

## **Energy Advisory Committee**

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

### **March 15, 2012 DRAFT Meeting Highlights Held at COG Headquarters**

#### **Attendance**

Olayinka Kolowole, DDOE  
Christopher White, National Solar Power Partners  
Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt  
Jerome Paige, Jerome S. Paige Associates  
Greg Billings, Fairfax County  
Phuong Le, Fairfax County  
Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County  
Bill Topper, Military District of Washington  
Christopher Hill, Army Corps of Engineers  
Patti Lovelady, Consultant for DC Government  
Jeannine Altavilla, Arlington County  
John Morrill, Arlington County  
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria  
Annette Osso, VSBN  
Eboni Wimbush, JCI  
George Barnes, JCI  
Jeff Bond, Prince George's County  
Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools  
Lisa Orr (teleconference)  
Eric Coffman (teleconference)  
Sarah Cosby (teleconference)

#### Staff

Joan Rohlfs  
Leah Boggs  
Julia Allman  
Amanda Campbell  
Maia Davis

#### **Call to Order** (Olayinka Kolawole)

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

### **Approval of February 21, 2012 Meeting Summary**

- Meeting summary was approved.

### **PJM Demand Response** (Walid Daniel, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy; and George Barnes, EnergyConnect )

- Demand Response is a system to incentivize end use customers to modify electricity consumption in response to price signals. Many people are familiar with the so-called “capacity” programs that pay customers for reducing consumption in rare occurrences of grid emergency. EnergyConnect also offers a program that provides opportunities around-the-clock opportunities for governments, companies, and organizations to be compensated for load reductions. Municipalities interested in participating should email Walid Daniel at [Walid.Daniel@dmme.virginia.gov](mailto:Walid.Daniel@dmme.virginia.gov).
- Key recent program changes include: (1) the requirement that EnergyConnect post credit for the capacity reductions they will meet; (2) prices per megawatt have dropped significantly, from \$40,000 per MW to \$6,000 in 2012 and \$10,000 in 2013; and (3) all participants are now required to have advanced metering to allow remote monitoring of their electricity load.
- Municipalities commonly achieve peak energy reductions by switching to generation from alternative fuel sources, implementing small temperature changes in HVAC systems, or by shutting off equipment. Participants may set price levels at which their demand response participation will be “triggered,” and can be notified by text, email, phone, etc.

### **Natural Gas Reverse Auction** (Patricia Lovelady, Consultant for District of Columbia)

- Patricia Lovelady provided an update on the natural gas reverse auction in the DC region. The last auction took place in 2007, and the DC government was the lead on the contract. Currently, the region is seeing a 10 year low in gas prices, and several jurisdictions are interested in going back into market, even though the current contract doesn't expire until the end of the year. Requests for utility usage have been sent out, and the IFB will go to jurisdictions for review. The solicitation could be complete by April 15, with an auction after May 25. Anyone interested in viewing a draft of the IFB should contact Patricia at [Patricia.Lovelady@dc.gov](mailto:Patricia.Lovelady@dc.gov).
- Loudoun County voiced its positive experience with 3<sup>rd</sup> party supply through the auction, and noted that energy managers who are interested should work with their procurement officers to ensure they are on-board.

### **Local Energy Assurance Planning** (George Hagerman, Virginia Tech)

- Virginia Beach received a stimulus grant of \$20,000 to conduct energy assurance planning. It was the only city in Virginia to receive the grant; a total of 45 cities across the country were awarded funding. Virginia Tech was sub-contracted to assist in planning efforts.
- The objective of Virginia Beach's draft Local Energy Assurance Plan (LEAP) is to enhance communication and coordination to prepare for and respond to energy disruptions, including continuing essential services during a disruption and restoring service as quickly as possible. However, a challenge of energy assurance planning is that local governments are limited in their

ability to ensure energy security and stability, because infrastructure is controlled by private companies.

- Important planning activities include: assessing local heating load demand, cooling load demand, energy supply infrastructure and relevant threats; ensuring resilience of water pump stations; planning for communication backup, paying particular attention to radio stations as critical facilities; identifying critical street intersections and planning for traffic signal outages; and fuel route planning.
- Discussion:
  - Q: Are any local jurisdictions involved in energy assurance planning?
  - A: DC had a 2000 plan, and acquired ARRA funding for a 2011 update. Issues for the District include: energy restoration, Critical infrastructure, pumping plants, moving forward on resiliency. The sustainability plan, currently in development in the Office of Planning, will be an important piece. Arlington is currently developing a plan as well.
  - Q: What has your experience been working with emergency responders and managers?
  - A: They're very focused on critical intersections, because managing intersections takes personnel away from other pressing tasks. It is a challenge working across departments to coordinate generators. Each department has their own fleet, and are resistant to change even through greater uniformity would make maintenance and deployment more efficient. There have also been some challenges working with wireless providers in emergency communication planning.

#### **State Legislative Update (Julia Allman, MWCOG)**

- DC: COG is tracking the Community Renewables Energy Act of 2012, introduced to City Council on March 6. This bill enables energy customers to subscribe to Community Energy Generating Facilities, thereby receiving the benefits of net metering without installing energy generation in their own home. It removes remaining barriers to solar PV adoption in the District.
- Virginia: COG submitted a letter of support for HB 129, authorizing Power Purchase Agreements between customer-generators and third-party owners of renewable energy net metering systems. The bill failed to move past the Senate committee, and was continued to the 2013 session.
- Maryland: MWCOG is currently tracking a number of pieces of legislation in the MD General Assembly that have been heard in committee and are awaiting further action.

#### **CEEPC Workplan (Maia Davis, MWCOG)**

- Maia Davis requested comments on the CEEPC draft progress report, and reviewed some of the comments received.
- Goal: Local governments and utilities should partner to create smart grids. Some jurisdictions commented that this was unlikely to be achieved.
  - Comments: make sure to define smart grids and smart metering distinctly.
- Goal: Local governments have performance energy contracts in at least one municipal building.

- Comments: Some municipalities see it as too restrictive. Performance energy contracts are one of many available tools; whether or not a municipality chooses to use them should not reflect upon their progress toward energy efficiency goals. use of
- PECS work at scale to be cost effective – smaller jurisdictions may not have a big enough portfolio to be able to utilize them effectively.
- Other comments:
  - Employment data is important to include - employment sites are big drivers of energy use, both in heating/cooling and transportation.
  - Include definitions for goals, e.g. Green Building Challenge

#### **ROUND TABLE** (all participants)

- **MWCOG:**
  - The next Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) meeting will be held March 28 from 9:30 to 11:45am. The meeting is open to the public.
  - The next EV Working Group Meeting will be held on March 29.
  - Any suggestions for speakers or topics for EAC should be directed to Leah Boggs, Olayinka Kolawole, or Bill Eger.
- **Greenbelt** is starting a streetlight pilot project, converting lights to LED and induction technology, to collect performance data.
- **Jerome Paige** – finalizing energy assurance plan for DDOE
- **George Barnes** – To participate in demand response, contact George Barnes or Walid Daniel.
- **Loudon County Public Schools** will be receiving a Sustained Excellence Award from EPA.
- **Army Corps of Engineers** has been participating in tabletop EAP exercises; open for questions.
- **Patti Lovelady** - Contact Patti for a copy of the draft IFB.

#### **Next Meeting and Adjournment**

- The next meeting will be held on April 19.
- The meeting was adjourned at 11:55am.