

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

The Cape Light Compact JPE Board of Directors met on Wednesday, July 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, Chair/Secretary/Executive Committee, Barnstable
2. Robert Schofield, Executive Committee, Bourne
3. Colin Odell, Executive Committee, Brewster
4. Tom McNellis, Eastham
5. Valerie Bell, Harwich
6. David Jacobson, Orleans
7. Nathaniel Mayo, Provincetown
8. Joyce Flynn, Vice Chair/Executive Committee, Yarmouth

Participating Remotely Were:

1. Bill Doherty, Bourne Alternate
2. Brian Miner, Chatham
3. Tim Carroll, Chilmark
4. Tristan Israel, Dukes County
5. Alan Strahler, Edgartown
6. Steve Tucker, Sandwich Alternate
7. Suzanne Ryan-Ishkanian, Wellfleet
8. Nicola Blake, Executive Committee, West Tisbury

Absent Were:

1. Forrest Filler, Aquinnah
2. Brad Crowell, Dennis
3. Peter Meleney, Oak Bluffs
4. Scott Mueller, Falmouth
5. Wayne Taylor, Mashpee
6. Leanne Drake, Sandwich
7. Russ Hartenstine, Tisbury
8. Bob Higgins-Steele, Truro Alternate
9. Jarrod Cabral, Truro

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

Maggie Downey, Chief Administrative Officer
Margaret Song, Evaluation, Strategy, and Policy Manager
Miranda Skinner, Strategy & Regulatory Analyst

Staff Participating Remotely:

Angela Hurwitz, Senior IT Services & Data Management Analyst
Anneliese Conklin, Data Services Coordinator
Briana Kane, Implementation Manager
Dan Schell, Senior Analyst - Retail and Demand Response
David Maclellan, Senior Analyst
Kate Coleman, Outreach Specialist
Kim Grant, Town Energy Coordinator
Lindsay Henderson, Senior Analyst – Small Business
Mariel Marchand, Power Supply Planner
Melissa Allard, Senior Administrative Coordinator
Phil Moffitt, Chief Financial Officer
Tatsiana Nickinello, Energy Efficiency Analyst

Public Participants:

Sarah Shemkus, Canary Media

Joyce Flynn called the meeting to order at 2:02 PM.

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 June 11, 2025 Open Session Meeting Minutes.

Robert Schofield moved the Board to accept the minutes and to release them, seconded by Valerie Bell.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tristan	Israel	Dukes County	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
David	Jacobson	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Steve	Tucker	Sandwich	Abstained
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Abstained
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (12-0-2)

VICE CHAIRMAN’S REPORT, JOYCE FLYNN:

1. Acknowledge Resignation of Martin Culik

Joyce Flynn stated that the Compact’s Chair of the Board, Martin Culik, has resigned. She thanked him for his service.

2. Nominations and Potential Vote for Board Chair

Joyce Flynn stated that since she is presiding over the meeting she can’t nominate anyone but would recommend someone nominate David Anthony because of his vast experience with hiring and government rules.

Valerie Bell nominated David Anthony to serve as Board Chair until the next election of Compact Officers. Seconded by Robert Schofield.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tristan	Israel	Dukes County	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
David	Jacobson	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Steve	Tucker	Sandwich	Yes
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (14-0-0)

Maggie Downey stated that at the next Board Meeting there will be a vote on who will fill the vacancy of Secretary.

Tim Carroll joined the meeting at 2:38 PM.

3. Continued Discussion on Succession Planning for Compact Administrator Position and Potential Vote to Appoint a Screening Committee

David Anthony stated that Maggie Downey had sent a memo to the Board on a proposed schedule and a list of responsibilities the consultant would perform. The calendar will be finalized once a consultant is brought on. Maggie Downey stated that she has reached out and is following up with several potential consultants. She stated that she needs to get at least three responses from the consultants.

Maggie Downey stated that at the previous Board Meeting the Board stated putting together a screening committee would be in the Board's best interest. She stated that the committee's meetings are required to comply with the Open Meeting Law. She stated that the meetings will likely be virtual meetings with the consultant and the committee will be very active, therefore those volunteering to serve on the committee should plan on dedicating more time than usual over the next several months.

Maggie Downey stated that she will send to the Board the current job description and the list of characteristics that David Anthony prepared at the June Board meeting. She stated that the Board should review and bring feedback at the next Board Meeting. The feedback will be utilized by the screening committee and consultant.

David Anthony asked for volunteers for the screening committee. Up to three executive committee members may join and less than 11 Board Members in total may serve on the committee. Colin Odell, Tom McNellis, Valerie Bell, Tim Carroll, David Jacobson, Bill Doherty, and Nicola Blake volunteered.

Colin Odell moved that the Board vote to appoint a screening committee in accordance with the tasks outlined in the attached, for the Compact Administrator position and to advertise the position. The members will be Colin Odell, Tom McNellis, Valerie Bell, Tim Carroll, David Jacobson, Bill Doherty, and Nicola Blake.

The Compact Administrator is authorized and directed to take all actions necessary or appropriate to implement this vote, and to execute and deliver all documents as may be necessary or appropriate to implement this vote. Seconded by Robert Schofield.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Brian	Miner	Chatham	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Tristan	Israel	Dukes County	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
David	Jacobson	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Steve	Tucker	Sandwich	Yes
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (15-0-0)

Maggie Downey stated that once she has engaged a consultant, the Board will, if needed, vote to allocate funds. David Anthony asked whether the Board would like to have an August Board Meeting in order to hammer out any details as a whole before the screening committee breaks off. The sense of the Board is that they do want to have a Board Meeting in August. Maggie Downey asked if August 13, 2025, would work and the sense of the Board was yes.

PRESENTATION ON RESULTS FROM CAPE & VINEYARD ELECTRIFICATION (CVEO) EVALUATION, MIRANDA SKINNER:

Miranda Skinner reviewed the Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering (CVEO) Evaluation PowerPoint. She stated that CVEO is a strategic electrification and energy efficiency offering which served low- and moderate-income customers with air source heat pumps, solar, heat pump water heaters, electric or induction stoves, electric dryers, and batteries. She stated that there was a total of 55 participants, 47 lived in deed restricted properties and 8 lived in non-deed restricted properties. She stated that 34 of the participants live on Cape Cod and 21 lived on Martha's Vineyard. She stated that 39 of the participants owned their home and 16 were renters.

Miranda Skinner stated that installed were 45 heat pumps, 41 heat pump or electric hot water heaters, 55 solar PVs, 12 battery storage systems, 4 electric dryers, and 13 electric or induction stoves. She stated that the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) ordered the Compact to complete an evaluation. The evaluation was performed by the third-party contractor, Guidehouse. She stated that the evaluation budget was \$300,000 and this study fell outside of the traditional evaluation scope, which we used for our other evaluations. She stated that the final report will be submitted to the DPU by August 1, 2025.

Miranda Skinner stated that the MA Department of Public Utilities (DPU) had four requirements to be included in the evaluation: 1) identification of any barriers to customer participation during the onboarding process; 2) documentation of the equipment and services procurement and installation processes and identification of any potential concerns with the scalability of specific equipment or processes; 3) identify any non-energy benefits; and 4) documentation of the costs and savings for each package of installed measures. She stated that the evaluation was broken into two parts. First is the Process Evaluation, which is a qualitative approach. This portion was done through participant surveys, installer surveys, and interviews with Compact staff who worked to implement the program. She stated that the second portion is the Impact Evaluation which is a quantitative approach. She stated this looks at the non-energy benefits and a bill analysis was performed which looked at how much energy usage changed pre and post CVEO.

Miranda Skinner reviewed the key findings of the participant surveys. She stated that there was high satisfaction with the program and their installed equipment. There was a 71% Net Promoter score, which means that 71% of participants would have encouraged someone else to participate in the program. She stated that the highest motivations for participating were environmental friendliness, money saving, and energy savings. She stated that most survey respondents did not experience issues with their equipment after installation. She stated that lastly, many installations were pushed to the second half of 2024, so participants have yet to realize the benefits of their installed equipment over a full year.

Miranda Skinner reviewed the key findings of the bill impacts and excess generation. She stated that CVEO participants experienced a large reduction in their overall annual energy bills. She stated that prior to participating in CVEO the participants on average were paying \$3,060 a year and after CVEO it had dropped to \$1,267, which is a 59% reduction. She stated secondly, CVEO participants observed substantial decreases and their average annual electric bill, so prior it was \$1,858 and then after participating it was \$1,267, which is a 32% reduction. She stated lastly that solar generation benefited CVEO participants by offsetting home electric usage. She stated that for one of the homes the solar generated in addition to what the home used of 476 kilowatt hours a year, which resulted in a \$32 generation credit.

Miranda Skinner reviewed the evaluation requirement findings. She stated that for the identification of any barriers to customer participation during the onboarding process requirement they found 1) high co-pays for non-deed restricted moderate income participants, 2) concerns it was a scam, 3) confusion about the timeline, 4) properties not compatible for solar installation, 5) condo association restrictions, and 6) requirement to remove fossil fuel heating systems. She stated for the documentation of the equipment and services procurement and installation processes and identification of any potential concerns with the scalability of specific equipment or

processes requirement they found 1) delays in onboarding solar installers, 2) customer hesitancy about fully electrifying their homes, 3) each project was custom with unanticipated issues, 4) higher cost per home than expected, and 5) difficulty with coordination between installers. She stated that for the Identifying any non-energy benefits (NEIs) requirement they found 1) the only measure that did not have NEIs were income eligible customer batteries and 2) a separate statewide evaluation was done that found an annual NEI per home of \$162.08.

Miranda Skinner reviewed the documentation of the costs and savings for each package of installed measures requirement findings. She stated that these are preliminary numbers. She stated that for heat pumps we saw an average cost of \$45,658.45, for heat pump water heaters it was \$7,222.58, Solar PV was \$29,875.38, battery storage was \$33,146.20, electric dryers was \$926.13, and the electric or induction stoves was \$ 1,158.27. She stated that for the annual savings they are -2,708.03 kWh for heat pumps, -822 kWh for heat pump water heaters, 7,681.04 kWh for solar PV, 5 kW for battery storage, 160 kWh for electric dryer, and 2.1 MMBtu or - 258 kWh for electric or induction stoves. She noted that the heat pump costs do include barrier mitigation such as panel upgrades.

Miranda Skinner stated that the Compact received some considerations from Guidehouse. Guidehouse recommended that the DPU should consider allowing participants to enroll their solar PV as net metering sites to receive additional bill savings associated with excess generation. She stated that on average a qualifying facility, which is what these sites were enrolled as, only received \$0.05 to \$0.10 per kWh. She stated a traditional residential site which gets solar and enrolls would receive about \$0.25 to \$0.30 per kWh. She stated that the other considerations were process evaluation related. They are 1) provide customers with a brochure outlining the key information, 2) expand the offering to additional participants, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs), other non-profit organizations, and previously ineligible participants, 3) improve coordination among installers to reduce customer burden, 4) continue collaborating with local housing authorities and the Implementation Contractor to generate program awareness, but also consider expanding additional marketing pathways, and 5) survey participants on satisfaction after Fall 2025.

Audrey Eidelman Kiernan stated as a reminder part of the reason why the DPU had the Compact do this evaluation is because the legal authority for this program says that the DPU has to file a report with the legislature by August 1, 2026. She stated that the DPU will do its own analysis of the benefits and burdens to rate payers of the program. Miranda Skinner stated that she will send out the evaluation to the Board if anyone wants to read it over.

DISCUSS FEEDBACK FROM COMPACT BOARD MEMBERS ON REDESIGN OF COMPACT’S WEBSITE, JASON BERTRAND:

Jason Bertrand stated that he has received some feedback from Board Members on the new website. He has not yet made those changes as he wants to give everyone an opportunity to weigh in, in case there are some conflicting opinions. He stated that the Compact wanted to make sure that customers had an easier time finding the information they needed and therefore made several ways for customers to find the information they needed right on the home page. Whether it is the search bar, the menus, or the “See what I may qualify for” button.

Tom McNellis stated that the menus are not visible on smaller screens. Jason Bertrand stated that the web developer is aware and working on it. Tom McNellis stated that under the “About Us” page, there should be a third check bullet that talks about the advocacy the Compact does. Tim Carroll stated that he shared it with staff and everyone had positive feedback.

Jason Bertrand stated that he is giving the Board until the end of the week to get any final feedback on the website to him. He stated that if something were to come up after Friday or after the site goes live, that the Board can always email him.

Tristan Israel and Brian Miner left the meeting at 4:00 PM.

ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

1. Executive Session Minutes Review

Maggie Downey stated that every six months she reviews the unreleased or partially released executive session meeting minutes along with counsel. She stated that the following are to continue to be partially redacted as continued nondisclosure of the redacted minutes is warranted under the Open Meeting Law: March 10, 2021, September 29, 2021, January 9, 2019, October 8, 2014, and August 14, 2023. She stated that the June 9, 2021, executive session meeting minutes will be released in their entirety as they were related to a low-income solar docket. She stated that December 13, 2023, and July 10, 2024, executive session meeting minutes are to be withheld in their entirety as the continued non-disclosure is warranted under the Open Meeting Law.

2. Follow-up on Compact Specific Executive Summary of 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan

Maggie Downey stated that she that staff are still waiting on data from the end of 2024. She stated that once that is complete it will be shared with the Board.

3. MA DPU Approved Compact’s Revised July Energy Efficiency Surcharge MA DPU Approved Compact’s Compliance Filing

Margaret Song reviewed the 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan – Compliance Filing Update PowerPoint. She reviewed the approved budgets slide stating that it is the same as the compliance filing presentation at a previous Board Meeting. The only difference is it has now been approved. She stated as a reminder that there was a budget reduction on the residential side. The Compact reduced the budget from the original Energy Efficiency Plan. She stated that also the DPU made a requirement that the growth year-over-year can’t be greater than 15%.

Marget Song reviewed the Energy Efficiency Surcharge (EES) in cents/kWh PowerPoint slide. She stated that it is also mostly the same. She stated that the July 1, 2025, approved column was added. The residential and income-eligible EES is now 3.273 and the commercial EES is 2.416. She stated that as people have been saying, some of the surcharges are very high.

Tom McNellis stated that because of the cost of these programs, he does not want to see the Compact get to a point that people would start saying that the Compact is doing too much. Margaret Song stated that in terms of cost effectiveness the Compact is in line with the other Program Administrators (PAs). She stated that in terms of utilizing the dollars the Compact is also in line, however the rates are going to be different depending on demographics, etc.

ADJOURNMENT:

Motion to adjourn was made at 4:11 PM moved by Robert Schofield, seconded by Colin Odell.

David	Anthony	Barnstable	Yes
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Robert	Scofield	Bourne	Yes
Colin	Odell	Brewster	Yes
Tim	Carroll	Chilmark	Yes
Tom	McNellis	Eastham	Yes
Alan	Strahler	Edgartown	Yes
Valerie	Bell	Harwich	Yes
David	Jacobson	Orleans	Yes
Nate	Mayo	Provincetown	Yes
Steve	Tucker	Sandwich	Yes
Suzanne	Ryan-Ishkanian	Wellfleet	Yes
Nicola	Blake	West Tisbury	Yes
Joyce	Flynn	Yarmouth	Yes

Motion carried in the affirmative (13-0-0)

Respectfully submitted,

Melissa Allard

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS:

- Meeting Notice/Agenda
- June 11, 2025, Draft Open Session Meeting Minutes
- Basis of Preliminary Screening Committees and Relate Executive Session Rules
- Cape and Vineyard Electrification Offering Evaluation PowerPoint
- 2025-2027 Energy Efficiency Plan – Compliance Filing Update PowerPoint