



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 15, 2023
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC ATTENDEES: Julie Kimmel, Era Pandya, Deborah Shprentz, James Wang, William Marsh, Herb Simmons

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Dawn Ashbacher, George Aburn

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Kelsey Boatwright, Maia Davis, Robert Christopher

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice Chair, Era Pandya

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made by members and COG staff. There were no amendments to the March 23, 2023 meeting summary.

The meeting did not reach a quorum (9 members).

Announcements

- (Leah Boggs) The 2023 Climate and Energy Leadership campaign is underway and will need to ACPAC members support to publicize. The goal is to get 3-5 applications for each category: government, NGO, and educational institution. he March 20 meeting.

- Discussion

- (James Wang) How will assistance be provided to organizations that may additional need to complete the application?

This year COG has dedicated staff to support this effort and to provide one-on-one assistance to applicants.

- (Julie Kimmel)

- (Leah Boggs) Members are asked to update their contact information in the ACPAC Membership spreadsheet by May 31.

2. LOCAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY PLANNING

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County

Dawn Ashbacher, Climate and Energy Manager with Frederick County provided an overview on Phase I of the County's climate and energy plan for internal operations, fleet, and community electric vehicle plan. Phase II of the plan will focus on community operations.

Presentation Summary

- County Council approved a Climate Emergency Resolution and adopted goals to reduce GHG emissions 50% by 2030 and 100% by 2050.
- Recently created the Division of Energy & Environment and subsequent Department of Climate and Energy
- Key climate and energy programs:
 - Climate and Energy Action Planning
 - Building Energy Performance
 - Transition to Alternative Fuel Vehicles
 - Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (community-wide plan) and Alternative Fuel Vehicle Transition is near completion
 - Clean Energy Procurement
- Objectives of the Climate and Energy Action Plan (CEAP): initiatives based on the findings of COG regional climate action plan
 - Greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory
 - County government operation emissions = 1.1% of County-wide emissions
 - Overall government emissions = 40,349 MTCO₂e in 2018, a 20% reduction from the 2010 baseline
 - Government buildings and facilities = 49% of GHG emissions, transportation = 41% of GHG emissions
 - GHG mitigation strategies
 - Planned grid strategies
 - Increase use of low-carbon gas
 - Green building standards
 - 100% renewable electricity – move towards large-scale power purchase agreements (PPAs)
 - Risk and vulnerability assessment
 - Frederick County the first jurisdiction in Maryland to include climate hazards in a hazard mitigation plan.
 - Climate Risk Projections
 - Increased average temperatures and extreme heat days
 - Increased year-to-year precipitation variability
 - Climate resilient strategies
 - Resilience Strategies for Climate Risks
 - Flooding strategy: Develop deeper understanding of flood vulnerabilities
 - Heat strategy: Increase resilience of County infrastructure and operations to extreme heat
 - Multi-hazard strategy: Advance monitoring and awareness of green infrastructure and nature-based solutions that meet County climate and operational goals

Discussion

- (James Wang) There was discussion regarding Frederick County's inventory of scope 3 emissions and funding limitations to implement the CEAP.

According to [Greenhouse Gas Protocol](#), Scope 1 emissions are direct emissions from owned or controlled sources. Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from the generation of purchased energy. Scope 3 emissions are all indirect emissions (not included in scope 2)

that occur in the value chain of the reporting company, including both upstream and downstream emissions.

The County is including employee commuting in county operations inventory. Those emissions are not directly created by County operations. The County is leveraging utility incentives, seed money and funding from federal grants for implementation.

- (Herb Simmons) There was discussion concerning the current GHG reduction efforts are not addressing legacy emissions.

The County is being forward thinking to address these issues. The County's climate emergency plan and tree and forestry work has a broad focus that attempts to include these issues.

- (William Marsh) There was discussion regarding how the County's CEAP address community education and outreach.

Phase II of the CEAP will include community engagement, with an emphasis on supporting businesses and the private sector to make operational changes. Businesses can also use the County's C-PACE program. The community power saver retrofits program supports County residents to do energy efficiency retrofits.

2. CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Kelsey Boatwright, DCSEU Intern

Kelsey Boatwright discussed the challenges that jurisdictions face in climate and energy action plan implementation, accompanies with recommendations and opportunities for these challenges.

Presentation Summary

- Common Implementation Challenges
 - Tunnel vision of current targets and planning
 - Missing adaption and implementation integration
 - Isolated methods of measurement
 - Lack of governmental department coordination
 - Absent project management and financial oversight
 - Climate equity and community-driven policy
- Implementation Opportunities
 - Opportunity 1; Failure to Launch
 - Opportunity 2: Coordination and Project Management
 - Opportunity 3: Prioritize Heavy-Hitters
 - Opportunity 4: Climate Equity & Policy
 - Opportunity 5: Utilize Funding & Resources
- Building an Implementation Plan
 - Integrate actions identified in the adaptation strategy into day-to-day operations and decision-making processes
 - Operationalize key areas: service delivery, asset management, infrastructure projects and community planning
- Budgets and Capital Improvement Plans:
 - [Montgomery County](#): \$1.4 billion recommended for projects that advance Climate

- Change goals in FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program
 - [Fairfax County](#) - \$1.85 million approved to begin implementation to achieve zero waste by 2030 and carbon neutrality by 2040; includes Fairfax County government and school operations

Discussion

- (Julie Kimmel) There was discussion about how ACPAC members could use the information presented.

ACPAC members could support their jurisdiction by bringing the information forward at localized community meetings and citizen environmental sustainability commission engagement groups. If the committee is interested in more aggressive GHG regional goals, the ACPAC chair can make a recommendation on behalf of the committee.

COG will be working to pull together a cohort of COG member jurisdictions to participate in ICLEI’s budgeting for climate action training, an eight-month course to help local governments better coordinate and connect climate action, budget and purchasing processes.

3. REGIONAL CLIMATE IMPLEMENTATION SUPPORT

Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

COG Staff discussed examples of COG’s collaborative implementation work, including efforts support the region in taking advantage of funding through President Biden’s Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

Presentation Summary

COG’s Climate and Energy Program provides support and resources to communities seeking to implement policies, programs, and initiatives to reduce GHG emissions and enhance resilience. Types of support may include capacity building and training, data and tools, research, planning, policy/program development, project feasibility assessments, advocacy, and cooperative procurement.

- 50% or more by 2030
 - [Race to Zero](#)
 - [Biden Administration](#)
 - [Metropolitan Washington](#)
 - City of Alexandria
 - City of Bowie
 - City of Manassas
 - City of Rockville
 - District of Columbia
 - Fairfax County
 - Frederick City and County
 - Montgomery County - 80% by 2027
- 80% by 2050
 - Metropolitan Washington
 - City of Fairfax
 - City of Falls Church

- City of Manassas
 - Prince George's County
- Carbon Neutral/100% by 2050 or earlier
 - Race to Zero
 - Biden Administration
 - Arlington County
 - City of Alexandria - 80-100%
 - City of Rockville – by 2045/50
 - District of Columbia
 - Fairfax County
 - Frederick City and County
 - Montgomery County and Takoma Park - by 2035
- State Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS)
 - DC: 100% by 2032
 - MD: 50% by 2030
 - VA: 30% by 2030, 100% by 2045 – 2050
- Regional GHG Drivers
 - 51% - Built Environment
 - 40% - Transportation, 33% is specifically from on-road
 - 7% - Other, with a significant part from refrigerant/CFC emissions
- Climate Planning/Implementation Contracts
 - COG is helping its member governments accelerate action toward this regional goal by assisting on local climate and energy action plans and electric vehicle fleet policies and plans.
- Equity
 - Mapping to evaluate community impact; equity emphasis areas
- EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program will provide grants to states, regions, and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution.
 - COG, via DC Department of Energy and Environment, is expected receive \$1 million to do MSA climate planning, which includes additional communities from VA and WV.
 - Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due March 1, 2024:
 - A simplified GHG inventory
 - Quantified GHG reduction measures
 - A low-income and disadvantaged communities benefits analysis and
 - A review of authority to implement

Discussion

- (James Wang) There was discussion pointing out the potential inequities in distributing Inflation Reduction Act competitive funding for implementation to larger regions compared to smaller, less powerful regions across the country.

Every state is getting \$3 million in noncompetitive funds to do this work. Six eight regions, including DC through COG, is getting \$1 million. More information about the competitive grant is expected in the fall; however, it is speculated that one to three projects will be selected from each region.

- (William Marsh) Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is legal in Virginia; however, no counties, city or municipality has formed one to date. Loudoun County is studying how CCAs

interact with the electric grid by looking at San Mateo County's CCA program that uses an open source electric model developed by [Peninsula Clean Energy](#) to track clean energy purchasing 24 hours a day. How does the regional GHG modeling done by COG account for energy tracking and what approaches other jurisdictions are taking?

A CCA program would be a great project to include in the CPRG plan. COG follows [ICLEI's GHG protocols](#) for the US and is part of the steering committee for updating the US protocols. COG has raised Loudoun County's question to ICLEI and looking at how California is addressing the issue. COG is also thinking through if renewable procurements by international companies like Google and Amazon should be included in the region and if their projects contribute towards Loudoun County's GHG emissions reduction. COG's position is that the projects should be in the grid region to account towards local GHG reductions. However, it is still under consideration with the ICLEI steering committee. The ability to track and benchmark on a 24-hour basis is critical to accurately show meeting a carbon neutrality goal.

(Leah Boggs) Recommendations concerning more aggressive regional goals can be put forth by the chair at the May 24 CEEPC and MWAQC meetings. Any recommendations that would require a vote also requires a quorum.

Public Comment

Tad Aburn referred to his letters previously sent to the committee. The letters included suggested motions for the committee to consider.

4. MEMBER TIME

As s new member, William Marsh provided the committee a full entry to his background. William is a Loudoun County resident and works for Fairfax County government on development issues in Tysons County for 10 years. In 2021, William was appointed by the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to join the first board appointed environmental commission in the county, The commission focuses on natural resources, sustainable energy, and public outreach. William sits on the sustainable energy committee.

5. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

Era Pandya, Chair

Member agenda item suggestions can be put in writing via email.

(William Marsh) The committee If there is interest in a brainstorming session to make recommendations for the chair to put forth to the policy committees in the fall.

The next meeting is July 17, 2023. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

All May meeting materials including can be found on the committee page [here](#).