

MEMORANDUM

TO: MWAQC Environmental Justice and Air Quality (EJAQ) Subcommittee
FROM: MWAQC Staff, COG DEP
DATE: September 9, 2024
SUBJECT: Criteria for Selecting Priority Actions for EJAQ Action Plan

This memorandum presents proposed criteria for Determining Priority Actions for the EJAQ Action Plan.

Background

MWAQC staff are proposing that all recommendations for potential actions to be considered for inclusion in the MWAQC EJAQ Action Plan be maintained in a Master List of Strategies and Actions. It is envisioned that the EJAQ Action Plan will include a final list of recommended priority strategies and actions to address the EJAQ problem in the metropolitan Washington region. Staff propose that one of the key decisions of the MWAQC EJ Subcommittee will be to decide what criteria to use to screen the strategies and actions on the Master List to select those that could be considered a Priority Action for inclusion in the final Plan.

Sources of Strategies and Actions for the Master List

Staff propose that the Master List be a living document with additions or enhancements over time. Strategies and Actions for the Master List will be proposed from the following sources:

- Existing control measures included in the Reasonably Available Control Measures (RACM) Lists from the State Implementation Plans (SIPs)
- Proposed new control strategies and actions from MWAQC members, staff, the public or other interested stakeholders
- MWAQC’s Gold Book of Measures
- The Climate and Energy Action Plans developed for COG’s Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Proposed Criteria for Determining Near-Term Priority Measures

Below are proposed draft criteria for use in deciding what strategies and actions should be considered Priority Near-Term Actions for inclusion in the MWAQC EJAQ Action Plan.

- Will help to improve air quality in the identified community
- Will not create substantial adverse health impacts within the community
- Technically feasible
- Politically feasible
- Existing or new opportunity for funding to implement

Proposed Criteria for Determining Longer-Term Priority Measures

Below are proposed draft criteria for use in deciding what priority strategies and actions may need to be considered Longer-Term Actions in the MWAQC EJAQ Action Plan.

- Need to obtain authority to implement
- Significant new policy or program development will need to occur to make the strategy or action viable
- High cost with no current identified funding source available
- Significant legal challenges need to be addressed