



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT VIRTUAL MEETING SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 17, 2021

CEEP MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Deni Taveras, Prince George's County
- Hon. Mary Cheh, District of Columbia
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Hon. Del Pepper, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
- Hon. Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- Andrea Crooms, Prince George's County
- Ira Dorfman, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Susan Gerson, LCPS
- Kim Goddu-Alexander, Bethesda Green
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Ben Grumbles, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
- Rachel Healy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Kate Johnson, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Su Ly, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies

- Jim Ponticello, VDOT
- Matt Ries, DC Water
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University (GMU)
- Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC
- Luke Wisniewski, MDE

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Mary Abe, Prince George's County
- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County
- Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie
- Carlos Camacho, Montgomery County
- Jonathan Cohen, U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)
- Dennis Cumbie, Loudoun County
- Emily Curley, Montgomery County
- Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County
- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
- Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria
- Asa Foss, EPA
- Claudia Glen, WMATA
- Kathie Hoekstra, City of Alexandria
- Allison Homer, Fairfax County
- Larissa Johnson, Montgomery County
- Mavis Kubi, Prince George's County
- Gina Mathias, Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee Chair
- Meghan McMillen, Community Housing Partners
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Helen Reinecke-Wilt, Arlington County
- Nicole Rentz, District of Columbia
- Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
- Renee White, Prince George's County

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

- Katie Dyer, COG Environmental Programs
- Lyn Erickson, COG Transportation Planning
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Kanti Srikanth, Deputy Executive Director Metropolitan Planning
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Deni Taveras, CEEPC Chair

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Dani Taveras called the November CEEPC webinar meeting to order. The September CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

Gina Mathias, BEEAC Chair

- BEEAC will not be meeting this month, as members were invited to join the CEEPC meeting. BEEAC's interest in today's agenda on the technical and operational implications of transitioning to all electric commercial and residential buildings.
- BEEAC is focused on identifying new committee leadership going into 2022. They will be working to identify a new chair and two vice chairs for 2022.
- Through BEEAC's engagement with the New Buildings Institute (NBI), COG signed on to a request for technical assistance from the US Department of Energy (DOE). DOE provides technical assistance to help states and jurisdictions adopt, implement, and enforce their residential and commercial building energy codes. The technical assistance request is for an evaluation of several building scenarios such as all-electric scenarios for residential and commercial buildings and will include an analysis of energy savings and cost impacts associated with code adoption.
- BEEAC's next full committee meeting will be February 17, 2022.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Guillermo Ortiz, ACPAC Chair

- ACPAC met on November 15.
- Over the next the two months, the committee will be focused on new member recruitment and nominating new committee leadership for 2022. There are three members cycling out of the committee at the end of January 2022. That includes Chair Ortiz and two other members – one DC representative and one other member from Virginia. The committee would appreciate any support in getting the word out. COG staff has developed a recruitment kit with outreach language that can be used.
- Regarding 2022 committee leadership, the nominating subcommittee will present their nominees for the new Chair and Vice Chair in January and a vote will take place that meeting.
- At the last meeting, ACPAC heard from George Mason University's Carbon Neutrality Task Force and GMU's energy and climate action planning process to reach the 2050 goal. The committee found this presentation particularly interesting as COG is now in the implementation phase of the regional 2030 plan. ACPAC is interested in unpacking the relationship dynamic between the

university and the larger community, how their footprint directly impacts the communities where they are located and how COG can leverage that relationship to support communities working on solutions to unique environmental issues. In future meetings, ACPAC hopes to hear from other universities in the region.

- At the November meeting, ACPAC also had a preliminary discussion on priorities for 2022. These will align with the CEEPC and MWAQC priorities.
- The next meeting is January 24, 2022.

C. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

Ira Dorfman, GWRCCC

- Ira Dorfman is transitioning to a new position; a principal of a company developing battery electric technology for locomotives. Antoine Thompson will be filling Ira's role at GWRCCC. Antoine was the former Executive Director of the National Association of Real Estate Brokers. He is also a resident of Prince George's County since 2016. He is a recognized leader for environmental justice and green business. He has also had a significant public service career.

D. CEEPC Member and Staff Updates

Kate Johnson, DOEE

- DOEE recently finalized the rules for the District's [Building Energy Performance Standards](#) (BEPS). A summary of the BEPS rules from DC's Building Innovation Hub can be found [here](#).

Marc Aveni, Loudoun County

- The Environmental Commission of Loudoun County, a citizen-led commission appointed by the Board of Supervisors, is having a virtual public input session tonight to hear from residents and businesses in Loudoun County regarding energy, sustainability, natural resource conservation, environmental justice, public engagement, and government.

Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County

- Montgomery County released the [Q1 Update](#) to their FY22 Climate Work Plan in late October.
- The County also released an interactive infographic based on the What Can I Do section of their Climate Action Plan (CAP), which can be downloaded [here](#).

Carlos Camacho, Montgomery County

- Yesterday, the Montgomery County Council introduced [Bill 44-21](#) Montgomery County Green Bank - Funding - Fuel-Energy Tax Revenue, which sets forth a way for Montgomery County to leverage private sector investment in support of the County's clean energy and climate mitigation goals by dedicating 10 percent of the County Energy Tax revenues, nearly \$20 million annually, to the Montgomery County Green Bank.

Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville

- The City of Rockville released their draft [CAP](#) for public comment through to December 3.

Deni Taveras, Prince George's County

- Prince George's County has their draft [CAP](#) out for public comment until December 1, as well as a [survey](#) that is accompanying it. There will be some public meetings including in-person meetings every night this week, and then there will be virtual meetings every Tuesday through the end of the month. There will also be two Spanish language meetings on November 29 and 30.

Shannon Moore, Frederick County

- Frederick County has been working on various climate and energy action tasks and recently kicked off their work with COG and ICF. They have begun the process of developing a local government operations (LGO) greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory for 2018. They will be working on a GHG mitigation plan, as well as a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and climate resilience strategy.
- The County is working internally on a residential electric vehicle (EV) readiness ordinance, similar to that of the City of Gaithersburg. This will be taken to the County Council in mid-December.

Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

- COG staff have started to draft the Climate and Energy Legislative Priorities for 2022. The priorities will be shared with the CEEPC Legislative Committee for feedback. The language will look similar to [past years](#), but COG staff did some reorganizing and streamlining, as well as editing the text to more directly align with the regional 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan that was adopted at the end of last year. Equity was more fully integrated into each of those priorities. For those interested in participating in the CEEPC Legislative Committee in 2022, please contact COG staff by December 1.
- President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) into law on Monday, November 16. COG staff have produced a memo (posted under the November CEEPC [meeting materials](#)) with preliminary findings with regard to the funding opportunities. The details of these programs have not been finalized and what has been identified could change. For those that want more details on the broader transportation funding, there is a similar memo posted to the Transportation Planning Board's [meeting documents](#) for their meeting this afternoon.

3. FAIRFAX COUNTY COMMUNITY-WIDE ENERGY AND CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Matthew Meyers, Fairfax County

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County

Fairfax County developed the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) to provide goals for greenhouse emission reduction, as well as recommendations for action by the community. The final CECAP report accepted by the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors on September 14, 2021. Fairfax County is now transitioning to implementation of CECAP. Fairfax County's Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) was established in July 2019 and has two major areas of focus regarding its climate planning: Resilient Fairfax and CECAP. CECAP is largely focused on climate change mitigation, while Resilient Fairfax focuses on climate adaptation and resilience. CECAP is a community planning process focused on greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, which was undertaken in partnership with COG and ICF.

CECAP is an entirely community driven process. Members of the community made up the decision-making body, the Working Group. OEEC had participation from all areas of the county including residents, advocacy groups, industry, businesses, and a variety of different interests. The Working Group members determined an overall CECAP goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The interim goals include a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030, and a 75 percent reduction by 2040. In total, the Working Group established 12 different strategies to support these goals, 37 actions and over 270 specific recommendations for action. The county is taking the over 270 recommendations put forward by the Working Group and looking at how they can prioritize them into an annual workplan, which will be tied to funding. The county will continue to prioritize community engagement as they move forward in this process.

Discussion:

- During the planning process, Fairfax County had an inbox specifically for feedback. This is still active and community feedback is encouraged.
- The county continues its planning for long-term implementation, but thereafter staff will take the final report with prioritized actions to the public for feedback. The county is also considering a variety of different ways to coordinate engagement with community members. This includes in person meetings, as well as virtual meetings. The county has a robust newsletter and website, which are used to actively keep the public involved in the planning process.
- It is always a challenge to reach everyone, especially in a diverse community, and in a community as large as Fairfax County. Community outreach efforts were further hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. The original scope of the CECAP process was to do specific engagement in different communities within Fairfax County. Much of this was scrapped with the pandemic, and the move was made to make all meetings virtual. When having online meetings, many people who do not have reliable internet are cut off, and meeting timing can also be an issue.
- The county found that the demographics of the CECAP surveys did not reflect all of Fairfax County. The county has recognized that this is a major concern going forward. Once pandemic restrictions are further relaxed, the county plans to have both virtual and in person outreach. OEEC has also been working with other agencies like Family Services, Neighborhood and Community Services, and the Health Department to establish a network and engage with the community.
- One Fairfax is an equity framework for decision making in Fairfax County and OEEC is following this framework to reach out to low to moderate income families and looking to incentivize building energy efficiency measures and renewable energy deployment.
- The county is facing some challenges with expanding rooftop solar in the community. Without a large number of office buildings and county facilities, the solar companies are not willing to lower costs. This is an area that the county will be looking at more closely.

4. RESIDENTIAL ENERGY EFFICIENCY PANEL

Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs, facilitated a discussion with local, regional and national experts in energy efficiency. Panelists highlighted their work to enhance residential energy efficiency implementation and discussed the challenges and opportunities around advancing equity, health, engagement, and workforce development.

Jonathan Cohen, US Department of Energy

The US DOE has the [Better Buildings Residential](#) Network, which connects energy efficiency programs and partners to share best practices and learn from one another to increase the number of homes that are energy efficient. Membership is open to organizations committed to accelerating the pace of home energy upgrades. DOE also developed a [Health + Energy Efficiency infographic](#) that can be used by residential energy efficiency programs and partners as a visual aid from a trusted source to engage with residential homeowners and renters.

DOE is also working toward the current administration's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion, which is centered around a concept called Justice40. This means 40 percent of the overall benefits of certain federal investments should go to disadvantaged communities. The HVAC Smart Diagnostic

Tools Campaign is another area of focus at DOE. This tool helps to identify potential faults in HVAC equipment to ensure that it is operating efficiently. Diversity, equity and inclusion in the field of energy efficiency still present challenges. Having a stakeholder engagement approach and policy for outreach that sets goals and reaches diverse communities is important. Communicating these issues also presents challenges.

Asa Foss, US Environmental Protection Agency

EPA's ENERGY STAR residential branch proposed significant updates to the Residential New Construction Program and just concluded a stakeholder feedback period. One proposed update is a new certification that will provide an additional level of recognition for homes and apartments that builds on the core of ENERGY STAR for New Homes certification. It includes new electrification features for heat pumps, water heaters, induction cooktop and electric oven, and EV charging capability. This program will be finalized in early 2022.

EPA has tools to quantify avoided emissions and the associated public health benefit. Specifically, these tools are AVOIDed Emissions and geneRation Tool (AVERT), CO-Benefits Risk Assessment Health Impacts Screening and Mapping Tool (COBRA), and Health Benefits per Kilowatt-hour (BPK). Local jurisdictions, contractors and consultants can use these to model and quantify specific health benefits of potential programs and interventions. The EPA also has Environmental Justice Screening and Mapping Tool (EJSCREEN) that maps underserved communities. Combining these tools can allow the user to quantify emission and health benefits to very specific targeted communities.

Meghan McMillen, Community Housing Partners

Community Housing Partners (CHP) provides several different [programs](#) for low to moderate income families throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia. CHP is the largest provider for the Federal Weatherization Assistance Program in Virginia and the tenth largest in the nation. The weatherization services are provided to homeowners and renters of single family and multifamily housing. CHP receives approximately \$8 million in federal funds each year for this program. The program provides a site-specific energy audit followed by implementation measures such as adding attic insulation, heating systems, LED lighting, HVAC upgrades, showerhead upgrades, as well as health and safety measures.

As a part of the Weatherization Assistance Program, CHP recently received funding for a new program starting in July of 2021, called the Weatherization Deferral Program. In Virginia, this program is funded through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) funds. The program is designed to reduce weatherization deferrals. CHP found that they were deferring approximately 30 percent of all applicants due to housing issues, such as roofs needing replacement, or other structural repairs that they were not able to address with the federal funds. CHP has around \$10 million to \$12 million of the weatherization deferral funds available for these applicants each year.

Larissa Johnson, Montgomery County

Montgomery County has been fortunate to receive Pepco-Exelon merger funding. This funding has enabled the county to create [Montgomery Energy Connection](#). This is a website that provides information on anything energy-related. The county brought together a number of stakeholders to figure out what exactly people want when it comes to energy. The average American thinks about electricity for nine minutes per year. The top two reasons for this is usually when their electricity bill is high or when the electricity goes out. With Montgomery Energy Connections, the county aims to encourage people to think about their electricity, especially considering the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals that have been set forth by Montgomery County. Currently, the website is more

catered to residential energy consumers, but the county plans to integrate multifamily and commercial consumption information into the website too. Residents can enter their zip code, household size, income level, and the website can then provide information on the programs that residents are eligible for. The EmPOWER Maryland program is a big focus for the county, which they promote at outreach events. Their quick home energy checkup provides residents with an opportunity to receive LED lightbulbs, high efficiency shower heads and faucets, aerators, and things of that nature at no additional cost because it's a surcharge on their utility bill. The website also has videos called Home Energy Hacks.

The racial equity component is integral to this work. Montgomery County has been conducting greater outreach in this area as it relates to energy efficiency. One of the greatest challenges is that energy is not an important issue to most people. The second challenge is how energy is discussed; relating energy use to things that people can connect to and how it fits into everyday life. And lastly, the cost of making energy improvements is also a challenge. Emphasizing the connection between health and energy when undertaking community outreach is very important.

Discussion:

- Some jurisdictions have had difficulty trying to combine programs to make home improvements. This is a key interest. [One Touch](#) is a program that seeks to break down the silo barriers across multiple programs, as there are often a number of programs trying to reach similar constituencies. By planning in advance, one form can be developed and used for outreach by multiple agencies to provide the information they each need. Oftentimes, low-income homes need some work before the energy efficiency work can be done, yet those programs do not necessarily have the funds to be able to do that repair work. Thus, there is a need for funding from multiple sources to achieve their common goals.
- Another example is Montgomery County's Department of Environmental Programs partnering with their Fire Department who were installing smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors to also do home energy check-ups. CHP is a partner with an organization called [Unite Us](#), which has recently set up networks in Virginia and they now have a Northern Virginia network. It is a referral-based program, and it covers everything from housing to healthcare.

5. ADJOURN

Deni Taveras, CEEPC Chair

Chair Deni Taveras announced that Koran Saines, Loudoun County, will be the new CEEPC Chair next year. Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park, and Mary Cheh, District of Columbia, will serve as Vice Chairs. Chair Deni Taveras adjourned the meeting. CEEPC meeting dates for 2022 include: January 20 or 26, March 23, May 25, July 27, September 28, and November 16.

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the MWCOG website or by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/11/17/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>