

Just Transition Working Group, Meeting 9
March 23rd, 2021
1pm-3pm

Attendance:

Working Group Member Attendees

Roberta Reardon, Co-Chair
Doreen M. Harris, Co-Chair
Vincent Albanese
Omar Freilla
Patrick Jackson
Gary LaBarbera
Michael Padgett
Lara Skinner
James Shillitto
Maritza Silva-Farrell
Randy Wolken
Henry A. Garrido
RuthAnne Visnauskas
Sarah Osgood

Other Attendees

Adele Ferranti
Emily Grubert
Sameer Ranade
David Quickenton
Don Applyrs
Jamie Dickerson
Jane Thompson
John Williams
Mark Coleman
Kara Allen
Josh Williams
Kevin Hansen
Yvonne Martinez
Alex Pozdnyakov
Kevin Hannel
Christie Amero

Meeting Summary:

Introduction, Roll Call, and Member Updates

- Commissioner Reardon kicked off the meeting, called the roll, and walked through the meeting agenda. See slide 2 for additional details.
- Commissioner Reardon invited working group members to share recent highlights and other updates.
 - **President Harris:** Shares an update that the U.S. department of Treasury has awarded NYSERDA \$8.2 million in Social Impact Partnerships to Pay for Results Act (SIPRA) funding and Adele Ferranti provides a project snapshot. See slide 4 for additional details.

Initial Workforce Recommendations

- Adele Ferranti provides an overview of the Just Transition Working Group workforce recommendations. See slides 5-11 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - **Henry Garrido:** Shares that he represents a group of welfare to work recipients and they are required by federal law to be trained one day of the week and work the other four. Asks for clarification that these recipients could also be included in new green training programs and whether there would be any conflicts. Additionally, regarding project labor agreements, which they are in full support of, is there a place for public sector government employees since they represent 10% of the city's workforce? How do they fit into this enabling strategy?
 - **Commissioner Reardon:** Regarding the first question, she doesn't have an exact answer but acknowledges that it is a great question. It seems there should be a

pathway between the two. She is not sure what the barriers might be, but it's an excellent suggestion. The second question is also a great question because people do get trapped in certain positions. We need to consider the ladder that needs to be in place to raise people out of entry level jobs. Can we take those people from entry level jobs and give them skills training in the green economy? Two excellent suggestions we need to look at.

- **Henry Garrido:** Adds that the jobs in question are not always entry level jobs. They've lost many clerical jobs because of automation. Many are making \$15/hour because of the new law in New York, but they have been stuck there 10-15 years. Even if you're older, when you see your job disappearing, it might cause you to move elsewhere where there is a future.
- **Commissioner Reardon:** This raises the question of how we define the populations we're reaching out to as well, which is important to consider.
- **Adele Ferranti:** Adds that they did identify state workers as part of the existing workforce as a potential audience for training, and they have done some of this in the past at NYSERDA. For example, they have worked with Parks and Recreation to train their staff on solar and are currently developing online heat pump trainings that state workers are participating in. They are always looking for opportunities to work with fellow state workers to provide training and professional development.
- **Maritza Silva-Farrell:** Asks about access to pre-apprenticeship and notes that those who go through testing may not pass given limited math and science background, and this may become an obstacle to accessing those pathways. Has this been part of the thinking, and if not, she encourages us to think through ways to address this. Also notes that it would be similarly helpful to think about access for immigrant communities.
 - **Adele Ferranti:** The community-based organizations are key here and we see those as being the connection to members of the community who may be facing barriers to employment. We are also trying to address this potential obstacle through career pathway initiatives.
- **Vincent Albanese:** Has a question regarding the federal grant mentioned earlier: as far as money that will be allocated, where will the training take place and for what specific jobs would it be geared towards?
 - **Adele Ferranti:** The funding is to support outcomes from existing programs that NYSERDA is currently offering. These are focused on multiple topics, including basic energy efficiency (EE) training, HVAC and heat pumps, technical sales, and entry level technicians. Right now, we are seeing a heavy focus in New York City, but it's a statewide opportunity and we hope to see more projects in the near future.
- **Lara Skinner:** In listening to Adele go through these initiatives and components, she wants to move the discussion to focus on the main points that the JTWG will convey to the CAC and general public. We need to get into the details of how this will work. Will we have a chance to discuss the high-level messaging we're conveying?
 - **Commissioner Reardon:** This is an important question and she wouldn't say this is all nailed down, but rather it's a work in progress. She urges all members to speak to these issues as we move along. We will advance a certain amount in April but that's not the last time the CAC will hear from us.
- **Gary LaBarbera:** Echoes Lara's points and has some other concerns as well. This is a work in progress and there is a lot of information to still gather. He is concerned we will

get ahead of ourselves with the recommendations without having all of the information. There is also some confusion out in the industry regarding what jobs people will be trained for. He wants to confirm that this is still a work in progress.

- **Commissioner Reardon:** *Yes, this is a work in progress. Additionally, she wants to remind everyone of the Just Transition Principles they established.*
- **President Harris:** *Thanks Commissioner Reardon for mentioning the principles and adds that these are the guideposts we have established for ourselves. Thanks Gary for his point and notes that their conversation regarding offshore wind is a good example for this process. She would agree that it is indicative of the bigger picture we'll grapple with.*
- **Adele Ferranti:** *Notes that she failed to mention that they've also worked with the Department of Citywide Administrative Services (DCAS) to train city workers, so they aren't only working with state workers. Adds that she views the recommendations as program tools. We are just thinking about all the mechanisms we need to have in place. These are the tools we need in the toolkit that we'll deploy moving forward.*

Business Impacts: Energy Intensive Industries and Related Trades, Preliminary Identification

- Commissioner Reardon provides an overview of the Business Impacts subgroup's efforts and membership.
- Kevin Hansen (ESD) and Kevin Hannel (DOL) provide a reminder of their objective, the key data sources and limitations for identifying energy-intensive industries and related trade, details on the manufacturing and mining sectors in NYS, and preliminary results of their analysis. See slides 14-32 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - *No questions or comments*

Business Impacts: Challenges and Opportunities

- Kara Allen (NYSERDA) provides a reminder of the Business Impacts subgroup's context, statutory objectives, and key deliverables. Kara then walks through the identified business challenges and associated strategies. See slides 33-44 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - *No questions or comments*

Presentation: Fossil Electricity Retirement Deadlines

- Professor Emily Grubert from Georgia Tech provides an overview of her analysis focused on the future of U.S. fossil fuel-fired electricity, including the environmental and labor implications of retiring generators at the end of their typical lifespans. One major point raised was that most fossil-fuel power generators in the United States will reach their average lifespan by 2035, in line with the Biden administration's goal of decarbonizing the power sector by 2035. See slides 45-51 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - **Maritza Silva-Farrell:** *Thanks Emily for the presentation. Her question is regarding what you may have seen or heard in your studies in areas of the country where folks are interested in moving in the direction of upgrading the current power plants, rather than upgrading to the clean energy economy. Have you been faced with this?*
 - **Emily Grubert:** *The upgrading question is a really challenging one – especially since some of the coal plants on the system have had recent investments for air pollution*

control. We do see some situations where there has been significant infrastructure investment in fossil-fuel powered plants. Slightly deviating from the question, but as we start to talk about methane emissions, what it actually means to invest in pipeline upgrades will also start to look pretty different. Not sure she's directly answered the initial question, but these are some of the topics have come up in her studies.

Power Plants Inventory and Site Reuse Updates

- Jamie Dickerson (NYSERDA) provides an overview of input received since the 3/3 JTWG meeting, changes made to the Issues and Opportunities slides, and employment updates. See slides 52-57 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - *No questions or comments*

Jobs Study Update

- Josh Williams of BW Research provides a brief update of the JTWG Jobs Study, including the project objectives, completed and upcoming tasks, and the four primary questions of the literature review. See slides 59-62 for additional details.
- *Discussion*
 - *No questions or comments*

Next Steps

- Commissioner Reardon provides an overview of next steps including:
 - The next Climate Action Council meeting on April 12th, which JTWG will present at alongside other Advisory Panels.
 - Ongoing work:
 - Further opportunities for relevant presentations and discussions (e.g., on the BOA program)
 - The CAC may seek our input and guidance on other topics in the coming months
 - The CAC may ask us for clarification or more information on our work products
 - Integration Analysis:
 - Opportunity for feedback on draft cross-cutting and sector-specific input assumptions that will feed into E3's Integration Analysis.
 - Inputs and assumptions workbook and slide deck summary have been posted in the Integration Analysis section of the Resources page on the CLCPA website: <https://climate.ny.gov/Climate-Resources>
 - Please send any feedback to the JTWG Chairs by no later than March 31.