



Meeting Minutes¹

Wednesday, September 28, 2022
2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

The first meeting of the Infrastructure Working Group was held on September 28, 2022.

All participants joined via the Teams conference call

Task Force Members Present: Nikki Bruno (Eversource), Samantha Dynowski (Sierra Club), Sridhar Kanuri (HyAxiom), Shannon Laun (Conservation Law Foundation), Lidia Ruppert (Designee - DEEP)

Others Present:

Erin Childs (Strategen), Nina Hebel (Strategen), Collin Smith (Strategen)

1. Call to Order

- Collin Smith, a Senior Consultant at Strategen providing technical support for the Infrastructure Working Group, called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. Welcome and Introductions

- Mr. Smith provided an overview of the meeting agenda including attendee introductions, a review of the Working Group Charter, an overview of the work plan and upcoming milestones, and a discussion of the end use evaluation framework.
- Each participant introduced their name and organization, and provided a brief overview regarding their involvement and interest in the Working Group.

3. Review of Working Group Charter and Schedule

- Mr. Smith introduced the Infrastructure Working Group co-chairs, Chris Capuano and Adolfo Rivera. He noted their continued role in developing the key deliverables of the Working Group, including a geographic analysis detailing the locations of existing relevant infrastructure and an assessment of additional infrastructure needs to enable a hydrogen infrastructure within the state. Mr. Smith added that the Working Group would also identify priority areas of infrastructure development, considering community and economic objectives.
- Mr. Smith explained that the Infrastructure Working Group analysis will be guided by research questions that are available in detail in the Working Group's charter.

4. Presentation and Discussion of Initial Geospatial Analysis

- Mr. Smith explained that within the state of Connecticut, solar has the highest onshore production capacity and is primarily located on the eastern side of the State.

¹ For access to the meeting recording – <https://www.ctgreenbank.com/hydrogentaskforce/hydrogen-infrastructure/>

- Mr. Smith noted that locations of potential hydrogen offtakers match up well with existing gas infrastructure, but not necessarily with high renewable potential zones such as the eastern portion of the State with abundant solar.
- Mr. Smith identified heavy duty trucking as a particularly difficult sector to electrify and noted that this end-use is a clear candidate for hydrogen, and therefore should be considered when thinking about necessary hydrogen infrastructure.
- Mr. Smith noted that there is offshore wind potential for Connecticut, but this is limited by available lease areas and connection points with Connecticut. He explained that Connecticut does have 1.1 GW of offshore wind leases contracted with the Bureau of Ocean management, so potential innovative infrastructure solutions will be studied in relation to potential offshore wind developments.
- Mr. Smith provided an overview of the potential for geological hydrogen storage in Connecticut. He explained that the State's regional geology is a challenge due to an abundance of hard rock and indicated opportunities to explore potential for hydrogen storage in neighboring States with different geology, such as Western New York and Pennsylvania.
- Erin Childs noted that hydrogen infrastructure is a multi-faceted discussion topic. Ms. Childs inquired whether stakeholders had any questions regarding the foundational assumptions that Mr. Smith had discussed.
 - Sridhar Kanuri cited the possibility of transitioning centralized power to run on hydrogen. He inquired whether the implications of this transition had been mapped out in Connecticut.
 - Mr. Smith responded that power plants had been considered as potential offtakers when analyzing potential hydrogen demand in Connecticut.
- Shannon Laun raised a question regarding the incorporation of other States into the analysis of infrastructure needs, specifically asking whether the regional nature of the hydrogen hub was being considered. Ms. Laun noted that Connecticut is a small state with neighboring states that could influence many of the considerations regarding infrastructure.
 - Mr. Smith explained that the relationship between States is being considered. Mr. Smith added that Connecticut's role is being considered at a high level, specifically focusing on how the State can best position itself within a hydrogen economy.
- Nikki Bruno raised a question regarding the classification of New Haven as a major port on the graphics presented, while not including New London Port. She inquired whether there was a threshold for inclusion of potential offtake demand, or if smaller offtakers were included in this analysis.
 - Mr. Smith responded the example that Ms. Bruno explained noting that New Haven was specifically mentioned in this discussion as it is Connecticut's largest port, but smaller end uses have also been identified as they contribute to the overall hydrogen demand in the region.
- Mr. Kanuri raised a question, also regarding the Port of New Haven. He inquired whether the possibility of exporting hydrogen out of the port for global offtakers had been considered.
 - Mr. Smith explained that in the current analysis, potential demand from the Port of New Haven as an offtaker had been considered, but global export demand had not been incorporated. He explained that demand at a port could be divided into numerous end uses, such as material handling equipment, drayage trucks, and refueling ships.

- Ms. Bruno asked whether there was a way to overlay environmental justice areas with renewable potential or hydrogen demand to provide a multidimensional view.
 - Mr. Smith responded that this map can be created.
- Sara Harari added that she is aware of ongoing discussions between DEEP and the Connecticut EDCs to identify interconnection points for offshore wind. She indicated that this may be a topic that Task Force members from those organizations could provide input on.
 - Ms. Bruno and Ms. Ruppert both indicated that they are unable to provide information on this topic but can follow up with relevant colleagues to provide updates.
- Ms. Childs stated that this Working Group will provide a forum to dive substantially into topics such as the bulk storage of hydrogen and noted that stakeholder questions raised during this meeting would be incorporated into this analysis.
- Mr. Smith highlighted interdependencies between the Working Groups, specifically noting collaboration with the Sources Working Group to identify candidate resources and geography to produce hydrogen, which will determine infrastructure needs.

5. Adjourn

- Mr. Smith adjourned the meeting at 2:44 p.m.