

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 15, 2013
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Michael Cakouros, Blaine Collison, Brian DiNunno, Gretchen Goldman, Ravi Gupta, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Katherine Lizotte, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, Glenna Tinney
Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis, Jeff King

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The agenda and minutes from March 18, 2013 were approved with no changes.

2. Air Quality Updates and Actions (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)

Joan had several items to update ACPAC on air quality. First, Joan brought to the attention of the group EPA's Proposed Tier 3-Low Sulfur Gasoline Rule. Joan described how Tier 3 will result in 8 tons per year reduction in SO₂. MWAQC sent a comment letter to EPA (sent 3/27/13) urging them to finalize Tier 3 standards this year to help the region provide cleaner gasoline and vehicles and to assist the region in maintaining federal standards.

Another topic Joan addressed is the EPA Notice of Proposed Rule for the Approval of the 1997 Ozone SIP attainment demonstration (submitted in 2008). The Washington region demonstrated attainment of the 1997 8-hour ozone standard by the applicable attainment date of June 15, 2010; therefore, EPA is proposing to approve the 1997 Ozone SIP. However, 2012 data for 8-hour ozone design value shows an increase from 2010 that put the region above the 1997 standard and further away from attaining the stricter 2008 standard that the region must meet by 2015. The region is currently considered as in marginal non-attainment for ozone. If the region voluntarily bumps up its non-attainment status the region will need to implement additional measures to meet the 2008 standard but will be given until 2018 instead of 2015 to meet the standard. Some MWAQC stakeholders are interested in taking additional action and voluntarily bumping up the region's non-attainment status and other MWAQC stakeholders are not interested in taking these steps. MWAQC was not able to agree upon a position and send a comment letter to EPA regarding this notice of proposed rule.

At the April 24 MWAQC meeting, there will be a discussion on the MWAQC Work Program and Budget. Due to stakeholders different opinions on the implementation of additional measures, the Work Program and Budget may or may not be approved. Also at the upcoming meeting, MWAQC will be asked to approve the Response to

Comments for the PM2.5 Redesignation Maintenance Plan as well as approve Plan itself. Joan provided highlights of the comments and responses to ACPAC.

3. Energy Use Trends in the National Capital Region (Jeff King, COG DEP Staff)

Jeff King described how a 2005 baseline greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory was developed for the 2008 Regional Climate Change Report. Electricity and natural gas is a major subset of the regional inventory; therefore, COG staff has developed a process to annually collect this data from utilities in region so that energy use trends can be reported and data can feed into an updated regional GHG inventory.

Jeff pointed out that region wide electricity use from 2005 to 2011 increased by 6% while natural gas decreased by 6%. Trends in each jurisdiction varied. While the population increased by 8% from 2005 to 2011, residential electricity and natural gas use per capita decreased by 3.6%. Jeff mentioned they are looking into economic indicators and one member suggested showing the energy price trend along with the residential per capita trend. Based on a question from ACPAC, Jeff recommended the EPA E-Grid as a reliable source for a snapshot of regional emissions associated with major power producers. In response to a question on about better solar options in Virginia, Jeff described how Dominion has a few pilot solar programs such as a feed-in solar tariff. Jeff also responded to several questions related to trends in the PJM emission rates.

In closing, Jeff emphasized the importance of COG's relationship with the region's utilities for reporting energy trends, developing GHG inventories, and for partnering on grid modernization, which seems to be emerging as a high priority for the region.

4. ACPAC Recommendations for CEEPC Action Plan Discussion

In May, COG staff will ask CEEPC to adopt the 2013 - 2016 CEEPC Action Plan. A facilitated discussion was held at the April 2013 ACPAC meeting to provide any last comments on the Action Plan and to provide input on a couple of key questions that CEEPC and COG staff have been considering. Specifically, the ACPAC was asked to consider 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?

The list below highlights the discussion and input at ACPAC.

Comments on 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 local source food, when possible, and/or 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 fundamental to achieving the Regional GHG Emission Reduction goal of 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.
- 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.

5. Draft National Climate Assessment Comments (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Maia directed ACPAC's attention to a hand out in their packet that summarized comments COG staff submitted on the Draft National Climate Assessment (NCA). At the March ACPAC meeting Todd LaPorte, a professor at George Mason University, gave an overview of the draft NCA and ACPAC provided some thoughts on how to communicate the NCA to policy makers and gain public support for implementation of strategies. The hand out highlighted how ACPAC's input was incorporated into COG staff comments on the NCA.

Next meeting: May 20, 2013 – 5:30pm – Room 1