



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: February 17, 2022

BEEAC Members in Attendance:

- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (Chair)
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County, VA (Vice Co-Chair)
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria
- Kate Walker, City of Falls Church
- Kevin Milsted, Prince William County
- Emil King, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- Chloe Delhomme, City of Manassas

Additional Attendees:

- Emily Curley, Montgomery Country

- Nick Polier, Virginia Department of Energy
- Emmet Deitcher, Office of Sustainability at WMATA
- Jamie Donovan, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Claudia Glen, WMATA

COG Staff:

- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Maia Davis, COG DEP
- Katie Dyer, COG DEP
- Jeff King, COG DEP
- Wyetha Lipford, COG DEP
- Tim Masters, COG DEP



1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Dawn Ashbacher called the meeting to order. Leah Boggs (COG staff) went over the virtual meeting guidelines.

2. COG UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- *Maia Davis, COG Staff*
The greenhouse gas (GHG) Inventories Special Session is on March 17 at 10 am.
- *Jeff King, COG Staff*
The Transportation Planning Board Questionnaire will be sent out to all elected officials in COG's jurisdiction. The questionnaire will ask whether the transportation sector should adopt GHG emission reduction goals for the sector. There will also be questions about which strategies/actions are important. The questionnaire will be distributed on February 28 and due on April 1.
- *Maia Davis, COG Staff*
The COG Board meeting is scheduled for March. Attendees will have 90 minutes to talk about what strategies should be prioritized at the regional level to support and leverage the local action.

3. JURISDICTION UPDATES AND PEER EXCHANGE

Local government members will highlight energy and building-related events, projects, and programs. Members are asked to address the following questions:

- Given how the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan, how can BEEAC better support implementation of scalable projects in your jurisdiction or region wide?
- What are topics that BEEAC should address either at its regularly scheduled meeting or in a special workshop format?
- What would be helpful to support your work around equity issues?

Marc Aveni, Loudoun County, (BEEAC Vice Co-Chair)

Loudoun County is currently working on an energy plan that would include topics such as data centres and their use of non-renewables. The term energy equity needs to be focused on in a practical way.

Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria

The City of Alexandria has been using the resources and information in the COG 2030 Action Plan for their Energy Action Plan for 2040. The metrics are being used to show residents what the issues are and to give them a regional perspective. The City of Alexandria has chosen an equity officer and their focus is the Energy and Climate Action Plan update.

Kate Walker, City of Falls Church

In the City of Falls of Church, single family homes are the fastest rated development in the jurisdiction, The Energy Action Plan doesn't address the potential negative impacts of densification. There is a

strong argument in Virginia about cost-effectiveness of energy efficient building codes and a high-cost housing market shutting people out. There is also a disconnect between the local governments and community needs.

Chloe Delhomme, City of Manassas

The city has been working on two phases of the GHG inventories and the Climate Action Plan. The city plans to use COG's 2030 Climate Energy Action Plan as a starting point for the City's plan. Putting a focus on transportation would be good for BEEAC meetings.

Featured Jurisdiction: The [Montgomery County Electric Vehicle \(EV\) Purchasing Cooperative](#)

Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County

Montgomery County has the first electric vehicle (EV) purchasing pilot program in the DMV area. The purchasing co-op serves as an opportunity to engage with residents, business owners, and dealerships on electrifying the transportation in Montgomery County. The hope of this program is to create focus on Montgomery County, and that focus will transfer over into the region. It could possibly result in more EVs being sourced in the County.

The County's Climate Action Plan sets an emission goal of 80% reduction by 2027 and a GHG elimination by 2035. The focus is on buildings and transportation. The purchasing program is the first push into engaging residents and businesses on what EVs will look like for them, answering questions, debunking myths, and giving them information about charging. The plan is to provide unbiased information, resources, and connect residents with knowledgeable dealers.

County residents and workers are encouraged to take the pledge and commit that their next vehicle will be electric. The goal is 1000 residents and 50 businesses. The pledge does not commit them to an immediate purchase. The pledge serves as indication of interest for dealers and a signal for them to start to develop EV incentives for future purchases. County charging maps have been created to help identify where the charging stations are in Montgomery County. These programs are to be offered through COG.

4. BEEAC SURVEY RESULTS: 2022 PRIORITIES

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

The soft deadline of the 7th annual BEEAC survey was January 12; however, surveys will still be accepted. The priority areas have been changed to reflect the mitigation and resiliency measures in the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. The ranking high being 4 and low being 1. The top four priorities are:

- Clean electricity
- Equity (mitigation and resiliency)
- Resilient infrastructure
- ZEBs (Zero Emission Buildings)

Other recommendations include examination of plastic bans and expanded food waste policies, community choice aggregation, energy efficient building codes, support for implementation of the and Virginia Clean Economy Act. COG's [Recycling Committee](#) has done a lot of work related to plastic bans and the [Regional Food Systems Program](#) addresses the food distribution ecosystem.

COG also participating in Montgomery County's EV pilot program and is looking at the success of the program for possibly implementing a regional program.

COG's transportation department is working on tracking the bus electrification initiative and is planning to take that to the climate program, as well as the March COG board meeting. Funding and grants are tracked on the climate partner's website.

Regarding building codes, Virginia SB452 was rejected. The bill would have allowed local governments to adopt stricter energy efficient codes and allow localities to acquire disclosure of energy use intensity information. COG sent a letter in support of the bill through the legislative committee, and BEEAC will consider ways to support Virginia jurisdictions.

5. CHAIR'S OUTLOOK

Dawn Ashbacher, BEEAC Chair

Members were asked to mention what they liked about BEEAC, members mentioned technical information and analysis of topics, the ability to connect with one another, and gaining ideas from other jurisdictions. A workshop retreat idea was mentioned as having more interaction in terms of co-creating information. The COG board is working on incorporating equity issues in our work in terms of its unified planning approach, and it is something that is in the Climate Action Plan. In the past year there has been more movement around net zero buildings, there have also been conversations worth considering in the clean electricity area. There was a report in CEEPC last month of the climate mitigation study of 2021 that was done for TPB, and it was good information and a good reality check in the sense that it showed how difficult it really is, if not possible to meet the transportation sector goals by 2030.

6. 2022 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Katie Dyer, COG Staff

COG's legislative committee is a small group of CEEPC members who periodically meet with staff to review legislative initiatives in the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia. The legislative priorities are aligned with the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan, within the details of these goals, there is a greater emphasis on equity. The legislative committee is primarily active between January and April, but federal legislation is tracked as well. A series of meetings are held to see what legislation CEEPC should comment on to support or oppose.

Virginia had crossover on February 15 and adjourns in March. Any bills that are still alive have made it out of either the House or Senate are to be considered by the other legislative branch. With Republican governor Glenn Youngkin being sworn in on January 15th, the Virginia legislator was split across party lines with Republicans controlling the House and Democrats having a small majority in the Senate. Governor Youngkin issued a series of executive actions, including one directing the regulatory and legislative process to end Virginia's participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). Virginia bills that have failed across party lines are HB1301 and SB532. HB1301 and SB532 are bills that repeal the Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act and directs the Director of the Department of the Environmental Quality to take steps to suspend the Commonwealth's participation in RGGI. CEEPC's legislative committee sent comment letters opposing the withdrawal from RGGI. If the legislature is unable to pull out of RGGI, there might be some action toward changing aspects of the program without removing Virginia completely from the program.

The COG legislative committee also sent a letter opposing the delayed implementation of the Advance Clean Cars Program for 2025 to 2030. The bill made it out of the House. The committee also supported SB452 which would have allowed Virginia localities to develop and adopt stretch codes that are more stringent than those in Virginia's Uniform Statewide Building Codes.

Maryland's session is 90 days and crossover is on March 21st which leaves more time for legislation to be introduced and comments on legislation. The legislature adjourns on April 11th. Some of the early legislation that was introduced included increased funding for resiliency. The legislative committee sent comment letters supporting Sustainable Maryland, which would provide \$750,000 of funding for comprehensive and technical sustainability projects and assist Maryland to issue funds and support direct projects to localities. The funding would also support the Resiliency Hub Program which would ensure that the program receives \$500,000 funding each year and directs Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) and the Maryland Department of Emergency Management to identify and apply for additional grant funding for the program.

On the Senate side, there is the Climate Solutions Now Act of 2022 (SB0528) which requires Requiring the Maryland to reduce statewide GHG emissions by altering statewide GHG emissions goals, establish of a net-zero statewide GHG emissions goal and develop energy efficiency and emissions reduction requirements for certain buildings. Although the bill is very similar to the one introduced last year, the legislature is not in agreement about how to get the bill passed. The companion bill, CBO038, is similar; however, the goals but are broken out across three different bills. The overarching goal of the Climate Solutions Now Act is to reduce statewide GHG emissions by 60% by 2030 and achieve statewide net zero GHG emissions by 2045. The legislation would also require state owned buildings larger than 25,000 sq. ft. to have a 50% reduction by January 2030.

Non-state commercial and multi-family buildings larger than 25,000 sq. ft. would gradually reach net zero emissions by 2040. Within this, they would establish a building-energy transition implementation task force. This task force would be responsible for providing recommendations for the developing of complementary programs, coming up with incentives to reduce GHG emissions from the building sector and developing a plan for retrofitting buildings to comply these standards, and creation of financial incentives through the state program to support this transition. The task forced was created for more inclusion which means that it does not include local government members. The new building requirements require new buildings to meet water and space heating demands without the use of fossil fuels by January 2023.

DC is on a 2-year session and comment letters are sent only when COG's legislative committee is most active. The legislative committee supported two bills. The Climate Commitment Act of 2021 (B267) would codify the 2050 carbon neutrality commitment and add interim targets for the GHG reductions between 2025 and 2050. The second bill was the Clean Energy DC Building Code Amendment Act of 2021 (B24-0420). This legislation would require all new construction be subject to the net zero standard or equivalent standard adopted by the mayor by January 1, 2026.

7. CITY OF ROCKVILLE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville

Rockville adopted their first Climate Action Plan on January 10th. The plan developed a list of 42 actions, for which 16 are for municipal operations and 26 are for the community. The plan was based on the COG's 2030 Plan. The plan was promoted through surveys sent out to the community responses wand

received good responses from the community, with residents indicating the want for city leadership. The two criteria that the community highlighted were GHGs reductions and to promote equity. The plan was proceeded by a robust sustainability program and an active community. There has been project includes municipal actions such as rebates and grants. The City's goal is 50% GHG reduction by 2030 below 2005 levels. To meet the goal, the City is relying on implementation such as the renewable portfolio standard, green power purchase, solar installation and EVs.

8. 2022 MEETING SCHEDULE AND ADJOURNMENT

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Dawn Ashbacher adjourned the meeting. The next BEEAC meeting is on April 21. On the off month, we will have the GHG inventory session on March 17 from 10-11 am. CEEPC's next meeting is on March 23.

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/2/17/built-environment-energy-advisory-committee/>

The next CEEPC meeting is April 21, 2022

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)