

Subject: DPU 20-80 NPA Working Group Members
From: NPA Framework Stakeholder Facilitators
Date: October 9, 2024

Overview

The five Massachusetts natural gas companies¹ are creating a Non-Gas Pipeline Alternative (NPA) framework to inform future decisions about the gas system. The NPA framework will enable natural gas companies to evaluate both traditional pipeline investments and alternative options like electrification, thermal networks, energy efficiency, and demand response.

The natural gas companies want to gather input from a wide range of people with different viewpoints to ensure the NPA framework meets customer needs while maintaining safety and reliability as the gas system changes. The companies conducted a formal request for proposals and have hired a team of independent consultants (E3, Apex Analytics, and Efficiency for Everyone) to lead the stakeholder input process. This announcement presents the various stakeholders selected to contribute to the process via the NPA Working Group.

Selection process

Interested members applied via an online form, expressing why they were interested in participating, the perspective they bring, their commitment to the Working Group, and listing of participation in any public processes/meetings on the energy transition. Applications were processed through a multi-step selection process facilitated by Apex to ensure a balanced representation across the various stakeholder types listed below:

Environmental Justice ²
Clean Energy Advocates
Environmental Advocates
Business—Large or Small
Commonwealth Cities and Towns
Labor/Unions
Electric Planning
Property Developers
Educational Institutes & Schools
Low Income Advocate
Workforce Development
Public Health

¹ The five natural gas local distribution companies are Berkshire Gas Company, Eversource Energy (including Eversource Gas Company of Massachusetts), Liberty, National Grid, and Unitil.

² Please note: a dedicated Community Focus Group will meet separately. Applications to the Community Focus Group are being reviewed during the month of October. Details and the application form can be found [here](#).

As a result of that process the following are the selected members and their organizations. This group will have six in-person meetings (with a virtual option) between October 2024 and March 2025 to provide input on the NPA Framework:

- Meeting #1: Wednesday, October 16, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Meeting #2: Wednesday, November 6, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Meeting #3: Wednesday, December 4, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Meeting #4: Wednesday, January 8, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Meeting #5: Wednesday, February 5, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
- Meeting #6: Wednesday, March 5, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

For More Information: Detailed information about the NPA framework, working groups, and how to get involved including being added to the mailing list is available can be found on our [website](#).

NPA Working Group Member Organizations
Acadia Center
Arise for Social Justice
Boston University
City of Fitchburg
City of Northampton Massachusetts
Conservation Law Foundation
Energy New England, LLC.
Environmental Defense Fund
Environmental League of Massachusetts
Eversource - Electric Planning
Green Energy Consumers Alliance
Home Energy Efficiency Team (HEET)
Low-Income Energy Affordability Network (LEAN)
Massachusetts Clean Energy Center
Mayor of Lynn
City of Sommerville
NAIOP Massachusetts, The Commercial Real Estate Development Association
National Consumer Law Center
Office of Attorney General
PowerOptions
Sierra Club
The Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
United Steelworkers (USW)
Utility Workers Union of America and Brotherhood of Utility Worker Council
Worcester Business Development Corporation