



**Department of  
Environmental  
Conservation**

# **Waste Emissions Advisory Panel**

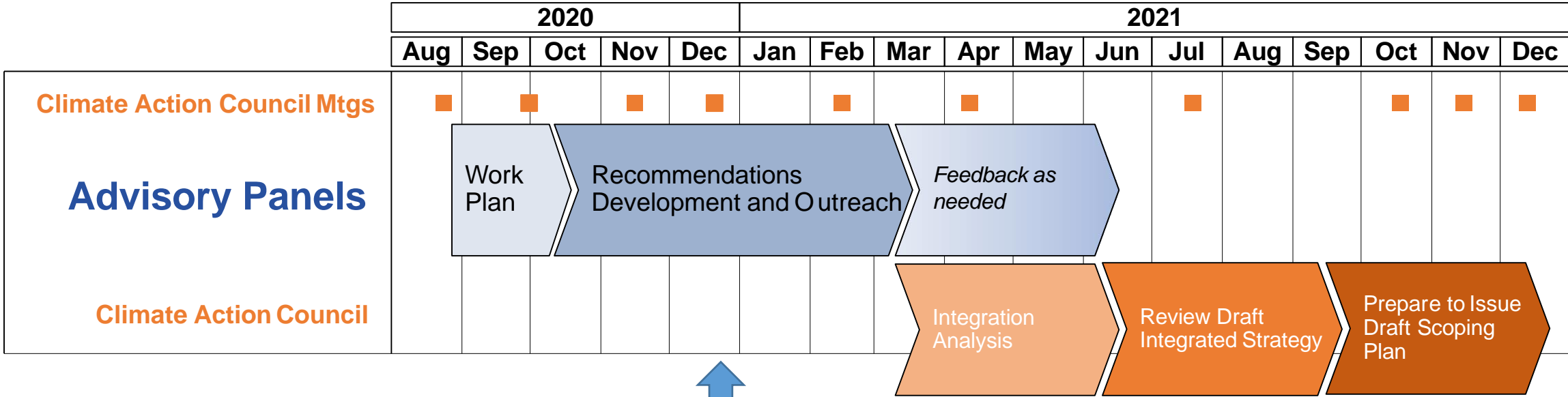
**Workplan Development**

**December 11, 2020**

**Deputy Commissioner Martin Brand**

**Department of Environmental Conservation**

# Reminder: Timeline for Advisory Panels to Develop Recommendations



  
**Draft recommendations due in December**

# Goal 1

**Reduce the quantity of methane producing waste (food waste, paper, etc.) that are landfilled**

# Goal 1 – Policy Options

- Amend Food Donation and Food Scraps Recycling Law to include smaller food waste generators (tiered approach, ultimately including residential sources)
- Methane Producing Waste (MPW) – reducing disposal in landfills
  - Surcharge on disposal in landfills
  - Restrict disposal of MPWs
  - Require presort/separation prior to landfill disposal
  - Provide support for alternative processing of MSW containing MPWs
    - Funding for composting facilities and/or ADs
  - Expand source separation infrastructure for MPWs
    - Funding for municipal MPW collection vehicles/infrastructure/residential composting equipment
  - Encourage municipalities to provide alternative funding for MPW diversion projects
    - 1-cent sales tax add-on for muni MPW processing/collection programs
    - State legislation to exclude muni funding of MPW programs through property tax from 2% tax cap
- Biosolids beneficial use incentives
- Recognize/support combustion as better alternative to landfilling from GHG emissions perspective
- Transportation cross-over topic: reducing landfilling coupled with NYS recycling capacity expansion to alleviate transportation impacts
  - Reduce waste exported out of state

# Goal 2

Reduce methane leaks from landfills, anaerobic digesters, and other waste facilities

## Goal 2 – Policy Options

- More aggressive leak detection and response through regulation for ADs and landfills (Part 360 series, Part 208, other applicable regs)
- Part 363 potential changes (landfills):
  - Require annual drone survey – performed by landfill/contractor – that identifies methane leaks in cover, working face, and appurtenances
  - Require action to mitigate any detected methane emissions
  - Require geosynthetics, etc. as intermediate cover to mitigate emissions

# Goal 3

Increase waste reduction,  
reuse, and recycling

# Goal 3 – Policy Options

- EPR/Product Stewardship framework
  - Specific materials (packaging, paper, solar panels, large capacity batteries, automobiles, refrigerants, etc.) – look at these with a GHG priority perspective
  - Funding from EPR directed at waste prevention and reuse programs
- Financial incentive programs for reduction, reuse/repair, and recycling
  - Replace single use food-ware and packaging with reusables
  - Recovery of lumber, wood furniture, etc. through deconstruction projects
  - Replace single-use packaging to transport/distribute goods
  - Repair skills training for schools/vocational programs and enhance workforce development
  - Develop web platforms for reuse options between residents and businesses
- Expand Returnable Container Act (Bottle Bill)
- Expand domestic recycling capacity (especially for MPW items like mixed paper and cardboard)
- Expand organics recycling infrastructure, including retrofitting existing AD infrastructure
- Expand compost use and markets in ag and infrastructure (highways, etc.)
  - Permit requirements, procurement requirements
- Universal Waste designation to encourage recycling





# Goal 4

Increase use of **anaerobic digestion** for waste materials

# Goal 4 – Policy Options

- Incentives to facilitate digester development
- Minimum price point for electric/gas generated from renewable resources
- Special emphasis on digesters co-located at generating businesses

# Goal 5

**Manufacturer requirements on  
waste generation limits and  
reporting**

## Goal 5 – Policy Options

- Legislation or regulation to require recycling related activities in manufacturing
- Require annual reporting on waste generation
- Set caps on waste from manufacturers that is not recyclable or reusable and/or tax manufacturers that exceed cap

# Goal 6

Require control of emissions and increase use of AD at **Water Resource Recovery Facilities**

## Goal 6 – Policy Options

- Use NYCDEP actions as a model
- Reduce emission sources other than methane (N<sub>2</sub>O, etc.)
- Require AD leak detection and repair
- Fund AD at all treatment plants where the amount of biogas generated is sufficient to support electric generation for use on-site
- Provide funding to upgrade existing ADs at plants
  - Expand ADs to include food scraps and/or other MPWs
- Energy Panel cross-over topic – coordinate on energy pricing structure

# Where do we go from here?

- Refinement of Goals and Actions
- Establish subgroups?
- Quantification of Emissions (DEC is working on)
- Attending other panel meetings and work on cross-over challenges
- Development of Recommendations for CAC

# Upcoming meetings

- Dec 15 – Climate Action Council (report out on Work Plan)
- Dec 16 – Climate Justice Working Group (need panel representation)
- Dec 16 – Bioeconomy subgroup meeting (3-5pm)
- Dec 18 – Transportation Panel meeting (2pm)
- **Future panel and/or subgroup meetings?**