

Energy Intensive and Trade Exposed Industries  
Advisory Panel Meeting 6 with Public Input Session  
January 13, 2021

**Attendees:**

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|--------------------------|--|
| 1. Eric Gertler, Chair   | Empire State Development                               |
| 2. Keith Hayes, Co-Chair | New York Power Authority                               |
| 3. Heather Briccetti     | The Business Council of New York State, Inc.           |
| 4. Tristan Brown         | SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry     |
| 5. Jason Curtis          | Nucor Steel Auburn, Inc.                               |
| 6. Carlos García         | New York City Environmental Justice Alliance           |
| 7. Leah George VanScott  | Greater Rochester Enterprise                           |
| 8. Doug Grose            | NY CREATES   |
| 9. Michael LeMonds       | LafargeHolcim  |
| 10. Melanie Littlejohn   | National Grid  |
| 11. Elisa Miller-Out     | Chloe Capital  |
| 12. David Wasiura        | United Steelworkers District 4                         |
| 13. Lourdes Zapata       | South Bronx Overall Economic Development Corp. (SoBRO) |

**Not in Attendance:**

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| 1. Stephen Tucker | Workforce Training Center at Northland |
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**Agenda Item I – Welcome and Updates**

- Chair Gertler welcomed the Panel, reviewed meeting logistics, and took the role.
- Chair Gertler provided a recap of the Panel’s progress to-date, including:
  - Defining panel scope and work plan
  - Reviewing industrial emission sources, technology, and process solutions for reducing emissions
  - Identifying potential approaches to deploy solutions
  - Developing preliminary emissions reduction strategies
- Chair Gertler notes that the meeting objectives, as reflected in the agenda, include:
  - A recap of initial Climate Justice Working Group (CJWG) and Climate Action Council (CAC) comments on preliminary EITE strategies
  - A guest presentation on Renewable Natural Gas by Phil Vos (Program Director, Energy Vision)
  - Collect public input on the EITE panel’s preliminary strategies
- Co-chair Hayes provides an overview of comments on EITE’s preliminary strategies from the CAC and CJWG.

*Comments and Questions:*

- **Panel Member Miller-Out:** *In response to the CJWG’s comment on whether the panel has been thinking about business and workforce development for disadvantaged individuals, Panel Member Miller-Out does think this has been top of mind for discussion to date and would like the Panel to continue to emphasize it and integrate it into our innovation strategy.*

- Co-chair Hayes provides an overview of considerations for panel recommendations.  
*Comments and Questions:*
  - **Panel Member Brown** questioned whether the Climate Action Council had provided any weighting that the Advisory Panel should use in evaluating its strategies.
    - *Response: Not at this point.*
- For more details on this portion of the meeting, please see slides 2-12.

## Agenda Item II – Renewable Natural Gas Presentation

- Phil Vos, Program Director at Energy Vision, provided a presentation on renewable natural gas (RNG) from organic waste, including national trends and opportunities for New York.
- Matt Tomich, President at Energy Vision, also joined the discussion to respond to clarifying questions.  
*Comments and Questions:*
  - **Panel Member García:** *Asks a clarifying question regarding whether renewable natural gas, when combusted, emits the same amount of CO<sub>2</sub> as conventional natural gas.*
    - **Phil Vos:** *If you are looking strictly at the combustion process, then yes you are getting a similar amount of CO<sub>2</sub>. However, on a lifecycle basis, you are looking at considerably lower emissions from RNG.*
    - **Panel Member Garcia Follow-Up:** *The American Gas Foundation looked at RNG potential for the Mid-Atlantic and found that the region could only supply between 9-15% of natural gas consumption. Interested to hear how you reconcile these findings of resource reliability and the information on the slides.*
    - **Phil Vos:** *In this presentation, he's been deliberately referring to RNG from organic waste. We are concerned with methane produced from organic waste. As for leakage, this is a big issue that must be dealt with. Systems need to be re-vamped to prevent this. As for the lifecycle emissions, the emissions level referenced come from CARB, which is recognized as a preeminent authority on the topic.*
    - **Matt Tomich:** *Adds that they recognize RNG is not a panacea. It will never be a full or close replacement for current natural gas demand regardless of end-use. However, it is an immediate opportunity to put to use this fugitive methane that will continue to be created so long as we live on this planet and create waste. Even if methane is only 10% of NYS emissions - it needs to be addressed to get to midcentury targets. If it's something that can be done in the next ten years, there's an opportunity to put some of that methane to use in decarbonizing existing fossil fuel driven industries and activities.*
  - **Panel Member Littlejohn's written comment** *noted that National Grid is working aggressively on looking at these options and that work with Newtown Creek for the past decade is an example of what can be done. Panel Member Littlejohn also noted that RNG is a good mechanism to drive us to our goals.*
  - **Panel Member Brown:** *Could you tell us about what type of build out would be necessary. If we start using a substantial amount of RNG is this something where existing infrastructure is compatible, or how much additional infrastructure is needed to get it to the end consumer?*

- **Mat Tomich:** *From our research, we've seen it as a matter of utilizing existing infrastructure and siting facilities as close as possible to existing pipeline infrastructure. Not talking about expanding the scope of infrastructure but tapping the existing infrastructure.*

### Agenda Item III - Public Input Session

- Co-chair Hayes introduces the session, provides a reminder of EITE considerations and the preliminary EITE strategies, and provides an overview of public commenter procedures.  
Key points made by commenters:
  - *Multiple Intervenors is an association of 60 large commercial and industrial energy consumers with manufacturing and other facilities located in NYS. As large energy consumers, members are subject to state decarbonization policies and related energy costs. Many members are energy/emissions intensive and trade exposed and the outcome of the CAC work, especially related to EITE industries, will have impacts of the cost and viability of operating facilities in NYS. We understand the challenges the CLCPA presents and are thankful to the efforts of the Council and Working Groups. Members support the goals of the CLCPA and are engaged in efforts to reduce GHG emissions. Fundamentally, Multiple Intervenors would like to ensure the CLCPA is implemented as cost effectively as possible and maintain reliability of the electric and natural gas systems. Due to their concerns, they've requested the Just Transition Working Group (JTWG) retain a consultant to conduct an analysis of the potential impact and cost of compliance with CLCPA on NYS businesses. To-date, this has not been initiated and total impact of CLCPA compliance remains a mystery. As they develop a definition of EITE industry, they should focus on reducing leakage to protect manufacturing jobs and should seek to include all EITE industries. Leakage to competing states not pursuing decarbonization is an added threat and any definition should take into account interstate trade in addition to international trade. Thank you.*
  - *Written comment: I'd like to thank this Council for their work and raise one comment on RNG. Although I support its capture and use in some cases, when it becomes necessary to significantly develop infrastructure to support it, I do not. Expanding gas infrastructure potentially slows a transition to solar, wind, hydro and other true carbon-free renewable fuels. I respectfully speak out against a significant expansion of this fuel.*
  - *Written comment: We at coilpod.com have submitted to the Housing and EE panel data and information on the big energy savings and emissions reduction from maintenance of refrigeration and air conditioning. A study by The Carbon Trust estimates that dirty units consume about 25 percent more electric than needed.*
    - *Follow up verbal comment: We think that preventative maintenance of refrigeration and air condition is something that needs to be looked at. Utility incentives can help support preventative maintenance. The EE&H panel and EITE panels both may find related information useful.*
  - *Wanted to provide a quick note to thank Energy vision on RNG. Important note on emissions from RNG combustion and combustion of natural gas: RNG from organic waste contains biogenic carbon – this is already part of the carbon cycle so CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are considered carbon neutral. RNG is not adding to GHG pollution issues when combusted. This wouldn't hold true if RNG was from feedstock that would otherwise hold carbon for long period of time (e.g., logging from old growth forest) which is not what we're discussing here.*

- Co-Chair Hayes wraps up the public input session and provides information on how to submit written comments. See slide 18 for additional details.

**Agenda Item IV – Next Steps**

- Co-chair Hayes provides an overview of next steps, including:
  - The next EITE meeting will be held on 2/10
  - Panel and public can submit comments, strategies and considerations to [climate@esd.ny.gov](mailto:climate@esd.ny.gov) or to the mailing address provided at slide 18.