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## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 19, 2018  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

#### ACPAC MEMBERS (\*VIA PHONE)

Kelsey Crane\*  
Tony Giancola  
Gretchen Goldman, Chair  
Andrew Kambour  
Robin Lewis\*  
Natalie Pien  
Hyon Rah  
Rodney Sobin  
Glenna Tinney  
Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Vice Chair\*  
Sarah Mazur\*

#### STAFF

Amanda Campbell  
Maia Davis  
Tim Masters  
Stephen Walz

#### GUESTS

Rebecca Davis, Clean Air Partners

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair*

The meeting agenda and the January meeting summary was approved with no changes. Everyone introduced themselves.

#### 2. COG SUSTAINABILITY REPORT

*Amanda Campbell, COG Department of Environmental Programs*

COG analyzed its internal operations from a corporate sustainability lens to identify both accomplishments and opportunities for further sustainability improvements. As COG is one-third owner of the Center for Public administration building in which it resides, much of the data analyzed is at the building level. Internal policies and operations were also evaluated. On the plus side, water and electricity use are down after recent building upgrades, and the building has a green roof that absorbs stormwater, conserves energy, and reduces urban heat island. Despite those strides, electricity use intensity is still higher than typical office buildings and the electricity mix is fossil-fuel based. COG has taken some steps to reduce waste but more could be done.

In the coming months, COG plans to form a sustainability plan to reduce our footprint (including

waste, electricity mix, and transportation) and guide the COG Refresh toward sustainable innovations. Improving our environmental sustainability will help us use fiscal and environmental resources more wisely.

Add any questions

### **3. GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY**

*Maia Davis, COG Department of Environmental Programs*

Draft greenhouse gas emissions inventory results for the COG region show that total emissions decreased 10% from 2005 and 2015 despite population growth. Per capita emissions decreased 19% over the period. The Drivers of Change model compared the 2012 inventory to 2015 and found that while weather, population growth, and growth in commercial floor area were responsible for increases in emissions, those increases were largely offset by decreases in vehicle miles traveled, improved on-road vehicle emissions, and a cleaner electricity fuel mix.

The new set of inventories were recalculated using updated methods based on the most accurate information available. Agriculture was added to the inventory at the request of COG member governments. COG relied on the ClearPath greenhouse gas inventory tool except where we had access to more accurate data. HFC calculations are based on national factors since local data is not available. Fugitive natural gas emissions are included in the inventory. Overall, emissions are fairly steady, but more work will be needed to reach the region's goals of 20% reduction by 2020 and 80% by 2050.

Members discussed how despite rising GDP and population, emissions are staying relatively flat. In response to a question about projecting future emissions strategy scenarios, Mr. Walz shared that COG staff modeled greenhouse gas reduction strategies in the Multi-Sector Working Group. Staff may further explore the potential for emissions reductions from land use, transportation, sustainable development scenarios. In a separate initiative, the Region Forward Coalition will discuss revising the region's environmental indicators at their April meeting.

### **4. "WHAT WE CAN DO" TO REACH NO UNHEALTHY AIR DAYS PROJECT**

*Sunil Kumar, COG Department of Environmental Programs*

COG staff developed an initial list of the state and local actions that reduce NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and has analyzed by cost, benefit, and implementation level of effort. The effort will help identify priority focus actions that can be implemented to continue to work towards not only meeting the 2015 ozone standard, but to reach no unhealthy air days. Actions to improve air quality are aimed at point source emissions (electric generating units and non-electric generating units), non-point source emissions (such as demand response, stationary generators, and high performance buildings), on-road mobile sources (travel demand management, heavy duty vehicles, and California emissions standards), and non-road sources (such as anti-idling for construction equipment, marine diesel standards, and aircraft emissions). Mr. Kumar noted that transportation staff is reviewing and updating some of the estimates for emissions reductions from vehicles. Staff will present the draft measures list to MWAQC at their May 23 meeting.

Comments noted the need for an introductory 1-pager for the list, and identifying the ranges for small, medium, and large emissions reductions. Members mentioned that there may be more potential improvements with ground support vehicle reductions than aircraft emissions reductions. Demand Response could also include High Electricity Demand Day curtailment of energy use and

demand management during peak energy use. Electric bus replacement and infrastructure for transit buses could be added, and broader electric vehicle adoption strategies.

## 5. MEMBER TIME

*Andrew Kambour, ACPAC Member*

Mr. Kambour is a senior policy advisor for energy at The Nature Conservancy (TNC). He has been an ACPAC member since 2011, served as vice chair in 2013, and chair in 2014. TNC's mission is to protect nature for people, and climate change is a threat to natural systems. TNC works on changing the narrative around climate change to build support for solutions. Some activities include polling and developing messaging based on poll results, facilitating climate solutions workshops, and supporting renewable energy.

## 6. UPDATES

- Resilience Updates: COG and NVRC formed a team to attend the Institute for Sustainable Communities Climate Leadership Academy training in Pittsburgh, PA mid-April. The training theme is equity and community engagement.
- Environmental Justice Updates:
  - COG's Region Forward Coalition is discussing equity and potentially developing an Equity Framework for the region. The discussion was partially inspired by ACPAC's Environmental Justice Toolkit presentation at the Region Forward Coalition meeting in January 2018.
  - Arlington's E2C2 sent a letter to the County Board asking the Board to review the Environmental Justice Toolkit for applicability to County programs.
- Climate & Energy Leadership Awards, 2018: Due to funding and support staff constraints, ACPAC will discuss and come to consensus regarding any 2019 awards program changes in fall, 2018.

## 7. ADJOURN