

Draft Meeting Summary

COG Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

September 23, 2009

In Attendance

Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Hon. Roger Berliner, Vice Chair, Montgomery County Council
Karl Berntson, Prince George's County
Allison Bishins, Center for Clean Air Policy
Preston Bryant, Commonwealth of Virginia, Secretary of Natural Resources
Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation
Hon. Robert Catlin, College Park
Hon. "J" Davis, City of Greenbelt
Stan Edwards, Montgomery County
Hon. Camille Exum, Prince George's County
Hon. Jay Fisette, Chair, Arlington County
Matt Gray, U.S. Department of Energy
Bucky Green, U.S. EPA, Sustainability Facilities Branch
Hon. Penelope Gross, Fairfax County
Bob Grow, Greater Washington Board of Trade
Hon. Alan Imhoff, City of Frederick
Ann Loomis, Dominion Resources
Deron Lovaas, AQPAC
Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County
Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Tom Moir, District of Columbia City Council
Emeka Moneme, WMATA
Hon. Redella S. (Del) Pepper, Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria
Jeff Platenberg, Loudoun County Public Schools
Hon. Dan Robinson, Takoma Park
Brendan Shane, District of Columbia Office of Sustainability
Erica Shingara, City of Gaithersburg
Howard Simons, Maryland Department of Transportation
Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
Hon. Ryan Spiegel, Gaithersburg
Kanti Srikanth, Virginia Department of Transportation
Dr. Mark Starik, George Washington University
Hon. Daniel Sze, Falls Church
Hon. Geraldine Valentino-Smith, Bowie
Lise Van Susteren, Chesapeake Climate Action Network
Hilari Varnada, Frederick County
Steve Walz, Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy
Kim Watson, Pepco
Hon. Jonathan Way, City of Manassas
Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment

Others Present:

Monica Backmon, Prince William County DOT
Erica Bannerman, City of Alexandria
Dan Barry, District Department of the Environment
Tom Biesiadny, Fairfax County DOT

Lawrence Carmichael, University of the West of England, Bristol, UK
Travis Cutler, Dominion Resources
Andrew Kreider, US EPA Region III
John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools
Lisa Maher, Arlington County, Institute for Regional Excellence
John Morrill, Arlington County
Lauren Pederson, ICF International
Bob Owolabi, Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Kara Reeve, DC Office of Planning
Mary Sotos, World Resources International
Kris Wernstedt, Virginia Tech

Staff Present:

Monica Bansal, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Leah Boggs, Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Mike Clifford, COG Department of Transportation Planning
Stuart Freudberg, COG, Director, Department of Environmental Programs
Jeff King, Sr. Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Ron Kirby, COG Department of Transportation
Sunil Kumar, Sr. Environmental Engineer, COG DEP
Anne Mariani, Intern, COG DEP
George Nichols, Principal Environmental Planner, COG DEP
Dave Robertson, COG Executive Director
Joan Rohlf, Chief COG Air Quality Planning, COG DEP
Lee Ruck, COG Counsel
Daivamani Sivasailam, COG Department of Transportation Planning

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Amendments to the Agenda

Chair Fisetto called the meeting of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) to order at 9:45 a.m.

2. Approval of Meeting Summary for July 22, 2009

The meeting summary for the inaugural meeting of the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) held on July 22, 2009 was approved with no changes. There were no changes to the agenda.

ACTION: Approved meeting summary.

3. COG Institute for Regional Excellence Climate/Energy

Ms. Lisa Maher, IRE Climate Team member from Arlington County provided an overview of her project team's project and recommendations. The team's challenge was to develop an implementation strategy for a recommendation in COG's Climate Change report. They chose the recommendation to "Identify best practices to reduce local government energy use by 15% by 2012."

The team focused on identifying a program that local governments can use for their own employees to improve energy efficiency and conservation, since this involves both local government energy savings and the added benefit of educating employees, who are also residents of the region, and who can become informal ambassadors to spread the success of the program to businesses, civic and religious organizations, and into their communities.

They combined research and survey results to develop recommendation for a new program, called GREENS, for Governments Reward Energy Efficient New Solutions, which would reward local government employees for successful suggestions of actions their government can take to reduce its energy use.

It is envisioned that COG would develop a model program, based on similar successful programs in other cities, counties, and states. COG would promote the program within its membership and to the region. COG would also publicize employee energy saving ideas and their awards. COG jurisdictions would each choose one or both of these program levels to administer. They would promote the program to their employees, evaluate and implement employee suggestions, reward employees, and publicize their results.

ACTION: Received briefing.

4. Transportation Greenhouse Gas Reduction “What Would It Take?” Scenario Analysis

Mr. Ron Kirby discussed the Transportation Planning Board's “What Would It Take?” Scenario Analysis for greenhouse gases. Staff are developing analyses to identify a combination of strategies that could be used to meet the greenhouse gas reduction goals adopted by the COG Board in the November 2008 Climate Change Report. A baseline emission projection has been developed. The types of reduction strategies analyzed include fuel efficiency, alternative fuels, and travel efficiency. After accounting for new federal mandates for vehicle fuel efficiency, projected penetration of alternative fuels, and existing travel efficiency measures, the region would still need an additional 15% reduction to achieve the estimated reduction requirements for 2030. Staff are also estimating the cost effectiveness of measures. Results are expected by the end of the year.

Mr. Kirby said that it is important to reduce cumulative emissions therefore achieving early reductions that are sustainable are significant. Achieving efficient and timely fleet turnover is also important.

Ms. Bishins suggested that accelerating implementation of the region's bicycle/pedestrian plan is a good goal. Mr. Sklarew suggested that infrastructure for plug-in hybrids and hydrogen fuels could offer potential for large reductions. Mr. Starik suggested that the telework concept could be expand beyond work, and could include training and universities. In response to a question from Ms. Gross, Mr. Kirby said that fuel efficiency standards for heavy duty trucks are not expected until 2016 at the earliest.

In response to a question from Mr. Fissette, Mr. Kirby said that he anticipates that any new federal mandates on metropolitan planning organizations will not be along the lines of the current air quality conformity process. He expects that regions will be required to develop reduction goals and plans to meet the targets. He recommended coordination with the Transportation Planning Board on regional greenhouse gas emission reduction policies and the CEEPC 2009-2012 work plan.

ACTION: Received briefing. Made commitment to collaborate with TPB in the development of the 2009-2012 climate action work plan.

5. 2009-2012 Regional Climate Action Work Plan

Mr. Freudberg discussed a replicable programs survey and the draft 2009-2012 Regional Climate Action Workplan. He referred members to a summary of replicable

programs identified by members and encouraged anyone interested to follow up with the contacts listed.

The process used to prepare the draft 2009-2012 climate action work plan involved staff review of the November 2008 COG Climate Change report recommendations to identify recommendations that would be applicable in the near term for meeting the 2012 goal. The concept is that the work plan is a voluntary initiative. It was adapted from COG Climate Report (Table ES-1) and was modified to include Performance Measures and Schedule. "Potential Partners" is now call "Responsible Parties." For those measures expected to generate reductions, "Emission Impact" is listed as YES but is not yet quantified. "Cost" and "Co-benefits" have not yet been analyzed. There is a recommendation for tracking Progress each spring.

Members had several comments and suggestions, including increasing the expected percent of participating jurisdictions and expediting the timeframe for many of the measures, accounting for population and not just the number of localities, adding a metric of jobs created, inventory consistency, going beyond LEED-Silver for building energy efficiency, including a green government challenge.

Members agreed to establish a small ad-hoc workgroup to assist staff with revisions for consideration/action at November 18, 2009 CEEPC meeting.

ACTION: Established ad-hoc workgroup. Instructed staff to work with ad-hoc workgroup to prepare revised 2009-2012 climate action work plan for review during the November meeting.

6. Project and Legislative Updates

Ms. Rohlfs reported that COG and several jurisdictions are continuing to work on advancing home energy retrofit programs, including a home energy loan program and standardization of training and certification of home energy technicians. Mr. Nichols said that a street lights vendors forum has been scheduled for October 20. Mr. King said that one key federal legislative issue to track is the percent of allowance allocations for local governments in the Senate deliberations on climate change legislation. Climate Communities has been actively tracking progress and is seeking support from local governments to seek higher levels of allocations given the critical role of local and regional governments in implementing programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

ACTION: Received briefing.

7. New Business

Mr. Freudberg said that the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee developed a report to the COG Board on Plastic Bags.

With concurrence of the committee, Mr. Fissette established a new legislative and regulatory affairs subcommittee to track new developments and formulate positions. Staff will work with members to schedule meetings as needed.

ACTION: Established legislative and regulatory affairs subcommittee.

8. Adjourn

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2009 from 9:30am – 11:30am. There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at noon.