



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Meeting Summary: September 19, 2019

BEEAC Members In Attendance:

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (Chair)
Emil King, District of Columbia (Co-Vice Chair)
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria (Co-Vice Chair)
Jen Hatch, District of Columbia
Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
Tyra Cobb-Davis, Chesapeake Conservation Corps
Joan Kelsch, Arlington County
Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria
Dale Medearis, NVRC
Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County
Adriana Hochberg, Montgomery County

Additional Attendees:

Elizabeth Vasatka (City of Boulder)*
Dean Fisher, Maryland Energy Administration

COG Staff:

Jeff King, COG DEP
Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP
Doug Abbot, COG DEP

* Indicates participation by webinar.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (BEEAC Chair)
Chair Gina Mathias called the meeting to order.

2. APPROVAL OF JULY 18, 2019 DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (BEEAC Chair)

The July 18 meeting summary was approved.

3. COG ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Maia Davis, COG

- *For the 2018 energy utility, all jurisdictions will receive a link to review the 2018 energy utility data including working final of COG's analysis. The data will be used for GHG calculations. If no concerns, will move forward with current numbers.*

- *As the update for 2018 inventory is underway, COG staff is also redoing the inventories with e-grid (Emissions & Generation Resource Integrated Database) for 2015 which will produce more accurate and comparable numbers across years.*
- *Transportation modelers are rerunning all years of on-road emission calculations and is near completion. The same version of the MOVES model is being used across all years to determine what effect previous models had. This will be done this every few years moving forward for more accurate and comparable results across the years.*
- *COG staff is also working on other pieces of data collection for 2018 inventories.*
- *The 2030 Action Plan is kicking off development September 2019. The region is being supported by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM). At the July 26th CEEPC meeting, members will be asked to be a regional signatory to GCoM. Subsequently, a plan will be developed following best practices and guidance and report progress every two years.*
- *Instead of the regular BEEAC & CEEPC meetings in November, there will be a two-day workshop on November 20-21 to begin discussions around plans.*
- *GCoM consultants are supporting us by conducting research related to best practices, EVs, green buildings, etc. All results of the November workshop will be shared but governments can ask Maia Davis for data and notify her of issues in advance.*

4. JURISDICTION UPDATES AND PEER EXCHANGE ROUNDTABLE

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park

- Takoma Park is working on their new sustainability and climate action plan, which they contracted with Cadmus (through COG's contract). Resiliency will be included in this plan, although it will not be something that a lot of attention is given to, as the deadline for this plan is very soon (December 31).
- Takoma Park Had a climate planning workshop on September 17th, attended by 50 people. Staff will go through feedback and give it to Cadmus who is doing the climate action plan for the City. They will provide priority strategies identified through this process.
- A Takoma Park business owner is opening the country's first full conversion gas station – removed gas chargers and putting in 4 fast chargers. The station is expected to the week of September 23rd.
- Regarding LMI programs, the City uses MEA's program. The City needs to put up supplemental funding to get homes into good enough shape to utilize MEA's program funding. The is an organization formed in the county to manage the grant which took pressure off of city staff. The City also has awarded grants for LMI multifamily buildings to help with a variety of projects. They've partnered with New Ecology on a [new program](#).

Joan Kelsch, Arlington County

- The County's plan to be carbon neutral by 2050 is going to the county board on September 21st. They are also asking for a change to high density and offset renewable generation.

- September 2019, the governor set a goal for goal to produce 100 percent of electricity from carbon-free sources by 2050 and 30% of energy being renewable by 2030.
- On affordable housing, the County offers green building incentive program to affordable housing. However, it's also noted that single-family homeowners also have difficulty in greening their homes. Small incentives don't allow them to get what they need. Privacy is also an issue. The County is working with nonprofits, but they don't have money to do big projects. Dominion is potentially going to have some money to support.

Kate Walker, City of Falls Church

- The City has a tax relief program that allowed a way in for them to do a targeted mailing about weatherization services. The City doesn't have Not many low-income programs or homeowners.
- The City has 8 EV chargers at City Hall through Electrify America. Charging is currently free charge, costing about \$200/month for all 8 chargers.
- The City is still working on updating the Natural Resources & Environment part of the city plan but should be approved by January 2020.

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County

- The County achieved LEED certification and collaborated with COG staff.
- The County has participated in MEA's LMI program for 7 years which has helped build relationships through word of mouth. Work with senior services division on this as well.

Ellen Edgerton, City of Alexandria

- The City updated and adopted the environmental action plan, Eco-City Alexandria. They reached out to community and had a high-level of involvement. In this process, they covered a lot of topics including buildings, energy, climate change, water, transport and health. The metrics are being updated on the dashboard and they are working to increase number of metrics they're tracking. They are also updating their GHG inventory.
- Through the Eco-City Academy, they are increasing community engagement where residents can come for evenings to learn about the plan. Residents are ambassadors for the plan.
- The City is are committed to buying more EVs for fleet and having an EV charging strategy for the city. The City is working with VA Clean Cities to set up EV ride and drive event. Fleet services is also bringing in EV models for city employees to try as they transition fleet to 100% electric.
- The City is updating green building policy, including affordable housing. They are having challenges with specifics of getting state funding due to upfront vs lifecycle costs.
- Outreach to LMI Communities: Go to entire apartment buildings at one time. Make an arrangement with complex so they notify residents in advance.
- During Energy Awareness Month, the City will proclaim October Energy Awareness Month. A LEED representative will come in to do a DIY home energy audit.

Emil King, District of Columbia

- In August, Revel launched electric scooters in DC. This bridges the gap between push scooters and electric cars, which is the key to scaling electric vehicles.

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County

- The County is finalizing the contract to begin work on their Climate Action Plan (CAP)
- LMI is a big piece of their CAP. Emphasis will be placed on reaching out to marginalized

communities. Any residential person that comes through the process must meet sustainability requirements. One Fairfax policy is looking at working through an equity lens.

Adriana Hochberg, Montgomery County

- The County launched a planning process in July to meet ambitious goals.
- Staffing work groups, 3 of which started meeting this summer, 2 will meet this fall. After workgroup process will they seek technical support to get all the way to goals. Taking action in the meantime including implementing a building energy performance standard, announcing legislation this fall and convening a task force of experts.
- LMI: The County has a variety of programs including weatherization & others. One will be focused on providing public outreach for families (Home Energy). They are kicking off a community engagement grant with the faith community in Montgomery County which is pilot with grantees around key messages about the climate crisis. Once different members of faith communities are trained, they can spread the word to their conversations.
- On September 21 Poolesville, MD is having an EV event that will be the largest on the east coast and 4th largest in the world. There will be 200+ EVs and a parade. It is organized by the city and a nonprofit called Poolesville Green.

THE NEXUS BETWEEN ENERGY EFFICIENCY, PUBLIC POLICY, AND INVESTMENT IMPACT ON LMI COMMUNITIES

Dean Fisher, MEA: Clean Energy Communities: LMI Program Overview & Lessons Learned

- The program focuses only Energy Efficiency – not renewables.
- Helpful to work with nonprofits, faith-based orgs, etc. as they can often get further into LMI communities than govt. Also helps to build program infrastructure.
- EE measures are reimbursed through a simple payback.
- Program pays for itself in energy (electricity, natural gas, etc.) savings.
- Uses Building Performance Institute standards

Elizabeth Vasatka, City of Boulder, CO: SmartRegs

- [SmartRegs](#): Rental License Energy Efficiency Program
- Community Engagement: Long public process with working groups, public forums, financial case studies.
- Compromise with rental property owners (who were opposed): 8-year compliance timeline.
- City decided to provide many services to avoid having to deal with enforcing regs on thousands of uncompliant properties after 2018 deadline.
- In effect, this is a social equity program because renters can be a vulnerable population.
- RMI report provides a good analysis of the policy.

Emil King, DOEE: Fostering Energy Equity Through Solar Deployment

- Potential issue: Many renters in multifamily buildings don't receive an electricity bill
- Project Value so far:
 - Teaching DOEE how to direct residents to services
 - Teaching utilities how to interconnect projects
 - Learning how to get commercial spaces to give up their roof space to benefit people elsewhere in the city (popular so far)

- Individual homes: residents can see benefits and can be ambassadors in their communities

5. NEXT BEEAC MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Gina Mathias adjourned the meeting.

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/9/19/built-environment-and-energy-advisory-committee-beeac/>

The next meeting BEEAC and CEEPC meeting is a two-day workshop, November 20-21.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)