Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Meeting

DRAFT WEBINAR MEETING SUMMARY: JULY 22, 2020

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Hon. Mary Cheh, District of Columbia
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Koran Saines, Loudoun County
- Hon. Deni Taveris, Prince George's County
- Hon. Ann Wheeler, Prince William County
- Hon. Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- James Bradbury, Georgetown Climate Center
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- Ira Dorfman, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- John Friedman, Washington Gas
- Susan Gerson, LCPS
- Steven Gyor, DC Office of Planning
- Kate Johnson, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Andrew Kreider, U.S. EPA
- Hilary Lewis, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Katherine Magruder, Maryland Clean Energy Center
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg
- Ryan Opsal, MEA
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Jim Ponticello, VDOT
- Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green
- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club
- Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC
- Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Norman Whitaker, VDOT
- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Edward Yim, DOEE

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- John Boland, DC Council
- Drew Budelis, Versar
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Akosua Dosu, Prince George's County
- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
- Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria
- Peter Ettinger, Bioenergy DevCo
- Jay Fisette, DMV Strategic Advisors
- Chris Forinash, Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates
- Matthew Gaskin, DDOT
- Claudia Glen, WMATA
- Kimberly Goddu-Alexander, Bethesda Green
- Aaron Greenfield
- Gail Kenson, Naval District Washington
- Su Ly, U.S. EPA
- Elissa McDade, WMATA
- Bill Pugh, AECOM
- Lisa Reynolds
- Isabelle Scholes-Young, Councilmember Jawando's Office
- Danila Sheveiko
- Stephen Soule, Washington Gas
- Suzanna Vaughan, Bioenergy DevCo
- Emma West, WMATA
- Andie Wyatt, GRID Alternatives

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Chuck Bean, COG Executive Office
- Steve Bieber, COG Environmental Programs

- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Katie Dyer, COG Environmental Programs
- Megan Goodman, COG Office of Communications
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, Transportation Planning
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Lisa Reynolds, COG Environmental Programs
- Kanti Srikanth, COG Transportation Planning
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs (Director)

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY

Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park (filling in for Dan Sze, CEEPC Chair)

Cindy Dyballa called the webinar meeting to order. Introductions were made. CEEPC's May 27 Meeting Summary was approved.

2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)
Gina Mathias, BEEAC Chair

- BEEAC's priorities are developed through annual surveys, which have been conducted over the last four years. This year, the top priorities have remained the same: energy efficiency, high performance building technologies, technical assistance for clean energy technology projects, and clean energy financing and energy resilience.
- A newer topic of interest is energy system decarbonization (that is reducing carbon intensity). Building decarbonization aligns closely with CEEPC's 2030 plan development and goal setting to achieve between 40-50% GHG reductions by 2030. The primary focus over this past year was a net zero energy series (NZE) focused on NZE buildings and building decarbonization, as well as providing technical input into the 2030 plan process. Through the NZE series, BEEAC focused on the five foundations to zero carbon. From the bottom up, these are:
    - Energy efficiency;
    - Renewable energy;
    - Grid integration (using the building as a grid asset) and storage;
    - Electrification; and
    - Embodied carbon (the carbon footprint of a material, it considers how many greenhouse gases are released throughout the supply chain).
- BEEAC will continue to dive into these technical aspects over the coming months, which will help inform and provide feedback on the 2030 planning process.
- The next BEEAC meeting is on September 17, which will look more closely at embodied carbon.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
Hilary Lewis, ACPAC Vice Chair

- Since February, ACPAC has met virtually 4 times. ACPAC now meets every other month; having 6 meetings a year.
- The Climate and Energy Leadership Awards were cancelled this year due to the impacts of COVID-19. The Awards program was started in 2014 and has been a successful effort to recognize climate and energy leadership in the region. It is expected that the program will resume in 2021.
- The committee's 2020 priorities include:
    1. Input on the 2030 Action Plan and local climate action plans,
    2. Ozone standard, what would it take for no unhealthy air days, updates on no orange days.
    3. Updates on EJ initiatives, jurisdiction progress, the COG cohort on racial equity training in which they have been working with GARE - The Government Alliance on Race and Equity.
        - Looking at consumer behavior on energy use
    4. Tree canopy and other resiliency efforts and climate financing.
- ACPAC supports the development of a 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan, as well as increasing the GHG emissions reduction goal to 50%.

- Regarding the local government climate action plans, ACPAC also wants to stress the importance of community engagement in all plan development processes.
- ACPAC was asked to prescreen a documentary created by American University's Center for Environmental Filmmaking, in partnership with the American Lung Association and AU's Center for Environmental Policy. "Unbreathable: The Fight for Healthy Air" highlights the progress the nation has made in cleaning up air pollution since the Clean Air Act was passed 50 years ago.
- Finally, the July meeting focused on the regional tree canopy strategy and other resilience efforts in the region.
- ACPAC's next scheduled meeting is in September.

C. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
Ira Dorfman, GWRCC

- GWRCCC is working on a resiliency program with George Washington University's SMART Lab program. This work will be focused on grid stabilization and emergency preparedness through microgrids and utilizing battery power from electric vehicles.
- GWRCCC will also be focusing on work related to renewable natural gas moving forward.

D. Other Updates
Steve Walz, COG Director of Environmental Programs

- COG produced a draft resolution that calls for the establishment of an ad-hoc committee to address the recommendations from the What Our Region Grows report. The Committee would be comprised of 25 members representing CBPC, CEEPC, the Regional Forward Coalition, and other interested officials, appointed by the COG Board of Directors and subject matter experts representing local and state food and agriculture interests. CBPC previously endorsed the draft resolution. CEEPC supported the draft resolution with all members in attendance endorsing the motion. Lindsay Smith is the primary COG staff contact on this.
- Maryland and DC have signed onto an agreement with a number of states across the country to commit to address emissions of medium and heavy duty fleets. This will be an interesting development to track and may involve major efforts to phase out diesel trucks, buses, etc. and move to cleaner technologies such as electric vehicles.

3. WASHINGTON GAS CLIMATE BUSINESS PLAN

Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
Washington Gas provided an overview of its Climate Business Plan for the District of Columbia. The plan establishes a greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goal of 50% by 2032 and 100% by 2050 to be accomplished through maximizing energy efficiency, infrastructure enhancements, and harnessing new and emerging fuel sources, such as renewable natural gas.

The Plan supports the DC Public Service Commission's vision for modernizing DC's energy delivery system in that it is sustainable, well-planned, safe and reliable, secure, affordable, interactive, and non-discriminatory. Washington Gas evaluated four scenarios to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050: a business-as-usual scenario based on a 100% RPS that retains natural gas, partial decarbonization, policy-driven electrification, and fuel neutral decarbonization. The first two scenarios do not achieve carbon neutrality.

The plan has three basic pillars focused on end use, distribution, and sourcing and supply. Sourcing and supply is an interesting area, as increasing amounts of fossil gas will be replaced with renewable

natural gas (RNG) and other low carbon fuels. The Environmental Defense Fund recognized the Plan for its analytical approach and system-wide thinking. The first public meeting on this will be on July 29. Materials related to the plan can be found here.

Stephen Soule, Washington Gas
Washington Gas, together with ICF, undertook a renewable natural gas (RNG) study. RNG is carbon neutral and can be carbon negative. The study found that there are many sources available to produce RNG at the regional level. ICF concluded that the cost of RNG is more expensive than fossil gas, but it is much less expensive than other carbon abatement approaches (such as electrification). RNG needs regulatory support to be implemented across the system.

Discussion:

- Historically, biogas generated at wastewater treatment plants and landfills has been used to generate electricity behind the meter. Many of the projects shown on the RNG study are new and do not convert biogas to electricity. This gas would go through a cleaning process and then be transmitted for use via pipelines. There is a new project in Howard County that exemplifies this.
- This plan is focused on DC, but available RNG region-wide use has been looked at as a way to inject more RNG into the transmission system.
- DOEE has a carbon neutrality plan. They are looking to achieve net zero emissions on an annual basis from all sources within their borders, including grid supplied energy. They are looking to limit use of carbon offsets. DOEE has also looked at the potential role of biogas from food waste. DOEE shared concerns with the Washington Gas plan as inconsistent with the net-zero emission goal, especially regarding carbon neutrality by 2050. Washington Gas noted that they believe their plan is consistent with the long-term climate goals, and will do so in a more cost-effective manner. More information regarding DOEE's comments can be found here. More filings under the District of Columbia case FC 1142 can be found here.

4. 2030 REGIONAL CLIMATE PLANNING GOALS
Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

COG is continuing to work on developing the 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan. CEEPC's subcommittees have had the opportunity to review and discuss 2030 goals. After input from today's meeting has been taken into account, an update will be given to the COG Board in August. Staff will be working to draft language for the plan on the mitigation strategies for CEEPC review in September. Also in September, COG will bring a CEEPC a draft resolution on the proposed climate goals. CEEPC would need to approve the resolution to go to the COG Board. The COG Board would then need to vote to approve. Thereafter, COG can move forward to bring the full plan to CEEPC for review and adoption. If adopted before the end of the year, COG will submit the plan to the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and the CDP global public disclosure platform for states and regions. The region is on track to be the first US region to fully meet GCoM's global standards for climate planning. If CEEPC supports increased goals, metropolitan Washington will have the most aggressive regional GHG emission reduction goals in the country.

COG's Board established CEEPC to help drive action to support the goals of 10% below business as usual projections by 2012, 20% below 2005 levels by 2020 and 80% by 2050. The region met and surpassed the 2012 goal. The existing 2020 plan focuses on moving the region toward the 20% by 2020 goal. Emissions have flattened in recent years and the region as a whole may not reach the

20% by 2020 goal. With a straight-line approach from the 2020 to 2050 goal, that puts the 2030 goal at 40% by 2030. That is the minimum bar for the 2030 plan's goal. The 2030 plan will need to be more aggressive in order to meet the goals. Last week, COG shared the draft regional results of the updated GHG inventory with COG members for review. COG's inventories use 2005 as a base year. Regionally, emissions have decreased 13% between 2005 and 2018. These are draft results and COG is asking CEEPC members for feedback by the end of July.

COG's current overarching climate mitigation goals are what the Board adopted back in 2008 – 20% by 2020 below 2005 levels and 80% by 2050. COG is proposing mitigation goals between 40-50% by 2030, and carbon neutrality by 2050 for CEEPC's consideration. COG is also proposing new overarching resilience goals that include becoming a climate ready region by 2030 and achieving regional resilience by 2050. ACPAC supports a 50% GHG reduction goal by 2030. Several BEEAC members also support a 50% goal, while others are still reviewing the data and considering the options.

Currently, the business-as-usual scenario through to 2030 shows overall emissions remaining relatively flat. Residential and commercial energy consumption increase a bit through 2030, but emissions overall remain flat due to a decrease in transportation emissions. Previously, COG brought draft scenarios that only looked at 40%. Per CEEPC's recommendation, COG staff have updated these scenarios to look at what it would take to get to 50%. The core aggressive assumptions that went into the scenarios include the current Renewable Portfolio Standards in DC, MD and VA, which is the biggest contribution to emission reductions. Increased distributed generation is needed, as well as increased green power purchases. EV adoption rates would also need to increase significantly.

COG has a general email address to address questions regarding the climate planning process, which is climate2030@mwcog.org.

Discussion:

- Frederick County passed a climate emergency resolution this last week with a 50% emission reduction by 2030 and 100% by 2050 goal. The County will also be creating a Climate Emergency Workgroup.
- Prince George's County passed a Climate Action Plan Task Force recently.
- Last year, the City of Alexandria also passed a climate emergency resolution.
- Cost effectiveness is something COG will be working on with local jurisdictions moving forward.
- Members of CEEPC support more aggressive 2030 GHG emission reductions goals, although some expressed the need to better understand the cost implications of these goals.

5. UPDATE: COVID IMPACT ON ENERGY AND EMISSIONS
Steve Walz, COG Director of Environmental Programs

In May, COG had estimated about a 4.5% annualized reduction in emissions due to the impacts of Covid-19. Now, this estimate is at a 5.4% annualized reduction in emissions. There continues to be reduced operation of businesses, institutions and governments since early March. Many schools are looking to be 100% virtual at the beginning of the fall semester, which will keep energy and transportation emissions lower than usual.

On road transportation dropped significantly in March and April, but this has begun to increase again. Heavy-duty vehicle traffic became slightly higher than normal after mid-April. There was an estimated 40% average weekly reduction in traffic volume in the region. Assuming that the period between March 20 and June 26 is 29% of the year, this means the region has seen a 12% annualized reduction in on road mobile emissions.

Electric generation from the PJM grid between March 24 and July 14 has resulted in around a 7.9% reduction of average electricity use compared to what would ordinarily be anticipated. Assuming March 24 to July 14 accounts for 30% of the year, the region has seen a 2.4% annualized reduction in electricity emissions.

Commercial aviation emissions have dropped significantly. There has been a 65% decrease in commercial flights. Assuming that between March 20 and July 20 is 33% of the year, the annualized reduction in emissions from commercial aviation is around 21%.

With regard to other sectors, COG was limited by data availability. In sectors such as solid waste, and water and wastewater, there were small changes in emissions. All the above taken into account equals around a 5.4% annualized reduction in emissions.

Discussion:

- MWAQC has looked at air quality in more depth and they have seen improvements in air quality over the past several months as well. There have not been any code orange days as of yet. On July 4, there was a code red day for particulate matter in the District of Columbia due to the firework activities on that day.
- Building use and telework activities will be looked at once data becomes available.

6. ADJOURN
Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park

Cindy Dyballa adjourned the webinar meeting. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for September 23.