

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 16, 2011
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Beverly Fourier, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Daniel Lee, Caroline Petti, Alexander Ryan-Bond, Glenna Tinney, Larry Zaragoza
Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis, Jeff King

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. The agenda and minutes from April 18, 2011 were approved with no changes.

2. DC Public Service Commission and Climate Change (Rick Morgan, DC Public Service Commissioner)

Rick Morgan has over 40 years of experience in the field of utility regulation and energy policy. In his tenure (since 2003) with the Commission he has worked for utility rate stability, service reliability, energy efficiency and demand response programs. Rick focused his conversation on the Pepco smart meter pilot program and the full deployment of smart meters for Pepco customers in DC. There were over 900 smart meters were installed as part of the pilot. Participants were put on a pricing structure in which if they took no action, their bill would be around the same as what they've been currently paying but if they saved energy and/or reduced their usage during peak hours they would save money. Results to the pilot were extremely positive. Almost all responded to the rebates that were offered through the pilot, over 90% of participants saved money, more money was saved when customers used programmable thermostats and 14 to 1 participants wanted to stay on the smart meter pricing. Pepco's full deployment of 280,000 smart meters should be completed by December 2011.

ACPAC members had several questions on the pilot program and smart meters. Rick described the differences between smart meters (digital) and conventional meters (analog), described how people were able to find out about and participate in the pilot, lessons learned from other smart meter projects and addressing public concerns about smart meters.

Rick also discussed and answered questions on solar installations in DC, small generation policies and rules, net metering policies, DC's 20% by 2020 renewable portfolio standard, decoupling, the Potomac River coal-fired power plant, power generation for Blue Plains and more.

3. WE CAN Campaign Feedback

ACPAC members were asked to look at the website prior to the meeting and provide feedback on their experience. In general, members felt like they couldn't see enough information without signing up on the website which provided a barrier to learning more about the campaign, why they should care, why they should sign up, was this campaign for them or were they not supposed to sign up.

ACPAC was also asked to provide input on how to move the campaign forward in 2012. Suggestions and feedback from ACPAC included addressing a broader range of sustainability topics, incorporating training for green living coaches, the necessity for a community champion, and promoting the savings that can result from implementing environmental measures at home. Also, it was suggested that the program may not work the same in each community so providing some flexibility may encourage more involvement. Members suggested targeting kids, private schools and non-geographic communities.

4. Climate, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEPC) Update (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)

Joan briefly described key topics that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of CEEPC. Following the Electric Vehicle Forum that was held at COG on April 29th there will be a recommendation for a regional EV coalition at the next CEEPC meeting on May 25, 2011. CEEPC will also be identifying workplan priorities for 2011 and asked for recommendations from ACPAC on what those priorities should be. Members were asked to share at the meeting or email their ideas by the end of the week. Members had the following suggestions:

- New technologies for renewable energy
- Sustainable gardens
- Enforcement of idling regulations
- Converting government fleets to clean fuel vehicles
- Improving infrastructure to make biking and walking safer and easier
- Creation of exclusive bus lanes
- Employee incentives for mass transit or vanpools

5. Member Time (Alexander Ryan-Bond, Ozone Transport Commission)

The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) and its member states are responsible for advising EPA on transport issues and for developing strategies to reduce ground-level ozone in the region through state cooperation. OTC works with states to develop model rules to reduce emissions of precursors. Alexander Ryan-Bond manages the Stationary and Area Source Committee, monitors federal legislation and rules, and prepares draft comment documents, white papers and model rule language.

Members had questions about the establishment of the OTC, how they are funded, the staff, who from the states participate and the level of stakeholder involvement. Alexander responded that the OTC is a 501c1 that was established by the Clean Air Act, is congressionally funded, staff includes an Executive Director plus five staff and state environmental commissioners represent the states. OTC holds a couple public meetings a year that mostly include affected industry-based parties. They don't work as much with the general public. The next public meeting is in June.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:33pm.

Next meeting: June 13 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
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