



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 13, 2017
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE)

- Gretchen Goldman, Chair
- John Howes
- Andrew Kambour
- Sarah Mazur
- Jacqueline Norris
- Maggie Shober
- Gabriel Thoumi*
- Glenna Tinney
- Tamara Toles - O'Laughlin, Vice Chair

STAFF

- Amanda Campbell
- Tim Masters
- Stephen Walz

1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair

The meeting agenda was approved with no changes. The meeting summary was approved without changes.

2. AIR QUALITY MODELING

Brian Hug, Maryland Department of the Environment

Air quality modeling involves a photochemical model with meteorological inputs, emissions inputs, and boundary conditions inputs. Two models are the most often used: Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) model and Comprehensive Air Quality Model with extensions (CAMx). The modeling domain could include the entire US and then analyze results in one focus area. The meteorological inputs include winds, temperature, clouds, precipitation, and vertical mixing. The meteorology model covers the first 3,000 to 4,000 ft. of the atmosphere. Emissions inputs include human-caused emissions and biogenic emissions. Pollutants include the MOVES transportation model. Pollutants and dynamics outside the modeling domain must be considered through use of a global transport model. Sometimes even pollutants from China and Africa can be transported to our region.

To test an emissions reduction policy scenario, the impact of the policy implementation itself needs to be calculated. A measure would need to reduce emissions by 20% or more to show changes in air quality outcomes for the entire region. Typically, one worst-case ozone season day is used to test the scenario. More than one run on a bank of specialized computer technology is often needed to

produce conclusive results.

A run of the meteorological, emissions, and photochemical modeling takes 11 to 15 months and close to \$200K. The models are associated with a high degree of accuracy. It can be a challenge, however, to estimate the emissions reductions benefits from some policy options, such as driving behavior programs or telework options.

One question was about aviation emissions in the model. They are included in the emissions inventory. Some options to address aviation emissions include increasing efficiency of engines, reduction of idling, and ability to plug in when loading.

Another question was: how close to monitors should emissions reductions take place in order to change the monitor's levels? Mr. Hug said that if there was a large point source, it would show specific pollutants on monitors nearby, but ozone generation has a larger-scale, regional footprint.

3. ADVANCING SOLAR POWER IN THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGION

Bob Lazaro, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Mr. Lazaro explained how Solarize NOVA helped increase the number of solar systems more than 10-fold from 2009 to 2016, with 2017 expected to be another year of growth. Solarize NOVA creates a one-stop shop for community members to learn more about solar power options for their homes and facilitate the installation and financing of their own solar project. Dominion energy offered a free home energy checkup in conjunction with the program prior to December 2016. Virginia localities offer services through their own websites. NVRC ran Facebook ads and other social media to promote the program; word of mouth and the support of elected officials was also key.

A solar potential map for rooftops in northern Virginia helps homeowners decide if solar makes sense for their property. Lower prices for panels, the federal tax credit, and net metering helped make solar more cost-effective. The uptake rate is 3.75% (180 installations out of 4800 signups). To date, only one commercial solar system has been installed due to lack of interest. Community solar is not allowed in Virginia except by Dominion Virginia Power.

One member asked if there are provisions for what happens to the solar panels after they reach the end of their lifespan. Mr. Lazaro responded that there are not provisions, but that the panels are under warranty for 25 years and will still produce power for at least 40 to 50 years.

4. ACPAC MEMBERSHIP, NOMINATING COMMITTEE VOLUNTEERS, TOPICS FOR 2018

Amanda Campbell, COG Staff, and Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair

ACPAC members should indicate to staff if they are not planning to serve in 2018. Due to several resignations this year, there will be at least 5 or 6 positions open. Staff will share the application and materials in the next few weeks so everyone can share with their networks. Also let staff (Ms. Campbell) know if you're interested in being an officer (chair, vice chair) next year.

Chair Goldman asked for three volunteers, one each from DC, MD and VA to serve on the officer nominating committee. The following members volunteered to serve on the Nom Com:

DC: Maggie Shober

MD: John Howes

VA: Glenna Tinney

ACPAC members brainstormed topics they would like to explore in 2018. Topics included:
Tracking International, National and State Legislation and Policy

- COP23 Round up
- Cooperative federalism and AQ/energy
- Tracking state legislation, ex. VA CO2 plan

Climate & Energy Policy Tools

- RGGI
- RPSs and Energy Plans – ex. MD bills on RPSs
- Carbon tax models – Ex. Washington state, especially communications and messaging
- Use of social cost of carbon at state level
- Regional PACE update
- Green Banks update
- Drawdown – Paul Hawken

Environmental Justice

- EJ Toolkit follow up – how has it been used, what has its impact been
 - **Finalize/approve Case Studies and the Finance Section
 - Share presentation and polished talking points
 - Webinars
 - Connect with existing trainings
- EJ Case Studies – Ex. Community that fought WTE plant. Ex. Brandywine

Transportation

- Anti-Idling – policies and outreach initiatives
- Hear from Transportation staff and program – ex. What CAC is working on
- Bikeshare models – business models, trends in commuting, drop off ones.
- Uber, Lyft transforming travel, impact on air quality
- Bus Rapid Transit – new projects coming up

Climate resiliency

- US Army Corps Study
- Climate refugees/EJ link
- Resiliency planning and jurisdiction's vulnerability. Ex. Article in Post this week on flooding
- And impacts on environmental health and air quality
- Municipal emergency microgrids

Planning/Buildings

- Book: 2100 A Dystopian Utopia – future of architecture – Speaker example
- APA working on EJ as relates to Ecodistricts in New Orleans. Stewardship, working with states

Other Topics

- Member time
- Environmental health – ex. Local efforts, what could do
- Dominion and SSC, Utilities level policies. Format: debates
- What are employment statistics for green jobs in the region?

- Recycling, solar, efficiency, green infrastructure
- Tours

In addition, members discussed exploring ways of participating in the comment periods for proposed state or federal regulations.

5. UPDATES

- [Air Quality Trends Report](#)
The final Air Quality Trends report is now available. Feel free to share.
- [COG's new Climate & Energy Progress Dashboard](#)
COG created an electronic version of our climate & energy indicators progress.
- Blue Plains Tour sharing + COG's www.protectyourpipes.org campaign
One challenge that members learned about on the Blue Plains tour was how fats oils, grease, and other unflushables create 'fatbergs' that cause gigantic and expensive clogs in the wastewater pipes. COG has a program for that too. See link at www.protectyourpipes.org
- EJ Toolkit – Region Forward presentation Nov. 3
The presentation was well-received. Ms. Davis presented toolkit basics and how it can be used. Transportation Planning Board's Equity Emphasis areas were presented in tandem.
- MWAQC plans to adopt the 2008 Ozone Standard Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan at its December meeting.

6. ADJOURN