

Biomass Task Group
14 March 2022
3rd Meeting – Minutes

Meeting Goals:

- *Increase shared understanding of biomass vis-à-vis the current GHG inventory and clean heat standard*
- *Begin review of tabled actions one by one to evaluate based on related actions in the Climate Action Plan (such as the Clean Heat Standard) and on-going work by other task groups (life cycle analyses Request for Information and US Climate Alliance Grants) for next meeting*

11:30 AM Introductions and Welcome new members

Megan O'Toole will represent Science and Data Subcommittee, with support from Collin Smythe as state staff.

Due to capacity issues, Richard Cowart will no longer represent Cross-Sector Mitigation Subcommittee. Commissioner Peter Walke will step in to fill the third seat on the task group for that subcommittee.

11:35 AM Invitations (*thanks to Judy Dow for these*): We invite you to:

- Be present with a clear mind & open heart
- Listen generously across difference, with the boundary of self-care
- Ask for what you need → with a boundary around expecting all of your needs to be met by others
- Speak your truth while tending to the impact of your words
- To honor complexity → with a boundary against hard assumptions

Ground rules were reviewed and supported by the task group.

11:45 AM Current Status of the GHG Inventory and its Relation to Biomass

- [Presentation](#)
- *Discussion*

Collin Smythe, who manages the Greenhouse Gas Inventory for the Department of Environmental Conservation, presented on current considerations for biomass in the existing inventory and the ongoing analyses to further refine the tools we use to measure and account for biomass.

Conversation focused on the following points:

- Question of net emissions vs. gross emissions and if the Council had settled this
- Consistency with other states on this issue
- Question around how we account for harvesting in sequestration and storage capacity of our forests

12:10 PM Clean Heat Standard and its Relation to Biomass

- *Presentation*
- *Discussion*

Commissioner Walke presented on where the Clean Heat Standard is in the legislature and the way it currently speaks to biomass as a clean heat source.

Conversation focused on the following points:

Who defines clean heat in the bill

Question of where equity is in the legislation

Role of weatherization as a clean heat option

12:30 PM Begin review of tabled actions

Judy and Charlie, as the primary subcommittee members who worked on the current suite of tabled actions on behalf of the Agriculture and Ecosystems Subcommittee began to walk through the tabled actions in an effort to consider what was in scope or out of scope. The task group was not able to make it very far due to time and agreed to revisit as the top priority at the next meeting of the group.

12:50 PM Public Comment

Zack Porter made a comment.

1:00 PM Adjourn

As next steps, Jane and Pat will put forward a proposed work plan based on the tabled actions to stimulate the conversation at the next meeting of this task group.