



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 21, 2020  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Kelly Crawford, Tara Failey, Gretchen Goldman, John Howes, Michael Knapp, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis, Sarah Mazur, Crystal McDonald, Guillermo Ortiz, Jacqueline Patterson, Natalie Pien, Hyon Rah, Ron Rodriguez, Rodney Sobin, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney,

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Suni Kumar, Tim Masters, Steve Walz

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Chair*

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made, and the July 20, 2020 ACPAC meeting summary was approved.

#### 2. OZONE SEASON UPDATE

*Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer*

The meeting began with some technical difficulties preventing Sunil Kumar from joining. Steve Walz provided the Ozone Season update.

- The current ozone standard was published in 2015 at 70 parts per billion (ppb), with the Washington region designated as a “marginal” Nonattainment Area for 2015 ozone standard. The attainment deadline is August 3, 2021.
- The four major sources are point, area, nonroad and on-road.
- Ozone and PM2.5 levels were overall lower in 2020 compared to previous years as COVID-19 related restrictions were implemented in the Washington region.
- Reduction in emissions due to lower traffic and fuel/electricity consumption coupled with weather contributed towards lower pollutant levels.
- The Washington region did not attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS based on draft 2018-2020 data (71 ppb).
- Next steps include:
  - Apply for an extension of the attainment date by one year to August 3, 2022. This would give the region another year to show attainment and avoid getting bumped up to “moderate” nonattainment area and it would not extend the deadline for a State Implementation Plan if the region fails to reach attainment in the additional year
  - The region could request for the extension and then start working on Reasonable Further Progress and attainment demonstration plans.
  - This will ensure the region’s plans will be ready for submittal if and when they are needed.

### 3. CLIMATE AND ENERGY 2030 DRAFT PLAN UPDATE

Steve Walz, COG Staff

- CEEPC is considering recommending a 2030 GHG reduction goal to guide action post the 20% by 2020 goal and discussing whether the 2050 goal should be strengthened.
- Many COG members have set or are in the process of considering a goal for a 50% reduction by 2030; therefore, COG staff analyzed the technical potential to meet a 50% GHG reductions by 2030.
- CEEPC also will adopt an updated Climate and Energy Action Plan for 2030 which will recommend measures localities and states can implement to reach the regional mitigation and resilience goals. CEEPC also plans to identify what actions the federal government should take to support our efforts.
- As one of four US regional climate leaders by Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) for Climate & Energy, COG followed the GCoM framework and technical assistance to develop our plan.
- The mitigation actions in the report are to reduce GHG emissions, including CO<sub>2</sub>, methane, refrigerants, other
- Since COG's 2008 Regional Climate Change Report, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been the guiding framework.
- IPCC states that global net human-caused emissions of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) would need to fall by about 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030, reaching 'net zero' around 2050. This means that any remaining emissions would need to be balanced by removing CO<sub>2</sub> from the air.
- The region met the 2012 goal to reduce emissions 20% below business as usual or below 2005 levels; however, reductions have stalled since 2012.
- Emission reductions were realized in electric generation, new buildings and fleet efficiency; however, the largest sources of GHG emissions are in the built environment and transportation sectors.
- The resilience actions in the report are plans and actions to reduce effects of acute events and chronic risks and a quick recovery response to the events.
- CEEPC has been working on the proposed 2030 goals and Action Plan for over a year.
- The goal is to have the recommended 2030 goals before the COG Board in October, CEEPC approval of the 2030 Action Plan in November, and to be the first region to submit fully GCoM compliant plan by December 2020.

#### Discussion

- Natalie Pien asked if the VA data centers are calculated into the inventory projections. Energy consumption for data centers is accounted for; however, renewable energy purchases are not reflected in the inventory.
- Glenna Tinney inquired if equity was limited to the equity area. Equity is a key component and is weaved in throughout the plan.
- John Howes asked if the analysis reflects impacts of COVID-19 and if the reductions are permanent or temporary changes. The modeling did not include COVID-19 impacts. According to COG transportation modeling team data, on-road emissions have jumped back up to 60%. COG is looking into forming a multi-disciplinary team to track if changes are permanent.
- Gretchen Goldman expressed the importance of including co-benefits in the plan.
- Rodney Sobin discussed tracking emissions profile to optimize load management and load shifting.

#### **4. PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE REPORT**

*Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County*

- In 2018 Prince George's County created the Environmental Justice Commission. The 2018 report re-established the Commission with an effective date of June 1, 2019.
- The Commission required the group to report findings and recommendations on environmental justice issues with a "plan of action" to the Prince George's County House Delegation.
- The 2019 Plan of Action recommended:
  - The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) to develop a countywide Environment and Health Equity Functional Master Plan address locally undesirable land uses (LULUs), health equity and health impact assessments, and environmental benefits districts.
  - The County Council directed M-NCPPC to develop the Master Plan.
- The purpose of the County's master planning process was to produce a guiding document that combined public input, data and analysis, and recommendations to address environmental justice issues.
- A concern for the County was siting of hazardous and polluting industries on the fence line of residential communities, which would include concrete batching plants in Bladensburg.
- The County is also mapping the cumulative impacts of communities that are exposed to a combination of polluting industries, socioeconomic stressors and health inequities; however, there are no environmental justice criteria in the zoning ordinance.
- Land use recommendations in the Master Plan include:
  - Establish criteria for identification of EJ communities,
  - Mitigate cumulative environmental hazards impacting air, land and water, and
  - Provide mechanisms for meaningful community engagement
- Health equity and impacts recommendations include incorporating effective health impact assessments in the permitting process.
- The County is also looking for funding to enhance environmental benefits districts (EBDs), which are defined by EPA as "locations where the State, EPA, and stakeholders can focus their resources to address the environmental concerns of targeted communities".
- The Master Plan includes mechanisms for:
  - Integrating environmental justice into land use decisions and permitting,
  - Mitigating cumulative adverse environmental impacts to air, land and water,
  - Requiring meaningful community engagement in permitting decisions,
  - Incorporating effective health impact assessments in the permitting process,
  - Establishing criteria for receipt of environmental benefits by communities adversely impacted by environmental and health stressors, and
  - Targeting investments in environmental benefits districts.

#### **5. DC SUSTAINABLE ENERGY UTILITY EQUITY AND GREEN WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

*Crystal McDonald, DCSEU*

- The District of Columbia's Sustainable Energy Utilities' Green Workforce Development program is designed to:
  - Provide training and certification opportunities aimed at helping workers to obtain green careers,
  - Enhance economic stability by focusing on a worker's marketable skills,
  - Reduce unemployment and underemployment DC,

- Shape the local clean-energy labor market, and
  - Educate local residents on energy efficiency-related topics.
- Twice a year, District residents are matched with 5-month green externships working with local contractors and other organizations in energy efficiency and sustainability careers.
- During the program, externs receive weekly training on energy efficiency topics, job skills development and job placement assistance.
- The programs certifications and trainings include:
  - LEED Green Associate,
  - International Society for Sustainability Professionals- SA,
  - NABCEP Preparation: PV Solar Certification, and
  - Financial Coaching 101: Budgeting, Credit Building, Tax Prep, Homeownership.
- In the four years of the program (2016-2019), the DCSEU has served 66 externs, with an average job placement rate of 90%.
- Positions include AutoCad designer, commercial solar installer, HVAC technician, and sustainability project engineer/project manager.
- COG has been an extern host site for 3 cohorts and hosted 2 externs the last cohort. All of COG's externs have landed full-time employment.
- Goals for the incoming cohort are to expand recruitment efforts to include returning citizens, the Latin community, and veterans with a minimum of 15 total externs per cohort and partner with three community based organizations with existing workforce development programs to aide in building the diverse extern pipeline.

## **6. NAACP ENVIRONMENTAL AND CLIMATE JUSTICE PROGRAM**

*Jacqueline Patterson, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)*

- The NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program was created to support community leadership in addressing this human and civil rights issues that communities of color and low-income communities face due to disproportionate impact of climate change and environmental injustices.
- The program has three objectives:
  - Reduce harmful emissions, particularly greenhouse gases,
  - Advance energy efficiency and clean energy, and
  - Strengthen community resilience and livability.
- The program has a variety of resources which include tools, resource guides, certification programs and reports.

## **7. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN**

The next ACPAC is November 16<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.