



## Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

### DRAFT WEBINAR MEETING SUMMARY: MARCH 22, 2023

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Takis Karantonis, Arlington County (Chair)
- Hon. Monique Ashton, City of Rockville
- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Kate Doyle Feingold, City of Fairfax
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Evan Glass, Montgomery County
- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County
- Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County
- Hon. Alanna Mensing, City of Manassas Park
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Al Carr, District of Columbia
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Susan Gerson, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Kim Goddu-Alexander, Bethesda Green
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Stephen Gyor, District of Columbia
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Brian Lee, City of Laurel
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Naeem Mia, Montgomery County
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg
- Paul Pinsky, MEA
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Julie Rosenburg, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville

- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick
- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County
- Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Shana Fulcher, City of Takoma Park
- Angie Fyfe, ICLEI
- Matthew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Marguerite Guarino, Fairfax County
- Alex Hirtle, Prince George's County
- Allison Homer, Fairfax County
- David Lorenzo, Councilmember Glass' Legislative Assistant
- Debra Maes, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Jason Pauley, Prince William County
- Kim Pezza, MDE
- Tiara Richardson, Frederick County
- Alison Riley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Kate Roetzer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Regina Weil, Fairfax County
- Brittany Whited, DOEE
- Andy Young, City of Falls Church

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Brian LeCouteur, COG Environmental Programs
- Wyetha Lipford, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning

## 1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

*Takis Karantonis, CEEPC Chair*

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Takis Karantonis called the March CEEPC meeting to order. New members officially appointed to CEEPC for 2023 were invited to introduce themselves. Additionally, Chair Karantonis noted the submittal of a public comment letter to CEEPC available under [meeting materials](#). The November CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

## 2. COMMITTEE BUSINESS AND UPDATES

### *A. CEEPC New Member Introductions and Orientation*

Maia Davis (COG Environmental Programs) provided a brief overview of CEEPC's purpose, committee structure, membership, and voting process to members (presentation available under [meeting materials](#)). New members were welcomed and had an opportunity to introduce themselves including, Hon. Evan Glass, Montgomery County; Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County; Hon. Kate Doyle Feingold, City of Fairfax; Al Carr, DOEE; Paul Pinsky, Maryland Energy Administration Director; and Julie Rosenberg, Faith Alliance Board.

### *B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee Environmental Justice Tool Proposal*

Leah Boggs (COG Environmental Programs) presented the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) proposal to update the [Environmental Justice Toolkit](#) originally developed in 2017. The objective of the update is to improve the utility and relevance of the document by providing in-practice examples, recommendations, and best practices, as well as incorporating the latest developments in research and tools. This update would also feature further engagement with the inclusion of grassroots organizations in the review process. Additionally, definitions for Distributional Equity and Climate Justice would be added, and examples of funding opportunities and mechanisms would also be included. The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) has already approved this proposal. With CEEPC's approval, ACPAC would begin work on this update with the intention of providing a new version of the toolkit in the Fall of 2024.

**Action:** ACPAC's Environmental Justice Tool Update Proposal was approved by CEEPC.

### *C. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group*

REVD Chair, Virginia Burke, provided a brief overview of REVD, its priorities, and work, including the newly launched [Electric Vehicle Clearinghouse](#). The first REVD meeting was held on March 16. The next meeting is scheduled for May 18. The workgroup is developing an EV Ready Checklist for jurisdictions to use as a starting point, as they explore deployment opportunities. At the March 16

meeting, members also heard from a panel of the District, Maryland, and Virginia Departments of Transportation on their state plans for [National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure \(NEVI\) Formula Funding](#) Deployment. The panel discussed how local governments can prepare for and engage with the states to access NEVI formula funds and deploy EV infrastructure in their local communities.

### 3. RACE TO ZERO

*Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs*

Maia Davis provided an overview of climate goals and high impact areas (HIAs) in metropolitan Washington. When COG and many local governments in the region were adopting their first climate goals, a goal of 20 percent greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2020 was set, as well as an 80 percent reduction goal by 2050. More recently, the region adopted a 50 percent reduction goal by 2030. Many jurisdictions moved beyond the 80 percent reduction by 2050 goal and adopted carbon neutrality goals. [Race to Zero](#) generally sets a 50 percent reduction by 2030 goal and a net zero carbon emissions by 2050 goal, but also calls for science-based targets. COG's [2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#) provides an overview of the high impact areas of climate action in the region, which include working towards a zero carbon/carbon neutral grid, zero emission buildings, zero emission vehicles and zero waste. Maia Davis highlighted local examples of actions that COG members are currently working towards such as the District of Columbia's efforts to decarbonize its energy supply, the City of Alexandria's efforts to transition their transit bus fleet to 100 percent zero emission vehicles, and Montgomery County's recent community solar project at Oaks Landfill.

*Angie Fyfe, ICLEI USA Executive Director*

Race To Zero is a global campaign to rally leadership and support from businesses, cities, regions, investors for a healthy, resilient, zero carbon recovery that prevents future threats, creates decent jobs, and unlocks inclusive, sustainable growth. For the safety of people, planet, and economy global emissions have to be halved by 2030 and reach net zero emissions by 2050 in order to achieve the Paris Climate Agreement target, which is to hold global temperature increases to 1.5 degrees Celsius, based on a comparison to pre-industrial levels. Local government action is essential for reaching these global goals. As of October 2022, local signatories of the Race To Zero campaign include the City of Alexandria, the City of Takoma Park, and the District of Columbia. The HIA pathways for accelerating emission reductions are largely focused on renewable energy deployment, building electrification (and efficiency), and the EV transition (and reducing vehicle miles traveled [VMT]). Other supporting action areas include reducing waste and methane use, nature-based solutions, sustainable food systems, circular economy, and community resilience. ICLEI hosts [learning cohorts](#) focused on these themes.

Discussion:

- Several CEEPC members expressed interest in joining ICLEI's learning cohort on climate plan implementation and budgeting.
- Environmental justice is a cross-cutting theme throughout ICLEI's work. Through their advisory services for local and regional governments, ICLEI provides some best practices around community engagement and the principles behind environmental justice and climate equity. ICLEI's network highlights a lot of great examples of equity work from across the globe.
- Montgomery County worked with ICLEI using their [Land Emissions and Removals Navigator \(LEARN\) Tool](#). This tool allows the community to assess the potential of forests and trees to provide carbon sequestration benefits. ICLEI worked with the Chesapeake Bay Conservancy last year to update the data used in the LEARN tool to provide additional granularity and information

for communities within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. COG worked with members and through the ICLEI forestry GHG cohort and their LEARN tool to incorporate carbon sequestration into the [local and regional GHG inventories](#). ICLEI and WRI's guidance and member involvement made this possible.

- There is a lot of interest around sustainable food systems. Access to healthy affordable food, as well as reducing food waste are key interest areas.
- George Mason University (GMU) recently received a grant from Amazon Web Services to develop a forest on their campus. Dr. Dann Sklarew may be able to report back on this in a few years.

#### **4. LOCAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLANS**

##### *Shannon Moore, Frederick County*

Shannon Moore provided an overview of Frederick County's Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP), as well as their EV Readiness Plan (EVRP). The Frederick County Council voted to create a Climate Emergency Resolution in July 2020. The Council also adopted goals to reduce GHG emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2050. The CEAP for government operations is being released in spring 2023. The community-wide planning process begins this year. As the County undertakes these planning efforts, they are partnering with citizens and stakeholders to develop an equity-driven climate response. The objectives of the CEAP are to measure and reduce GHG emissions and identify and reduce climate risks. The overall mitigation goal was to identify opportunities to reduce emissions in government operations (e.g., implement programs, upgrade equipment). The County identified 12 and modeled nine strategies across the buildings and transportation sectors (these sectors make up 89 percent of the County government's emissions). Implementing all mitigation strategies will result in 62 percent lower emissions than 2010 levels by 2030.

Frederick County worked with COG and ICF on an Alternative Fuel Vehicle (AFV) Fleet Transition Plan. An electrification assessment was undertaken as part of this plan. One hundred eighty nine vehicles were recommended for electrification. Over 25 years, the Total Cost of Ownership (TCO) savings are estimated to amount to more than \$12 million and over 17,500 metric tons of carbon dioxide emission reductions. Biodiesel vehicles were evaluated as well. Frederick County, in partnership with COG and ICF, is also developing a community wide EVRP, which considers the EV charging infrastructure needs and considerations of County residents, workforce members, and visitors as EV adoption increases and funding opportunities are announced. The EVRP addresses today's technology and recommends coordination to keep up with evolving standards.

##### *Marc Aveni, Loudoun County*

Marc Aveni provided an overview of Loudoun County's new Energy Strategy. It was approved by the County Board of Supervisors last month and encompasses three broad goal areas, 10 general strategies, and 31 specific actions. Loudoun County partnered with COG and ICF in this effort. The County wanted to make sure that this strategy contributes to the Commonwealth of Virginia's goal of net zero GHG emissions by 2045 and a carbon free grid by 2050. The County also wants to ensure energy is clean, reliable, and affordable. This Energy Strategy includes both quantitative and qualitative goals. It was also important to the County that the strategy be flexible with the ability to pivot for any updates to the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) or changes in Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) participation. Loudoun County's Environmental Commission was instrumental with regard to outreach and community engagement.

The building sector contributes the greatest amount of GHG emissions to the County's inventory, especially considering the data center industry's development in the jurisdiction over the past decade. The Business-As-Usual (BAU) projections show a large increase in emissions out to 2050,

largely driven by the commercial building sector. The results of the Strategy Implementation Scenario, which models the 31 action items, shows that the County can reduce emissions by 56 percent by 2050. Carbon offsets and future strategies will have to get the County the remainder of emission reductions. The Energy Strategy contains a template for each of the 31 action items and includes a description of the action, the lead implementer, stakeholders and partners, and milestones and next steps. Loudoun County is excited to publish a final Energy Strategy once approved and looks forward to beginning work on strategy implementation.

## **5. ADJOURN**

*Takis Karantonis, CEEPC Chair*

Chair Karantonis adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2023 include:

- Wednesday, May 24, 2023
- Wednesday, July 26, 2023
- Wednesday, September 27, 2023
- Wednesday, November 15, 2023

*All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the COG website or by clicking the link below –*

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/3/22/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>