



## Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 22, 2024

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County (Chair)
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. Takis Karantonis, Arlington County
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Stuart Adams, City of College Park
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Mike Barancewicz, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Noelani Brockett, Charles County
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Susan Gerson, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Stephen Gyor, District of Columbia
- Rachel Healy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Barry Jackson, City of Rockville
- Julie Kimmel, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- Deron Lovaas, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Vince Maiden, Virginia Department of Energy (Virginia Energy)
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Alanna Mensing, City of Manassas Park
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Alison Riley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Maria Sinner, VDOT
- Meredith Soniat, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Bob Weir, Prince William County

- Brittany Whited, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County
- Amy Fry, Chair Ivey's Chief of Staff
- Carrie Hearne, Virginia Energy
- Eve Lukens-Day, EPA
- Demetra McBride, Arlington County
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Kristin Mielcarek, Frederick County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Laura Pimental, DOEE
- Deb Perry, International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
- Kim Pezza, Comptroller of Maryland
- Kate Roetzer, WMATA
- John Silcox, Fairfax County
- Michelle Smyk, Prince William County
- Andy Young, City of Falls Church

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Brian LeCouteur, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning



## 1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

*Jolene Ivey, CEEPC Chair, Prince George's County Council*

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Jolene Ivey called the May CEEPC meeting to order. The March CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

## 2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

### A. Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

*Andy Young, BEEAC Chair*

- The committee met in April and received a presentation on the draft Fiscal Year 2025 work program and budget for the Regional Environmental Fund. The committee also received presentations on and discussed capital investment planning and climate budgeting.

### B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

*Julie Kimmel, ACPAC Chair*

- The committee launched the 2024 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards program on Earth Day, which will recognize two local governments, a non-governmental organization (NGO), and an educational institution.
- The Environmental Justice (EJ) Subcommittee kicked off on May 2, which was established to support MWAQC's commitment to incorporate EJ and equity into its work program.
- The committee developed a list of climate-related recommendations to be considered by CEEPC, which are as follows:
  - COG to update regional greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction targets to be comparable to the most aggressive ones among member jurisdictions.
  - Adopt policies for promoting large-scale atmospheric GHG removal in addition to reducing emissions.
  - Give preference to climate solutions that offer co-benefits such as decreasing localized air pollution hotspots.

### C. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group

*Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs*

- REVD will be meeting on May 23 to discuss permitting and inspections.

### D. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

*Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC*

- GWRCCC will be hosting an Environmental Energy and Transportation Justice Summit at Howard University on June 20, at which its Fleet Equity Guide will be released.

### E. Recycling Committee

*John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs*

- The committee's May meeting topic was multifamily properties with a focus on disadvantaged and underserved populations, which can be challenging areas to reach.
- COG's second public battery management campaign started in the spring, using radio, social media, and other platforms.
- The annual Go Recycle campaign plans to kick off in June with the theme of reducing waste.

### F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)

*Brian LeCouteur, COG Urban Forester*

- The RTCS presented their report, *Conserving Trees and Forests in Metropolitan Washington*, to the COG Board on April 10.
- The board unanimously voted to adopt Resolution R14-2024, which establishes a regional goal of maintaining a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across the Metropolitan

Washington region.

#### G. Member Roundtable Updates

*Meredith Soniat, DDOT*

- DDOT held its first round of national electric vehicle infrastructure (NEVI) funding, which closed on Friday, May 24.

*John Morrill, Fairfax County*

- The County had been exploring the possibility of a green bank, but that has been put on hold by the Board of Supervisors to focus on outreach and market development for resident programming, such as the forthcoming Solar for All and Home Energy Rebates Programs.

*Demetra McBride, Arlington County*

- The County completed their RAMP project (risk assessment and management plan) and have begun the public engagement process. Two Federal grant programs will soon be launching, they will be providing e-bike rebates and a low-income community focused suite of tools for building and energy efficiency updates.

*Deron Lovaas, MDOT*

- MDOT is in the evaluation phase of its first round of NEVI, hoping to make conditional awards soon. The Maryland NEVI public survey received more than 1,400 responses and found that people were not familiar with NEVI, public education webinars will be held to increase public awareness.

*Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County*

- Maryland counties are required to comply with the state's woodland conservation goals, so the County passed new rules to increase the baseline tree canopy preservation.

#### H. Staff Updates

- ICLEI's Climate Aligned Budgeting Cohort will kick off in June. The cohort will consist of teams from the City of Alexandria, Arlington County, City of Bowie, City of Laurel, Prince George's County, Frederick County, Fairfax County, and DC Water. The teams will be learning how to incorporate climate action into operating budgets and CIP plans.

### 3. FY25 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

*Jeff King, COG Climate, Energy and Air Program Director*

The Regional Environmental Fund is one of several funds at COG other than member dues. The three program areas supported by the Regional Environmental Fund are Climate and Energy, Recycling and Solid Waste Management, and Regional Forestry and Tree Canopy Management. The major categories of support provided by the programs are committee support (ACPAC, BEEAC, and CEEPC), energy policy and project support, adaptation and resilience, COG Board and member support, recycling and solid waste program, forest and tree canopy.

**Action:** Work Program and Budget Approved.

### 4. SOLAR FOR ALL

*Laura Pimentel, District Department of Energy and Environment*

*Carrie Hearne, Virginia Department of Energy*

DC's Solar for All (SFA) Program was established in 2016 and has provided almost 10,000 households with solar energy. The goal of SFA is to serve 100,000 low-to-moderate income residents by 2032. The current model provides rooftop and community solar options administered by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU). With the \$62.45 million federal Solar for All award DOEE plans to expand the reach of existing rooftop and community solar programs and provide benefits to 19,000

low-to-moderate income residents over the five-year project period. DOEE selected seven partners on the Solar for All program, which were DC Green Bank, DCSEU, City First Enterprises, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW), Interfaith Power and Light (IPL), Green and Healthy Homes Initiative, and Groundswell. Through the expansion of the program DOEE plans to leverage federal tax incentives, create a low-cost revolving loan fund, promote solar and storage on multi-unit affordable housing, create a new grant program for enabling upgrades, promote community ownership, expand funding for workforce development, increase individualized project technical assistance, increase outreach and education, and establish a pipeline.

Virginia Energy has been selected to receive \$156.2M from Solar for All. In accordance with the grant requirements, the program will provide at least 20 percent bill savings with 100 percent of program funds enabling low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) to benefit from residential-serving distributed solar. Over 1.75M households in Virginia may be qualified to apply for the program based on the LIDAC definition.

It is estimated that Virginia Energy's Solar for All program will:

- Create 1,200 new jobs
- Serve 16,200 households
- 109 MW of rooftop and community solar
- \$400M lifetime economic benefits
- 140 GWh new generation annually

## **5. SOLSMART**

*Deb Perry, ICMA*

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) runs SolSmart in partnership with the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC). SolSmart is a no cost technical assistance and designation program that serves local governments and regional organizations. The program is now funded through 2027, aiming to serve another 500 communities. Criteria was revised in Spring 2023 to integrate new best practices including automated permitting, solar + storage, and equity. SolSmart has served 526 communities across U.S., designating them bronze, silver, gold, or platinum based on their scoring criteria. There are currently 10 communities in the COG region with SolSmart designations. SolSmart actions aim to improve policies and procedures, increase transparency, increase understanding, and reduce barriers.

## **6. WMATA SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE**

*Rachel Healy, Director, WMATA Office of Sustainability*

The DMV region has ambitious sustainability goals, which requires a robust regional transit system. Public transit benefits people, the planet, and prosperity. It can be seen in the region through GHG emissions avoided, economic development near transit, and safer travel. To meet the region's sustainability goals, transit mode shift needs to increase. Creating a better and more integrated network can help increase the number of regular transit riders. Metro developed three overarching sustainability initiatives: decarbonize Metro infrastructure and equipment, optimize natural resource stewardship, and modernize design, construction, and operations. The sustainability targets set under these initiatives are:

- Increase regional GHG emissions avoidance by 10 percent by 2028,
- Achieve net-zero carbon by 2050,
- Increase to 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2033,
- Achieve 100 percent zero-emission buses by 2042,

- Achieve 100 percent zero-emission non-revenue and paratransit fleets by 2050,
- Increase number of facilities with green certifications
- Maintain water use per revenue mile at <1 gallon

There are many strategies being deployed to support the initiatives and targets, such as investing in energy efficient vehicles, equipment, and practices, procuring clean energy, developing a decarbonization strategy for future initiatives, increasing tree canopy, building LEED facilities, and efficient water use.

## **7. ADJOURN**

*Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park*

Councilmember Dyballa adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2024 include:

- Wednesday, July 24, 2024
- Wednesday, September 25, 2024
- Wednesday, November 20, 2024

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/5/22/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>