



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Meeting Conference Call Summary: September 14, 2017

BEEAC Members IN Attendance:

Gina Mathias, Takoma Park (Chair)
Emil King, District of Columbia (Vice Chair)
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria (Vice Chair)
Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria
Mati Bazarro, City of Bowie
Ashley Armentrout, City of Bowie (*)
Charles Njoku, Arlington County
Kate Walker, City of Falls Church
Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church
Stefanie Kupka, City of Fairfax (*)
Kevin Milsted, Prince William County
Rachel Healy, WMATA (Metro)
Daniel Lee, WMATA (Metro)
Robert Lazaro, NVRC

Additional Attendees:

Ted Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility
Julia Philpott, SolSmart – NVRC
Daniel White, DOEE
Edward Yim, DOEE
Lisa Goldberg, City of Alexandria
Kate Staples, Dominion Energy
Emma West, WMATA
Mark Head, Credit Law
Elisabeth Pinsker, US GSA
Karla Loeb, Sigora Solar
Helen Reinecke-Wilt, Arlington County
Laura Vendetta, GRID Alternatives Mid-Atlantic
Nick Kasza, National League of Cities
John Young, DCSEU
Ebony Wimbush, Siemens
Lemoyne Veney, Innovative Reduction Solutions, Inc.

COG Staff:

Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP
Tim Masters, COG DEP

(*) Indicates participation by phone

1. Call to Order and Introductions

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park, BEEAC Chair

The Chair called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves in person and by phone.

2. Approval of July 20, 2017 Meeting Summary

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park, BEEAC Chair

The meeting summary was approved by committee members.

3. Jurisdiction Roundtable

BEEAC Committee Members

Jurisdictional updates included:

Kate Walker, City of Falls Church –

- Saturday, September 16, there is community outreach at the Falls Church Farmer's Market regarding Car Free Day 2017 (Friday, September 22). They are raising awareness for the event, educating public on car free transport options, and are giving away raffle prizes including an Amazon gift card and transit cards.

Bill Eger, City of Alexandria –

- The City of Alexandria hired a new Sustainability Officer, Ellen Eggerton.
- SolarizeAlexandria event was launched on September 7 and will run through October 15.
- PARK(ing) Day event on September 15 involves promoting green building policy and efforts, as well as other sustainability activities in the community.

Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie –

- The City of Bowie signed a deal with Tesla to develop two solar arrays on the outskirts of the City. This solar farm is intended to supply roughly 60% of the City's energy demand (bringing the total percentage of energy supplied by solar power to about 75%). Eventually, the City's goal is to create a microgrid to run all facilities.
- The City of Bowie hired a new Sustainability Planner, Ashley Armentrout.
- The City of Bowie is being named Most Sustainable City in Maryland.

Daniel Lee, WMATA –

- WMATA will perform an energy audit of their operations (rail, bus, and facilities).
- WMATA also intends to consolidate all billing data for better accessibility for employees.

Edward Yim, District of Columbia –

- Over the summer, DOEE held public engagement events for Clean Energy DC (a plan to reduce the District of Columbia's GHG emissions by 50% below 2006 levels by 2032, and 80% below 2006 levels by 2050). Towards the end of the year, DOEE will hold two District-wide meetings to finalize the plan.

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park –

- City of Takoma Park held a Solar Streetlight Demonstration Launch on September 7. The City partnered with UNO, a South Korean business, whose solar streetlight technology allows streetlights to have power for more than five years. The City installed two streetlights and eight crosswalk lights.
- City of Takoma Park is also encouraging residents to use other means of transport by hosting a car free challenge through October 18.

4. Regional Clean Energy Technology Opportunities

Kate Walker, City of Falls Church

Kate Walker gave background information about the geothermal potential that the City of Falls Church has been exploring. The City sold their water utility to Fairfax County, thus providing land for possible development. Falls Church was awarded a DOE grant to conduct a geothermal feasibility study at the site. The grant allowed them to explore geothermal energy options for George Mason High School, Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School, as well as the possibility of commercial development. The study was conducted in partnership with Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) and the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG).

The City of Falls Church encourages the move toward zero energy buildings, and for the redevelopment there are three steps that may lead to zero energy; 1) maximizing energy efficiency, 2) apply geothermal heat pump, and 3) apply solar. ORNL recommends applying advanced energy design standards in the RFP for a new high school to maximize energy efficiency. Using geothermal heat pumps (GHPs) for heating, cooling and hot water is the most efficient technology currently available for these purposes. While now, it is not financially feasible to incorporate solar technology into the development, it is recommended that the school becomes “solar ready” for the possibility of later installations. A new school building is being considered to replace the existing George Mason High School and this constitutes Phase I of the redevelopment. Phase II would include the retrofitting of Mary Ellen Henderson Middle School. Lastly, the possibility of commercial development is also being explored.

Several questions and challenges were raised during the planning process, including whether to install geothermal energy infrastructure in possible developments alone or with an HVAC backup. The results of the initial background study look great, with a \$375k-\$720k premium for a GHP installation for a new high school. This has a payback period of three to five years. For an existing middle school, there is a \$370k-\$603k premium for the GHP system, with a payback period of three to six years. The difficulty is convincing decision-makers with such high upfront costs. Another decision to make is whether to install a single system or dual system. Convincing building designers of the improvements to single systems of GHPs presents a unique challenge.

Implementing geothermal energy at a school development will require an on-site conductivity test, financing through Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs) or Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) models, and education and training for school maintenance staff. The schedule for this development is unknown, and there will be a referendum on November 7. The City is currently determining if commercial development is feasible. Making the school building a four-story building would free up approximately 10 acres for commercial development. There is also the possibility of achieving net zero energy with solar power installations, however, the City received the recommendation to first achieve 50% net zero design standards and then make the decision for

geothermal and/or solar power subsequently to achieve a net zero energy building.

Edward Yim, District of Columbia

The District's Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) is focused on green energy technologies at the building and neighborhood scale for the District of Columbia. As part of its Clean Energy DC planning, they are exploring areas that have quantified measures. Bulk power purchases and increased building efficiency are two factors that are becoming increasingly important, however, they are not enough on their own to achieve the District's long-term 2050 goal. A key aspect of the strategy is focusing more on local energy resources which marries the notion of resiliency with clean energy and energy efficiency.

There are various feasibility studies that DOEE is interested in investigating for future funding including the technical potential of geothermal energy and the market potential for air source heat pumps. Request for Applications (RFAs) will most likely be accepted from early October. Air source heat pumps are of special interest, particularly to see if the systems can make a difference in communities that use propane. Additionally, new developments in air source heat pump systems are being sought, as a new generation of these systems are performing much better than previous generations.

Biogas is another important focus of potential research at DOEE. Although turning biomass into methane has its advantages, DOEE suggests that a regional study for potentiality is necessary. It is seen as a great path towards 'cleaning' the grid if natural gas companies can clean their pipes through biogas. Replacing all the District's direct use of natural gas (20% of total) in favor of biogas operations would be ideal. Biogas also has a lot of potential use in microgrid systems. The drawback is that reliance on natural gas would have to be tolerated for the short-term. If assurance can be given that natural gas would eventually be replaced by biogas, the District would be more enthusiastic. The District also sees microgrids playing an important role in achieving the region's climate goals.

The greatest hurdles to clean energy development include the financial aspects (e.g. high upfront costs/long payback periods), but there is also the regulatory environment that requires some consideration. There is a need for new regulation, especially regarding the management of microgrids and other more localized energy resources.

5. Regional Solar Market Workshop Series Kick Off

Jeff King, COG

After looking at solar data for the last 8 years, there is clearly momentum in solar energy. There is a great amount of development in community solar projects, as well as solar at scale. Many private sector players are also pushing for 100% renewable energy for their operations and utilities are beginning to step up and put large numbers of solar projects into development. Advancements in energy storage are also boosting solar energy's appeal.

The purpose of the regional solar market workshop Series is to think about the status of markets and see where the region is with respect to solar energy and what issues the region should address. This discussion is about what the region should be focusing on, what resources it will need, and who it will involve in the process of developing its solar resources.

Daniel White, DOEE

Over the past ten years, the District has been focused on residential solar. The District has taken significant action to build a resilient and sustainable DC. The solar market in DC is driven primarily by solar mandates and goals laid out in Clean Energy DC, the District's new climate and energy plan, Sustainable DC and Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) requirements. Other drivers that have played a part are the Renewable Energy Development Fund (REDF) and the Solar For All Initiative. Primary legislative drivers include the RPS Act of 2005, the Clean and Affordable Energy Act (CAEA) of 2008, the Community Renewables Energy Act (CREA), and the Renewable Portfolio Expansion Amendment Act (RPSEAA) of 2016. Additionally, the Solar Renewable Energy Credits system incentivizes further investment into solar energy.

Some of the market drivers of the solar initiative going forward include policy. Examples include the RPS requirements which began in 2005, allowing DOEE to establish the REDF and provide funding for programs. CAEA established the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU), promoting renewable energy incentives focusing on residential systems. CREA was an important piece of legislation that allows DOEE to expand the solar market in the District. The RPS expansion act of 2016, which set up the Solar For All Initiative, provided the impetus to reach 100,000 low-income residences and help reduce their energy bills.

DOEE has a goal for the District to have 50% of electricity sourced from renewable sources by 2032. Sustainable DC under the Clean Energy Plan is pushing the District's commitment to be greener, more resilient and sustainable for the next 10-15 years and beyond. Solar energy will be a large part in the District's initiative to reduce carbon emissions looking forward.

The Solar Renewable Energy Credits (SREC) market is strong in the District. The SREC market is a good financial tool that has helped implement many projects. Currently, the market price in DC is about \$400-\$450/MWh. This provides substantial incentive for people to go solar, however, larger buildings have a greater challenge. Alternative compliance payments play a key role in larger projects as the utility is required to do a certain percentage of their electricity sales in the District to help meet its goals. A compliance fee, which the 2016 Expansion Act moved up to \$500 until 2023, is paid if the utility does not meet that percentage. By the end of 2032, renewable energy is projected to be providing roughly 480MW. Currently, renewable energy provides approximately 60MW according to the RPS register.

There are over 3000 solar systems across the District including some solar thermal systems that were registered early in the program. An upward trend is expected to continue as DOEE focuses on the Solar For All program and on the different sectors (e.g. multi-family and commercial).

Comments and Q&A

Q: How much of that represents government property?

A: There are approximately 50 individual sites and 15% in terms of capacity. Also, there are probably another 250 systems that are not accounted for as they are not part of RPS program. Additional states were included in the RPS program that were grandfathered in before 2011, however, DOEE has changed this so that only the systems that are in the District or on feeders that serve the District are able to apply for the RPS program. This helps provide some stability to the market.

Some of the challenges involved in implementing solar within the District is the amount of

available real estate. Because the District is only 68 square miles and is a very dense urban environment, it is challenging to implement different types of community solar projects. A high percentage of the population rent which presents difficulties. Alternative rooftop uses and rooftop space is often shared between multiple owners. The Solar For All program seeks to address some of these challenges by providing innovation grants within the low income solar market. The Alternative Compliance Revenue Projection presents additional challenges regarding the number of people holding RECs compared to those cashing them in. The funding to help move the program forward in the future will likely come from the DC's Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) Program or the DC Green Bank and possible private institutions, banks and lending organizations.

DOEE is mandated by legislation to operate the Solar For All initiative. We expect to get 7 MW from 10 grants that will be issued which will cover many sectors (e.g. residential, low-income to commercial, and community solar). DOEE could potentially work with the DC Department of General Services (DGS) to develop a community renewable energy facility in the Oxon Run SE DC area to help provide energy savings to about 200 residents or more in those neighborhoods. DOEE is also working with other sister agencies to see if there is potential to partner and develop additional projects. Solar Works DC is the first program that came out of the Solar For All initiative in May 2016. It is a workforce development and solar installation program for low income communities. The program hopes to have job training cohorts, each comprising of 25 low-income residents. Three cohorts are expected. Residents get 40 hours of training which can count toward achieving North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP) certification.

Comments and Q&A

Q: Are people taking out PACE loans?

A: Currently we are unsure.

Q: Are you doing anything on the policy side with solar and storage?

A: Yes, in addition to DOEE grants, DOEE has asked sister agencies to look at incorporating batteries with solar. A few agencies have responded by exploring solar options with battery. Currently, DOEE is involved in projects testing 4 different batteries with different chemical properties. Two primary aims are 1- to test how revenue potential from batteries can be maximized as part of an automated building demand response system through extracting PJM revenues and 2- to figure out what kind of resiliency capabilities each different type of battery would provide. Most of the batteries that have come out are not for long-duration. The DC public library is partnering with DOEE and is looking at how to incorporate a combination of solar and battery, referencing to community resiliency and emergency power for the residents they serve. Providing a long-term market is a primary concern. Solar is becoming a resiliency tool more than a just renewable energy.

Comment: WMATA has a lot of land/property across entire DC region (well-placed). They would like to move forward on solar very aggressively, but their energy rates are quite low so pairing with community solar to be able to provide lower cost energy to communities is of interest to them.

Response: WMATA is DOEE's number one target.

Ted Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU)

The DCSEU was legislatively created in 2008 and began operations in 2011 with a mandate as a contractor to DOEE. This mandate is to help residents and businesses reduce electric and natural gas bills by roughly 1% per year and to help jumpstart solar programs in the District. Creating 88 green jobs per year for DC residents was also a priority. DCSEU works with local businesses to implement many of the energy efficiency programs and solar installations. They are funded by a small surcharge on all District utility rate payer bills and it is collected by DOEE which gives the DCSEU funding of over roughly \$20 million per year with which to operate their programs.

When the DCSEU started in 2012 there were about 790-800 systems in the city. The systems were not distributed equally in the city like they are currently. In wards 5, 7, and 8 are the eastern sections of the city and is roughly 40% of the population. There was sparse distribution of systems in those areas, less than 200 systems compared to the total. This illustrated a large concentration of systems in the wealthier parts of the city. The DCSEU started an income-qualified program for installation of systems that did not exceed 4kW for single family homes initially in wards 7 and 8. At the time, only about 11 systems were in these wards combined. By the end of summer 2012, the DCSEU exceeded the goal of 20 systems by 38 systems without a marketing budget. Due to the success of the program, Mayor Bowser requested the DCSEU to double the systems they installed in 2013.

The installed systems are helping residents save between 40%–60% on utility bills on average. The savings continues for 20-25 years and the maintenance is done by the installers. The initiative also employed many District residents, introducing them into the solar industry and used a lot of local companies to do the installations. The DCSEU branched out from single-family homes installations to multi-family homes. Channel Square apartment buildings is a DCSEU project and is the largest multi-family solar power installation in DC. The DCSEU has helped establish a good market, as well as an appetite for single-family installations. Over the five years of operating the program, the DCSEU has been able to install over 500 systems in single-family homes and expanded its efforts into multi-family homes. Federal buildings in DC have also become a part of its project portfolio with installations providing about 2.5MW through rooftop utilization on federal government office buildings this year.

Comments and Q&A

Q: How do the federal government projects work? Are they leasing the roof? Are they buying the system outright? Are you giving them the system?

A: No, there is a separate set of dynamics compared to single-family, income-qualified housing. The government pays a large portion of the money for these systems. Compared to last year, the DCSEU was paying \$2.70 per watt for single-family systems, whereas they are paying \$0.30 per watt for these systems for federal buildings. They subsidize the solar system. In terms of incentives, DOEE is now having to buy down given the cost of a PPA or to make buildings solar ready. Electrical upgrades and roof repairs are some of the issues the DCSEU had with some households. Thus, DOEE is on a trial process on a few projects with Pepco using meters on connections that are outside of the electrical box and ways to make it more cost effective. There is a lot of interest in what DOEE and DCSEU are doing, but the buildings or facilities are not always up to the task. Solar readiness is a big issue.

At the start of DCSEU's program, funds were not available to help with some opportunities to repair roofs or to upgrade panel boxes. DCSEU had to find homes that could accept the solar. In the new Solar For All legislation, there is money available to help homes that could not accept

solar by upgrading roofs and panel boxes. DOEE combined some participants in their low-income, home-energy assistance program that received weatherization with DCSEU's program to allow them to realize the energy efficiency piece of the program, as well as the solar. DOEE is looking closely at the data from about 20 projects. DOEE hopes this is something that can be continued under the Solar For All initiatives and other grants that will roll out.

Q: Are you looking at location for public relations aspects? For instance, places where you would get a high visibility, high observations of projects?

A: DC Mayor Bowser recently was in the press touting plans to move forward with the program.

Q: Are you identifying places for solar arrays where they will be highly visible to the public?

A- No, DCSEU has focused on income qualifications first for the residents and then the areas in the city where there has not been the deployment of solar.

Comment: Some federal buildings have publicity.

Bob Lazaro, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)

NVRC is encouraged by what's happening in Virginia. The number of systems has more than doubled since 2013. When the Solarize program started in September 2014, a 1,000-rooftop goal was the regional goal. More than 4,300 people have signed up since September 2014. Through December 2016, the Solarize program was married with an energy efficiency program offered by Dominion. The program expired and the VA State Corporation Commission (SCC) turned down their successor program. Dominion plans to reapply this Fall.

In 2015, there was only about 45MW of solar installed in VA, and now there is 2.5 GW in the queue. The state government has committed to purchasing up to 10% of its electricity from renewable sources and the private sector is making big demands. Amazon just opened an 80MW solar farm on the eastern shore, Microsoft is making demands, as well as IKEA put up a big system. Leaving the Paris Agreement has also stoked a lot of public interest. Acquiring customers is still the most expensive thing. NVRC is working very hard to help acquire customers and create jobs. Projects have led to 176 contracts using only VA-based contractors.

Additionally, door-to-door initiatives are driving the progress. The real issue has been price. A few years ago, it cost \$3.70 per watt in VA compared to \$2.45 per watt now which is well below the national average of \$2.90-\$2.95 per watt. NVRC also created some new tools, including a tool similar to Mapdwell for Northern VA. Mapdwell was too costly, therefore, SolarizeNOVA was done in-house. Solar potential has been mapped for every building, which is over 500,000 structures in Northern VA and can provide residents a rough estimate of solar capacity for their property. It has received over 12 thousand unique views, about 50-60 per day. COG helped with the grant to improve NVRC's internal software capacity to allow this project to happen.

The Federal Trade Commission has a tariff case and it is expected to be \$0.40 - \$0.50 per watt depending on the system size. In the past, Virginia was lagging in terms of solar. This year it is looking a lot better. In terms of job creation, there is real potential with solar. Community Housing Partners has a great energy efficiency training center in Christiansburg, VA. Appalachian Power has an outstanding home energy check-up program. The Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority (MWAA) Board put out a Request for Information (RFI) for 20MW of solar at Dulles. Over 20 different firms expressed interest. MWAA also had an RFI out for combined heat and power (CHP) for Dulles airport which garnered a lot of interest. VA is expected to reach 1,000 rooftops soon and will

hopefully be closer to 1,200-1,500.

Comments and Q&A

Q: Is Solarize purely residential-focused?

A: No, anyone can buy in. NVRC's first contract for commercial was a 42KW system. On average, the systems are slightly bigger than 6kW, but as the prices come down the systems are getting larger.

Q: Are you specifically targeting corporations and large property owners to get very big, high-visibility systems? Or whoever signs up?

A: Whoever signs up - 70% of the world's internet runs through Loudoun County so NVRC is trying to get those involved interested in renewable energy.

Q: Are there any programs or incentives for low-to-medium income customers?

A: No, VA has no incentives whatsoever. NVRC works with Grid Alternatives who they worked with previously in Purcellville, VA. The project happened because \$7-8k was raised to offset the costs. There were over 600, non-income based families signed up for the home energy checkup. It saves participants about 750kWh/year. NVRC works with others on weatherization for multi-family low-income housing and they did about 12 or 13 projects. The value of the solar and the energy savings for the efficiency comes to about \$250,000 per year.

Q: What's happening in VA regarding community solar? This Fall, Winter, Spring? Dominion has a pilot plan?

A: Legislation was signed into law in July 2017 enabling community solar projects in VA and Dominion is committed to do a minimum of 10MW of aggregate community solar. Each site will be under 2MW in size and third-party developed. Dominion cannot own and develop the sites. This is a three-year pilot program and the Request for Proposal (RFP) is out for the sites. Bids are due in the mid-October at which point indicative pricing will be more apparent as PPA pricing is uncertain. Once indicative pricing is known, Dominion can put a portfolio together for the SCC. Renewable cases typically take between 6 and 18 months. Dominion hopes to get a final order from the SCC relatively soon so they can tangibly start the program. From a developer perspective, small scale solar is quicker to build, but also have to go through the system interconnection process. Timing is uncertain, but Dominion is excited that the RFP is out and looks forward to seeing what bids come back.

Q: Do you have a range that you're looking at? On pricing?

A: Yes, what the market is.

Q: When is the deadline for that RFP?

A: October 16 and the RFP can be found at www.dominionenergy.com/communitysolar, as well as information about community solar. Updates can be sent to interested parties upon signing up on the page. The community solar program is typically geared towards a residential or small-medium size commercial customer. Large-scale customers are usually looking for something different. They can still participate if they are interested in being sponsors or having some other involvement in community solar. There's also a place on the website for them to sign up.

Julia Philpott, SolSmart Advisor

SolSmart is working with NVRC, Arlington County, the City of Fairfax, as well as other partners in the metropolitan Washington region. The SolSmart program is funded by the Department of Energy

through its Sunshot initiative with the overall goal to continue making it faster, easier and more affordable for all Americans to choose solar. DOE just made the announcement that it met its goal of bringing down the cost per kWh to \$0.06 three years ahead of schedule. They had a goal of taking it down to \$0.06 by 2020. Now the goal is \$0.03 by 2030.

SolSmart's work is to continue driving the cost of solar down. There are a couple of various kinds of costs. SolSmart focuses on one category of cost; variable costs, otherwise known as soft costs. These can contribute as much as 64% of the total costs. They involve things like administrative, business, permitting processes, etc. They are not focused on technology aspect, and instead they focus on the "human" piece and how we can make the process faster, easier and more transparent for everyone involved. They are interested in making it a process that is meaningful to the investment community and the finance community.

Local government has a very important role in addressing any barriers to solar and facilitating the process. They try to make this a streamlined process for local governments so that the private sector, investors, and others involved in the process feel like it's easier, cheaper and faster for them to go solar. One way that the SolSmart program achieves this, is by offering technical assistance to communities who sign up. They review their business processes, their zoning codes, and see what can be done to change anything and make it easier for solar projects to hit the ground.

The SolSmart program has different levels at which a community can choose to engage. There are three levels: Bronze, Silver, and Gold, which signify the extent to which they have facilitated these various categories. Their goal is to get everybody to Bronze, which is where they are really able to hone in on their permitting processes and their basic regulations, and figure out what need to be done in the short-term and over a 5-6 year period to integrate solar into their basic zoning ordinances.

SolSmart wants to work with additional communities because this region in particular is a huge opportunity for standardization. This region can put forward a model for the rest of the USA about the benefits of a regional approach that is standardized as much as possible which will facilitate more private sector engagement.

One of the most value-added work products that SolSmart has produced for participating communities is the zoning code review process. There is an assumption that communities have ordinances already in place. The program has observed that while there is a lot of solar on the ground, policies, regulations, and ordinances have not yet caught up with technology and the market. These foundational elements need to be in place to give the private sector certainty about making investments. Additionally, this creates more transparency for everyone involved. Having these things laid out in the ordinance is the fundamental step to bringing solar to scale.

Comments and Q&A

Q: Can you give an example of one of these things that you think should be in the ordinances?

A: A very basic thing is a definition of what is a solar energy system. Everyone is using the phrase, but it's not actually defined. Other examples include zonings and accessory uses. SolSmart also offers world-class training to local government staff on permitting and inspection processes and approaches, as well as best management practices (BMPs). SolSmart will have an all-day training on October 16th targeting permit and inspection staff. The training is intended to offer an overview of inspections and permitting with a focus on BMPs and industry innovations. The training is open to anyone.

SolSmart works very closely with the communities they serve with the intentions of breaking down regional silos. The goal is to have communities talking and working together, understanding needs and overcoming barriers to standardization. SolSmart also trains permitting staff in evaluating the business process and looking for ways to streamline. SolSmart also provides research, for example, Northern VA offers tax incentives, tax exemptions, property tax exemptions and other rebates and incentives for solar. Working with SolSmart is accomplished online, over the phone, in personal meetings, and through peer-to-peer networks.

Q: After the project or after technical assistance, are you planning to go back a year later to local governments or your clients to see if projects have gotten off the ground?

A: SolSmart is interested in follow-up, however, that element is not funded under the DOE program. SolSmart has two program elements: 1- the technical side is a significant part of what is offered and 2- designation is how they ensure the processes are still in place and are still appropriate and improving.

6. COG Updates/Announcements, Next BEEAC Meeting, Adjournment

Jeff King, COG

- Reminder to look at workshop speakers and topics for the Solar Workshop Series. Give this some thought regarding proposed speakers or changes to be made.
- At the next CEEPC meeting (September 27) there will be a panel discussing large-scale, wholesale PPAs. Large customers like the District of Columbia or Microsoft or others who are interested in this notion of basically guaranteeing the offset of a large solar system that is putting power into the grid (not necessarily getting delivered to your facilities), so the wholesale places a hedge against your retail rates, but facilitating very large-scale solar projects. Throughout the Fall, also want to discuss community solar in DC, MD, and VA to understand where the opportunities are, and what the role of local governments might be in supporting/facilitating that. We are also excited to hear more on solar storage from Scott Scar thereafter.

Steve Walz, COG

- COG is putting together regional overview package to reach out to Amazon, as Amazon has asked for a single submission from Metropolitan Statistical Metropolitan Areas (SMAs) for their second headquarters. There is the potential for 50,000 jobs with this deal. Amazon wants 100% renewable energy sources. It is requested that if any local packages are being put together in response to Amazon's request, please coordinate with Steve Walz in an effort to show that 100% renewable energy can be achieved in the region. Member offers will be kept confidential with other localities. Mid-October is when they want submittals from the Metropolitan areas and potential hosts.
- Kate – Dominion proposed 100% renewable tariff.

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park

- Community Solar Workshop on October 19

All meeting materials can be found on the MWCOG website or by clicking the link -

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2017/7/20/beeac-meeting/>

The next BEEAC planning call is .

The next BEEAC meeting is scheduled for .

The next CEEPC meeting is September 27.

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)