



## Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Meeting

### DRAFT WEBINAR MEETING SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 18, 2020

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County
- Hon. Takisha James, Town of Bladensburg
- Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
- Hon. Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Koran Saines, Loudoun County
- Hon. Deni Taveras, Prince George's County
- Hon. Ann Wheeler, Prince William County
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- John Boland, District of Columbia
- James Bradbury, Georgetown Climate Center
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Austina Casey, DDOT
- Eric Coffman, MEA
- Ira Dorfman, GWRCCC
- Stephen Gyor, District of Columbia
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
- Kate Johnson, DOEE
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Dale Medearis, NVRC
- Elissa McDade, WMATA
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Ryan Opsal, MEA
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club
- Theodore Trabue, DC SEU
- Colleen Turner, MDOT
- Norman Whitaker, VDOT

- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- Emily Bernard, Bethesda Green
- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
- Matthew Gaskin, DDOT
- Takis Karantonis, Arlington County
- Gail Kenson, Naval District Washington
- Geoffrey King, Connected DMV
- Andrew Kreider, EPA
- Su Ly, EPA
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Samantha Prog, Naval District Washington
- Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Stacy Cook, COG Transportation Planning
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Katie Dyer, COG Environmental Programs
- Lyn Erickson, COG Transportation Planning
- Megan Goodman, COG Office of Communications
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- Kanti Srikanth, COG Director of Metropolitan Planning
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs (Director)



## 1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

*Penny Gross, CEEPC Chair*

Penny Gross called the webinar meeting to order and Maia Davis went over the virtual meeting guidelines. As it was Steve Walz's final CEEPC meeting as head of COG's Department of Environmental Programs, CEEPC members took a moment to thank Steve for his years of public service working on environmental planning in the region.

CEEPC's September 23 Meeting Summary was approved with one abstention (Matt de Ferranti, Arlington County).

## 2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

### A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

*Gina Mathias, BEEAC Chair*

- BEEAC's last meeting of the year is November 19; the last of the Net Zero Energy Buildings (NZEB) and Decarbonization series.
- The series, which began in February, included a variety of experts from the US Department of Energy, the National Renewable Energy Lab, the New Buildings Institute, as well as local practitioners that work to achieve NZEB and net zero carbon buildings in the region like Flywheel Development and Above Green. The series has focused on the major steps toward achieving zero carbon buildings:
  - Energy efficiency (EE)
  - Renewable energy (RE)
  - Grid integration (using the building as a grid asset) and storage
  - Electrification: replacing direct fossil fuel use (e.g., propane, heating oil, gasoline) with electricity in a way that reduces overall greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and potentially energy costs while lowering other air pollutants)
  - Embodied carbon: the carbon footprint of a material; the GHG emissions that are released throughout the supply chain of a particular construction material
- EE and RE are the basis for net zero energy buildings. The basis for operational carbon reductions is RE, grid integration and storage, and electrification.
- The November 19 meeting will focus on value chain impacts and upfront embodied carbon in the built environment. This is an important aspect of building decarbonization because unlike operational carbon emissions, which can be reduced over time with EE-RE measures, embodied carbon emissions are irreversibly released into the atmosphere as soon as a building is built.
- Finally, BEEAC's priorities survey has been issued. The annual survey helps inform focal issues and intersectional topics with CEEPC for the coming year. The survey also includes some questions about local non-utility fuel consumption data, which will inform COG's GHG emission inventories. The survey is due on December 18.

### B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

*Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs*

- The last ACPAC meeting of 2020 was on November 16.
- COG Environmental Programs staff updated the committee on anticipated actions to adopt the final 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan and next steps.
- COG Transportation Planning staff provided an update on the Transportation and Climate Initiative's (TCI) cap and invest program.
- CEEPC received a presentation on this initiative from the Georgetown Climate Center in January

at the Washington Auto Show.

- The cap and invest program is a multi-state, regional program to regulate motor vehicle gasoline and on-road diesel fuel destined for final sale or consumption in the 13 participating jurisdictions or states (including the District of Columbia, VA and MD).
- TCI released a draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) in December 2019 outlining a proposal for the program. This program caps carbon emissions from transportation fuels and invests the revenue into programs and policies to further reduce GHG emissions. Carbon emissions from motor fuels will be capped and decline each year at a rate chosen by TCI's jurisdictions.
- The final MOU deadline was pushed back to late this fall due to COVID-19. The final MOU is pending approval, after which, participating jurisdictions will develop a "model rule" for the cap-and-invest program. The program could begin as early as January 2022.
- ACPAC will elect a new chair and vice chair at the January 25, 2021 meeting. New member recruitment is also underway. There are a number of vacancies open and COG staff are looking for references. The deadline to submit an application is December 18.

#### C. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

*Ira Dorfman, GWRCC*

- There are two new US DpDOE funded grants in which GWRCCC is playing a major role. One is a \$6 million, three-year mid-Atlantic electrification partnership, which was announced this summer and is about to launch. It involves three states; Virginia, Maryland, and West Virginia, as well as the District of Columbia. Stakeholders involved include Dominion, Pepco, and BG&E. Argonne National Laboratory, four Clean Cities organizations, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), Maryland Department of Environment (MDE), Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy (VMME), COG and more. The program is being administered by Virginia Clean Cities and GWRCCC. The major components of the program in the greater Washington region include upgrading the rideshare charging infrastructure from Level 2 to DC fast chargers, expanding the electric vehicle (EV) interstate corridors, establishing educational forums to accelerate the purchase of EVs, improving transportation centers and ports with a major emphasis on underserved communities (particularly in DC Wards 7 and 8, and the surrounding communities where GWRCCC is partnering with EV Noire, another major contributor to the program). If anyone is interested in this program, they can contact Ira at [iradorfman@gwrccc.org](mailto:iradorfman@gwrccc.org) for more details.
- The second grant is the EV School Bus Experience, funded by DOE, working in conjunction with utility companies and three school bus manufacturers: Thomas, Blue Bird and International. The grant offers school districts in the mid-Atlantic states a four- to six-week free trial electric school bus. It also provides EV chargers for that purpose. GWRCCC would welcome the participation of any members that represent school districts that have not purchased any electric buses and need some operating experience.

#### D. Committee Member and Staff Roundtable Updates

*Kate Johnson, DOEE*

- Last month, DOEE, in partnership with Institute for Market Transformation, launched the new Building Innovation Hub. Resources and events can be found [here](#).

*Eric Coffman, MEA*

- A few weeks ago, Maryland, Virginia, and North Carolina signed a [Smart Power MOU](#) for offshore wind to optimize supply chains.

*Ann Wheeler, Prince William County*

- The Prince William County Board of Supervisors just passed a sweeping climate change

resolution at their board meeting. This resolution embraces and endorses the COG greenhouse gas reduction goals, as well as ambitious renewable energy goals for the County and County government.

### **3. 2030 REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN ADOPTION**

*Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs*

Maia Davis provided an overview of the past year's planning process that has culminated in the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. Maia highlighted key elements of the plan and the changes made based on the recent comment period, which started in September. In October, the COG Board of Directors adopted the CEEPC-recommended 2030 climate goals. A new greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal for 2030 was adopted, which is a 50 percent reduction below 2005 levels by 2030, as well as resilience goals to become a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030. The Transportation Planning Board also affirmed these goals. The draft plan has been reviewed by committee members, stakeholders and the public. This has culminated in the revised plan to be voted on today.

Maia highlighted some of the main changes made to the plan. This included clarification of equity and how this is incorporated into the plan. Staff aligned the climate goals in the plan with what was adopted by the COG Board last month. Staff clarified the climate resilience goals and provided more background information and context on climate resilience initiatives and regional transportation initiatives. Staff aligned the 2030 scenario with the mitigation strategy action areas and added transportation and land use mitigation strategy actions to influence mode shift and travel behavior. Staff enhanced the Region Forward Coalition co-benefit language throughout the mitigation and resilience actions, and called out co-benefits related to education, environment, stormwater management, economy, public safety, and others. Staff also included additional local examples and points on what COG and local governments can do to support implementation of the actions.

John Lord moved the motion to approve the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan, which was seconded by Ann Wheeler and Takisha James. The 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan was adopted with a unanimous vote.

#### **Discussion:**

- CEEPC members feel that the improvements reflect their input over the past few months.
- The Coalition for Smarter Growth (CSG) wrote a memo, which included suggestions such as quantifying VMT reductions needed to meet climate goals and strategies bringing housing and jobs closer together, amongst other strategies that should be worked towards moving forward.
- Moving forward, WMATA would like to see COG quantify necessary VMT reductions to achieve GHG reduction goals. They would also like to see more emphasis on zero emission buses and what jurisdictions and utilities can do to support this.
- CEEPC could create a federal legislation 'wish list' that would be needed to support implementation as a follow-up action. COG is setting out its 2021 legislative priorities and will be looking at the federal actions that will be needed to support these actions.

#### **4. ADJOURN**

*Penny Gross, CEEPC Chair*

Penny Gross announced the CEEPC members who have been nominated and have agreed to serve as officers of CEEPC for 2021. These nominations will be confirmed by the COG Board in January.

Nominations include:

- Deni Taveris, Prince George's County, for Chair of CEEPC
- Koran Saines, Loudoun County, for Vice Chair
- Mary Cheh, District of Columbia. for Vice Chair

Penny Gross adjourned the webinar meeting. CEEPC meeting dates for 2021 include:

- January 27
- March 24
- May 26
- July 28
- September 22
- November 17