

# Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

**The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**

Draft Meeting Minutes  
Monday, September 19, 2011  
Room 4/5  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Beverly Fourier, Raphael Isaac, Andrew Kambour, Daniel Lee, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney, Larry Zaragoza

**Staff:** Joan Rohlfs, Maia Davis, Jeannine Altavilla

## 1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:37pm. The agenda and minutes from July 18, 2011 were approved with no changes.

## 2. Ozone Season Summary (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP Staff)

For peak 8 hour ozone concentrations from April 15, 2011 to September 8, 2011, there has been 2 Code Red Days, 19 Code Orange Days, 52 Code Yellow Days and 73 Code Green Days. There were only three Code Green days in July, the hottest month, with 11 Code Orange days and 16 Code Yellow days. Because of extended air quality “events,” particularly in July, many people thought the air quality felt worse this year than last. The air was often stagnant and there was no rain, and this allowed the ozone to accumulate over time. When we had west winds, this brought dirty air from the Ohio valley. Overall though, this year’s ozone season (May - September) was, in fact, better than last year.

Peak 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> from April 15, 2011 to September 8, 2011, there has been 62 Code Yellow Days and 84 Code Green Days. The Washington DC, MD, VA Nonattainment Area is working on re-designation since the area has been under the nonattainment standard for several years.

Beverly attended an air quality forecasting learning session with Sunil Kumar, COG staff, and learned about types of air quality monitors, how to do the forecasting and air quality mapping. She asked questions about the difference between what AirNOW measures and the actual forecasting, and had several questions about the monitors. One point she found interesting was that there wasn’t much variation in PM<sub>2.5</sub> across the region. Another member noted that ozone is more reactive than PM.

## 3. Feedback on Sustainable Home Certification Program Proposal (Jeannine Altavilla, COG DEP Staff)

Since COG’s WE CAN outreach campaign wrapped up earlier in 2011, COG has continued to work with its outreach committee to launch the next community outreach effort. The next proposed program goes beyond WE CAN’s challenge on energy efficiency to incorporate additional areas of sustainability such as water conservation, recycling and cleaning. The proposal is a home sustainability self-certification program that will provide residents with an opportunity to be recognized for taking sustainable, green living actions at home, and assist the region with achieving the sustainability goals of *Region Forward* and COG’s *National Capital Region Climate Change Report*.

ACPAC members had several comments and suggestions. The fact that there are other local home checklist programs will make it very hard to communicate the programs without confusion. That lead to several comments about how to market the program and what needs to be considered (motivation) when developing a marketing strategy. It was suggested that the checklist needed prioritization to help residents identify the most cost-effective options. Points should be higher for measures that we want to encourage the most.

**4. Regional Electric and Natural Gas Use Trends (Jeannine Altavilla, COG DEP Staff)**

Eight regional utilities provided information on information such as usage, accounts, renewable energy purchases, advanced metering and pricing options. Data was collected for 2005, 2009 and 2010. A couple highlights from the presentation include there are over 1,000 renewable energy systems in the region and since 2005 the population has increased by 6% while the residential electric and natural gas use has decreased by 2%.

It was suggested that the trends could be described in context of footprint per person, helpful if we could compare this information to other areas of the country and describe how this relates to regional goals. There was a request for a copy of the data. Since the data is available online COG staff can provide ACPAC a link to the information.

**5. MWAQC and CEEPC Update (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)**

Joan discussed two recent press releases of interest. The first was a White House press release stating that the President has requested that Administrator Jackson withdraw the draft Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards at this time. One member commented that the Ozone Transport Commission is working on figuring out how this statement impacts states at this time. The second press release was on the agreement between the City of Alexandria and GenOn to close the Potomac River Generating Station.

The committees did not meet in August. The upcoming September CEEPC meeting agenda highlights include local green business programs and the District of Columbia's building performance labeling. The upcoming September MWAQC meeting agenda highlights the ozone season summary, NAAQS and closing of the Potomac River Generating Station.

**6. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

<b>Next meeting: October 17, 2011 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5</b>
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