

Update on the Draft State Energy Plan

Presented by the State Energy Office,
DNREC Division of Climate, Coastal and Energy
For the EEAC



Roles and Responsibilities

GEAC

- Providing recommendations to the State Energy Office on updates to the Delaware Energy Plan and Climate Action Plan every 5 years from date of enactment. The updating process shall include a process for public input and measures for progress in attaining goals identified in the plans.

DNREC State Energy Office

- Develop and update, at least every 5 years, a comprehensive State Energy Plan designed to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens and economy of the State, support the State's greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets, and support implementation of the State's Climate Action Plan.

The Process

- GEAC convened in June 2023
- Established 4 Workgroups
 - Environmental Justice & Energy Equity
 - Renewable Energy & Clean Technologies
 - Energy Efficiency & Electrification
 - Grid Modernization
- 25 total meetings between June – December 2023
- 3 public engagement meetings in November 2023



GEAC Recommendations

- **82 approved recommendations**
 - Environmental Justice & Energy Equity – 17
 - Renewable Energy & Clean Technologies – 26
 - Energy Efficiency & Electrification – 21
 - Grid Modernization - 18

The DRAFT Energy Plan Outline



**Delaware's
Energy Profile**



**Environmental
Justice &
Energy Equity**



**Renewable
Energy &
Clean
Technologies**



**Maximizing
Energy
Efficiency &
Promoting
Beneficial
Electrification**



**Grid
Modernization**



**Workforce
Development**



**56 total
strategies**

Maximizing Energy Efficiency & Promoting Beneficial Electrification

Section	Strategy	Summary Description
Buildings EE & E Programs	Incorporate Greenhouse Gas Emissions into Energy Efficiency Potential Studies	The State Energy Office will refresh the energy efficiency potential study for residential and commercial buildings that identifies energy efficiency and electrification programs needed to achieve Delaware's new greenhouse gas reduction targets.
	Ensure the Energy Act is consistent with Climate Change Solution Act of 2023 Goals	Energy efficiency programs regulated by the Energy Act are instrumental in achieving greenhouse gas reduction targets outlined in the Climate Change Solution Act of 2023. However, the Energy Act processes and goals predated the Climate Change Solution Act of 2023.
	Develop Building Decarbonization Plans	The State Energy Office will identify the barriers Delawareans face in participating in energy efficiency and electrification programs. This includes identifying opportunities to reduce emissions from the largest energy users and leveraging new funding opportunities to fund innovative pilots and demonstrations.
	Support voluntary stretch code adoption	Amend state code to allow local governments to adopt more stringent building energy codes in the form of stretch codes. Stretch codes allow builders and developers in the construction industry to familiarize themselves with new building practices prior to base code changes, easing the transition into the new code.
	Support Net-zero building energy codes in new construction	Define net-zero energy-capable buildings and how to comply with the State's net-zero energy-capable buildings code. State Energy Office will explore ways to support net-zero capable new construction through incentives, technical resources, and training.
	Assess the benefits of appliance standards	Determine feasibility and impact of appliance standards on achieving the state's emission reduction targets. Appliance standards are minimum energy conservation targets for appliances that are used most often in a home or building.

Maximizing Energy Efficiency & Promoting Beneficial Electrification

Section	Strategy	Summary Description
Buildings EE & E Programs	Adopt and work with local governments to support enforcement of stronger State energy codes	Statewide building codes are intended to ensure durability and safety of residential and commercial buildings as well as improve the energy efficiency and indoor air quality for residents. Currently, state code does not have guidance on the process and timeline for a local jurisdiction to adopt and enforce the State's base energy code. All code enforcement and compliance fall under the local government's jurisdiction. Legislation is needed to clarify the adoption process, set timelines for adoption, as well as enforcement and compliance reporting requirements.
	Expand education and training opportunities	The State Energy Office will plan an in-state building energy and code training infrastructure for code inspectors, builders, contractors, and designers. These educational and training offerings could be coupled with code training certifications and continuing education credits. Furthermore, entities that manage and regulate Delaware energy systems should create a resource platform to educate and empower appraisers and realtors about the value of energy efficiency and opportunities to include homes' energy performance in their reports.
	Improve Existing Buildings Energy Performance by Developing Statewide Building Performance Standards	The State Energy Office will assess existing building stock characteristics and needs to identify the appropriate building performance standards policies. As part of building performance standards policy development, the state will work with key market actors in the Delaware building industry to understand their concerns and limitations.
	Lead by example in State and local government	State and local governments have a role to play by leading by example to promote energy reduction, responsible energy behavior, and energy efficiency strategies in government facilities through education, outreach programs, and building improvements.

Maximizing Energy Efficiency & Promoting Beneficial Electrification

Section	Strategy	Summary Description
Vehicle Electrification	Adopt, and work with local governments to support enforcement of, EV-Ready residential and commercial building codes	In 2023, Delaware enacted a law to require that newly constructed single-family and multifamily residential dwellings include electric vehicle charging infrastructure. The State Energy Office is adopting “EV-Ready” building and engaging and educating developers, local officials, homeowners, and businesses on new requirements.
	Encourage on-street charging	Partnerships between utilities, municipal, and county governments can demonstrate charging pilots. Local governments should develop electric vehicle charging ordinances to permit the placement and installation of on-street charging stations and mechanisms must exist for residents to request the installation of on-street or pole-mounted chargers outside their property or in their neighborhoods.
	Ensure electric distribution network is ready for electric vehicles	To avoid costly and time-consuming electric distribution infrastructure upgrades, strategies need to be implemented to shift new electric load from electric vehicle charging and address electric distribution system constraints. This is achievable by improving utility demand response and time-of-use rates, implementing smart charge management, and using electric vehicles as an energy resource via Vehicle-to-Grid and other emerging technologies. Utilities can use emerging technology, create awareness, and incentivize customer behaviors to shift load and optimize the existing electric grid.
	Reduce barriers for commercial customers	Demand charges for nonresidential customers, particularly those with direct current fast chargers, can result in unexpectedly high energy costs. Solutions include educating commercial customers, piloting programs, and designing rates that incentivize load management technologies.
	Educate consumers about new programs and incentives	The State and other program providers have a role to play to promote public awareness and provide education on utility, state and local vehicle electrification policy and programs. Program providers, dealerships and consumers must be kept abreast of electric vehicle, charging infrastructure incentives and qualifications to receive these incentives.
Tracking & Measuring Progress	Tracking and measuring progress towards energy efficiency and electrification	Uniform tracking, reporting, and accountability systems are essential for designing effective programs and measuring progress toward state goals.

Next Steps

- Presentation of the draft Energy Plan strategies
 - Today
- Public Engagement Meetings
 - August 2024
 - 3 meetings, one in each county
- Release of the final Energy Plan
 - Fall 2024
- Next GEAC Meeting
 - Fall 2024



Thank You

For additional information about the
State Energy Office please visit:

<https://dnrec.delaware.gov/climate-coastal-energy/energy-office/>

