

Energy Advisory Committee
Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC

June 21, 2012 DRAFT Meeting Highlights
Held at COG Headquarters

Attendance

Olayinka Kolawole (Chair), District Department of the Environment
John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools
Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
Emil King, District Department of the Environment
Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church
Eric Coffman, Montgomery County
Rachel Healy, WMATA
Jeffrey Bond, Prince George's County
Amjad Ali Awan, District Department of the Environment

Said Said, Prince William County (teleconference)
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County (teleconference)
Larisa Dobrianski, Global Energy Network (teleconference)
Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County (teleconference)
Le, Phuong, Fairfax County (teleconference)
Sarah Cosby, Dominion (teleconference)
Luisa Robles, Greenbelt (teleconference)

Staff

Julia Allman, DEP
Leah Boggs, DEP
Maia Davis, DEP
Jeff King, DEP
Joan Rolfs, DEP

Call to order (Olayinka Kolawole)

- The meeting was called to order at 10:00am.

Approval of May 17, 2012 Meeting Summary

- The meeting summary was approved.

District of Columbia "Green UP DC" (Emil King, DDOE)

- Emil King, Policy Analyst at the Energy Administration for DDOE, provided an overview of two online tools, Green UP DC and Green Dashboard.
- Green UP DC (www.Greenup.dc.gov) is an interactive web tool for energy and stormwater mitigation planning. It allows users to look up a property on a GIS-based map and explore various energy conservation, electricity generation, and stormwater management options available based on characteristics of the property. The tool provides an estimate of project

costs, an estimate of the value of energy produced, and information on applicable fees, discounts, and incentives. Users may also view information about installed projects and connect with services to implement their project.

- Green Dashboard (www.Greendashboard.dc.gov) is a central resource showing the District's performance on a number of sustainability measures. The site explains various metrics, provides comparisons with other cities, demonstrates the interaction between various goals, and contains interactive and social media features.

Small Scale Solar Group Purchases for Local Governments (Tyler Espinoza, Optony Inc.)

- Tyler Espinoza shared lessons learned from recent collective purchasing projects in San Francisco. Optony, a solar project consultancy, was involved in two group purchasing efforts, Solar@Work and Solar@School.
- Solar@Work involved small to medium sized businesses, as a pilot project to reach the underserved commercial market. It focused only on owner-occupied buildings. A key lesson from this project was that businesses want hard numbers when being approached for participation. Thus, it can be important to assemble a preliminary RFP in order to engage participants. The project successfully engaged 70 sites for a total of 1.7MW potential. Participants received a 20% group purchase discount through the process.
- The Solar@School project focused on private schools, which do not benefit from the cheap hydropower provided to San Francisco Public Schools, but as non-profits, do not have a tax appetite for tax incentives. This project recruited participants before an RFP was issued. Challenges to the project included coordinating schools' capital planning cycles and roofing maintenance timelines, and some schools saw the offered PPA escalators as too risky. The project ultimately negotiated for 400-500 MW potential at 4 schools, with a 32% savings.

Dominion Solar Incentives (Sarah Cosby, Dominion Virginia Power)

- Dominion has proposed two solar incentive projects to the Virginia State Corporation Commission, which are awaiting approval.
- The first is a company-owned project, which would lease roof space from participating customers to install 30 MW of solar capacity. The ruling is expected in November 2012.
- The second is a customer-owned solar power purchase. Participating customers would be offered a fixed-price contract for five years at \$0.15 per kwh. The project would be funded through the existing Green Power Purchase Program, through which customers elect to pay a premium to invest in renewable projects. The Program has enough funding to pay for 3 MWs of combined installation for 5 years. A ruling is expected in the 4th quarter of 2012.

CEEPC Sustainable Outreach Program (Maia Davis, COG)

- Golin Harris, the consultant hired to assist in development of the Outreach program, will release a messaging concept at the June 21 meeting. The concept is based in part on a survey conducted in the Baltimore area on sustainability behaviors and attitudes. It found that individual action is important to the public but green and climate-related messaging doesn't always work. Messages about children and future generations and about health are needed to support the message. The program also needs to incorporate a call to action, that incites action beyond what is already being done.

Environmental Resources Workplan (Joan Rolfs)

- The yearly workplan outlines goals and activities for various projects in the COG's Environmental Resources Program. The program is funded by the Regional Environmental Fund and supplemented by COG membership dues. A briefing was provided on elements of the Energy and Technical Analysis section of the Workplan, which relates to the EAC. Topics for the coming year include: critical infrastructure, energy assurance, community energy planning, efficiency finance, and collaborative partnerships.

Round Table Exchange (All)

- COG will be holding a workshop on financing efficiency retrofits on July 30th, which will discuss commercial PACE, QECBs, clean energy bonds, and other innovative finance mechanisms.
- DOE has announce a new effort to reduce the cost of solar, called "America's Most Affordable Rooftop." Teams must deploy at least 5,000 systems costing between \$2 and \$3 per watt. However, while local governments cannot lead teams, they and COG may assist in the efforts.
- The Virginia Sustainable Building Network will be holding its annual meeting on June 28, which will highlight Sustainable Community Initiatives, including the self-sufficient island of Samsø in Denmark.
- Montgomery County has released a report on its commercial and multifamily building survey and corresponding policy development package. The report is available for public review and comments are welcomed.
- Information from COG's recent climate impacts symposium is available on the climate impacts and adaptation page of COG's website.
- The DC Council is currently considering three energy-related bills: a) Community Renewables Energy Act, establishing community net metering; b) the Energy Innovation and Savings Act, which includes a provision for exempting EV charging station operators from public utility regulation; and c) the Mayor's Sustainable DC omnibus bill. Additionally, the DC PSC is considering its EV Tariff Rate Case.
- The Regional Clean Energy Collaborative is a collaboration with the EPA Green Power Partnerships program to implement a collective solar purchase in the DC region. Four agencies are involved. DC and MD will be involved, but the economics for sites in VA are not feasible. The project will go to bid this summer. DCPS is working on a separate project with NREL for a 4 MW project.
- Greenbelt has completed its EECBC-funded street lighting program.

Adjournment and Next Meeting Date

- The next meeting will be a joint meeting with the Intergovernmental Green Building Council, a panel on sustainable community planning and equitable development through green building, on July 12.