

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the
Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes

Monday, July 16, 2012

Room 4/5

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Bill Butler, Brian DiNunno, Beverly Fourier, Raphael Isaac, Andrew Kambour, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney, Kyle Todd

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. The agenda and minutes from May 14, 2012 were approved with no changes.

2. Arlington Passivhaus (Roger Lin, Southern Exposure Homes)

Southern Exposure Homes built the first Passivhaus in Arlington County, VA. A Passivhaus is oriented to take full advantage of the sun, has super-insulation, advanced windows and doors, airtight construction, constant and balanced ventilation, minimized heating and cooling and energy efficiency lighting and electrical appliances. This type of design provides indoor air quality and mold prevention benefits. The Passivhaus costs approximately \$400 per year to heat and cool.

A Passivhaus is built to a air infiltration rate standard of 0.6 air changes/hour (ACH). An average home performs at 29.7 ACH. Maryland just adopted the 2012 International Residential Codes which includes a requirement of 3 ACH. One question for Roger was about if Maryland is ready to build at that level. Roger talked about how the 3 ACH can be achieved simply by using different materials, such as structural insulated panels or ICF (concrete form). ICF doesn't cost more than standard materials. He also explained that the ACH number is produced by a simple blower door test.

Roger also answered questions about how the Passivhaus performed during the recent power outage. The house was out of power for 40-50 hours and the highest temperatures got inside the home was 82 degrees.

3. Draft Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)

COG has been working with stakeholders in the region over the last year on developing the Draft Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Plan. EVs began selling in the region in 2011 and vehicle registration shows over 400 EVs are in the region. There are over 332 non-residential EV chargers at 133 charging station in the region. The priority recommendations in the report revolve around comprehensive planning and zoning, permitting EV stations, state regulations, incentives, and education and outreach.

ACPAC members pointed out that the cost of EVs is a barrier and that upfront incentives are more beneficial than rebates. Incentives for EVs may only be needed for a limited timeframe, not only for the vehicles but for other incentives, as well. For instance, if EVs are allowed to ride in HOV lanes a time limit could be established upfront. ACPAC also discussed EV charging stations and how there isn't a standard pricing model that has been established. New technology was also part of the discussion and how increasing distances before needing a charge is a focus and the University of Maryland is researching using EVs as a grid tie-in.

4. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)

Joan gave ACPAC an update on the MWAQC task force working on a consensus on the margin of safety budget issue. They are considering a tiered approach with triggers that would initiate each tier. Many ACPAC members' comments did not suggest a tiered approach as a practical solution that would be acceptable to EPA. Joan also gave a brief ozone season update – so far there have been 12 code orange day forecasts and 3 code red days through July 8, 2012. ACPAC members are invited to attend the July 25, 2012 CEEPC meeting that will feature a panel discussion on the future of the electric vehicle (EV) market and an EV showcase.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

Next meeting: September 10, 2012 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
