

**Energy Advisory Committee**  
Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC

**February 21, 2013 DRAFT Meeting Highlights**  
**Held at COG Headquarters**

**Attendance:**

Olayinka Kolawole, DDOE  
Sosina Tadesse, DDOE  
Chris Berendt, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP  
Matt Aberant, SAIC  
Joan Kelsch, Arlington County  
Said Said, Prince William County  
Bill Topper, JFHQ-NCR  
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria  
Steve Walz, NVRC  
Jeff Bond, Prince George's County  
Lisa Orr, Frederick County (teleconference)  
Howard Stone, Fairfax (teleconference)  
Susan Hafeli, Fairfax (teleconference)  
Steve St Clair, Fairfax (teleconference)  
Kirsten Bowden, Pepco (teleconference)  
Dave McDonough, MD (teleconference)

Staff

Julia Allman  
Leah Boggs  
Amanda Campbell  
Jeff King  
Joan Rohlf

1. Legislative Update, Steve Walz, NVRC and Julia Allman, MWCOG

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- Steve Walz provided an update on Virginia Legislation:
  - HB 2261 makes changes to the RPS, as well as including provisions for retiring some generation plants and for storm response.
  - HB 1645 creates an agricultural net metering program. The bill originally included a community net metering program, but this was taken out.
  - HB 2234 and SB 1023 enact a Power Purchase Agreement pilot program. It would allow some behind-the-meter PPAs based on a kWh sale basis. There will be a total of 30MW allowed, with 2MW per project.
  - HB 1917 allows solar thermal energy to be included in the RPS.
  
- Julia Allman provided an update on Maryland Legislation:
  - The Maryland General assembly is considering two measures for energy efficiency financing. HB 1173 would create On-Bill financing for commercial customers, and

HB621/SB627 would create a Sustainable Energy Contract Program for residential energy retrofits.

- HB1128/SB699 would establish a community energy generation pilot.
- SB 935 creates a loan program for home construction companies to build very high-efficiency homes.
- Maryland is also considering a number of bills that would standardize language for electric vehicle laws and extend certain tax credits and HOV exemptions.

## **2. Community Choice Aggregation, Chris Berendt, Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP**

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- Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) is a framework enabled by having retail choice present in the electricity regulation structure. It empowers communities to make choices about their energy sources without having to create a municipal utility.
- CCA allows communities to have better pricing and a more direct influence on the type of power being provided (can be a strategy to reach RPS goals). In addition to procuring more clean power for communities, CCAs can prompt investment in renewable generation sources and thereby shape the generation market.
- For local governments, CCAs can provide an equity strategy. With sufficient investment, CCAs can create an asset portfolio of generation resources that create a revenue source and control future energy costs.
- CCAs are currently in place in California, Illinois, Ohio, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.
- Key decisions are whether to adopt a distribution model or wholesale commodity model program; whether to include only government electricity load or commercial/residential as well; and whether to structure the agreement as opt-in or opt-out.
- The Washington region is particularly well-suited to CCAs because it resides within the PJM Interconnection, which is one of the most vibrant wholesale electricity markets in the world. Mr. Berendt will be working with the DC Council to pursue legislation to create CCA in the District.

### Discussion:

- What are the drawbacks for CCA? Why have some communities rejected CCA legislation?
  - There is some controversy over the opt-in or opt-out structure. Additionally, CCA does not work in less vibrant electricity markets. Some communities have run into issues when the CCA structure tries to accomplish too much, but adding additional stipulations into the structure.
- How can CCA help meet RPS requirements?
  - RPS compliance is met by utility by purchasing RECs from third parties or having their own renewable installations. CCA is a more direct way to get that percentage of renewable power without RECs.
- Is this done with natural gas, or only electricity?
  - Currently, only on electricity side.

## **3. IGBG/EAC Merge, Joan Kelsch, Olayinka Kolawole, and Leah Boggs**

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- Starting with the March 21 meeting, the Intergovernmental Green Building Group and the Energy Advisory Committee will merge. IGBG began in 2005 and has worked on green building issues with governments and businesses. The issue has come into maturity in recent years, with the popularity of LEED and other rating tools as well as updated building codes.

- Increasingly there is a good deal of overlap between energy topics and green building, and for that reason a merger of the two committees is proposed.
- Joan Kelsch and Olayinka Kolawole will head the group as co-chairs.
- We want to ensure that there is a good balance between green building and general energy topics, and as necessary will follow an alternating monthly schedule.
- The new name of the committee is the Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC).

#### 4. **Local Greenhouse Gas Inventory Panel**, Matt Aberant, SAIC; John Heermans, DDOE; Eli Yewdall, ICLEI

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This panel was held to raise awareness about how local GHG inventories have been done. NVRC is pursuing a common inventory for northern Virginia jurisdictions, and other jurisdictions may join. Some basic research has been done, and NVRC is beginning to look at options for conducting the inventory.

Matt Aberant, SAIC

- SAIC conducted Arlington, Montgomery, and Prince George's Counties' GHG inventories.
- Montgomery County's inventory spanned 2005 to 2008, covering both government operations and community emissions. At that time, there was no standard community-level protocol, though ICLEI has since released one in late 2012.
- In many places, energy is the biggest source of GHG emissions. Montgomery County worked with utilities to get electricity and natural gas consumption data, and used sector-based estimates for fuel oil, propane, and other non-utility fuels. They worked with COG to determine estimated vehicle miles travelled (VMT) for the county. Vehicle registrations were used to get an estimate of vehicle classes and EPA-estimated fuel economy ratings.
- For electricity, EPA's eGrid database was used to fund a regional emission factor. A regional transmission loss factor was also imputed.
- A challenge in GHG inventories is how to count emissions from solid waste. Landfills may be inside or outside a particular jurisdiction, and the waste may come from several localities. Additionally, because waste emits GHGs over time, you must decide how many emissions to attribute to a certain amount of waste each year. There is a big opportunity to standardize this accounting across the region.
- Other challenges include estimating fuel oil and propane, where data is less available. Census, American Community Survey, and the Commercial Building Energy Consumption Survey can help to make assumptions.
- While inventories are community-specific, it's possible to make them useful for comparisons as well as for individual communities.

John Heermans, District Department of the Environment

- An important thing to remember when doing community GHG inventories is that you have to work with what you get. Often data sources aren't perfect, and you can't track everything, but that doesn't mean that you shouldn't conduct an inventory or that it won't be useful.
- VMT and waste are the trickiest data sources. Waste measurement requires a lot of estimation. In DC, about half of all waste is managed within the city, and the rest goes to an incinerator in Fairfax. We applied the ICLEI default emission rate standard for waste.
- For VMTs, we are trying to use updated protocol methods, but determining vehicle type is tricky.

- Government operations GHGs have been calculated separately, but we may add government and water treatment emissions to the community inventory.
- Between 2006 and 2007, we see a 12% reduction in GHGs, but it's hard to see through the "noise" of non-policy factors.

#### Eli Yewdall, ICLEI

- ICLEI released its Community GHG Protocol to set a national standard for community inventories. The protocol went through a 2-year development process that included local government staff and GHG accounting experts.
- It's critical to determine the "geography of accountability." What is going on inside the community to drive emissions, even if those emissions occur outside jurisdictional boundaries? Where can you prioritize reductions?
- In terms of regional data cooperation, transportation data is important. Origin-destination data or VMT can be used. Additionally, information about water and wastewater systems is important to consider.
- ICLEI provides a number of supporting resources for local governments, including online training modules, an inventory tool, updated instructions, data workbook, and report template. ICLEI staff also offer support.

#### Rob Graff, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

- The DVRPC serves the Philadelphia region, including PA and NJ counties.
- DVRPC conducted inventories in 2005 and 2010, using national inventory methods where possible.
- For energy emissions, electricity and natural gas data was obtained from utilities. EPA eGrid was used for electricity emissions factor, and EPA information was used for Global Warming Potential.
- Transportation emissions were determined by VMT from a travel demand model as well as EPA models. Transportation also included air, freight rail, transit, ports, and intercity rail.
- Where possible, emissions were allocated to jurisdictions within DVRPC—some sources, such as electricity, are easy to allocate, while others are more difficult, such as VMT and solid waste.
- Key lessons learned include: Work with the data that is available, recognizing that your inventory won't be perfect, and that it may be impossible to identify whether policy has driven emissions increases or decreases. Provide guidance to local jurisdictions on how to understand and act on the data, and always keep the goal of the inventory in mind.

#### Andrea Denny, US EPA

- EPA is developing an excel-based spreadsheet tool to help local governments with calculations necessary for GHG inventories. It includes fuel emission factors by eGrid region. This is intended to share best practices in GHG accounting and to save LGs time in constructing spreadsheets.
- A draft is available for LG operations. A community-wide spreadsheet is being developed.
- Currently EPA is looking for beta testers – local governments interested in using a preliminary spreadsheet version should contact Andrea.

## 5. Adjournment

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- Next meeting date is March 21<sup>st</sup>. Planning Call is March 7.