



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 18, 2019  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

#### ACPAC MEMBERS (\*VIA PHONE)

Tara Failey, Gretchen Goldman, John Howes, Hilary Lewis\*, Robin Lewis\*, Sarah Mazur, Guillermo Ortiz, Natalie Pien, Ron Rodriguez\*, Rodney Sobin, Glenna Tinney, Gabriel Thoumi\*, Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

**COG STAFF:** Amanda Campbell, Maia Davis, Tim Masters

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

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair*

The agenda was approved. The meeting summary was approved as written.

#### 2. POLICIES AND PROGRAMS FOR EXISTING BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY

*Rodney Sobin, Senior Program Director, National Association of State Energy Officers*

Since buildings may last for 50 to 100 years or more, and account for nearly 40% of energy use, augmenting policies to reduce building energy demand are important. Several types of policies can encourage better energy performance in buildings – voluntary, mandatory, and in-between. Some measures that have been used more commonly include LEED for existing buildings, EnergyStar, and labeling, benchmarking and disclosure requirements. Tax incentives and utility energy efficiency programs encourage energy efficiency. Federal and state appliance and equipment energy efficiency standards help, but only affect newly purchased products. Similarly, energy codes only apply to major renovations. Leading by example, such as by increasing the efficiency of public facilities, has been more common.

Recently more efforts have been initiated to increase the use of green leasing and financing mechanisms such as PACE (Property Assessed Clean Energy). Other recently enacted requirements have included:

- NYC: requires large buildings to conduct energy audits, implement lighting upgrades, and provide tenant energy statements
- Austin, TX: requires home energy audit disclosure before sale, multifamily building energy audits, energy use reduction for high energy use properties
- Salt Lake City: commercial building incentives for 'tune-up evaluations' every 5 years for low EnergyStar scores
- Several other cities require audits for low-rated buildings.
- Burlington, VT: requires residential home inspection and cost-effective upgrades.
- Boulder, CO: SmartRegs require older rental housing to meet minimal standards by end of 2018 to renew rental license

Mr. Sobin said that measures aimed at lighting are the 'low hanging fruit' in this field. Policies affecting residential homes other than voluntary EERE programs, tax credits, and rebates have included a proposal in Portland to require time of sale energy labeling. Members added that the real

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estate community tends to oppose such bills unless there is a tax break or value change associated with it. There have been prior bills in Congress that would have required Fanny Mae and Freddy Mac to consider energy costs, but they did not pass.

### **3. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

*Amanda Campbell, COG Department of Environmental Programs*

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair, All*

In reviewing the Climate Leadership Awards materials, members suggested that 'diverse' or 'underserved' are better terms than 'vulnerable' and suggested some additional wording changes. Materials were approved with those changes.

### **4. REGIONAL EJ UPDATES AND GRANT APPLICATION ON EQUITY, HEALTH, CLIMATE PARTNERSHIP**

*Maia Davis, COG Staff*

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair, All*

ACPAC started working on the Environmental Justice Toolkit in 2013, and the Transportation Planning Board Citizens Advisory Committee was also looking at environmental justice around the same time. TPB eventually developed the equity emphasis areas map to help guide transportation projects and their impacts on underserved communities. Equity was featured in the 2017-2020 Climate Action Plan as a result of ACPAC raising the issue. Eventually, the Region Forward Coalition decided that Equity would be a priority for 2019. Equity will be incorporated in the revised Region Forward Goals, to be adopted at the end of 2019. Recently, the Chief Administrative Officers committee declared racial equity a priority and formed a task force with staff from around the region. They are working on a project with the Government Alliance on Race and Equity to develop a racial equity action plan.

Ms. Davis gathered the committee's feedback and suggestions for a grant application involving equity, health and climate. One concept was to use the EJ Toolkit to help develop metrics on equity to measure progress. ACPAC and the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee could hold a joint meeting to coordinate.

### **5. AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE AND ENERGY PROJECT UPDATES**

- ACPAC members were invited to attend the April 4 CEEPC meeting which held at the Washington Auto show.
- The MWAQC Executive Committee is planning to review and submit a comment letter in early April on the proposed cost-benefit calculations in the Mercury and Air Toxics rule, which would no longer account for particulate matter cobenefits. MWAQC's concern that this new procedure could set a precedent and be used in the future for criteria pollutants NAAQS evaluations.
- COG is working with Virginia staff to secure funding for the Army Corps of Engineers study which will examine current and future hurricane inundation risks and solutions along the northern Virginia side of the Potomac river.

### **6. ADJOURN. THE NEXT ACPAC MEETING IS APRIL 15.**