

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, December 15, 2014

Room 4/5

5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC Members: Bill Butler, Eric Goplerud, John Howes, Andrew Kambour, Chuck Kooshian, Maggie Shober, Glenna Tinney

Staff: Steve Walz, Maia Davis

Guest Speakers: Karen Akerlof, GMU Center for Climate Communication

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda (Andrew Kambour, Chair)

The draft agenda and November meeting summary were approved without changes.

2. Public Opinions on Climate Change in Maryland and Virginia (Karen Akerlof, GMU Center for Climate Communication)

George Mason University's Center for Climate Communication works on both national and local research on public opinions on climate change. The most recent national polls show that 63% of Americans believe climate change is occurring but only 49% believe it's mostly caused by humans. Similar Maryland and Virginia studies show that over 70% believe climate change is occurring. Over half of Americans believe agriculture, health, coastlines, and water supplies will be affected. Seventy-three percent of Marylanders support state and local government action to protect communities against climate change. The highest level of support is for policies for more efficient lighting, appliances, and vehicles; local agriculture production and consumption; and requiring energy suppliers to provide 20% of their total electricity from renewable energy sources.

Karen responded to several questions from the group and talked about how to get involved in the process. The national studies that GMU conducts in coordination with Yale asks respondents about "global warming" but more recent local studies by GMU ask about "climate change" instead. Part of the reason for the difference is because it was the preference of the Climate Communication Consortium of Maryland. This is the group that GMU works with to develop surveys and reports related to public opinions on climate change. GMU is working with stakeholders in Virginia to form a similar group that would advise a similar series of updated surveys and reports in Virginia. ACPAC members were encouraged to participate or connect them with stakeholders that want to participate in the process. GMU's local surveys have asked about the willingness to spend more for renewable energy and some members were interested in knowing more about the impact the Renewable Portfolio Standards has had on public opinions and if GMU could get a better sense of how much more the public is willing to

pay for renewables. There was also interest in making a connection between public opinions and federal budget prioritization (fossil fuel vs energy efficiency and renewable energy).

3. Multi-Sector Working Group (Steve Walz, COG Director of Environmental Programs)

In October 2014, MWAQC and CEEPC jointly passed a resolution asking COG to establish a greenhouse gas (GHG) multi-sector professional working group. The purpose of the group will be to evaluate strategies to quantify GHG reductions and costs, estimate the implementation timeframe, and explore establishing attainable GHG reduction targets for all sectors. The COG Board, Transportation Planning Board, MWAQC and CEEPC will all provide oversight to the workgroup and ACPAC input will be sought throughout the process. The outcomes will be to produce a What Can We Do report that includes viable, multi-sector GHG reduction strategies and a report on the exploration of GHG reduction targets for transportation and other sectors.

4. ACPAC 2015 (Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs)

ACPAC got the first official viewing of the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program video. CEEPC approved the continuation of the awards program into 2015; therefore, ACPAC task force will help with the expansion of the program in 2015 and serve as the judging panel again.

The White House recently announced COG and its members as White House Climate Action Champions (CAC)! This will open up opportunities for federal technical assistance, give COG preference for grant opportunities, and a Climate Champions Training Initiative will launch. ACPAC will be asked to provide ideas and feedback as this our CAC gets underway in 2015.

EPA is proposing new Ozone standards and will open up a comment period in early 2015. ACPAC members will be asked to consider if and what position the committee wants to take on the proposed standards. ACPAC members were provided a fact sheet to review before the January ACPAC meeting where they will have a full presentation on the implications of tighter standards on the region.

New member recruitment is underway and there are several openings to fill on the committee for 2015. Staff prepared an ACPAC Recruitment Marketing Kit and has been reaching out and asking our members, partners, etc to help us reach out and recruit new members. ACPAC was encouraged to use the materials from the Kit to reach out to their affiliations.

ACPAC meeting dates for 2015 were provided and members were asked to mark their calendars! Members began sharing ideas of topics they would like to address in 2015 and that conversation will continue in the New Year. Some of the topic ideas discussed thus far includes:

- DOE quadrennial energy review
- Communication and outreach
- Public health concerns related to climate change and air quality
- Oberlin College and City Energy Dashboard and other public facing energy information and public involvement

- NASA resiliency updates
- Maryland Net Zero Schools and how schools are engaging kids
- Demand response and building automation
- MEA dashboard and smart investment map
- 111D – State targets and Supreme Court case briefing

Andrew Kambour announced that he will not be seeking re-election as chair but does plan to continue participating with the committee in 2015. Andrew K., John H, and Eric G. will participate on the nominating committee and will announce their slate for 2015 elections at least 10 days prior elections, which will take place February 9, 2015.

Next meeting: January 12, 2014 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm