



## Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: JANUARY 24, 2024

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County (Chair)
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Janeese Lewis George, District of Columbia
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. Takis Karantonis, Arlington County
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Hon. Wanda Rogers, City of Bowie
- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Mike Barancewicz, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Noelani Brockett, Charles County
- Danielle Freedman, Pepco
- Susan Gerson, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Stephen Gyor, District of Columbia
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Deron Lovaas, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Jon Monger, Montgomery County
- Jenni Pompei, City of Greenbelt
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Julie Rosenburg, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Meredith Soniat, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Brittany Whited, DOEE
- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Hon. Amy Fry, Town of Cheverly
- Mayor Fazlul Kabir, City of College Park

- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Virginia Burke, MDOT
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Angela Conroy, DEQ
- Andrea Crooms, Prince George's County
- Emma Cross, DDOT
- Bill Eger, Arlington County
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Deb Harris, ICF
- Debra Maes, FCPS
- Demetra McBride, Arlington County
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Bill Prindle, ICF
- Kate Roetzer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Clark Seipt, LCPS
- John Sheridan, Prince George's County
- Allison Tjaden, MDE
- Andy Young, City of Falls Church

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Kelsey Boatwright, COG Environmental Programs
- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs
- Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning

## **1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY**

*Jolene Ivey, CEEPC Chair, Prince George's County*

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Jolene Ivey called the January CEEPC meeting to order and welcomed new members to the committee. The November CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

## **2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES**

### **A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)**

*Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs*

- New officers were appointed for 2024. The new Chair is Andy Young, City of Falls Church, and the new Vice Chair is Mati Bazarro, City of Bowie. A co-Vice Chair from DC has not yet been identified.
- The committee identified topics of interest and priorities for the year, including finance (green banks, climate bonds), large scale solar, extending the 2023 grid series (large scale battery storage), and embodied carbon.

### **B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)**

*Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs*

- New officers were voted in for 2024. The new Chair is Julie Kimmel (Virginia), and the new Vice Chair is Bill Washburn (DC).
- The preliminary priorities for ACPAC in 2024 are updating the EJ Toolkit, developing climate and energy recommendations for CEEPC, and the EJ subcommittee led by MWAQC.

### **C. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group**

*Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs*

*Virginia Burke, REVD Chair*

- REVD held its first meeting of the year at the DC Auto Show on January 18, during which ICF presented on the draft regional electric vehicle infrastructure implementation (REVII) strategy. The draft will be finalized after the comment period ends and comments are addressed.

### **D. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)**

*Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC*

- GWRCCC was a part of seven winning proposal teams for the US DOE Office of Vehicle Technology Deployment and the US Joint Office for Energy and Transportation. The projects will focus on EV charging reliability, EV charging deployment, electric school buses, and more.
- The annual GWRCCC Reception will be held on February 21, 2024, at Pepco Edison Place Gallery.

### **E. Recycling Committee**

*John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs*

- The Recycling Committee awarded winners for America Recycles Day. The winners were a student from Prince George's County and an adult from Prince William County.
- Meeting topics for this year were chosen and include a focus on challenging materials to recycle (mattresses, electronics, household hazardous waste), battery management, enforcement, outreach to multiple cultures, composting, and technologies.
- The committee is preparing for its annual Go Recycle education campaign in the spring.

### **F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)**

*Jeff King, Director, COG Climate, Energy, and Air Programs*

*Michael Knapp, RTCS Chair*

- The RTCS held a mini leadership workshop to help guide next steps and decided to advance the subcommittee’s recommendations towards a COG Board resolution. Before going to the Board in April, the RTCS will present their findings to the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee, Planning Directors Technical Committee, and CEEPC.

**G. Member Roundtable Updates**

*Takis Karantonis, Arlington County*

- Arlington County is submitting a Clean School Bus application. The county is also taking steps to fully electrify their Arlington Transit (ART) bus fleet. Four electric buses were ordered initially as a pilot and approval has been granted to order eight additional electric buses.

*Jon Monger, Montgomery County*

- Montgomery County was awarded \$5 million dollars from EPA to purchase electric school buses, which will amount to about 50 buses.

*Andrea Crooms, Prince George’s County*

- Prince George’s County will be releasing a strategy statement on the CAP implementation plan by March 1. The county plans to be holding more climate and community engagement meetings in the coming year, as well as potentially hosting a climate summit.

**3. CEEPC 2024 PRIORITIES**

*Chair Jolene Ivey, Members, Staff*

The 2024 Proposed CEEPC Priorities List:

- Legislative Session (January - April)
  - The legislative subcommittee meets during the legislative session to review and comment on bills.
- Recommend Regional Tree Canopy Goals (March)
  - The RTCS will be presenting their recommendations for CEEPC comment and approval before taking them to the COG Board.
- Solar Procurement Summit (Spring/Summer)
  - To reach COG’s goal of 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030, a solar procurement summit would help accelerate solar installations in local government buildings.
- Regional Electric Vehicle Implementation Strategy
  - Continuing advancing electric vehicle deployment through the REVD working group.
- Special Projects (CPRG PCAP, and Implementation Proposal)
  - The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) is due March 1, and subsequent implementation proposal is due April 1.
- Work Program and Budget (May)

Discussion:

- Additional priorities proposed by committee members were energy efficiency/building performance standards and assisting local government members in tracking and applying for federal funding.

**4. LEGISLATIVE SESSION UPDATE**

*Robert Christopher and Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs*

The COG Board adopts legislative priorities yearly. The environmental legislative priorities adopted for 2024 are:

- Support policies to meet the region’s climate goals.
- Support multi-sector actions to reduce greenhouse gases.
- Ensure sustainable secure energy access for all.

- Support aggressive state renewable portfolio standards.
- Expand clean energy innovation, technology, and finance.
- Support aggressive energy efficiency goals.
- Enhance incentives and financing mechanisms for resilient infrastructure.
- Support policies that preserve and protect regional air quality and public health.

Bills currently being tracked in Virginia include legislation to repeal the requirement for the State Air Pollution Control Board to implement a low emissions vehicle program for model years 2025 and later. There are also several bills that would require data center operators to meet energy efficiency standards to be eligible for tax exemptions.

In Maryland, legislation is seeking to require an evaluation regarding the impact of permit issuance related to climate and environmental equity. There is also legislation proposing a solar program to increase deployment of customer-sited solar energy systems and providing grants to eligible customers for certain solar energy generating systems. There are also multiple bills seeking to alter the membership and duties of the Smart Growth Subcabinet.

## **5. EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) UPDATE**

*Jeff King, Director, COG Climate, Energy, and Air Programs*

*Deb Harris, ICF*

*State Air Agency Representatives*

The Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program is divided into formula planning grants and competitive implementation grants. The formula planning grants require the recipient to create a Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), due on March 1, 2024, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), due in 2025. To be eligible to apply for an implementation grant, the project concept must be included in the PCAP Applications for these implementation grants are due April 1, 2024. Grants must implement greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions by either reducing GHG emissions or enhancing carbon removal. Analyses on benefits to low income and disadvantaged communities, air pollution benefits, and cost effectiveness must be included in the application. A demonstrated need for funding must be shown in applications, which could be new projects funded by CPRG alone, as well as expansions to ongoing projects that only have partial funding. Awards are separated into five tiers, with an anticipated 30-115 awards ranging between \$2 million and \$500 million. Application evaluation criteria gives preference to projects with higher near-term GHG reductions. An organization may only be the lead applicant on one individual application and one coalition application, however there is no restriction for partnering on multiple coalition applications.

The PCAP is being developed under the guidance of the CPRG Steering and Technical committees. The committees were asked to submit potential implementation projects in November 2023, the submitted projects provided a basis for developing GHG reduction measures to be included in the PCAP. The draft PCAP will be distributed to the CPRG committees for review at the end of January 2024 with a two-week comment period to ensure the final version is submitted to EPA by March 1, 2024.

*Allison Tjaden, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)*

MDE is the lead agency for Maryland's CPRG program. MDE is focused on finishing the state's PCAP. MDE intends to submit a Tier B implementation application for the state, as well as potentially joining a multi-state coalition.

*Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)*

DOEE is leading the CPRG program for DC. DOEE is modeling its PCAP after Carbon Free DC which was published in December 2023. DOEE plans to submit an implementation application, potentially in Tier D.

*Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)*

DEQ is the lead agency for Virginia's CPRG program. DEQ has been focused on outreach and collecting project ideas from its jurisdictions. There is uncertainty of what a DEQ-led competitive application would contain and what tier would be pursued.

## **6. ADJOURN**

*Jolene Ivey, CEEPC Chair*

Chair Ivey adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2024 include:

- Wednesday, March 27, 2024
- Wednesday, May 22, 2024
- Wednesday, July 24, 2024
- Wednesday, September 25, 2024
- Wednesday, November 20, 2024

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/1/24/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>