



FY 2020 BEEAC Survey Results

Table 1 shows FY 2020 priorities indicated on the BEEAC surveys. FY 2020 BEEAC Survey included responses from 9 jurisdictions.

Table 1: FY 2020 BEEAC Priorities

TOPIC AREA	Priority Ranking				TOTAL BEEAC
	FY 2020 - BEEAC				
	Very High	High	Medium	Low	
Energy Efficiency	6	3	--	--	9
High Performance Building Technologies	1	4	3	1	9
Technical Assistance for Clean Energy Technology Projects	--	4	5	--	9
Clean Energy Financing	--	5	2	3	9
Energy Resiliency & Climate Adaptation	5	1	2	1	9
Grid Infrastructure	1	3	1	4	9
Energy System Decarbonization	1	3	3	2	9

Table 2: Ranking of BEEAC Priorities for FY 2020

BEEAC Priorities
1. Energy Efficiency
2. Energy Resiliency & Climate Adaptation
3. High Performance Building Technologies
4. Clean Energy Financing
5. Energy System Decarbonization
6. Technical Assistance for Clean Energy Technology Projects
7. Grid Infrastructure

Summaries of Survey Questions:

Q1 – 7 responses

In FY2019, what did members find most useful about BEEAC?

The informative topics presented by subject matter experts were a key aspect of this year's BEEAC. The detailed reports gave members a deeper understanding of technical aspects for future endeavors. The Members found roundtable discussions to be an impactful and convenient way to share best practices amongst colleagues from other jurisdictions. Additionally, discussions on jurisdictional updates allowed BEEAC members to gather insight on the progress of initiatives around the region and discuss how to tackle the obstacles they've encountered.

Q2 – 6 responses

In FY2019, what did you find the least useful about BEEAC?

Some members believe that there could be adjustments made to better accommodate those whose jurisdiction is a substantial distance away. Whether the distance was far, or time/scheduling conflicts arose, all BEEAC members couldn't attend proposed meeting dates. While the ability to remotely participate was widely praised, the quality of the conference calls has been low and should be addressed. There were times when BEEAC topics were specific to certain jurisdictions. This disconnect deterred peer discussion and brought little benefit to jurisdictions who weren't impacted.

Q3 – 7 responses

Was BEEAC meeting frequency better this year?

Most members believe the frequency of BEEAC meetings was better in FY2019. The ability to telework and the reduced meeting dates were beneficial to members. There are some thoughts on time conflicts in the regard of attendance. Some members think changing the time could allow them to physically attend more meetings.

Q4 – 7 responses

Was enough time spent in roundtable discussions between BEEAC members? Should there be more or less time spent on this?

Most members agree the time spent in roundtable discussions was sufficient. Some members voiced that meetings can have the tendency to run up to an hour past schedule. While others believe that there should be more time devoted to peer discussion rather than presentations.

Q5 – 8 responses

Over the past year were there any meetings/events that stood out as being the most beneficial or had a direct impact on your programs/initiatives? How did this event impact you or your programs/initiatives?

There was consensus that climate action planning was beneficial program that was discussed. Most members were pleased with most of the topics presented in the BEEAC meetings. Topics such as electric vehicle adoption and city/community sustainability initiatives were of note as well. Some unique topics that were energy efficiency in the built environment and planning workshops for outreach in communities. Members used this information as a baseline to develop future programs and set new sustainability standards. The discussion of the technical data amongst peers and industry experts helped members find practical applications for sustainable efforts.

Q6 – 7 responses

What public outreach and engagement initiatives will your jurisdiction be focusing on in FY 2020?

- Bowie - Earth Day/Year Initiative
- Charles County - Climate resilience plan with public engagement
- Falls Church - Electric Vehicle adoption
- Loudoun - Green business outreach initiatives
- Prince George's - Updated Building codes to incorporate provisions of 2018 IECC
- Prince William's – Local Green Business award, Organic waste management facility
- Rockville – Earth Day 50th anniversary: Climate Action

Q8 – 9 responses

List any additional topics areas you would like to see addressed in BEEAC meetings?

- Alexandria - Green Home Choice program; Refrigerant management; sequestering strategies; decarbonizing food systems and food waste; EV adoption; Efficiency in buildings (retrofitting); Geo-exchange; Climate planning for a growing economy and population.
- Bowie - Addressing 2020 MD State climate action plan; Funding; How municipalities can support state efforts; Alternative energy source best practices.
- Falls Church - Best practices for local ordinance electric vehicle adoption; Future electric vehicle infrastructure
- Loudoun - Topics related to employee behavior changes in energy conservation
- Prince George's - Energy resiliency and climate adaptation. Deeper discussion on best practices and theories on grid maintenance in adverse environmental conditions (river and sea levels rising/storms)
- Prince William's - Broader community planning; regional climate change; emphasis on local efforts
- Rockville -Renewable energy; Green power purchasing/leasing; LED streetlights; Commercial strategies; Electric vehicle infrastructure; Recycling/compost; Urban heat island and trees
- Takoma Park - Future direction of environmental policy: Energy efficiency standards in commercial buildings being scaled to residential; Bans on natural gas and it's detrimental impact; Fossil fuel restrictions

Q10 – 4 responses

Of the above ranked areas, provide any examples of existing local, state, and/or federal programs (e.g. implementation projects, outreach efforts, etc.) that fit in with these priorities.

- Bowie - Energy Star Profile manager
- Loudoun - CPACE
- Prince William's - C-Power demand response and energy
- Alexandria - CPACE

Q11 – 9 responses

Which topics would you like to see more/less of in FY2020 at BEEAC?

The diversity of topics in last year's BEEAC meeting were highly praised. The most intriguing topics members would like to discuss are energy resiliency and management, climate adaptation and climate action planning. Some other interesting topics proposed were deeper dives into air quality (possibly joint with transportation), efficiency in energy infrastructure, and initiatives on resource conservation (i.e. national programs/initiatives). There was little pushback on topics presented in the 2019. Members thought that more emphasis on resiliency beyond microgrid infrastructure was more relevant than extensive microgrid discussions.

Q12 – 9 responses

Do you feel that BEEAC priorities are effectively linked to Climate & Energy and Air Quality programs/plans? Are there any changes you would like to see implemented in this regard?

There was consensus that BEEAC priorities are aligned with Climate & Energy and Air Quality programs. Members felt the discussions directly correlated with sustainability and conservation efforts locally as well as regionally. Some members felt that meetings have neglected discussions pertaining to air quality and atmosphere.

Q13 – 5 responses

What legislative priorities should BEEAC focus on and advance to CEEPC for FY2020?

The legislations that BEEAC members would like to address are related to climate actions and energy. Most members are interested in aggregate renewables purchasing, transportation infrastructure and incentives, and support for distributed renewables (i.e. solar). Members would like to see more information regarding Federal environmental policies and the state enabling. It's beneficial for members to have reference of federal policies since the members are directly focused on their individual jurisdictions. A unique topic brought up was plastic use and the reduction/elimination of single-use plastics.

Q14 – responses

What would you like to see implemented this fiscal year that would better support your needs?

BEEAC members would like to set regional standards and be an instrument of change in the national campaign of sustainability and stewardship. Members would like future meetings to consist of more workshops and seminars on energy management and resiliency. These workshops can better educate communities and leaders on best practices on a local level. More insights on equity issues and communication best practices have been requested as well. BEEAC members value the ability to have roundtable discussions, therefore a group email chain or group chat containing all members could be created to facilitate more efficient collaboration between jurisdictions. There was major emphasis on small jurisdictions convening on action plans. Collaboration through group chats/email chain could be a key component to resolving this issue.