

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

May 21, 2013

Mr. Roger Berliner, Chair
Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Mr. Berliner,

The Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) is considering a 2013-2016 Action Plan.

On April 15, 2013, the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) met to discuss the proposed 2013-2016 Action Plan. Specifically, ACPAC members considered the following:

- Comments on Action Plan - Any major changes or additions needed?
- Action Plan Priorities - Where should CEEPC and staff focus their attention?
- Local Government Assistance - What can be done to help local jurisdictions make traction on goals with low implementation?

For your information and consideration, we are attaching a summary of this discussion and comments received.

Sincerely,

Caroline Petti

Caroline Petti, Chair
Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

cc. Stuart Freudberg, Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

Summary of Discussion of Proposed 2013 – 2016 Climate Action Plan
April 15, 2013

Comments on Proposed 2013 -2016 Action Plan:

- Clearly identify expectations/level of effort for actions – are they one time, annual, ongoing, etc? For example:
 - How often should greenhouse gas inventories be completed?
 - What's the planning period for greenhouse gas emission reduction plans and how often should they be updated (annual, 5-years, etc?)
 - How often should local jurisdictions track energy performance in their buildings? How often should they disclose their energy performance?
- If the Action Plan sections are in order of importance, you may want to consider moving the Outreach Section up.
- Consider increasing the percent goals on adaptation and resiliency
- Add goal(s) related to encouraging locally- sourced food and farmers markets with the purpose of reducing transportation-related emissions
- Under Advocacy, consider revising current goal and/or adding goal(s) related to:
 - Local jurisdictions communicating to citizens their positions on state and federal legislation
 - Local jurisdictions communicating proposed state and federal legislation to citizens and encouraging citizens to submit comments/letting citizens know how they can comment.
- Consider identifying which actions are the most difficult to implement, actions that are low-hanging fruit, and actions of highest priority in the Action Plan.
- In terms of progress on actions, consider identifying both the number and percent of jurisdictions implementing each action (11/22 = 50%), showing progress made over the last few years, and weighting progress by population (i.e. x% of the region's population have energy efficiency or renewable energy financing programs available to them).

Action Plan Priorities:

- Completing greenhouse gas inventories is a key first step to establishing a baseline and identifying actions that will best assist with achieving the 20% by 2020 goal.
- Local jurisdictions should focus on achieving the built environment and infrastructure goal of reducing energy consumption 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

Ideas to Assist Local Jurisdictions with Action Plan Implementation:

- Getting Started fact sheets on specific actions
- Develop "how to" checklists, such as an adaptation planning checklist

- Develop toolkits for specific actions
- Host webinars
- Have a standing CEEPC agenda item for local jurisdictions to highlight local programs
- Highlight promising practices, such as on the COG website
 - One member mentioned that the District of Columbia is in the process of a wind farm development deal. There might be an interesting opportunity for the COG and some of the MD members to do something similar. There is also a wind project in Cheverly, MD that may be interesting to highlight.
- Implement an award program for local jurisdictions
- Identify a single lead contact for each jurisdiction, not just for collecting information from them (as in the annual climate and energy survey data), but to open up communication and provide information to them that will assist with actions they are considering implementing.
- Identify and communicate the lead COG staff person for each section or sub-section of the Action Plan where localities can direct their questions.
- Assist with standardizing greenhouse gas inventory methodologies and/or develop regional greenhouse gas inventory.
- Attempt to rank action plan items so that localities improve their understanding of where to get the most bang for the buck.