



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 20, 2019  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

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

Tara Failey, Gretchen Goldman, Andrew Kambour, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis, Sarah Mazur, Jacqueline Norris, Guillermo Ortiz, Natalie Pien, Patrick Raheer, Rodney Sobin, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney,\* Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

**COG STAFF:** Doug Abbott, Amanda Campbell, Maia Davis, John Peng, Stephen Walz

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL, MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair*

The agenda was approved. The meeting summary was approved as written.

#### 2. SUSTAINABLE MARYLAND CERTIFIED AND EQUITY PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

*Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager, Sustainable Maryland, University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center*

*Maia Davis, COG Staff*

The Maryland Environmental Finance Center (EFC) is funded through EPA grants. Sustainable Maryland, a municipal sustainability certification program, is one of EFC's ongoing programs, developed in partnership with Maryland Municipal League. To achieve certification, municipalities must pass a resolution, create a Green Team, and develop an Action Plan. Green Team members may include staff from public works, elected officials, and sometimes federal agency representatives. They must achieve a total of 150 points in the following areas: community action, food systems, energy, greenhouse gases, health and wellness, local economies, natural resources, planning and land use, and additional points for innovative demonstration projects. Soon the program will include transportation and historic preservation areas. The EFC provides support to municipalities through webinars, technical assistance, trainings, and policy development.

Now, the EFC is considering how to incorporate equity into the tool. Ms. Davis added that Sustainable Maryland helped address the needs of smaller communities. 74 communities are now participating, and sustainability coordinators are being hired. Speakers asked for feedback in how the Sustainable Maryland could include equity. ACPAC members expressed support for the program, and suggested participation by homeowner's associations and highlighted the need for public outreach and education.

#### 3. DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA 100 RESILIENT CITIES STRATEGY

*Harrison Newton, Executive Office of the Mayor, District of Columbia*

This topic was postponed to July.

#### 4. ACPAC INVOLVEMENT ON FY20 CEEPC WORK PROGRAM AREAS

*Maia Davis and Amanda Campbell, COG Staff*

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Ms. Davis presented an overview of the CEEPC work program, which includes funding for:

1. Climate & Energy Policy Development
2. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee
3. Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency & Renewables
4. Adaptation and Resiliency Planning
5. Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
6. Vehicle Emission Reductions
7. COG Board and Member Support/Work Program Development
8. Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Management
9. Regional Agriculture and Forestry Management

ACPAC will have an opportunity to provide input on the 2030 Climate & Energy Action Plan update, electric vehicle initiatives, comment letters, and encouraging jurisdictions to participate in regional initiatives such as the energy-efficient streetlights program. Members will also be able to provide feedback on aspects of the Coastal Storm Risk Management Study and COG next steps on climate adaptation. Other upcoming initiatives include the COG Sustainability Report publication, Smart Regions, and COG-wide Region Forward environmental indicators development, as well as other COG projects as they arise.

ACPAC members discussed ways of integrating equity in policies implemented across sectors, increasing electric vehicle adoption, considering sustainable investment strategies, integrating biodiversity and pollinator protection into climate resilience, and protection of public lands.

## **5. MEMBER TIME**

*Guillermo Ortiz, Center for American Progress*

Through his research and his work at the Center for American Progress, Mr. Ortiz has observed the need for governments to more seriously consider the costs of inaction to climate change, and that in many cases, costs are borne disproportionately by low-income, minority groups. One of his projects involves analyzing the impacts of gentrification of the higher elevation lands in Miami, and another involves the analyzing effects of climate change on affordable housing and the homeless. Due to climate change and increased flooding, domestic displacement within and among US communities is already occurring. Members discussed the challenges of rebuilding better rather than rebuilding to the same standards. New York City's resilient design initiative helped identify new standards, but often there is an issue with resource disparities.

ACPAC members discussed optimizing insurance price signals,

## **6. AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE AND ENERGY PROJECT UPDATES**

- So far this ozone season we have observed 11 code yellow days in April and 4 in May. Download and share the [Clean Air Partners Air Quality app](#) and stay informed.
- Please promote the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards! Open for applications April 22-June 29. If you know a local government, NGO, or educational institution that is doing good work on climate & energy, nominate them (ex. email Maia or Amanda).
- Please see CEEPC handout for additional Climate & Energy project updates, on the topics of: LED streetlighting, diesel emissions grants for repowering switcher locomotives and marine passenger vessels, tree canopy workgroup formation, DC electric circulator buses, and more.

## **7. ADJOURN. THE NEXT ACPAC MEETING IS MAY 20.**