

Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee

Meeting Summary December 18, 2014

Attendees:

Joan Kelsch, Arlington County (Co-chair)
Emil King, District Department of the Environment (Co-chair)
Jeanne Altavilla, Arlington County
Kate Johnson, District Department of the Environment (by phone)
Ellen Eggerton, Fairfax County (by phone)
Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools (by phone)
Bob Lazaro, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (by phone)
Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County (by phone)
Said Said, Prince William County (by phone)
Garrett Moore, VA Department of Transportation (by phone)
Tim Stevens, VA Sierra Club
John Orlando, eCyclingUSA / VenturSum
San Hancock, Emerald Planet (by phone)
Augustus Garrick, Fairfax County (by phone)

COG Staff in Attendance:

Steve Walz, COG DEP Director
Steve Bieber, COG DEP
Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Amanda Campbell, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG DEP

Welcome and Call to Order, Co-chairs

The co-chairs called the meeting to order. The meeting summary from November was approved with no changes.

Energy Emergency Exercise – Jeff King and Steve Bieber, COG DEP

Under HUD's Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) there is money available to the DC area for security-related activities and projects, including for training and hands-on workshops under the Exercise and Training Operations Panel (ETOP).

The Regional Energy Security Function (RESF) 12 (Energy Security), which is managed by BEEAC and COG energy staff, made a request to ETOP in 2013 to do a tabletop exercise on an extended power outage. DC Water put forth a very similar proposal, so ETOP decided to merge the two projects into one grant. The project is a tabletop on what the region would do if we lost power for extended period of time.

The tabletop will address a catastrophic power outage, extending from New Jersey to Richmond for 12 days. Particularly, it will address what local governments can do while waiting for the grid to be restored, such as diesel and other fuel supply chain issues, emergency energy sources, ensuring health care facilities, maintaining water and food supply, etc.

The planning team hired a vendor (CAN) to assist with structuring the process and identifying the problem, organizations to be involved. There will be three workshops, leading to the actual tabletop.

The first workshop will be on January 20 (invite only). Panelists will include:

- Jack Brown – Emergency Manager for Arlington
- Grid emergency experts from Pepco and Dominion – talking about black start capability, the bulk power system, how they respond to outages
- DC Water, American Red Cross and other public service groups – cascading effects of an outage

The second and third workshops will be more focused on specific issue areas with specialists and experts from those particular areas. The tabletop will bring everyone together to combine all the parts.

More specific info about workshop participation to come via email. BEEAC members can help by identifying the emergency managers/emergency preparedness staff, especially for energy, for their jurisdiction who should be involved.

BEEAC's Bylaws, Roles, Priorities and Evaluation Survey – Leah Boggs, COG DEP

History of BEEAC:

- BEEAC was created in 2013 by merging the Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG) and Energy Advisory Committee (EAC).
- IGBG had started in 2006 as a brownbag committee outside of COG, which was then wrapped into the COG committee structure.
- EAC started in 1974 as the Energy Policy Committee, which reported to CAOs committee
- In 2013 the committees merged because the conversations were overlapping

BEEAC's combined purpose and mission:

- Collect and analyze pertinent energy and green building data
- Monitor trends and developments
- Emphasis on issues emerging in renewable energy, building energy codes and energy efficiency

COG staff recommendations for bylaws revision:

- Move back to one chair and two vice-chair structure (one from each state)
 - Term: one year, with option of a second
 - Implementation: February/March 2015
- BEEAC reports to and advises CEEPC
 - Chair or vice-chair makes report at CEEPC meetings
 - Elevate the role of the technical committee, make recommendations and carry out work (e.g. analysis, evaluation, research)
- One vote for each jurisdiction
 - More than one member /alternate and attendees from each jurisdiction are welcome, but one vote per each of COG's 22 member jurisdictions
 - Industry, non-profit and other non-jurisdictional professionals are welcome as non-voting members

Evaluation Survey Results:

- Suggestions included moving to bi-monthly and longer meetings, better balance on focus among the members, hold meetings in other jurisdictions to alleviate commute burden for outer jurisdictions, contact list, clearer goals and connection to CEEPC, more time for discussion and interaction between/learning from members
- Top 5 BEEAC focus areas for 2015 identified by survey respondents: efficiency, solar, energy benchmarking, AFVs/EVs, energy resiliency
- We will take all of these into consideration when developing meeting agendas and committee goals for 2015

Discussion:

The committee discussed the proposed bylaws changes, including the membership and procedures for voting, approving measures, etc. The proposal presented is suggested changes; member feedback is welcome by January 6. Bylaws will be finalized in January and implemented by February.

Only formal members of the committee should have a vote, but BEEAC membership could be expanded to include more than the 22 COG jurisdictions, (e.g. it could include public entities like WMATA, MWAA). This will be up to the current committee membership to determine.

After discussion, committee members suggested keeping the monthly meeting schedule, with an option to cancel, move to another location, or do a field trip in the place of a meeting. The Chair, Vice Chairs and COG Staff will decide this on the monthly planning call.

Suggestions for addition:

- Purpose and mission section – add: “Regional collaboration on energy efficiency, renewable energy, high performance building and other relevant topics”.
- Committee function section – add:

- More language on green buildings, the built environment, AFVs/EVs and infrastructure
- “Support development of climate action plans and greenhouse gas inventories”

In response to a question about the energy security item under “purpose and mission,” COG staff explained that these requests and projects are more likely to get funding and grant resources when coming from this type of group and membership.

COG staff shared a list of potential CEEPC topics for 2015, and asked that BEEAC members review it and provide feedback on issues to propose to CEEPC. In BEEAC’s new role the committee should be involved in suggesting topics and action for policy-makers to consider or take up in order to meet the region’s and the local jurisdiction’s climate and energy goals. The committee suggested a presentation on the living buildings challenge. COG staff sent around this list for the committee’s review and comment by December 30.

Multi-Sector GHG Working Group – Steve Walz, COG DEP

The joint CEEPC-MWAQC meeting on October 2 requested that COG policy boards (MWAQC and TPB) reaffirm the regional GHG reduction goals set out in the 2008 Climate Report and 2010 Region Forward plans. Both committees adopted parallel resolutions doing so at their meetings in December.

The joint committees suggested that the region needs a more rigorous analysis of multi-sector measures and actions that can help achieve our climate goals, and asked COG to establish a multi-disciplinary, multi-sector working group to study this issue. The working group will include representatives from the COG member local governments. Much of the staff work will be done at COG, as well as by outside subject matter experts and a contractor that will be hired to assist with analysis. MWAQC and TPB committed staff time and capacity for this effort when reaffirming the climate goals.

The working group will produce a report that:

- Focuses on cost-effective and measurable measures across sectors, and evaluates the costs, benefits and timeframes of these.
- Builds on existing work, including the Climate Report, What Would It Take, the Gold Book, and other analyses done by COG departments and others in the region.
- Provides scenario-level analysis, not individual project scale analysis. More detailed evaluation could be a subsequent step.
- The interim report is due September 30.
- The report is currently being called “What we can do?” for shorthand. It will look at practical solutions that the region can actually implement, rather than scenarios of various external forces.

“Sectors” used in air quality work are: on-road transportation, off-road transportation, area sources and point sources. Conversely, energy-related work usually looks at: energy, built environment, land use and

transportation. We are using the second framework (energy, built environment, land use and transportation) because most climate and greenhouse gas plans use these categories.

The group will be convened by COG not by the policy groups themselves. We will be reaching out to all the jurisdictions to collect suggestions for membership. There may be a large group and a steering committee, which would represent localities and across all sectors. BEEAC will be asked to review the list of measures related to energy and the built environment, and provide suggestions.

COG 2015 Legislative Priorities – Isabel Ricker, COG DEP

Each year, the COG Board Legislative Committee proposes legislative priorities in COG's main issue areas to the COG Board, which adopts these in an organizational platform. The 2015 priorities are expected to be approved at the Board's January 14th meeting.

The Climate and Energy Legislative Committee recommends climate and energy-related priorities for inclusion in the COG priorities. This year, the committee has recommended prioritizing legislation in the following areas

- Advocate for Clean Energy Finance
- Deploy Clean, Distributed Energy Generation Technology
- Improve Grid Resilience
- Support Energy Market Innovation
- Support Policies And Funding For Achieving Air Quality Standards

The general assembly sessions in VA and MD begin on January 14. Several bills of interest to BEEAC have already been pre-filed or are being drafted.

In Virginia, Governor McAuliffe recently issued an executive order ordering DMME to create a Green Community Program to provide private & public sector entities an opportunity to use the state's QECBs for energy conservation projects. The governor also included creation of the Solar Energy Development Authority in his recent New Virginia Economy Strategic Plan. A bill is being drafted to propose structure and function of the authority. MDV-SEIA and VAEIC are proposing that the Solar Authority manage an independent fund, backed by State funds such as through a loan loss reserve.

A draft bill called the 'Energy Diversity and Economic Development Plan' would create a zero emission electricity portfolio standard (generation + efficiency). Load serving entities would demonstrate compliance through the acquisition of VA Zero Emission Credits (ZECs), and would have to purchase a minimum percentage from demand-side resources (behind the meter generation or efficiency).

There is support among many groups for raising the net energy metering cap to 2MW, but some groups support doing so only for certain customer classes. A community solar bill will also be introduced. A renewable energy grant program passed last year but was not funded; that will likely be reintroduced. Legislation to strengthen the RPS may also be introduced, but there is no one main push here yet.

Legislation fixing the current code to allow localities to implement commercial PACE by creating a special property assessment is progressing well.

In Maryland, there is a large push for a “Forward with Forty” bill to raise the RPS to 40% by 2025 sponsored by several environmental groups. Unfortunately, prospects for passage seem low. There are also efforts to include thermal RECs in the RPS, to improve net metering regulations, enable community solar for more customers, and remove some barriers for solar farms.

DC passed legislation yesterday (December 17) removing black liquor and construction/demolition wood from RPS Tier 1 fuels. Issues anticipated in 2015 include: zoning, building heights, pop-ups and penthouses, and how these affect solar rights and access; creating a sustainable financing mechanism for clean energy, e.g. through the SEU, revamping the SEU and changing the current solar rebate system.

For more information about legislative priorities or the committee, please contact Isabel Ricker at iricker@mwcog.org

Roundtable Discussion/Project Updates

Climate and Energy Awards

- Will be expanded next year, assisted by a National Geographic grant to hire an intern to help with outreach.

Climate Action Champions

- DOE recently announced that the COG region, along with all of our members, is one of the first 16 to be recognized as a Climate Action Champion.
- We will get a DOE liaison to help COG members learn about and access technical assistance and other opportunities. We will also get priority for funding opportunities.
- DOE will follow up with more info in the next few weeks and is coming to CEEPC in January to discuss the opportunity.
- Technical assistance can be to jurisdictions directly, or through COG with one, some or all jurisdictions participating.
- To get the CAC grant preference, it may be required to have the funding flow through COG to the relevant jurisdiction(s), but jurisdictions always welcome to apply for grants on their own if that is preferred.
- Will be starting a Climate Champions Training Initiative through this process.

Annual Climate and Energy Survey

- We include general questions on action plan items, but focus on a few topics each year
- Thinking about focusing on solar this year, but suggestions are welcome!
- Theme of progress report is tentatively “Portraits of Progress” - to highlight people and stories of climate successes around the region.

Recruitment:

- ACPAC has 4 openings in VA and 4 openings in MD, so help recruiting members for next year would be very helpful
- Looking for a business representative for CEEPC

National Geographic Society's Map Story project

- Climate and Urban Systems Partnership (CUSP)
 - Community of practice on locally-based climate change issues. The group functions include networking, information and work-sharing, developing new materials for everyone to use.
 - Next workshop will be focused on a digital map showing climate impacts in Washington, DC, which Nat Geo is working on communications for.
 - DDOE has collected data for adaptation planning, and CUSP will do the outreach to public on climate change in DC.
 - Will be packaging stories and placing into the map "map stories" through ESRI
 - Event in February to gather ideas for stories

Next Meeting Date, Proposed Topics, Other Announcements and Adjournment

- Next planning call is rescheduled for January 7. COG staff will send out a notice, and a list of meetings for 2015.
- BEEAC Meeting – January 15, 2015
- CEEPC Meeting – January 28, 2015
- COG Green Purchasing Fair – January 29, 2015