

Meeting Minutes
Market Rate Subgroup Meeting #3
September 19, 2023

Meeting Location: Online using Zoom.

Attendees

Names in bold are official Task Force members

Stuart Kaplow, Cindy Osorto (MDE), Kevin Walton (Subgroup Chair, Climate Coalition Montgomery County), **Mark Case (BGE)**, David St. Jean (DGS), Zachary Rockwell, Michael Matthews, Chris Stix, Danielle Adams (Frederick County Builders Assn), Mark Szybist (OPC), Jessica Roney (MD Environmental Services), **Del. Marvin Holmes (MD House of Representatives)**, Dylan Voorhees (VEIC on behalf of OPC), Chris Parts, Jeremy Good (Montgomery County DEP), Jared Deluccia, Daniel Hurley, Sheena Oliver (Montgomery County DEP), Lindsey Shaw (Montgomery County DEP)

Introduction

- This is the third meeting of this group. The purpose of today's meeting is to go through strawman and make edits as necessary, and then by consensus agree what will be submitted to the task force.
- Strawman has been collected from past discussions; this session is to be wordsmithing.

Discussion on Recommendations

- Strategy Priorities Recommendation
 - Discussion around "transitioning" vs "stopping" gas incentives, and different needs for different income groups.
 - Discussion around expanding beyond efficiency and incentives, potential need for specific legislation on this topic.
- Incentives Recommendation
 - Discussion of adding fuel switching, energy-ready audits, and commissioning.
 - Discussion around EmPOWER cost-effectiveness limitations.
 - Discussion on adding "market transformation" language.
- Accessibility Recommendation
 - Discussion around correct placement for historical homes, and inclusion of building owners.
- Workforce Development Recommendation
 - Adding nonprofits to ensure they are eligible.
- Financing and Consumer Protection Priorities
 - Recommendation against R-PACE.
 - Clarification on difference between inclusive utility investment and other types of on-bill financing, in reference to the source of capital and creation of debt.
- Tax Incentives Recommendation
 - Minimal discussion.

- Utility Data and Rates Recommendation
 - Discussion of including rate design considerations, “causer pays” principle and opt-in vs opt-out.
- Disclosure and Education Recommendation
 - Discussion of energy service providers as recipients of outreach and education.
 - Discussion around timing of disclosure and applicability to rental units.