

# Gas Transition Subgroup Meeting Notes

## Meeting Details:

- 6/2/22, 11:00-12:30

## Council Member Participants:

- Rory Christian
- Mario Cilento
- Donna DeCarolis
- Gavin Donahue
- Dennis Elsenbeck
- Doreen Harris
- Bob Howarth
- Roberta Reardon
- Raya Salter
- Paul Shepson

## Meeting Agenda/Topics Covered:

- Subgroup Procedures
  - The subgroup agreed to abide by Chatham House Rule. Some Council members objected, preferring that subgroup meetings be entirely public.
  - Summaries of each meeting will be made available to the public. Subgroup members will approve meeting summaries before they are published.
  - The subgroup will follow a consensus process. If the subgroup cannot reach consensus, individual members may put forth alternative positions. Some Council members emphasized that this process must remain fair and transparent.
  - Staff will make every attempt to provide background materials in advance so that meeting time can be reserved for the group's deliberations. Group members will have the opportunity to respond in meetings to all materials presented.
  - Subgroup members who wish to invite experts to present to the group should submit their names and credentials and the specific topic they are to address.
  - **Action Item:** Staff will set up a repository for resources to share with subgroup members.
- Subgroup Purpose
  - The CAC draft Scoping Plan outlined a task for the Council to include in the final Scoping Plan a framework through which agencies can develop a coordinated plan for the orderly downsizing of the gas system. Development of this coordinated plan will be led by DPS and supported by NYSERDA, LIPA, NYPA, and DEC and developed in consultation with utilities, environmental justice groups, and sectoral experts, and draw upon successful plans in other jurisdictions.
  - **Purpose:** The Gas System Transition subgroup will develop this framework, which will include recommendations for the coordinated plan to reduce emissions from the gas

system through an orderly transition that is equitable, cost-effective, and maintains system safety and reliability.

- Council members had a number of suggested changes and additions to the key focus areas including resolving inconsistencies in the use of terms “fossil gas” and “natural gas,” and including consideration of the health impacts around transition of the gas system, especially in disadvantaged communities.
  - Subgroup members noted that they should coordinate with the Alternative Fuels subgroup to consider the role of these alternative fuels in future gas system planning and infrastructure, as well as ensure coordination with the transition of the electric grid including awareness of the NYISO’s reliability planning process.
  - **Action Item:** In developing the framework, the subgroup will coordinate with the work of the Alternative Fuels subgroup. The Alternative Fuels subgroup will take the lead on the definitions and use of alternative fuels including use for hard-to-electrify applications.
- Workplan
    - The subgroup plans to convene in June, July, and August on a biweekly basis.
    - Subgroup members suggested some changes to the draft workplan, including considering the potential use of the gas system for alternative fuels earlier.
    - **Action item:** Subgroup members will have until June 15<sup>th</sup> to review the Purpose & Scope and the Workplan, and to provide initial feedback on the criteria for the Framework and send comments to Jessica Waldorf, DPS and Catherine Morris, CBI. Changes may be made throughout the next three months as the subgroup completes the development of the Framework.