

Just Transition Work Group Meeting 2
October 1, 2020
3-5pm

Working Group Member Attendees

Doreen Harris – Co-Chair
Roberta Reardon – Co-Chair
Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas
John Rhodes
Gary LaBarbera
Vincent Albanese
Omar Freilla
Henry Garrido
Patrick Jackson
Michael Padgett
Brian Raley
James Shillitto
Maritza Silva-Farrell
Ted Skerpon
Candis Tolliver
Randy Wolken

Other Attendees

Kaela Mainsah
Adele Ferranti
James Wilcox
Dave Quickenton
Peter Olmsted
Don Applyrs
Lisa Wansley
Alicia Sullivan
Yvonne Martinez
Jamie Dickerson
Kara Allen

1. Introduction

- a. Commissioner Reardon welcomed the Working Group and performed role call.
- b. Commissioner Reardon reviewed the agenda which focuses on a review and discussion of the draft Work Plan and then reviews plans for public engagement and next steps for the group. It was emphasized that discussion and questions are encouraged, and the meeting can include active discussion among all WG members.
- c. **Co-Chair Reflections**
 - i. Cmr. Reardon acknowledged the workforce programs homework assignment given at meeting #1 and thanks those who provided responses and encouraged additional responses from the rest of the WG members to be emailed to Adele.ferranti@nyscrda.ny.gov.
 - ii. Cmr. Reardon noted that the monthly calendar holds were sent out for each meeting through March and hoped that having these meeting dates and times identified well in advance would provide the ability to schedule around them.
 - iii. D. Harris noted that the next meeting of the full Climate Action Council has been publicly noticed for Thursday, October 8, from 2-5pm. Information and materials for that meeting are available on the climate.ny.gov website.
 - iv. H. Garrido noted that the November meeting is scheduled for the day after Election Day and we may want to move the date to give more time to think about possible results and impacts of the results of the election.

1. D. Harris suggested keeping that meeting and adding another where the group could address any expected federal policy impacts on the JTWG's work.
2. C. Tolliver noted she would not be able to attend that day.
3. D. Harris asked all members to email if they have any conflicts with any of the currently scheduled meetings so that we can reschedule if there is a significant number of people who cannot attend.

2. Work Plan Overview

- a. D. Harris noted that:
 - i. The JTWG and the other Advisory Panels are all completing and sharing work plans with the Climate Action Council to outline planned areas of engagement, identify concrete deliverables, and describe the structure, timing, and processes for completing our work.
 - ii. This working group, like some of the other Advisory Panels, is proposing that certain subgroups be formed to allow interested members of the working group to conduct deeper dives on selected topics and bring findings and materials back to the full group.
 - iii. The central emphasis for today is getting WG member feedback on the elements of the workplan. If members have feedback after today's meeting, they should feel free to share via email.
 - iv. After collecting and incorporating feedback into the workplan, D. Harris and Cmr. Reardon will reporting on the status of the work plan to the Climate Action Council at their 10/8 meeting. Then any feedback received from the CAC and will be included and an updated draft will be shared with the full JTWG. Ultimately, the refined workplan will be posted on the climate.ny.gov website.

3. Work Plan – Workforce Development and Training

- a. D. Applrys highlighted the WIOA Adult and Dislocated (DW) programs, which have a priority on serving people with barriers to employment including disadvantaged workers, low-income individuals, individuals with disabilities and veterans. The DW program is for individuals who have been dislocated from their work, so in cases like a plant closure DW funding can be utilized.
- b. A. Ferranti raised the question of how best to inventory the workforce training opportunities available to workers needing to transition. She noted the need for developing an inventory of current CE training programs to identify assets, gaps, opportunities to expand capacity of existing programs, etc.
- c. H. Garrido: Noted that this work should include assistance to municipal workers who he also represents in New York State. Noted that it would be good if his organization could collaborate training between their funds and state funds since they are municipal workers.
- d. V. Albanese noted that his organization is looking at wind and solar but not just looking at construction but making sure they are looking at entire supply chain and maintenance

because there are a lot of jobs in materials and transportation of the equipment. Look at the entire life cycle.

- e. M. Silva-Farrell noted that it's important to consider transfer of skills and consider what kind of skills will be needed for these jobs and how can we transfer the skills from what they are doing to what is needed.
4. Slide 6 – Work Plan - Power Plants
- a. J. Dickerson noted some background information:
 - i. The CLCPA obviously has important implications for the state's power generation fleet, as the law codifies requirements for 70% renewable electricity by 2030 and 100% zero-emissions electricity by 2040.
 - ii. NYSERDA has been leading the implementation of an initiative that began earlier this year, supporting a Just Transition for power plants that may be nearing closure (and for affected communities and workers).
 - b. J. Dickerson noted:
 - i. The draft Work Plan current proposes to form a subgroup to have some in depth work from those with expertise and interest in power plant operation, management, and planning.
 - c. O. Freilla: The inventory should consider the health of the community that the plant is located in for example has it held the burden of heavy infrastructure such as with high incidence of asthma or respiratory diseases.
 - d. J. Rhodes noted that PSC supports the idea of having a clean plant in the place where there used to be fossil fuel power plants because it would benefit all stakeholders. The hope for site reuse would be to look for opportunity for turning into new clean energy sites.
 - i. J. Rhodes also noted that when considering how to match workers with jobs it would be good to look at what fuels are present at power plants shutting down. This will develop some good foundational information that will be important for the clean energy job transition.
 - ii. J. Rhodes volunteered to a subgroup member.
 - e. M. Padgett supported with J. Rhodes said about reusing plants for clean energy power plants by noting that there are robust transmission and distribution infrastructure at power plants, and we should not let go of that advantage. Timing of the power plant shut down is also important to this discussion.
5. Slide 7 – Work Plan – Business Impacts
- a. K. Allen noted:
 - i. This is an important and large topic in providing for a just transition: making sure our employers, New York's business community, their employees, and the host communities are centrally considered.
 - ii. This topic will encompass several workstreams assigned to the working group.
 - b. R. Wolken noted we have good data about potential impacts because obviously we have many members who are energy-intensive. Would we be able to see the impacts as we implement strategies?

- i. R. Wolken volunteered to be on the subgroup and mentioned that the more that people know about what changes are being considered, the better because it takes the fear and misinformation out of the equation.
- ii. P. Jackson volunteered to be a subgroup member.
- iii. O. Friella asked about leakage and anti-competitiveness: to what part of the research does this really refer? He thought looking for stricter regulations might push out or restrict existing businesses.
 - 1. K. Allen: the statute indicates some different interpretations but we understand it to mean loss of businesses to other states.
 - 2. R. Wolken suggested we need to worry about both GHG leakage and business leakage.
 - 3. P. Jackson agreed with R. Wolken.
 - 4. M. Silva-Farrell suggested that a cost benefit analysis could be used to quantify this issue and show the there may benefits to business of strict climate laws.
 - 5. R. Wolken: try to make this dynamic approach so we can continue to assess as we go forward to give people a better idea how things will develop.
 - 6. O. Friella volunteered to be on the subgroup to representing the startup sector, worker cooperatives and start up businesses. He would like to see opportunities for people who are getting into the field.
 - 7. M. Padgett volunteered to join the subgroup.
 - 8. B. Raley volunteered to join the subgroup.

6. Slide 8 – Work Plan – JT Principles

- a. K. Allen noted the next area in the scope of work was not explicitly assigned to the working group within the statute but is proposed because it can be helpful in thinking about how to tie workstreams together and could provide this working group and the advisory panels with a clearer set of guide posts to orient collective work and recommendations.
- b. K. Allen asked if the WG feels that a set of these principles would be valuable in orienting our work and the work of the other advisory panels and CAC?
- c. R. Wolken: do you have an example?
 - i. K. Allen: There are many form many jurisdictions and also definitions.
- d. O. Frielle said he supports a set of guiding principles for JT. There are a number of them, and he is familiar with EJ and CJ movement, and there is a agreed upon framework like that.
- e. Various members agree it would be a useful part of the work this group will do.

7. Slide 9 – Work Plan– Jobs Study

- a. J. Wilcox gave and update on the process of obtaining a contractor and said work is underway and Staff plans to utilize NYSERDA’s flexible procurement processes to bring a consultant onboard as soon as possible and begin work this quarter.

- b. J. Wilcox gave a description of analysis scope, anticipated analytic approach, and timeline.
- c. H. Garrido: how granular will the data be? Partly it will be decided by what resources the consultant will bring. And what resources DOL and members of this group can share and what has been previously published.
- d. H. Garrido: the election – do you expect any changes if regulators change the way they do things?
 - i. J. Wilcox responded that we want to be aware of the context but also there are some independent foundational data that is not affected.
- e. M. Silva-Farrell commented on the job creation component and asked if the current economic crisis and the related shifts will be taken into account in the study.
 - i. J. Wilcox responded that one part of the data is based on physical systems (emissions, equipment infrastructure and related investments needed) and that data is hopeful, we will be able to sync with other Advisory Panels and integration analysis. But about how it intersects with specific perspectives on job creation and jobs associated with those investments and focus areas – it would be good to have input from this group and get feedback and engagement on that topic.
 - ii. M. Silva-Farrell asked about if something like the possible addition of Canadian hydro or other outside energy sources to our system would be taken into account.
- f. J. Shillitto – can you start to look at transitioning those that are in power plants now to clean energy jobs, but also look at those who are retained and still in these plants? How do we transition while we retain some workers to keep things running, since all plants won't be closing all at once? We should consider how many of the people in the plants are willing to take the new training yet keep some people trained in existing jobs.
- g. T. Skerpon: what are we talking about for clean energy coming in from other places – for example are we just taking coal from other states? We want to keep power in NY.
 - i. J. Wilcox responded that this is a good foundational questions – some of these are likely to be answered and studied by other Advisory Panels too.
 - ii. D. Harris said questions like this are important because there are different versions of the future.
 - iii. J. Wilcox added that the E3 study does have different paths to a clean energy economy and shows different roles of resources like hydro and other outside energy sources.
 - iv. J. Rhodes noted that renewables have good economic development and job benefits along with an interest in reaching all parts of the states including downstate to get the renewable resources they need. This needs to happen at costs that don't put them at a disadvantage compared to other regions of the country. Expect to engage with this group as the Power Generation Panel

grapples with these issues. The Clean Energy strategy that NY has committed to is an incredible job engine in the state.

- h. D. Harris concluded the Work Plan discussion and asked for additional feedback to be emailed and she reiterated the next steps for presenting the plan to the Climate Action Council, revising the document as needed and sharing the next draft with the JTWG members before it is finalized.

8. Slide 10 - Public Engagement

a. Cmr. Reardon noted:

- a. Robust public engagement is planned to help inform the efforts of the working group.
- b. Working group meetings will be open to the public to allow for active observation.
- c. Separate from the working group meetings, we plan at least one dedicated public engagement forum to be held in the coming months.
- d. Asked if WG members agree on the importance of hosting a public engagement forum and if so, we'd welcome types of topics and questions to focus on in this session.
- e. H. Garrido noted that he thinks a public forum is a good thing and asked if the meetings would be in person or virtual
 - i. Cmr. Reardon responded that it will be virtual and NYS DOL has had some very successful similar virtual engagement sessions.
- f. There is an email address for in-take of public comments and other forms of feedback. We will be monitoring this address and encourage interested members of the public to utilize it in submitting input.

9. Slide 11 – Next Steps

a. Cmr. Reardon thanked the group for participating and offering useful discussion and noted that next steps for this group are:

- a. D. Harris and Cmr. Reardon will provide an update to the Climate Action Council on 10/8.
- b. A updated version of our Work Plan will be shared with members later in October.
- c. Subgroups will begin meeting during the month of October.
- d. The next full meeting of this full working group is scheduled for November 4.