

Energy Advisory Committee

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

October 18, 2012 DRAFT Meeting Highlights

Held at COG Headquarters

Attendance:

Olayinka Kolawole, Chair, DDOE
Bob Jennings, Westridge Energy
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
Dr. Sam Hancock, Emerald Planet/Emerald Planet TV
James Peeples, DC Biofuels
Steve Walz, NVRC
Bill Topper, JFHQ NCR/MDW
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
Jeff Bond, Prince George's County
Garrick Augustus, Fairfax County
Rachel Healy, WMATA

Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County (teleconference)
Luisa Robles, Greenbelt (teleconference)
Patti Lovelady, Consultant (teleconference)
Sarah Cosby, Dominion (teleconference)
Lisa Orr, Frederick County (teleconference)

Staff

Julia Allman
Leah Boggs
Maia Davis
Jeff King
Joan Rohlf

Call to Order (Olayinka Kolawole)

- The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Approval of September 30, 2012 Meeting Summary

- The meeting summary was approved.

Virginia Energy Activities (Steve Walz, NVRC)

- Mr. Walz provided an update on the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC), The Governor's Conference on Energy, and the state alternative fuel vehicle contracts.
- VAEEC (www.vaeec.org) is an information-providing group of energy stakeholders including ESCOs, utilities, government representatives, and efficiency program administrators, established

in 2011 to help develop policies to be considered by the General Assembly and through regulatory processes. Current issues include providing education and outreach, developing policy options for commercial PACE or pace-type programs, advancing benchmarking programs in local governments, and promoting energy efficiency in SIPs. The council met on October 2 to establish organizational bylaws and elect a 12-person board. The next meeting date has not yet been set, but will probably take place around the time of that the VA General Assembly convenes.

- The Virginia Governor's Energy Conference included pre-conference session on energy efficiency and Alternative Fuel Vehicle contracts. The major focus of the conference was production of energy supply and how to support jobs. Other topics included global and domestic markets, utility regulation, the electricity market re-regulation process, and national policy for energy security.
- Governor McDonnell announced state PPA contracts for alternative fuel vehicles, to get state fleets to convert to alternative fuels. The contracts will be open to local, private, and military fleets to help get purchases to scale. Providers include CNG and propane. All contracts are full-service, including fueling, maintenance, and vehicle conversion. NVRC will be hosting meetings on November 6 at 9am and 10am with the vendors and with Cathy France from DMME.

DC Biofuels (Jim Peebles)

- Mr. Peebles provided an overview of DC Biofuel's business model and the environmental benefits of using biofuels from waste fats.
- DC Biofuels was established 4 years ago. The company is currently in the early stages of groundbreaking on their plant in Northeast DC, and will be in production within a year. DC Biofuels will use recycled fats, oils, and greases (FOGs) from the local restaurant industry as feedstock for a biodiesel that will be blended with ultra-low-sulfur diesel fuel as well as an additive to reduce NOx emissions to produce a B20 diesel fuel. It can be used with any existing diesel engine without the need for additional equipment or retrofitting.
- The supply chain will be within a 50 to 75-mile radius of the processing plant to reduce transportation costs. The company will support up to 75 green collar jobs in the DC area, including plant operations and contracted FOG collectors.
- Biodiesel from FOGs is the cleanest, greenest available transportation fuel. Over 100 years, it can reduce emissions by 80% over conventional fuels, compared to 40% for corn ethanol. FOG biodiesel reduces the waste stream going into the sewer and waste systems, and the feedstock does not compete with the food supply.
- The DC Biofuels plant will be designed to use little energy and have a minimal waste stream. They are pursuing CHP and/or solar to reduce grid energy use at the plant. All water used will be cleaned before being returned to the water treatment system.

Discussion –

- What currently happens to FOG?
 - There are multiple collectors; some is poured into the water treatment system, some is purified into commodity products such as pet food, fertilizers, and cosmetics.
- Will contracts specify that collectors are appropriately registered (in Virginia, through the Department of Agriculture)?

- Yes—problems with FOG theft and contract disputes are common.
- Have you come across concerns about voiding a warrantee, or other manufacturer concerns over use of biodiesel fuels in engines?
 - All heavy duty diesel engine manufacturers accept up to 20% biodiesel, and generally fuel of any kind is not covered for engine damage.
- Are you working with schools?
 - DC Biofuels is not currently pursuing school contracts, but we are interested in working with them.

Energy Conservation through Sub-Metering (Bob Jennings, Westridge Energy)

- Mr. Jennings discussed how sub-metering technology can help businesses, governments, and other organizations save energy.
- Sub-metering helps identify and eliminate energy waste by providing real-time energy monitoring information. It can be used to verify utility charging accuracy, enable participation in demand response programs, reduce maintenance costs, take advantage of utility rates and reduce demand charges, and promote employee awareness of energy use.
- Among six pilot projects in the region, all paid for themselves within six months. Total energy reductions can be 15% or more. Local organizations with active submetering programs include: GSA, Virginia state agencies, the Department of Defense, Walmart, Virginia Tech, and Washington and Lee University.
- Mr. Jennings provided an overview of data collection technology and monitoring “dashboards” that are used to manage energy information.

Discussion –

- Historically, there has been a push for proprietary systems. Is that what you are seeing now?
 - The industry is moving toward non-proprietary technology and software.

CEEP 2013-2016 Climate Action Workplan (Maia Davis, COG)

- Ms. Davis noted that a taskforce has been appointed to review the climate workplan. She provided the full list of draft goals for EAC’s review. The Energy Efficiency section has been revised, and an Energy Finance section has been added. Comments from EAC members are due to Maia by October 26.

Roundtable (All)

- Jeff Bonds, Prince George’s County – The Department of Environmental Resources is separating its permits/inspections and sustainability offices. An outside contractor is being recruited to run the sustainability department, and the reorganization will be completed by January 1.
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County– The county was awarded a platinum award form VML.
- Patti Lovelady, contractor for natural gas reverse auction – 6 jurisdictions will be participating initially on the reverse auction; 8 more couldn’t get form/approval in time, and will ride the contract after it is awarded. Other jurisdictions interested in participating can get in touch.
- Lisa Orr, Frederick County – The county received a grant through the Maryland Be Smart program to participate in the Greenhouse Challenge. They will complete comprehensive audits

and energy efficiency improvements to residential and rental properties. They have completed installation of a solar thermal unit on the adult detention center. The Solarize Frederick County program is taking off, which will provide volume purchasing of solar.

- Sam Hancock, Emerald Planet TV - Emerald Planet recently received the Water Environment Federation International 2012 Schlenz Public Education Award.
- Jeff King, COG DEP – COG is pursuing an energy security/DOD collaboration, as well as commercial/governmental building retrofit finance at scale. MWAQC is investigating possibilities to integrate energy efficiency in SIPs. COG has applied for a grant through the FEMA Community Resilience Challenge.
- Rachel Healy, WMATA – WMATA is participating in the Solar Collaborative Purchase. DC Schools might be joining. Currently they are working on an MOU with Greenbelt, Montgomery County, and GWU. There may be a second round to participate – the timeline is not developed yet but jurisdictions interested should get in touch. Additionally, WMATA's first LEED Bus facility opened in September.
- Bill Eger, Alexandria – Alexandria also received the VML Platinum award. The GenOn coal power plant closed on September 30th. It is still in the decommissioning phase, and the future use is yet to be determined. The City recently finished a 40 kW PV system on Beatly Central Library, which was designed by Michael Graves. It is a demonstration of integrating high end architecture and renewable energy.
- Leah Boggs, COG DEP – The EV Report was recently finalized, with presentations given to the CAO group, CEEPC, and TPB. A press release was issued and the Washington Post covered the report. Phase Two is developing a business case, and encouraging more private sector involvement in the partnership.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

- Next meeting date is November 15, 2012.