

Draft Meeting Summary

COG Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

May 25, 2011

Members and Alternates

Hon. Johannah Barry, City of Falls Church
Hon. Al Carr, Jr., Maryland House of Delegates
Hon. Robert Catlin, City of College Park
Hon. J. Davis, City of Greenbelt
Hon. Jay Fisette, Chair, Arlington County
Hon. Penelope Gross, Fairfax County
Staff for Hon. Mary Lehman, Prince George's County
Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County
Hon. Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
Hon. Fred Schultz, City of Takoma Park
Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
Hon. Jonathan Way, City of Manassas

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Laine Cidlowski, District Office of Planning
Lyn Erickson, Maryland Department of Transportation
Sam Moki, Prince George's County
Brendan Shane, District Department of the Environment
Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Howard Ways, University of the District of Columbia
Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment

Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
Donald Briggs, Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Bob Grow, Greater Washington Board of Trade
Rachel Healy, WMATA
Suseel Idrakanti, Cambridge Systematics
Caroline Keicher, Institute for Market Transformation (IMT)
Julie Locascio, DC Sierra Club
Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
Stephen Pattison, Maryland Clean Energy Center
Caroline Petti, ACPAC Chair
Jeff Platenberg, Loudoun County Public Schools
Lindsay Smith, M-NCPPC- Prince George's County
Dr. Lise Van Susteren, Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Steve Walz, NVRC

Others Present

Erica Bannerman, City of Alexandria
Michael Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools
Dan Barry, District Department of the Environment

Jeffrey Bond, Prince George's County
Blaine Collison, US EPA Green Power Partnership
Lisa Crawford, Capital Business Solutions
Matt Dernoga, Prince George's County
Larisa Dobriansky, Arlington County
Rich Dooley, Arlington County
Jane Kirchner
John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools
Kathleen McCaig, District Office of Planning
Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church
Claude Willis, Greater Washington Regional Clean Cities Coalition

Staff Present

Jeannine Altavilla, Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Leah Boggs, Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Maia Davis, Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Stuart Freudberg, Director, Department of Environmental Programs, COG DEP
Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Sunil Kumar, Senior Environmental Engineer, COG DEP
Erin Morrow, Transportation Planner, COG DTP
Dave Robertson, Executive Director, COG
Joan Rohlfs, Chief, Environmental Resources, COG DEP
Lana Sindler, Environmental Engineer, COG DEP
Daivamani Sivasailam, Principal Transportation Engineer, COG DTP

1. Call to Order/Introductions/Chair Remarks

Chair Fisetto called the meeting of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary for March 23, 2011 and Amendments to the Agenda

The meeting summary for the March 23, 2011 meeting was approved with no changes.

3. Electric Vehicle Forum Report and Recommendation (Hon. Dave Snyder, Falls Church)

Hon Dave Snyder of Falls Church and Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP provided the committee with highlights of the Electric Vehicle Forum and a recommendation to create a region electric vehicle coalition to move forward with electric vehicle readiness in the metropolitan Washington region.

Electric vehicles are already hitting the market and have shown encouraging sales in the region. The vehicles support clean air and cleaner energy and cost cents per day. Collaboration and shared knowledge among utilities, local governments, electric vehicle suppliers, and private energy suppliers are needed in order to smoothly introduce electric vehicles into the mainstream market. A coalition with proposed stakeholders including government, public-private organizations and regional advocacy organizations can work together for interconnectivity of all electric vehicle infrastructure. The Coalition needs to be at a regional scale because people travel throughout the region, and collaboration will create an efficient roll out of technologies. The utilities are more regional in scale and need to be involved. The COG Board will see a resolution at their June 8 meeting to create this coalition.

This coalition will not replace the need for local action. Maryland and DC are installing public stations. Loudoun County is using Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) funding to create stations by the end of the year. Fairfax County is working on an EV charging plan.

COG is applying for a Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-In Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure grant through the Department of Energy. Proposals are due June 13. COG will go forward with the Coalition whether or not the DOE grant is received; however, the Coalition would have a much more limited scope without funding. CEEPC will consider candidates for the coalition in July.

Ms. Davis notes that the Maryland legislature passed a bill to create an Electric Vehicle Council. This regional council should work with them. The Blue Ribbon Commission for Transportation is working on how to capture money from charging stations.

Ms. McGimsey noted her support for the initiative and suggests that the coalition consider some concerns such as transmission lines, creating additional electricity, and ensuring security for data centers.

Ms. Adams asked if the region has considered natural gas vehicles. COG is working with natural gas vehicles through DERA funding. The Mid-Atlantic State Coalition and the Clean Cities Coalition are also looking at natural gas vehicles.

Mr. Schultz asked why the private sector will not coordinate these efforts. Issues of regulation and rights of way for selling electricity were noted. Rate structures could be changed to encourage off-peak charging of vehicles, making the vehicles even more economical. There are other legal and regulatory issues.

Chair Fisette suggested adding to the second clause of Resolution R-11 "...reductions in greenhouse gas emissions and promotes energy independence; ..."

The Resolution with the amendment was supported unanimously by the Committee for COG Board approval.

4. WE CAN Save Energy Awards and Recognition (Hon. Jay Fisette, Chair)

Chair Fisette recognized those who provided great support for the WE CAN, WiSe Energy by Capital Area Neighbors, campaign with certificates of appreciation. Key community groups in each pilot community were awarded with \$100 gift cards to purchase environmentally friendly products to further their efforts. These groups were the Brookland Neighborhood Civic Association, the Cascades Green Team and the Greenbelt Green ACES. Those from Dominion Virginia Power, Washington Gas, and DDOE who assisted were also recognized for their contributions to the pilot campaign.

Mayor J. Davis of Greenbelt and Supervisor Andrea McGimsey, whose district includes Cascades, commended the communities for their efforts in making the pilot campaign a success. Caroline Petti from Brookland and Jane Kirchner of Cascades discussed the work that their groups put into the campaign and the benefits that they received from participating.

5. a) Progress Report on Workplan Goals for 2010, 2011, 2012; (Maia Davis, COG DEP)

b) Revisions to the Climate Action Workplan for 2012; and

c) Three priorities for 2012

- a) A draft Annual Progress Report was reviewed with the committee. Results in the report were previewed by the committee at the March 23, 2011 meeting. Goals may require local government action, actions by individuals, or actions by organizations such as COG. The report focuses on goals for 2010, but includes progress and information on some goals for 2011 and 2012. Highlights provided in the report come directly from the surveys submitted by local governments.

Mr. Way asked about the cost-effective transportation strategies that have been identified. The strategies are in the What Would It Take scenario prepared by COG Transportation staff and will be made available on the CEEPC website.

Ms. McGimsey noted that implementing a green business challenge was very successful. Based on the Board of Trade's planned certification program, she recommended that the wording in the recommendation be changed to challenge or certification.

Staff noted that there is regional cooperative purchasing through COG, but the contracts are not necessarily for green product or commodities. DEP staff have engaged them and gave a workshop, but green purchasing is not in their focus area.

The WE CAN results table on page 9 needs to be updated. The chart in this draft suggests that it was easy to measure what is listed and the committee is not comfortable releasing the limited results in such a definitive way. Please revisit what data can be confidently displayed. Also consider significant figures when showing results.

- b) Staff reviewed key proposed changes that were proposed to the action plan after experience with 2010 goals. There was discussion on several topics:

Retrofits:

1. COG staff has limited access to information on homes retrofitted, and therefore goals for home retrofits have been changed to reflect action only in those programs that COG can track. COG cannot track commercial retrofits so the measure reflects only residential retrofits.

Building codes:

1. Addressing item 38a, which adds that state and local governments will adopt the stricter building codes, this timeline may not be long enough for the state of Virginia to pass the new codes. Depending on controversy, the codes could likely be adopted in 2013 to 2014.

Green jobs:

1. Can COG integrate work from other sources? COG cannot build on the DC report as previously suggested because there is a new definition of a green job that will be released by the Bureau of Labor in 2012.
2. In January 2010 COG's workforce task force released a report with some information on green jobs; however, the definition in the report was broad.
3. Staff can consider actions in the context of economic development and look at economic development authorities. The COG Board is considering discussion a regional business plan at the upcoming retreat. It could address green economic development.
4. The date could be moved to the 4th quarter of 2012 to allow staff to fully assess what they can provide.
5. Loudoun County is preparing a green economic development plan. Other local governments can do the same in addition to regional efforts.
6. This change was unanimously approved.

- c) Staff presented the committee with considerations for the top three priorities for 2011. Committee members voiced their opinions added additional suggestions before each committee member voted for their top three preferred priorities.

- Item 137, to increase regional tree canopy, was added to the ballot. This represents an opportunity for CEEPC to partner with MWAQC.
- Item 10, preparing government and community-wide greenhouse gas emissions inventories, was suggested as a priority that should occur before other measures.
- Item 74 was suggested because it is a policy decision that does not require revenues.
- Item 44, implement a program to replace older street lights, was suggested as a priority. Others thought that the group would move forward on this issue when utilities and rate cases cleared issues regardless of committee action.
- Items 84a/b, dealing with combined heat and power and district energy initiatives, was suggested because eliminated waste of fuel is a very powerful concept in the overall climate goals.

- Item 156, a regional adaptation plan, was suggested as a priority because adaptation will need to happen regardless of the results of mitigation efforts.

Results of the ballot were announced at the end of the meeting. See below in summary.

6. Joint Cooperative Purchase of Clean Energy Technologies (Jeff King, COG DEP and Blaine Collison, EPA Green Power Partnership Staff)

Blaine Collison and Jeff King presented on the regional joint purchase project. The idea for this cooperative purchase of solar energy came from a California collaborative effort. Green Power Partnership is a national voluntary program that helps develop on-site renewable energy capacity. As of May fourteen organizations have submitted 160 potential sites that could produce up to 41 MW of solar power for a regional procurement. The joint purchase would lower costs of the projects, and significantly reduce administrative burdens. California's efforts in the first year had nine organizations install 14 MW. In year two they had 34 organizations participate. The local project is now moving to the feasibility stage where all potential sites will be reviewed. Sites that are 100% ready for solar installations will be sent to bid for contracts requiring standardized terms.

The committee asked if the military was participating. Mr. Collison noted that the Navy has offered to coordinate with other branches. There is a lot of potential in this area due to the sheer number of Department of Defense sites that could participate and achieve energy cost stabilization.

Other interested governments and organizations should contact Mr. Collison.

7. Projects and Subcommittee Updates

- a) **Green Building Tools for Climate Protection** (Leah Boggs): The workshop was well attended with representatives from local governments. COG Executive Director Dave Robertson opened the workshop. Takeaways from the day included the nexus between green building, energy and climate protection; the trend to address not only new infrastructure but also existing buildings; and the evaluation of the impact of green building strategies. Chair Fisette noted that many jurisdictions have not adopted the COG Green Building Policy. Staff noted that many have addressed it with their own priorities and will provide a chart that looks at these issues from the Green Building Trends Report released this year.
- b) **Integrated Community Energy Project: FVB Consultant, schedule** (Jeff King): A task force was formed in the fall to look at community energy issues, including waste heat. The task force established priorities for moving some ideas forward in the region. Money from MWAQC allowed COG to issue an RFP to examine existing policies and regulations, as well as the business case for these technologies. A contract was awarded to FVB Energy. They have a tight time table to complete Task 1 so results will be available soon.
- c) **Results of Action Plan Priorities Voting** (Staff):
 - a. Item 84a/b- 12 votes (community energy planning)
 - b. Item 10- 11 votes (government and community wide greenhouse gas inventories)
 - c. Item 15- 9 votes (community-wide plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions)
 - d. Items 137 & 156- 8 votes each (regional plan to increase tree canopy and regional adaptation plan)

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2011 from 9:45am to noon. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.