

# 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, September 10, 2012  
Room 4/5  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Michael Cakouros, Beverly Fourier, Daniel Lee, Patrick Matos, Brian McFarland, John Reed, Larry Zaragoza

**Staff:** Joan Rohlf, Sunil Kumar, Maia Davis

**Other Attendees:** Diane Franks, Daniel Barry, Mike Sandler

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:31pm. The agenda and minutes from July 16, 2012 were approved with no changes.

## 2. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (Diane Franks, Maryland Department of Environment)

Diane Franks presented on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and the Maryland CO<sub>2</sub> Budget Trading Program. RGGI is a regional cap and trade program focused on reducing carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) emissions from power plants. The original RGGI goal was to show that a cap and trade program for CO<sub>2</sub> was possible and set a goal to offset the growth in emissions and make a 10% reduction. RGGI has been successful in that it has generated almost a billion dollars and provided funding for energy efficiency programs, rebates to ratepayers, energy efficiency projects for the states, bill payment for low income residents and general fund relief. CO<sub>2</sub> emissions are 28% below what was anticipated due to the drop in electricity demand because of the economic downturn and mild weather as well as natural gas prices fell. Therefore, RGGI needs to try and more accurately predict future emission trends in order for the program to have an impact on reducing emissions.

## 3. Final Café Standards (Deron Lovaas, NRVC)

Deron explained how the Obama Administration accelerated Café Standards so that automakers need to increase the average fuel efficiency of new cars and trucks to 54.5 mpg by 2025. This applies across the fleet and includes SUVs. A few car manufacturers were opposed to the new standards. NRDC continues to promote the need for aggressive standards through NRDC blogs and the Go 60 Campaign, which encourages 60 mpg for Café Standards. The group had an interesting discussion about diesel vehicles why the market differs between the US and Europe.

#### **4. Ozone Season Summary (Sunil Kumar, COG DEP Staff)**

Sunil provided a report on the ozone season from April 1, 2012 – September 6, 2012. For peak 8-hour ozone concentrations, the region has experienced 3 code red days, 16 code orange days, 59 code yellow days and 81 code green days. Ozone episode days were caused by high pressure systems that continued for several days, winds coming from the Ohio River Valley, and local production of ozone combined with transport from outside the region. The region is currently in marginal non-attainment for the 3 year 1997 8-hour ozone standard. The region is in attainment for PM2.5.

Sunil also provided a summary of the 2012 temperatures and compared it to historical temperatures. July 2012 was the warmest July on record at Dulles since 1963 and at National since 1946. In Virginia, January - July 2012 average was the warmest on record (since 1895) and 4 of the top 10 warmest Julys occurred after 1990. In Maryland, the January – July 2012 average was the warmest on record (since 1895) and 5 out of the top 10 warmest Julys occurred after 1990.

#### **5. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)**

MWAQC and CEEPC will be meeting on September 27, 2012. MWAQC may be close to resolving the mobile vehicle emissions budgets for the PM2.5 maintenance plan and they will also hear presentations on the ozone season summary and Café Standards. CEEPC will be asked to adopt the Electric Vehicle Readiness Plan for the region and the meeting will include a green purchasing panel discussing the challenges and opportunities for local government green purchasing in today's economy.

#### **6. Member Time (Brian McFarland, Carbonfund.org)**

Carbonfund.org is a climate solutions nonprofit organization that is supported by over 750,000 individuals and more than 2,000 businesses. Carbonfund.org supports approximately 70 projects in more than 30 states and 15 countries. Types of projects supported include renewable energy, energy efficiency, and reforestation/avoided deforestation projects. Brian manages existing projects, ensures they meet and maintain rigorous third party standards, and works to establish large scale conservation projects world-wide.

#### **7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.

<b>Next meeting: October 15, 2012 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5</b>
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