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Clean Energy Council Examines Modelling Results

On October 14, the Climate Action Council (CAC) held its 16th meeting to review the latest results of the integration analysis – that is, the modelling of all the recommendations of the various advisory panels, and then some. You can see all the information presented in the lengthy Meeting Presentation [PDF] and yes, it really is 105 slides.

After calling the meeting to order and approving the October 1, 2021 Meeting Minutes [PDF], CAC co-chairs complimented and bade good bye to Gil Quinones, President of NYPA, who is scheduled to depart that position and join Commonwealth Edison in Illinois as its new CEO. They then turned it over to Carl Mas from NYSERDA to present the results of the scenario analyses.

Five scenarios were examined: (1) Reference Case, (2) ALL Advisory Panel Recommendations (3) Strategic Use of Low Carbon Fuels, (4) Accelerated Transition from Combustion, and (5) Beyond 85%. It's critical to note that scenarios (2) through (5) ALL include a zero-emissions grid by 2040 through a significant build-out of wind and solar, more transit and less VMT, dramatic energy efficiency improvements and electrification of transportation and heating, and flexibility in end-use electricity demand. These characteristics were common to all scenarios, and the differences were relatively minor; scenario (3) allows for some low carbon fuel use and (4) does not. The Meeting Presentation [PDF] provides many details on the analysis approach and the results, but here are two important messages about the results: (1) the cost of inaction is higher than the cost of action in any of the scenarios, by over \$80 million (see slide #33) and (2) the increase in costs over time relative to the total costs of energy to New Yorker is moderate in 2030, that is, the climate action plan would add 7.1-8.6% to the total energy system costs. In 2050, it would be a 24-27% increase in system expenditures (slide 39). When calculated on a net-present value basis, the total cost 2020 - 2050 of scenario 2 or 3 above the Reference Case is 10-12% higher (slide 40).

The modelling results have given CAC members lots of information to review and absorb for the next CAC meeting. In November and December, the CAC is in the home stretch, scheduled to finalize the Draft Scoping Plan by the end of the calendar year.