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**AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)**

September 16, 2024  
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Webinar information provided to members via email.

Chair: Julie Kimmel

**DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY**

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Stacey Garfinkle, Matthew Gravatt, Julie Kimmel, Jack Lyman, Ian Marcus, William Marsh, Era Pandya, Deborah Shprentz, Herb Simmens, Chris Tandy, James Wang, William Washburn,

**ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:** George Aburn, Joseph Jakuta (DC DOEE)

**COG STAFF:** Laura Bachle, Leah Boggs, Robert Christopher, Maia Davis, Jeff King

**5:30 P.M. 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Julie Kimmel, Chair*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Kimmel.

Announcements

Leah Boggs provided an update on ACPAC's memos sent to CEEPC and MWAQC. Between March and May, ACPAC developed the framing and content of the memos. The memos were finalized at ACPAC's May meeting and included in the meeting packets of the May 22 CEEPC and MWAQC meetings. The CEEPC memo was also sent to the Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) where no comments were received. The MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) provided comments at the July meeting and was sent to MWAQC for review. At the September meetings, CEEPC will discuss a potential response and MWAQC will look review MWAQC TAC's response memo for possible approval.

Herb Simmens asked about next steps after the policy level review. ACPAC can respond to MWAQC TAC's memo after it's expected approval at the September meeting. CEEPC has not developed a written response; however, it is expected that COG staff will be directed to formulate a written response. COG Staff also reached out to CEEPC members with questions for them to consider and discuss at the September CEEPC meeting. Regional climate goals are adopted at the COG Board level and typically take 9 months to set the goals and measures. Feedback from COG stakeholders indicates focus on implementation and applying for infrastructure funding.

The GHG emissions inventory item on the September ACPAC agenda is a response to one of the nine recommendations on the CEEPC memo.

Quorum and Meeting Summary Approval

The meeting had a quorum and there were no amendments to the agenda. The July meeting summary was approved.

5:40 P.M.      **2. STAFF UPDATES: CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN PROCESS AND MWAQC EJ SUBCOMMITTEE**

*Maia Davis, COG Staff*

*Robert Christopher, COG Staff*

CPRG CCAP Update

EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) is a program under the Inflation Reduction Act to fund the development of state and MSA-scaled regional climate action plans as well as award climate action implementation grants. There are 2 plans under the program, the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP). The PCAP focuses on short term actions in priority sectors and the CCAP expands on the PCAP and focuses on long term actions across all sectors and includes an equity benefits analysis and workforce development analysis.

COG was identified as the lead for the MSA plans in for the DC metropolitan region. Starting in 2023 to spring of this year, COG developed a PCAP which was due March 2024. Overlapping with that, COG developed applications to support regional implementation of climate action and submitted 2 applications that each requested \$97-98 million in implementation funds. COG was not awarded either grant.

COG has kicked off the CCAP process, the last phase of CPRG, and expects to complete it in the next year. The first step of the CCAP is an engagement strategy. Per EPA's guidance for the CCAP, COG will project emissions out to 2050 and analyze what it will take to get to zero emissions by 2050. Key items to brought to stakeholders include:

- Analysis of the measures and get input on the measures,
- Get input on the low-income disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) benefit analysis, and
- Get input on the workforce development analysis,

ACPAC was asked:

- Does ACPAC want to provide direct input on the key CCAP topics (input on measures, LIDAC and workforce analyses)?
- ACPAC member interest in participating in discussions at the local government sustainability commission level as part of COG's CPRG outreach.
- ACPAC members to share ideas, organizations, contacts of who COG should engage with by the next week.

MWAQC EJ Subcommittee Update

The MWAQC EJ Subcommittee kicked off in May 2024 and meets monthly. The first round of meetings focused on the consultant's (AECOM), stakeholder engagement plan. The plan was approved by the subcommittee and the virtual listening sessions started in September. The process has received robust input from members of the public related air monitoring, emission sources, control measures and hyper-local monitoring. EmpowerDC and the NAACP-Fairfax Chapter are among the organizations that have provided input.

Discussion/Comments

- Member James Wang asked if outreach for the CPRG and the EJ Subcommittee processes will be combined.
  - There has been some related discussion. There is some overlap in the community stakeholders that will be engaged.

- Staff will send a follow-up related to CPRG.

### 6:25 PM      3. COG GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORIES AND METHODOLOGY

*Maia Davis, ACPAC Chair*

*ACPAC Members*

This item is a response to Action #9 listed on the May 22, 2024 ACPAC Memo to CEEPC, “In the periodic compiling and reporting of GHG emissions, continuously examine, whether the region is on track to meeting its climate goals, and push for course corrections as necessary.” Maia Davis discussed the methodological process that COG performs in the development of local and regional community-scale greenhouse gas inventories for the region.

#### Presentation Summary

- The roles and responsibilities of CEEPC, COG, and our state and local members are:
  - CEEPC serves as a policy advisory committee to the COG Board.
  - CEEPC cannot establish policy on behalf of the Council of Governments.
  - CEEPC can respond to requests from and make recommendations to the COG Board of Directors.
  - The COG Board of Directors cannot set or make policy for local governments. State and local governments have that authority.
  - CEEPC can also ask for additions or enhancements to annual work program activities.
  - CEEPC can urge state and local members to consider adopting policies or instituting new programs.
- The COG region surpassed the 2020 goal of 20% reductions below 2005 emissions.
- The COG region has a future goal of 80% reductions by 2050 and an interim goal of 50% reductions by 2030 (approved by the COG Board in 2020).
- The Inventory Methodology process:
  - Develop relevant, robust sets of inventories that strive for completeness, consistency, accuracy, replicability, transparency, and quality control.
  - Support COG’s CEEPC and member local governments track progress towards GHG emission reduction goals
  - Support decision-making around policies and programs that support emission reduction
  - Meet U.S. and Global Protocol Standards
- Main emission types in the region:
  - Built environment
  - Solid waste treatment (not required in USCP)
  - Agriculture (not required in USCP and GCP)
  - Forest and trees outside of forest (not required in USCP and GCP)
  - Transportation and mobile
  - Process and fugitive.
- The data for these areas is analyzed for all 24 COG member governments, as some member governments don’t have the staff to support conducting the analysis. This makes the analysis consistent across the board.
- Carbon sequestration from forest and trees removal is the only “net” emissions included and account for 6% offset (in 2020).
- Only gross numbers are reported and note, the net emissions from sequestration.
- Between 2005-2020, 17.5 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent emissions have been reduced.
- COG partnered with ICLEI to look at the drivers of emission reductions which include:
  - Cleaner grid

- Decrease in VMT
- Increase in clean cars
- Contributors to increased emissions:
  - Growth and population
  - Increased commercial development
- All 24 COG member governments met the 20% reductions by 2020 goal except:
  - Loudoun County (up by 54% due to data centers): in the SRVC eGRID GHG subregion region (per EPA)
  - Prince William County (up by 6% due to data centers): in the SRVC eGRID GHG sub region (per EPA)
  - DC and MD are in the RFCE eGRID GHG subregion (per EPA)
- Between 2005-2012, significant drops in both eGRID subregions are due to the switch from coal to natural gas.
- Grid-connected renewables as of 2022 are approximately 72,000 solar installations.
- Decreases in electricity and natural gas consumption are needed to meet regional long term goals.
- Commercial electricity trends are decreased in DC and MD and increase in VA (due to data centers).
- Commercial natural gas trends increase in MD due to 5 natural gas plants approved by the State.
- Net GHG emissions for the region is the gross GHG emissions minus the carbon sequestration from forest and trees removal.
- COG's GHG inventory is based on location based renewable energy credit (REC) reporting, not market-based reporting that include purchase power agreements (PPAs).
- For timeline for the 2023 GHG inventory analysis depends on when the data is received, which is expected in Spring and early Summer 2025.

#### Discussion/Comments

- What is the source of increased GHG emission reductions from forest and trees?
  - Sources are aging trees providing more tree cover and loss of trees slowing down.
- Can the inventory and analysis process happen more frequently?
  - The current process takes 2 years.
  - Analysis for transportation emissions is performed more frequently.
    - COG wants to move towards measurements rather than model transportation numbers.
- COG also has electricity and natural gas trends for the residential sector.
- As part of the CCAP process, COG Staff is working to get accurate information from data centers.

#### **7:30 P.M. 4. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN HYPERLOCAL COMMUNITY MONITORING** *Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy and Environment*

Joseph Jakuta from the District Department of Energy and Environment briefed members on the DC's local air quality sensors and mobile monitoring initiative.

#### Presentation Summary

- DC has 6 locations in its ambient air quality network:
  - Takoma Recreation Center
  - McMillan Reservoir
  - River Terrace Education Campus
  - Anacostia Freeway Near-Road Station
  - King Greenleaf Recreation Center

- Ward 8 Site
- To assess ambient air quality in overburdened communities in DC, DOEE is:
  - Reorienting and expanding the regulatory network
  - Community-scale hyperlocal air monitoring to identify hot-spots
  - Community Involvement
- Communities with residential areas next to industrial areas are disproportionately exposed.
- Use of Aclima Mobile Monitoring:
  - Mobile mapping and analysis to generate maps that show typical pollution concentrations with high spatial resolution.
  - Use 1 second data point measurements
  - June 2023 Aclima Pilot
    - Conducted two weeks of hyperlocal mobile air quality measurement across 3 neighborhoods: Mayfair, Ivy City/Brentwood, and Buzzard Point (5 census tracts total).
    - Measurement included: Carbon dioxide, fine particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, carbon monoxide, ozone, black carbon, methane, and TVOCs.
  - Phase 2: August – September 2024
    - 6 weeks instead of 2 weeks
    - Geography expanded from 2.26 to 30.33 sq mi
    - Results expected winter 2024-2025

#### Discussion/Comments

- The monitoring information would be useful to have for a workshop focused on environmental issues at Martha's Table on September 28.
  - ACPAC Member William Washburn will provide information to Joseph Jakuta.

#### **7:30 P.M. 5. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN**

The next meeting is November 18, 2024. Chair Julie Kimmel adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

Meeting Documents:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/9/16/air-and-climate-policy-advisory-committee/>

