Gas Transition Subgroup Meeting Notes

Meeting Details:

8/17/22, 3:30-5:00

Council Member Participants:

- Rory Christian
- Mario Cilento
- Donna DeCarolis
- Roberta Reardon
- Raya Salter
- Paul Shepson

Meeting Agenda/Topics Covered:

• Discussion of Framework Key Considerations pertaining to equity, a just transition, transition timeline, and changes to laws and regulations

Key Takeaways:

- Framework Key Considerations: Equity
 - The subgroup discussed ensuring that disadvantaged communities have equal access to alternative heating options and energy efficiency programs. The subgroup agreed that as new technologies and funding opportunities become available, it will be essential to design programs so that disadvantaged communities can best benefit from those opportunities. The subgroup discussed barriers specific to rental properties and the importance of maintaining affordability for renters.
 - The subgroup discussed the need to monitor and report GHG and co-pollutant emissions in disadvantaged communities to better understand the cumulative impact of pollution and track progress toward CLCPA goals.
 - The subgroup also agreed that tracking GHG and co-pollutant emissions in disadvantaged communities may complement the statewide GHG inventory by providing more detailed local emissions data. One subgroup member stressed that extrapolating emissions information from air monitoring data is complex and requires substantial resources. The subgroup identified a need to consider how data from air monitoring programs might relate to the enforcement of CLCPA emissions limits.
 - O The subgroup considered broadening the analysis of health impacts related to the gas system transition to include the impacts of current infrastructure, new technologies, and alternative fuels. The subgroup raised the importance of coordinating this work with the NYS Department of Health.
- Framework Key Considerations: Just Transition
 - o The subgroup agreed on the need to institute workforce health and safety standards and protocols specific to decarbonizing the existing gas system and implementing new technologies. Ongoing communication between employers and workers will be essential to protect worker health and safety as this transition takes place.

- Framework Key Considerations: Transition Timeline
 - The subgroup will consider integrating recommendations from the Power Generation
 Advisory Panel into Framework language around the timeline.
- Framework Key Considerations: Changes to Laws and Regulations
 - The subgroup discussed Framework language around legislative and regulatory changes that may be needed to accomplish the decarbonization of the gas system.

Next Steps

- The Gas System Transition subgroup will be presented at the August 23rd Climate Action Council meeting.
- o The subgroup will consider scheduling an additional meeting in September.