



**Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee**  
**DRAFT VIRTUAL MEETING SUMMARY: MARCH 23, 2022**

**CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE**

- Hon. Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park
- Hon. Monique Ashton, City of Rockville
- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County
- Hon. Takisha James, Town of Bladensburg
- Hon. Takis Karantonis, Arlington County
- Hon. Alanna Mensing, City of Manassas Park
- Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- Andrea Crooms, Prince George's County
- Tara Failey, Air and Climate Policy Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Susan Gerson, LCPS
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Stephen Gyor, District of Columbia
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
- Rachel Healy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Geoffrey King, Connected DMV
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Katherine Magruder, Maryland Clean Energy Coalition (MCEC)
- Evan Marolf, DC Councilmember Cheh's Representative
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg

- Era Pandya, ACPAC
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Matt Ries, DC Water
- Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green
- Maria Sinner, VDOT
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University (GMU)
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Hilari Varnadore, U.S. Green Building Council

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

- Hon. M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
- Jack Anderson, Bethesda Green
- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County
- Gordon Baer, Prince William County
- Laura Boyette, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Steve Burr, Arlington County
- Emmett Deitcher, WMATA
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Kim Drake, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Matthew Gaskin, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Patricia Happ, Northern Virginia Transportation Commission (NVTC)
- Kathie Hoekstra, City of Alexandria
- Allison Homer, Fairfax County
- Tianni Ivey, Loudoun County
- Michael Knapp, Regional Tree Canopy Sub-Committee
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Demetra McBride, Arlington County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Alison Riley, EPA
- Mark Wejrowski, EPA

**COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Madison Battle, COG Environmental Programs
- Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Paul DesJardin, COG Director Community Planning Services
- Megan Goodman, COG Office of Communications
- Steve Kania, COG Office of Communications
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Brian LeCouteur, COG Environmental Programs
- Wyetha Lipford, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Kanti Srikanth, Deputy Executive Director Metropolitan Planning
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning

**1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY**

*Patrick Wojahn, CEEPC Vice Chair*

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Vice Chair Patrick Wojahn called the March CEEPC webinar meeting to order and welcomed new members to the committee. The January CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

**2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES**

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

*Dawn Ashbacher, BEEAC Chair*

- BEEAC met on February 17, where the primary discussion was on this year’s energy priorities.
- BEEAC will use the annual survey results to inform the meeting topics for the year. The committee will be driven by the question - How can BEEAC have the biggest impact on the 2030 Climate Action Plan?
- This year, the committee will be looking at topics such as large-scale solar and community choice aggregation. Also, as more local climate action plans are being completed, BEEAC will look at lessons learned and best practices. Energy equity was also identified as a priority in both mitigation and resiliency areas.
- The next BEEAC meeting is April 21.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

*Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs*

- From November 19 to January 19, ACPAC conducted recruitment to replace three members (one from DC and two from Virginia) who were cycling out of the committee at the end of January. After receiving 13 applications, COG staff presented the recommended appointments to the MWAQC Executive Committee on February 9 and the three final appointments were approved on February 14.
- ACPAC met on March 21 with a fully approved committee membership of 18 members. This meeting focused on programmatic priorities for the year, getting updates on the climate, energy, and air programs, as well as Clean Air Partners.

- ACPAC's priorities this year are:
  1. Follow attainment State Implementation Plan (SIP) process for the 2015 Ozone
  2. Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) interface
  3. Updates on local climate action and EV plans across the region
  4. 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards
- The next ACPAC meeting is May 16.

#### C. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

*Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC*

- GWRCCC has been hosting a few informational sessions over the past couple of months. There have been sessions focused on alternative fuels advocacy, growing minority and women owned businesses in alternative fuels and green transportation, and emerging markets for EVs.
- GWRCCC has a survey out now on EV access. They are hoping to get feedback on what the greatest needs and barriers are for people who wish to access EVs, as well as EV charging.
- During Green Week (April 19 to April 23), GWRCCC will host three panels and a community service project in the District of Columbia. On April 22 from 5pm to 7pm, folks are invited for happy hour at Busboys and Poets on 14th Street. In April, GWRCCC will be kicking off a racial equity listening tour. They hope to have two of these tours each week from the beginning of April to the first weekend in May.
- GWRCCC will be hosting a series of [Virtual Policy Forum](#) events focused on state and local policy issues. The panels will be focused on climate solutions, equity, and procurement policies.

#### D. Regional Tree Canopy Sub-Committee (RTCS)

*Michael Knapp, Regional Tree Canopy Sub-Committee*

- The main activity of the RTCS is to finish up a report on regional tree canopy goals and related metrics. The report will be distributed for internal review on March 28. It will likely be released to the public in May.
- The next meeting of the sub-committee is scheduled for April 22.

#### E. CEEPC Member and Staff Updates

*Hilari Varnadore, US Green Building Council*

- [US Green Building Council \(USGBC\) Live](#) is happening in the District of Columbia in June.
- USGBC runs a national cohort of local governments that are committing to sustainability, climate, and equity action. A new group will get started on April 1.
- Details on the LEED for Cities Local Government Leadership Program and many other tools and resources can be found [here](#).

*Shannon Moore, Frederick County*

- Frederick County passed their [residential EV readiness bill](#) last week. The bill requires that electrical boxes include the option of installing an EV conduit and a junction box at the garage or parking space.

*Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)*

- MEA has launched several new programs as FY22 pilots including the [Public School Decarbonization Program](#), the [Streetlight and Outdoor Lighting Efficiency Program](#), the [Clean Fuels Incentive Program](#), and the [Resilient Maryland Program](#).

*Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria*

- In the past week, the City of Alexandria's Council finished a statement of priority, which incorporates environmental justice into the core principles of the city. Equity, transparency, and now environmental justice are part of the city's guiding principles.

*Demetra McBride, Arlington County*

- A final version of Arlington County's Community Energy Plan Roadmap will be released soon. It is a detailed operationalization document. It shows measures, metrics, targets, and other data into specific timelines.
- Arlington County is also moving forward with two major transportation planning efforts: a bus feasibility study looking at the design and construction of the new bus facility, maintenance and operations facility, as well as electrification and resilience, and a decarbonization of transportation study. Additionally, the county is working on a risk assessment and management plan for stormwater and an MS4 strategic compliance study.
- Arlington County is also moving forward with several significant stormwater projects.

*Marc Aveni, Loudoun County*

- Loudoun County is looking at a green hydrogen, renewable energy [initiative](#). With COG and others, the county is working on an RFI on waste reuse technologies, such as green hydrogen and other emerging technologies.
- Loudoun County is also working to redo the county's energy strategy using COG's contracting mechanism. There have been some initial meetings of the county's Environmental Commission and they are looking at the different sectors beyond county government that could be included in this process, as well as considering specific climate goals.
- Virginia regulators have approved 15 Dominion Energy solar projects that represent nearly 1,000 MW of total power, including a 100 MW facility at Dulles Airport. This project will also involve new electric shuttle buses and a behind the meter solar carport.

*Rachel Healy, WMATA*

- WMATA has a solar lease at four of their stations. Solar panels are being installed at their Anacostia Station garage. That is over nine megawatts that are on DC feeders.

*Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs*

- The COG updates have been posted on the March CEEPC meeting [webpage](#).
- The CEEPC Legislative Committee has commented in support or opposition to a number of bills in Maryland's General Assembly and Virginia's General Assembly, as well as the Council of the District of Columbia. Full comment letter details are in the COG updates document.
- Additionally, COG staff have drafted a joint TPB/MWAQC/CEEPC comment letter in support of EPA's Proposed Rule Regarding Control of Air Pollution from New Motor Vehicles: Heavy-Duty Engine and Vehicle Standards. Once published in the Federal Register, COG staff will work to submit comment on the proposed rule.

### **3. LOCAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLANS**

*Monique Ashton and Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville*

The City of Rockville's Climate Action Plan was adopted on January 10. The city also adopted a municipal fleet conversion resolution. They are working to reduce community and government greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 and be on track to reach net zero emissions by or before 2050. Resiliency is also a key piece of the city's plan, and they aim to improve the capacity of residences and businesses to prevent, withstand, respond to, and recover

from climate change impacts such as heat waves, severe storms, and flooding. Equity is a focal point too, and the city aims to reduce climate-related disparities and protect vulnerable communities. The City of Rockville has also been looking to incentivize and encourage comprehensive planning that looks at climate change, as well as land use and economic development.

The pathway to the 50 percent GHG reduction goal by 2030 is most impacted by the state meeting its Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard (RPS) and Green Power Purchases. Thereafter, actions such as increase solar installations, building energy efficiency upgrades, and EV adoption move the city toward meeting the 50 percent goal. The CAP identifies the climate resilience challenges for the city. There is also a robust section on threats to ecosystems, infrastructure, and public health. The CAP details 42 climate mitigation and resilience actions, and equity is a consideration in all of them. The city has several projects underway including converting the lights to LEDs at City Hall, solar and EV co-ops that are facilitating solar and EV adoption, an environment & sustainability newsletter, and continued work to leverage grants and partnerships. Flood resiliency is another big focus for the city and they are planning to develop a flood resiliency plan. Depending on the budget, the city is looking to hire two new sustainability coordinators. They have also approved a diversity, equity and inclusion manager that will focus on equity.

#### *Andrea Crooms, Prince George's County*

In January 2022, Prince George's County's Department of Environment, on behalf of the Climate Action Commission, delivered a draft climate plan and a volume of 492 comments from stakeholders across the county to the County Council. The county developed a CAP in 2012, and in 2019, the County published an Environmental Justice Report. These documents served as a foundation for the county's updated CAP process. The county centered the plan around community health and equity. In the metropolitan Washington region, Prince George's County is leader regarding solar energy systems and recycling rates. They have an advanced solid waste system and the largest composting facility on the East Coast. Prince George's County and the region are experiencing the effects of climate change. There are more frequent and severe rainfall events, and Prince George's County is particularly vulnerable. This is not only true with regard to current vulnerable populations, but age is also a factor, with those below the age of 14 being likely to experience severe global warming. The county focused on three primary ideas: Community resilience and infrastructure, residential resilience, and green economic development. The Climate Action Commission developed 26 core actions. These are divided into three sections: Operational, Mitigation, and Adaptation/Resilience.

#### Discussion:

- In terms of transit-oriented development, the Metro Purple Line will have a big impact in Prince George's County. The county is also keeping this in mind as they develop new housing stock. Affordable housing is also a key consideration.
- The City of Rockville has looked through their comprehensive planning process to see how they might look at housing and zoning around Metro stations. They have developed the Stonestreet Corridor Plan, where they have a great opportunity to have a mix of multi-use buildings and housing. Affordable housing is a consideration in that plan too and the city has a Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit (MPDU) program that aims to support this. The city is also seeking to implement their sidewalk prioritization plan, which would impact mobility actions.
- There is a potential for inequities when it comes to the distribution of EV charging stations within the county. The county worked with the utilities at the Public Service Commission to develop something called the EV Public Purpose Charging Program. This program enables the

local jurisdiction to partner with their utilities such as Pepco or BGE and utilize public properties to install EV charging stations. The county partnered with Pepco and identified sites for over 120 installations. They have already installed over 54 throughout the county.

- Funding and support for transit and improving service and access to the stations is also crucial. Getting bus rapid transit built is a key component of the regional picture, together with EV planning and affordable housing.

#### **4. COG BOARD REGION UNITED FRAMEWORK**

*Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director*

The COG Board of Directors has set [planning priorities](#) for the next decade related to equity, transit and land use, housing, and climate change. Taken together, these priorities form a planning framework for 2030. The Board has agreed to focus on advancing this framework and identifying ways for COG to boost its members' efforts turn these goals into action, including climate action. Climate actions centers around the groundwork CEEPC has laid out with the region's climate goals and the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. Climate mitigation and resiliency actions in the plan also advance the other regional goals such as increased transit use and fewer solo drivers, and more housing options that use less energy. The COG region is well-positioned and aligned with the Biden administration's priorities to weave equity and climate into infrastructure considerations, as evidenced by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill.

Discussion:

- Housing is a massive challenge in the US and the metropolitan Washington region, especially with regard to affordable housing. Meeting the affordable housing targets that are highlighted in the Region United Framework will likely have a lot to do with zoning. Some of the planning policies developed in the last century may need to be revisited and updated for the current environment. Other tools to achieve these targets will be more tactical such as prefab housing, bonus densities, etc.
- Conversations with regional Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFIs) may be needed to further affordable housing issues at the development level. Incentivizing private and nonprofit developers to focus on this is also critical.
- Fairfax County has changed their goal of 5,000 new affordable housing units by 2034 to 10,000 by 2034. This is a stretch goal, but they are confident that they can get there.

#### **5. 2022 OPPORTUNITIES FOR REGIONAL COLLABORATION ON CLIMATE ACTION**

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

At the March 9 COG Board meeting, the Board expressed interest in supporting three climate action areas they want to support further collaboration on across the region – electric vehicles (EV) and charging stations, renewables, and building efficiency. The Board identified opportunities for collaboration in supporting the acceleration of EV deployment, especially as it relates to the conversion of local government fleets, EV infrastructure planning and the identification of EV charger sites, as well as streamlining zoning and permitting for EV deployment. Another opportunity that the Board identified was expanding renewable energy in the region by committing to 100 percent renewable energy use and local government procurement, deploying solar energy systems on government buildings, and incentivizing and supporting residents and businesses to install solar. Finally, the Board also expressed interest in enhancing building energy performance via the benchmarking of energy consumption for all government buildings, including schools, considering Building Energy Performance Standards (BEPS), and supporting the adoption of the most recent building codes.

Discussion:

- Regional public and private coordination on EV charging stations is tremendously important. There are six jurisdictions that have been very active with regard to EV charging infrastructure plans. We are encouraging and working with other jurisdictions that may follow suit.
- Frederick County just signed their task order for an alternative fuel vehicles task. This is a great opportunity to work with the region as a whole on the transportation piece related to EV infrastructure.
- Coordination with the Northern Virginia Transportation Commission would be a great podium for this work in Virginia.
- The element of land use and smart growth in the region is important. COG's Region United Framework will include aspects of housing that is closer to transit and closer to jobs and optimizing high capacity transit systems and access to those systems.
- COG's Department of Transportation Planning has been working with transit providers and finding ways to support EV infrastructure deployment within the transit system.

**6. ADJOURN**

*Patrick Wojahn, CEEPC Vice Chair*

Vice Chair Wojahn adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2022 include: May 25, July 27, September 28, and November 16.

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/3/23/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>