convenient for people to get together this way.

Our team will have a survey for you next week that will focus just on the workshop format: Did it work for you and what did you like and what did you not like. We would appreciate if you can make a special effort to give us that feedback so we can make improvements next time we do this.

A workshop summary, including the results of all of our workshops, will be available this fall.

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And if you had fun with us today, and can't get enough and want more, please register for the upcoming climate resiliency workshops happening through October 1. Each workshop will focus on a specific climate impacts, so there is a sea level rise day, an increasing temperature day and a heavy precipitation and flooding day. You can participate in all or just one or two. Some more information about those are available online, and the dates and times are up there. Again, you do need to register the same way you registered this workshop. And I encourage you to do so.

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And that is all I have to say. Looks like we're actually going to wrap up right at 1:00 p.m. Again, thank you. We're so glad to have you as a partner in our efforts to solve Delaware's climate change challenges. I hope everyone has a wonderful day and a wonderful lunch.

END TRANSCRIPT