



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: June 20, 2024

BEEAC Local and State Government Members in Attendance:

- Andy Young, Falls Church (Chair)
- Mati Bazaruto, City of Bowie, MD (Co-Vice Chair)
- Al Carr, DOEE, (Co-Vice Chair)
- Aaron Berryhill, Virginia Dept of Energy
- Audra Lew, City of Rockville
- Ben Carbajal, Prince William County
- Chloe Delhomme, City of Manassas
- Dale Medearis, NVRC
- Daniel White, DOEE
- Deron Lovaas, MDOT
- Dory Estrada, City of Takoma Park
- Eric Coffman, MEA
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Giulia Manna, Prince William County
- Jeremy Good, Montgomery County
- Kate Roetzer, WMATA
- Kathie Hoekstra, City of Alexandria
- Kevin Milstead, Prince William County
- Kevin Smith, Fairfax County
- Larissa Johnson, Montgomery County
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- Logan McSherry, Frederick County
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County
- Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County

- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Michelle Smyk, Prince William County
- Mike Sandler, Loudoun County
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Shawn O'Neill, Fairfax County
- Sharon Wongus, Prince George's County
- Tiara Lester, Frederick County

Additional Attendees:

- Amy Gillespie, MCEC
- Reginald Tabor, City of Petersburg
- Walter McCleod, George Mason University

COG Staff:

- Kelsey Boatwright, COG DEP
- Alissa Boggs, COG DEP
- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG DEP
- Robert Christopher, COG DEP
- Maia Davis, COG DEP
- Jeff King, COG DEP
- Tim Masters, COG DEP
- Erin Morrow, COG DTP



1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Andy Young, Interim Deputy City Manager, City of Falls Church and Chair

Chair Andy Young called the meeting to order, and introductions were given.

2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 18, 2024 MEETING SUMMARY

Andy Young, BEEAC Chair

The April 18, 2024 BEEAC meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

3. CFI GRANT PROGRAM: ROUND 2 DISCUSSION

Maia Davis, COG Staff

Maia gave a summary and update on CFI round 1.

Round One Summary:

- Released last year; awards announced in January.
- COG applied for the Community Program on behalf of seven member jurisdictions: Frederick County, Fairfax City and County, Manassas, Alexandria, Arlington, and Prince George's County.
- Proposed 48 EV infrastructure sites on local government properties.
- Partners included utilities, ChargePoint, Greater Washington Clean Cities, and DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU).
- Application was highly recommended but not selected.
- 535 applications submitted, requesting \$3.7 billion, with only \$623 million available; over 90% not funded.
- Limited awards in the Metropolitan Washington region, though Maryland Clean Energy Center and Henrico County received funding.

Round One Discussion

Feedback from round one indicated a need for more rural sites, union involvement, and resilience indicators. Round two, released on May 30, offers \$1.32 billion in funding, with up to \$521 million reserved for highly recommended round one applications. COG confirmed all partners' support for resubmitting the round one application and plans to include these additional elements. The new application will be streamlined to 25 pages and will continue focusing on disadvantaged communities, including rural areas. Changes from round one to round two include allowing infrastructure in fee-charging parking locations, extending the corridor program's range to 5 miles from highway exits, and adding neighborhood, multi-family, workplace, and fleet charging options.

Next steps involve drafting a survey for partners to gather necessary information for the new application, simplifying the NOFO's 76 pages into 10 key questions. Responses and letters of intent are needed by the end of July to prepare the application for submission by August 28. Discussions are ongoing about participation, locations, and partner engagement. Clarification was provided that partially funded round one applications can resubmit. DC and Maryland Clean Energy Center confirmed they are resubmitting and preparing round two applications. The emphasis will be on not

duplicating sites from round one and focusing on new locations. Increased collaboration interest has been noted from additional jurisdictions and private sector partners, with an aim to include more workforce development partners and utilities in the application process.

COG's is coordinating efforts for a round two application. Further communications and calls will be scheduled to finalize details and ensure all partners' needs are addressed. The survey will be distributed to partners, with responses and letters of intent needed by the end of July to prepare and submit the round two application by August 28. Follow-up calls and meetings will be scheduled to discuss application details and partner engagement.

4. THE MARYLAND SOLAR FOR ALL PROGRAM

Amy Gillespie, Maryland Clean Energy Center

Amy Gillespie presented an update on the Maryland Solar for All Program. Here's a brief overview of the program:

Next, we delved into the Maryland Solar for All program. The Maryland Clean Energy Center's (MCEC) application was chosen as one of 60 to receive funding through the EPA's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund program, which is designed to create or expand low-income solar programs. The program will receive \$62 million in grant funds, supplemented by additional funding from the Maryland Energy Administration. Amy Gillespie from MCEC gave an overview of the initial planning efforts.

Amy Gillespie, the Grants Administration and Compliance Officer at MCEC, clarified that MCEC operates as a statewide green bank, using public funding to draw private capital for targeted investments that fulfill environmental goals. MCEC invests in underserved communities without seeking profit, reducing risks for capital providers and offering favorable terms for consumers. It acts as a conduit between government, industry, utility, and academia to foster partnerships and achieve desired outcomes.

The program prioritizes household savings from the outset, targeting a 20% reduction in energy costs for low-income households. It encompasses residential rooftop solar, community-serving solar, storage, and enabling upgrades, with a limit on the latter. MCEC intends to utilize other funding sources, such as weatherization funding, to aid with necessary upgrades.

A governance oversight committee has been established to ensure program supervision and coordination among partners. This committee will convene regularly to track progress and make decisions on project selection. MCEC has garnered support from various state entities and local organizations, including the Maryland Energy Administration, Department of Housing and Community Development, Department of Labor, among others.

The program is currently in the planning phase, which is set to last until April of the following year. MCEC is working on grant agreements and MOUs with partners, setting up payout processes, recruiting program staff, and holding stakeholder meetings. Despite the conditional award status and diminished funding, MCEC aims to reach approximately 10,000 households, a decrease from the initially proposed 16,000.

The program's funding is split, with 75% allocated to funding and financing projects and 25% to administration, technical assistance, outreach and education, and workforce development. MCEC is dedicated to incorporating workforce development due to its potential for wealth creation.

MCEC is also addressing the EPA's requirement for work plan and budget revisions, with the goal of having these approved by August to initiate contractual agreements by September. The program will progress through various phases, including planning, limited drawdown, and full implementation, with a focus on adhering to the EPA's guidelines and deadlines. Amy expressed confidence about the program's progress and readiness to commence implementation as soon as possible, despite the bureaucratic challenges involved.

Amy Gillespie concluded by inviting partners and stakeholders to engage with MCEC through their website, where they can sign up for updates and participate in committees. She also responded to questions regarding the program's implementation timeline, aiming to complete it within the EPA's five-year cap, with the possibility of extensions if necessary.

5. JURISDICTION UPDATES AND ROUNDTABLE PEER EXCHANGE

BEEAC Committee Members

The jurisdiction roundtable exchange focused on energy events, projects, and programs. In preparation of the solar discussion at the COG Board retreat in July. Discussion was facilitated around the following questions:

- What type of solar support do local governments need?
- What topics should be discussed in a COG solar forum?
- What topics should a Solsmart workshop focus on?
- Would your jurisdiction be interested in a solar cohort?

Summary of Discussion on Local Government Solar Support

What Type of Solar Support Do Local Governments Need? Local governments need varied support based on their size and resources. Larger jurisdictions may have more staff and funding to apply for grants and participate in workshops, while smaller jurisdictions often lack these resources. Specific needs highlighted include:

- **Interconnection Assistance:** Technical assistance for managing interconnection in densely populated areas, as emphasized by DC.
- **Site Assessments:** Smaller jurisdictions like Bowie need support in assessing where to place solar installations.
- **Navigating Programs:** Jurisdictions struggle with understanding and navigating the myriad of solar programs available, such as those offered by Dominion Energy.
- **Contracting Support:** Centralized contracting tools to help jurisdictions engage vendors and manage mid-range projects efficiently.
- **Operational and Maintenance Standards:** Best practices for operations and maintenance of solar installations.

What Topics Should Be Discussed in a COG Solar Forum? Key topics for a COG solar forum include:

- **Program Navigation:** Overview of solar programs and their requirements to help jurisdictions identify suitable programs for their needs.
- **Technical Assistance:** Detailed guidance on zoning, contracting, and technical aspects of solar installations.
- **Best Practices:** Sharing successful strategies from other jurisdictions to help streamline solar implementation.
- **Community Engagement:** Strategies to assist residents and businesses in making informed decisions about solar installations.
- **Partnerships:** Exploring how smaller jurisdictions can partner with larger ones to leverage resources and expertise.

What Topics Should a SolSmart Workshop Focus On? A SolSmart workshop should focus on:

- **Solar Readiness:** Helping jurisdictions achieve or advance their SolSmart designation.
- **Policy and Zoning Reviews:** Providing draft edits and support for updating policies and zoning regulations to promote solar.
- **Technical Assistance:** Offering hands-on assistance for specific challenges faced by jurisdictions, including interconnection and program navigation.
- **Interactive Tools:** Developing tools similar to DC's solar tool to help residents estimate costs, tax credits, and benefits.
- **Trusted Advisors:** Establishing a network of advisors to assist residents and small businesses with technical and contractual questions.

Would Your Jurisdiction Be Interested in a Solar Cohort? Interest in a solar cohort varies, with some jurisdictions preferring a one-day workshop due to limited staff resources, while others are open to longer, more involved cohorts. Specific considerations include:

- **Workshop Preferences:** Smaller jurisdictions may benefit more from a single-day workshop focused on essential information and immediate actions.
- **Cohort Preferences:** Larger jurisdictions with more staff and resources may find value in a cohort model that allows for deeper engagement and sustained support.
- **Virtual Options:** Ensuring that workshops and cohorts have virtual participation options to accommodate all jurisdictions.

In summary, local governments need tailored support to increase solar installations, including technical assistance, program navigation, and best practice sharing. Workshops and cohorts should be designed to address the specific needs of both smaller and larger jurisdictions, with an emphasis on practical, actionable support.

6. COG UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

COG Staff

Meeting Updates

Climate Awards:

The Climate and Energy Leadership Awards program is in its 11th year, having started in 2014. It took a break in 2020 due to COVID-19 but resumed in 2021. This year, four awards will be given out

across three categories: government (split into small jurisdictions under 90,000 population and larger jurisdictions over 90,000), NGOs, and educational institutions. The program starts on Earth Day and ends on June 30. Jurisdictions, NGOs, and educational institutions, especially universities, are encouraged to apply or nominate others. Applications require a project summary and are kept short, with a template available for assistance.

ACPAC Climate and Air-Related Recommendations:

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC), composed of 18 public members from major jurisdictions, submitted two memos in May to both the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC). These memos push for advanced air, climate, and energy goals. Recommendations include updating regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets to align with the most aggressive among member jurisdictions, promoting large-scale atmospheric greenhouse gas removal, and favoring climate solutions that address localized air pollution hotspots. The memos are available on the COG website for further details and public feedback.

EJ Subcommittee:

The Environmental Justice Subcommittee kicked off in the spring and has begun stakeholder engagement. They held a session last month with members of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and will continue engaging with outside stakeholders throughout the summer. This aims to aid in the development of a stakeholder engagement strategy, in collaboration with AECOM. The subcommittee is actively working on advancing its goals and incorporating diverse stakeholder input.

7. 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE AND ADJOURNMENT

Andy Young, Falls Church (BEEAC Chair)

2024 BEEAC Meeting Schedule (Virtual meeting only*):

- September 19, 2024*
- November 21, 2024*

Chair Young adjourned the meeting.

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/4/18/built-environment-and-energy-advisory-committee/>

The next BEEAC meeting is September 19, 2024.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)