



Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

MEETING SUMMARY: JANUARY 23, 2019

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

*Indicates participation by phone

- Hon. Dan Sze, City of Falls Church (CEEPC Chair)
- Hon. Mary Cheh, District of Columbia (CEEPC Vice Chair)
- Hon. Patty Bubar, Montgomery County
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Penelope Gross, Fairfax County*
- Hon. Erik Gutshall, Arlington County
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County*
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Ira Dorfman, GWRCCC
- Stan Edwards, Montgomery County*
- Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC
- Rachel Healy, WMATA
- Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt*
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Del Pepper, City of Alexandria*
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Nicole Rentz, District of Columbia
- Chris Rice, MEA
- John Settles, Capital Sustainability
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University*
- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club
- Deni Taveras, Prince George's County*
- Hilari Varnadore, USGBC
- Luke Wisniewski, MDE*
- Edward Yim, DOEE

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES

- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria*
- John Fiastro, MEA
- Gary Greening, MDOT*
- Deb Harris, ICF
- Mike Lake, Fairfax County Department of Transportation*
- Chad Laurent, Cadmus Group*
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Dale Medearis, NVRC
- Hannah Perry, Sunrise Movement
- Bill Prindle, ICF*

- Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County Department of Transportation*

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Stuart Freudberg, COG Deputy Executive Director
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs (Director)



1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, CHAIR'S REMARKS, APPROVE MEETING SUMMARY

Dan Sze, CEEPC Chair

The new CEEPC Chair, Dan Sze, called the meeting to order. The November 20 CEEPC meeting summary was approved. CEEPC's top three priorities the coming year include 1) support for legislation that promotes increases in solar power, 2) tree canopy expansion, and 3) transportation electrification.

2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

BEEAC Chair Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park

- On November 16, 2018, COG hosted the Montgomery County Greenbank's Thinking Local: A Follow-Up to the "Benefits of a Green Bank for your Community" workshop.
- On November 27, 2018, BEEAC hosted COG's first Regional Schools Roundtable on Energy. The purpose of the roundtable was to 1) learn about the activities of area schools related to building energy efficiency, 2) understand how those activities fit in within COG's climate and energy planning, and 3) discuss the potential role COG could play in supporting area schools. As school boards are not members of COG, it presents some challenges for school representatives to participate in COG meetings on a regular basis. Getting long term buy-in from school boards was a suggested approach. In the interim, attendees saw value in the roundtable and were interested in meeting again in the spring to discuss next steps.
- BEEAC conducted its fourth annual priorities survey. The priorities identified for CY2019 are: 1) Energy Efficiency, 2) Energy Resiliency & Climate Adaptation, 3) High Performance Building Technologies, 4) Grid Infrastructure, 5) Energy Financing, and 6) Technical Assistance for Clean Energy Technology Projects.
- Over the past few months, BEEAC has covered several topics including achieving net positive building, aggregating building energy needs through cooperative purchasing and the state of transportation electrification in the region.
- Working in collaboration with the cooperative purchase staff, COG's Department of Environmental Programs is looking for ways to facilitate greater opportunity for members to take advantage of alliances, rider clauses, and contracting services, especially regarding the built environment and with a focus on increased efficiency and sustainability. COG has achieved this through the new contract vehicle awarded to ICF and Cadmus for climate program support services.
- COG staff will also be looking at updating the COG 2012 EV Report.
- The next meeting is March 21, which will focus on grid infrastructure.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Amanda Campbell, COG

- Gretchen Goldman served as ACPAC Chair for the past two years and is now leaving this role. A new chair will be elected in February.
- ACPAC's priorities this year include organizing the annual Climate and Energy Leadership Awards and continuing to reduce air pollution to meet air quality standards. The committee supports equity in air quality and energy policy implementation. ACPAC also supports setting a 2030 greenhouse gas goal for the region.

C. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

Ira Dorfman, GWRCCC

- GWRCCC helped promote an electric school bus event last week in Alexandria. Electric buses face a number of challenges regarding their adoption. GWRCCC wants to raise more

awareness for electric school buses and is looking for opportunities to aggregate purchasing and battery leasing. They intend to organize another event on school buses in the spring.

- GWRCCC has made efforts to promote other alternative fuels as well. However, schools are more interested in electrification at the moment.
- The circulator buses are looking to expand their EV fleet and will be having a workshop in the coming months.
- Federal Highway Administration has a clean corridor program to designate highways for alternative fuel vehicles. Maryland and Virginia have participated in this work.
- The Washington DC Auto Show will take place April 5 to April 12. There will be an indoor EV test track and a number of workshops related to EVs.
- GWRCCC is working with the Department of For-Hire Vehicles and utilities to address concerns over EV charging stations for taxi fleets.
- GWRCC continues to look for opportunities for natural gas, propane food trucks, biodiesel ferries on the Potomac River, etc.

D. Member and Staff Updates

Hilari Varnadore, USGBC

- The LEED for Cities program has put out a call for volunteers on the USGBC website for anyone interested in working on city and community programs. LEED for Cities and Communities will be launching in April.

3. 2019 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

Mary Cheh, District of Columbia

The Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018 was passed last year, which increases the RPS to 100 percent by 2032, establishes a solar energy standard post 2032 and standards for electricity suppliers regarding renewable energy purchases. It also removes restrictions on energy efficiency measures, expands the functions of the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund, establishes an energy performance standard program for buildings at DOEE, and authorizes Mayor to commit the District to participation in regional greenhouse gas emission reducing programs. Additionally, it authorizes the DMV to issue regulations tying the vehicle excise tax to fuel efficiency. The Sustainable Energy Trust Fund fee is imposed on electric and gas customers. This has been increased, although low-income groups are given exemption. The fees will fully fund DC's green bank, help low-income groups pay their energy bills, and expand workforce development initiatives. The green bank is also expected to offer loans for building energy efficiency upgrades to meet emissions targets. There are further issues (for example, slight funding shortfalls for the RPS aspect of the bill) that need to be addressed, but these will be dealt with moving forward.

Hannah Perry, Sunrise Movement

The Sunrise Movement recently came to prominence when the group occupied the office of Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi to demand action on climate change. Sunrise Movement is a youth organization that advocates for action on climate change. The group has mostly focused on federal initiatives until recently and now also look at local state and community-level issues. The group is also part of the No Fossil Fuel Money Coalition. They also support the Green New Deal, as prescribed by US Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. The Green New Deal has three main pillars: 1) 100 percent renewable energy in the next ten years, 2) a just transition for disadvantaged communities into a renewable energy-powered economy, and 3) centering justice and equity so that all have an equal voice. The Sunrise Movement were unsuccessful in their attempt to have a select committee on a Green New Deal established, while advocating at the sit-in of Speaker Pelosi's office. Sunrise Movement intends to continue advocating for a Green New Deal through public outreach events.

Tim Masters, COG

COG's Board adopted 2019's Climate and Energy Legislative Priorities on January 9. The priorities include supporting deployment of clean energy innovation and technology, expanding clean energy finance, enhancing energy security and resilience, supporting policies that preserve and protect regional air quality and public health, and supporting policies to meet the region's climate goals. These have remained unchanged from 2018, except for the last priority, which was added as a means to take a position on legislative or regulatory changes that impact the region's climate goals. COG's Climate and Energy Legislative Committee will take actions in support of or opposition to pieces of legislation in the District, Maryland, and Virginia based on these priorities. As discussed earlier, the District recently passed the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018. In Maryland, the Legislative Committee will be watching the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which would expand the RPS to 50 percent by 2030, as well as the Clean Cars Act of 2019, which would expand the vehicle excise tax credit for appropriate vehicles. A community solar bill is also expected, as well as an expanded polystyrene ban, and a green amendment to the constitution. In Virginia, a few bills have already been filed. There are two net metering proposals expected to come out of the Rubin Group, as well as two solar bills; the Solar Freedom Bill and another solar bill from Delegate Tran. Finally, at the national level, the Committee will be watching actions related to the Green New Deal; a comprehensive proposal to deal with climate change and income inequality.

Discussion:

- Localities wanting to adopt a resolution relating to a Green New Deal cannot currently get a template resolution from organizations like the Sunrise Movement; however, Sunrise Movement is working to produce this type of local-level advocacy.
- Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) financing was not factored into the DC Clean Energy Omnibus Amendment Act. Also, the Standard Offer Service (SOS) provision did not go through because it was tied to long-term contracts and the objection was that if utilities are tied into long-term contracts it opens them to substantial risk. This is debatable. The electricity service cost includes a surcharge/fee, which is consumption based. The increase that is added in the bill is intended to decline over time in proportion to the increases to the RPS (for electricity and gas, although it stays higher for gas).

4. CLIMATE AND ENERGY CONTRACT RESOURCE

Jeff King, COG

COG members have expressed interest in climate action planning, which is why COG has partnered with Cadmus and ICF to provide a new contract vehicle for climate program support services. Both contracts have COG's rider clause. The scope of work includes three main tasks: 1) providing greenhouse gas inventory support, 2) providing climate mitigation and sustainability program planning and support, and 3) providing adaptation and resiliency services. The contracts end on June 30, 2020 but includes the possibility of a 2-year extension. The tasks have been broadly defined, allowing for any number of projects relating to sustainable transportation, energy and resource planning, high performance building design, strategic electrification, and building programs.

Deb Harris, ICF

ICF provides a range of services to local governments, including greenhouse gas inventorying (that are GBC compliant), as well as trend analysis, mitigation and sustainability support, modelling services, adaptation and resiliency services across multiple sectors, and community outreach and communications. Recently, ICF assisted Arlington County with their community energy plan. ICF also worked with Montgomery County to do an in-depth analysis of their commercial buildings in support of the County's climate action plan goal to reduce energy use by 25 percent in the existing building stock over 10 years. ICF has had an integrative mix of work in the Philadelphia area that covers a lot of the scope related to the COG contract. This work scaled state level work to regional level work down to the Philadelphia County and City jurisdiction itself. The climate action plan that ICF worked

on will be published in February and includes resilience, adaptation and mitigation strategies.

Chad Laurent, Cadmus Group

Cadmus does a lot of work with local governments and understand how to bring global and state best practices to local projects in their local context, as it relates to utility territory and state regulations. Cadmus often works with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and foundations that support those networks to help develop best practices and to convene stakeholder meetings. Cadmus recently worked on a US Department of Energy (DOE) solar project, partnering with ten other regional planning organizations including COG, to develop best practices around solar soft cost reduction. Cadmus leads the SolSmart program for DOE. Cadmus is currently working with DC to develop a strategic implementation plan for Climate Ready DC. This is a five-year process in which Cadmus is providing funding and finance recommendations, put together resilient design guidelines, and provide technical assistance. Cadmus also recently completed a project in King County, Washington. Cadmus developed a plan for the County to reach 100 percent renewable energy (their goal is 90 percent by 2030). Similarly, Cadmus has worked to drive renewable energy forward in Virginia. Cadmus has worked with ICF on a number of projects and they work well together.

Discussion:

- Both contracts and a Statement of Intent can be found on COG's [website](#). A template for the request of task order proposals has not been released yet, but this will be made available to member jurisdictions, which will make the contract process easier.

5. TREE CANOPY COMMITTEE

Brian LeCouteur, COG

A CEEPC priority for 2019 is to support efforts to preserve and expand the region's tree canopy. The Regional Tree Canopy Work Group released a strategy for this last year. The purpose of the strategy was to build commitment to the development of a regional tree canopy management plan for COG's member jurisdictions. The Work Group's recommendation is to establish a policy subcommittee under CEEPC to look at regional urban forestry issues and support COG's Region Forward vision. CEEPC has a resolution before it today to endorse the establishment of this subcommittee. This would be brought to the COG Board, if approved. The subcommittee would be charged with protecting, managing and expanding urban forestry assets for public health and quality of life, optimizing urban forest programs, developing a regional forest action plan and tree canopy goals, inspiring communities to take ownership in expanding regional tree canopy cover, and integrating urban forestry with the Region Forward priorities of sustainability, livability, affordability, and accessibility.

Discussion:

- Arlington County has had a vigorous, ongoing discussion about the intersection of stormwater management and tree canopy preservation. The City of Takoma Park has had similar discussions as well. This relationship needs to be addressed moving forward. The subcommittee would include experts in both urban forestry issues, as well as water quality issues. The subcommittee would also look at Chesapeake Bay policies and see the interaction between stormwater management practices and urban forestry management.
- Other air and water quality committee members will be invited to participate in the subcommittee as well.
- Resolution addition: "and meeting Chesapeake Bay water quality goals." was added to the end of the last paragraph of the resolution.
- The motion to establish a tree canopy subcommittee was passed successfully. This will be taken to the COG Board in February.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 4, 2019, as a special event at the Washington Auto Show.