

**Cape Light Compact JPE  
Governing Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 9, 2025**

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. The meeting was held as a hybrid meeting (in-person and through remote participation) through a Zoom videoconference for members of the Board with audio call-in available for members of the public, pursuant to St. 2025, c. 2, which, among other things, extends the temporary provisions pertaining to remote meetings of public bodies under the Open Meeting Law to June 30, 2027.

**Participating In-Person Were:**

1. David Anthony, Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
3. Brad Crowell, Dennis
4. Tom McNellis, Eastham
5. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
6. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate

**Participating Remotely Were:**

1. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
2. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
3. Brian Miner, Chatham
4. Tristan Israel, Dukes County
5. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
6. Scott Mueller, Falmouth
7. Valerie Bell, Harwich
8. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
9. Martin Culik, Chair/Executive Committee, Orleans
10. David Jacobson, Orleans Alternate
11. Steve Tucker, Sandwich Alternate
12. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian, Wellfleet
13. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury

**Absent Were:**

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Tim Carroll, Chilmark
3. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
4. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
5. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
6. Jarrod Cabral, Truro
7. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

**Legal Counsel Participating Remotely:**

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan, Esq., KO Law, P.C.  
Erin O'Toole, Esq., KO Law, P.C.

**Staff Participation In-Person:**

Jason Bertrand, Marketing & Communications Coordinator  
 Kim Grant, Town Energy Coordinator  
 Maggie Downey, Chief Administrative Officer

**Staff Participating Remotely:**

Angela Hurwitz, Senior IT Services & Data Management Analyst  
 Briana Kane, Implementation Manager  
 Dan Schell, Senior Analyst - Retail and Demand Response  
 David Botelho, Senior IT Services & Data Management Analyst  
 David Maclellan, Senior Analyst  
 Kate Coleman, Outreach Specialist  
 Laura Selmer, Energy Efficiency Analyst  
 Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst – Small Business  
 Margaret Song, Energy Efficiency Strategy and Policy Manager  
 Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner  
 Meredith Miller, Senior Analyst – Income Eligible  
 Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer

**Public Participants:**

None.

Martin Culik called the meeting to order at 2:04PM.

**Public Comment:**

No written comments were received in advance of the meeting and no members of the public were present for public comment.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Board considered the March 12, 2025, Open Session Meeting Minutes.

*Robert Schofield moved the Board to accept the minutes and to release them, seconded by Nate Mayo.*

|         |                |              |     |
|---------|----------------|--------------|-----|
| David   | Anthony        | Barnstable   | Yes |
| Robert  | Schofield      | Bourne       | Yes |
| Colin   | Odell          | Brewster     | Yes |
| Brian   | Miner          | Chatham      | Yes |
| Brad    | Crowell        | Dennis       | Yes |
| Tom     | McNellis       | Eastham      | Yes |
| Alan    | Strahler       | Edgartown    | Yes |
| Scott   | Mueller        | Falmouth     | Yes |
| Wayne   | Taylor         | Mashpee      | Yes |
| Martin  | Culik          | Orleans      | Yes |
| Nate    | Mayo           | Provincetown | Yes |
| Bob     | Higgins-Steele | Truro        | Yes |
| Suzanne | Ryan-Ishkanian | Wellfleet    | Yes |
| Nicola  | Blake          | West Tisbury | Yes |
| Mike    | Duffy          | Yarmouth     | Yes |

**CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, MARTIN CULIK:**

**1. Continued Discussion on Succession Planning for Administrator’s Position**

Martin Culik stated that he had a meeting with Maggie Downey and Counsel to continue the discussion on succession planning. He stated that there seems to be a lot of uncertainty right now about state policies and their potential impacts on the Compact. He stated that Counsel said there is currently legislation being drafted regarding changes at Mass Save. He stated that the Board will continue the discussion at the May meeting assuming the legislation is out by then. It may impact the Administrator hiring discussion and the role of the Board in future Energy Efficiency Plans.

**2. Update on Proposed Energy Affordability Legislation**

Maggie Downey stated that last month the Program Administrators (PAs), including the Compact, were given an overview by Undersecretary Antos of the Governor’s proposed energy affordability legislation. She stated the meeting was a follow up to the “Building Decarbonization Clearinghouse” report prepared by the Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) on behalf of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA). The VEIC report identified options regarding the future of Mass Save and the Governor’s proposed legislation addresses one of the Mass Save options. She stated that there are two recommendations in the draft VEIC report. One is to have Mass Save be administered by the state, taking away the role of the PAs/Compact, and the second is that Mass Save is administered by the electric PAs and municipal aggregators with certified energy plans, and no natural gas PAs. She stated that there has not been a final VEIC report yet. She stated that to the best of her knowledge, the VEIC recommendation, removing the gas PAs from administering Mass Save, is being translated into the proposed Governor’s legislation. The legislation has not been finalized and has not been shared publicly. She stated that the biggest takeaway for her from the meeting with Undersecretary Antos is the change in the Compact’s local control and local development of the Energy Efficiency Plan. She stated that if the change was passed into law the effective date is likely to be in the 2028-2030 Plan.

Nate Mayo asked if Maggie Downey got the sense that there was a mechanism potentially built in that the Compact could initiate unique offerings like Cape & Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO). Maggie Downey stated that she has not seen the proposed legislation but assumed there would be the ability to propose unique offerings. She stated that most likely the Compact would have to propose it to the Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) as we do now. Nate Mayo suggested Board members send any questions they might have on this issue after the Board Meeting to Maggie. Maggie stated that it is a win, as the Compact and electric PAs would be administering the Mass Save energy efficiency programs under the proposed legislation.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that we won't know until we see the actual legislation, but if you recall, we've had several issues over the past couple of Energy Efficiency Plans being able to directly serve the customers on the Cape that heat their homes with natural gas. She stated that this proposal, as we heard from the Undersecretary, would mean that the Compact can once again serve those customers. David Anthony asked if there was someone on the committee that is an ally that we can funnel concerns through. Maggie Downey answered yes, Senator Fernandes is on the Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy committee, which is where the legislation will be discussed.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated that whatever we see in the initial legislation does not mean that it will be the be all end all version that comes out of the legislature. She stated there is a lot of room for things to happen

during the hearing process. She stated that we should be getting the initial legislation any day now and if it is to become law during this session of the legislature, the bill will need to be finalized and sent to the Governor by end of July 2026.

**Tristan Israel, Valerie Bell, and Steve Tucker joined the meeting at 2:12PM.**

**PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON THE COMPACT'S APRIL 30, 2025, COMPLIANCE FILING FOR THE THREE-YEAR ENERGY EFFICIENCY PLAN FOR 2025-2027 (DPU 24-146), MARGARET SONG:**

Margaret Song reviewed the DPU Order: Preliminary Residential Budget Cuts PowerPoint. She stated that the residential energy efficiency budget needs to be reduced by \$500 million; proportionate by electric and gas PA and the energy efficiency surcharge (EES) year over year change is to be no more than a 15% increase. She stated that the Compact budget reduction is \$24,305,069 which is about \$8.1 million a year. She stated that the compliance filing is due on April 30, 2025.

Margaret Song stated that when looking for areas to reduce the budget the guiding principles were to maintain program design, recalibrate for recent projects in the pipeline, and reduce non-energy saving budgets wherever possible.

Margaret Song reviewed the budget reductions. She stated that the Compact, and the other PAs, will be 1) eliminating residential Home Energy Scorecards, 2) reducing statewide marketing by 10%, 3) reducing residential evaluation budgets by 10%, 4) reducing language access costs by 10%, 5) increase for statewide call center in 2027, 6) reducing standard heat pump turnkey projects in 2027, and 7) reducing budgets for the prescriptive heat pump pool and Heat loan by 30%. She stated that the budget cuts result in a 16% reduction in costs and a 21% greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction. She stated that including low income and commercial & industrial sectors, the cost and avoided carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>e) (metric tons) went from \$2,986 to \$2,983.

Tom McNellis stated that we have found the residential turnkey projects to be very valuable for customers. He asked about how much it is being reduced. Margaret Song stated that we are cutting a lot. She stated that we would basically only have funds for 30 projects and the Compact had a budget for over 1,000, but that thousand might have been optimistic. Tom McNellis stated that he is wondering if there is some alternative where maybe there is not as much customer handholding but at least providing some level of backstop to help customers through the next steps. Margaret Song stated absolutely. She stated that there are decarbonization assessments that are still in the works, and we also offer energy efficiency coaching.

Martin Culik asked if the budget reductions outlined are kind of a template from the state group that all PAs are following. Margaret Song answered yes. She stated that all of these are statewide adjustments. Some of the PAs are making further reductions to get to their proportionate budget.

Margaret Song reviewed the GHG reductions. She stated that these tables show the differences from the compliance filing in December to the modeled reductions today.

Margaret Song reviewed the upcoming meetings and deadlines. She stated that April 14, 2025, is the deadline for parties to submit opposition to the utility PAs Joint Motion for Reconsideration and Clarification regarding certain performance incentive issues associated with the electrification pool. The Compact is not a party to this Motion given that this affects performance incentives. She stated that on April 16, 2025, there is an Energy Efficiency Advisory Council (EEAC) meeting and on April 17, 2025, the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) is having a technical session on EES.

## **PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON PROPOSED REVISIONS TO COMPACT TOWN REPORTS, KIM GRANT:**

Kim Grant reviewed the Data Project PowerPoint. She stated that the Compact's energy efficiency activity report was created over 19 years ago to provide data on program participation and energy savings by town. These monthly reports are posted to the Compact's website, and a quarterly report is sent to the towns. She stated that the Compact is looking to update the report and replace it with a dashboard that will be town specific and include data that is useful to the Board and stakeholders.

Kim Grant reviewed the current report. She reviewed the data protection requirements. She stated that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) privacy laws, outlined in 201 CMR 17.00, require the Compact to protect the personal information on Massachusetts residents. She stated that DPU 20-80-D reiterated limited sharing of data for express purposes and focused on customer data protection.

Kim Grant stated that a survey is going to be sent out to the Board. She reviewed the questions and then showed an example of what the dashboard would look like. She stated the survey will go out on Friday, April 10<sup>th</sup> from her email and there will be a link to SurveyMonkey. She asked that the Board send responses back to her by Friday, April 25<sup>th</sup>. David Anthony asked if the survey was going to be sent out to Town Managers as well. Kim Grant answered yes, the survey will be sent to the Town Managers.

## **UPDATE ON REVISIONS TO THE COMPACT'S WEBSITE, JASON BERTRAND:**

Jason Bertrand reviewed portions of the Compact's new website. He stated that he was not quite ready to show the Board the website in full for their review, but hoping to send it out for edits and comments before the May Board Meeting.

Jason Bertrand stated that his goal was to provide ways to make it easier for customers to find the information they are looking for. One way of doing that is putting a search bar front and center on the home page. Also, making tags to pages. For example, many people may be searching for mini splits instead of heat pumps, but we don't have mini split written anywhere on the website. So, by putting mini splits into the search bar, it will get them to the right place. He stated that there is also a "Getting Started" button that will bring customers to a new page with a few questions to answer. He stated once they answer those questions it will then bring them to another page with a list of all the different incentives/rebates they may qualify for.

Dan Schell stated that there is a computer-generated translation button on the top right, but when the website is finalized, the website will be translated into Portugues and Spanish by a real person as well. Jason Bertrand stated that he is hoping to launch the new website in May or June.

## **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

### **1. Mass Save Letter to State Auditor**

Maggie Downey stated that there is a letter to the state auditor in the Board Packet. She stated that the reason it was sent is because the state auditor expressed concern that income eligible customers were not being well served through Mass Save. She stated that the auditor thought that income eligible customers were paying into the programs and not getting anything out of them; however, it is the complete opposite, and the data shows income eligible customers are receiving more in services than they have been contributing. She stated that she just wanted to make sure the Board was aware that the letter was sent.

## **ADJOURNMENT:**

*Motion to adjourn was made at 3:30PM moved by Robert Schofield, seconded by Brad Crowell.*

|         |                |              |     |
|---------|----------------|--------------|-----|
| David   | Anthony        | Barnstable   | Yes |
| Robert  | Schofield      | Bourne       | Yes |
| Colin   | Odell          | Brewster     | Yes |
| Brian   | Miner          | Chatham      | Yes |
| Brad    | Crowell        | Dennis       | Yes |
| Tristan | Israel         | Dukes County | Yes |
| Tom     | McNellis       | Eastham      | Yes |
| Alan    | Strahler       | Edgartown    | Yes |
| Scott   | Mueller        | Falmouth     | Yes |
| Valerie | Bell           | Harwich      | Yes |
| Wayne   | Taylor         | Mashpee      | Yes |
| Martin  | Culik          | Orleans      | Yes |
| Nate    | Mayo           | Provincetown | Yes |
| Steve   | Tucker         | Sandwich     | Yes |
| Bob     | Higgins-Steele | Truro        | Yes |
| Suzanne | Ryan-Ishkanian | Wellfleet    | Yes |
| Nicola  | Blake          | West Tisbury | Yes |
| Mike    | Duffy          | Yarmouth     | Yes |

*Motion carried in the affirmative (18-0-0)*

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

**LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:**

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- March 12, 2025, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- DPU Order: Preliminary Residential Budget Cuts PowerPoint
- Data Project PowerPoint