



Meeting Notes
Citizens Advisory Board (CAB)
On-Boarding Meeting 2
August 19, 2020
2:00pm – 4:00pm
Virtual Meeting – WebEx

Meeting attendance available [here](#). | Recording of meeting available [here](#).

Introductions (Mike Wharton, ACCGov)

- We'll be posting a recording of this meeting on the web. Meeting is being livestreamed thought YouTube. Chat is part of public record as well.

Objectives (Megan O'Neil, Southface)

- Desired takeaways
 - Adoption of CAB feedback process
 - Initial responses to energy modeling tools
 - Continued discussion of energy modeling tools
 - Identification of milestones ahead for future CAB meetings

Housekeeping (Megan O'Neil, Southface)

- Review of July CAB meeting takeaways, action items.

Milestone on the Horizon

- Megan shares a lookahead of the proposes topics for the CAB meetings to come in future months.
- Public Engagement Calendar will be shared with CAB upon launch of the engagement process. September and October's CAB meetings will be dedicated to this strategy.
- Megan review public engagement process and role of CAB therein.
- Megan and Mike review CAB Review Process:
 - Materials to be shared will fall into one of three types of action:
 1. Informational only
 2. Comment requested
 3. Decision required
 - All materials will be sent with an identifying cover sheet, outlining:
 - Type of action requested
 - Due date (if applicable)
 - Email comments to os.intern@accgov.com and mike.wharton@accgov.com
 - ACCGov will compile feedback and upload a summary to CAB folder.

Introduction to Advanced Clean Energy Scenario (ACES) energy modeling tool State and Local Energy Data Collected (Greenlink Analytics – Yeou Rong-Jih and Matt Cox)



Data Overview

- State and Local Energy Data Collected
- Rooftop Solar Analysis
- ACES Model Development
- Utility Burden Mapping intro

State and Local Data (Matt Cox)

- Current and projected breakdown of Athens’ energy sources between now and 2035.
- Georgia Power currently generates about 8% of their energy from renewables (hydro and solar).
- This is not enough to get Athens to 100% Clean Energy by 2035.
- View of “business as usual” emissions productions by consumption sector and by fuel.
- \$500 million leaves Athens for energy every year.

Getting to 100%

- Matt Cox (Greenlink) shows the model’s considerations of clean and renewable generation.

Energy and Power Production	Counts in model
Energy Efficiency (Electric)	Yes
Energy Efficiency (Natural Gas)	Yes
Solar Power	Yes
Wind Power	Yes
Energy Storage	Yes
Renewable Energy Credits	Yes
Nuclear Power	No
Biomass Power	No
Transportation	
CAFE Standard	Yes
Electric Vehicle Adoption	Yes
Alternative Commute Modes	Yes
Clean Public Transit	Yes



Rooftop Solar Analysis

- Provides a view of the solar potential analysis for municipal buildings.

Advanced Clean Energy Scenario (ACES)

- Scenario 1: Business As Usual – no changes to the energy system as it currently is.
 - ACES doesn't allow users to "fail."
 - When we don't "succeed" in meeting all needs with clean / renewable energy, the remainder is made up for through the purchase of Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs).
 - Takeaways are viewed at the bottom of the Excel sheet.
 - Energy burden is currently 7.1%. With no changes from how we are currently doing things, energy burden will increase to 7.5%.
- Scenario 2
 - 100% renewable and clean energy; REC purchases are local to Georgia.
 - 15% Electric Vehicle adoption.
 - Model reports out:
 - Job creation
 - Public health
 - CO2 (greenhouse gas) reduction
 - Impacts on energy bills
 - Caveat that bill impacts depend on power system evolution. Of note here is that the model assumes a rational planning process but in reality the process is part rational, part political.

Utility Burden Mapping

- The map shown on the right hand side of the slides shows the number of households living above a chosen electricity burden threshold. For example, a neighborhood that experiences a relatively low median electricity burden as seen on the right-hand map may have more households in burden relative to their overall population.

Discussion – General (Facilitated by Megan O'Neil, Southface)

- Tom Lawrence: Is UGA included in this? What all buildings are included in this?
 - Andrew Saunders:
 - The resolution is intentional in not addressing UGA. It is Andrew's hope that UGA will step up and involve itself in the community.
 - Functionally the local government can't compel the university to do much because it's state owned.
 - Generally, it's possible that some stakeholders will not want to get on board, and we have to anticipate that.
 - We expect that due to changes in future years and decades, there will be circumstances that change so as to include UGA in this.
 - In all our work with UGA, we aim for collaboration and coalition building.
 - Matt Cox:
 - UGA is incorporated into in ACES.



- Tom Lawrence: How was rooftop solar analysis done?
 - Matt: We assessed every rooftop to find median level of solar productivity.
- John Newland: Were UGA students included in burden mapping?
 - Matt Cox: Yes.
 - Andrew /Matt: In order to help give us a better picture of who truly is burdened by energy bills, we also looked at asthma rates and households receiving SNAP benefits – overlaid with burden mapping. These demonstrate difference.
- Michael: Regarding inclusion of storage in the renewable count – does that not double count solar? And how do we know that storage is used for solar?
 - Matt Cox:
 - There are regulatory barriers to prevent storage + grid to a certain extent in homes.
 - Was able to separate out solar and solar+storage in the model.
 - More interested in looking at *when* it is used rather than total amount of generation.
 - Tom Lawrence suggests that we encourage Athenians to get into retail net metering.
- Amy Kissane:
 - Seeking a tutorial / terminology.
 - How is Energy Efficiency an energy source? How is that different from solar, etc.?
 - Matt: Energy Efficiency accounts for use of energy appliances, lightbulbs, and building quality and “tightness” that reduce the amount of energy used. These add up. Ultimately we can “take care of” the energy that may need to be generated by either clean or dirty sources by eliminating that need in the first place through efficiency.
- Mike Wharton: When we dial everything up, there’s still 36% remaining. Matt – can you explain why this is?
 - Matt: That is due to changes that Athens can’t make. Legislative changes, regulatory changes at the Public Service Commission, choices Georgia Power makes. We’re not going to get much further past 2/3 without state-level changes.
 - Andrew: The grid may in fact be the easiest change that can be made (as opposed to all individual choices). Electrification of buildings is helpful.

Discussion – ACES Deployment to the Public (Facilitated by Megan O’Neil, Southface)

What about these resources (ACES + energy burden analyses) resonates with you most?

- Amy Kissane:
 - Economic arguments at the beginning – job creation and the amount of money flowing out of the community.
 - Energy burden is a very tangible way to share some of the most important reasons why we’re doing this.



- Michael Songster
 - Very interesting to see who the primary benefits in energy burden go to: those who participate in the programs versus those who are unable to.
- Megan O'Neil: Was there anything that was presented that was difficult to understand or could be more presented in a compelling way?
 - Amy Kissane
 - Again, definitions and terminology is an issue.
 - Renewable energy credits – Needs definition
 - Solar PV – Needs definition
- Mike Wharton: Is there an appetite for additional meetings for educational purposes?
 - Andrew Saunders: We can send a follow-up survey that asks about levels of knowledge of topics and asks about interest in participating in an educational meeting.
- Melinda Lord: Interested particularly in making these actions (adopting energy efficiency, for example) available and accessible to very low income Athenians.
 - Andrew Saunders: Agreed. This will require creativity specifically around financial mechanisms.

What about these resources will resonate most with stakeholders and community members?

- Amy Kissane:
 - People will be interested in what actions they can take on their own.
 - Will there be help available? What can individual people do?
 - How do we communicate the responsibility to do your part when / if you're able?
- Tawana Mattox:
 - Education, starting with low hanging fruit. Start small with certain parts of the community (low income, specifically) to educate what they *can* do with the small things that are doable and accessible.
 - Can we build on West Broad programs potentially?

How should we use these resources in our public engagement work?

- Megan O'Neil: Keep in mind the difficulty presenting this when virtual.
- Michael Songster:
 - What's sticking with him the fact that burden is alleviated *less* for those who are unable to "participate" (e.g. put solar on their roof).
 - We need to communicate this – how the equity piece works – as soon as possible, from the jump.
- Amy Kissane:
 - ACES – One output per screen/slide. Difficult to understand / view.
 - Facebook Live where people can react.
- Melinda Lord:
 - We're going to have to look at ways to assist the lowest income folks. And address those people.
 - Landlord-tenant issues will be a major concern.



- Tawana Mattox:
 - Installing HVAC, water heaters, etc. through West Broad work. Do those participants want to be storytellers? Speak to their own neighbors.
- Krystle Cobran
 - Agrees with Tawana – We have to make things real to people.

Takeaways, Next Steps (Megan O'Neil)

- Follow-up items from today
 - Review ACES and utility burden materials – will be provided in follow-up email.
 - Provide additional feedback via online form by Friday, August 28th.
 - We will schedule additional time in early September for discussion of energy modeling resources
- Next CAB meeting
 - 2-4pm on September 15th
 - Topic: Public Engagement Plan Presentation & Discussion