



## Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 22, 2019

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

\*Indicates participation by phone

- Hon. Dan Sze, City of Falls Church (CEEPC Chair)
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Ira Dorfman, GWRCCC
- Erik Gutshall, Arlington County
- Stephen Gyor, DOEE
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County\*
- Rachel Healy, WMATA
- Kate Johnson, DOEE
- Andrew Kreider, US EPA\*
- Hilary Lewis, ACPAC\*
- John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools\*
- Leta Mach, Greenbelt
- Dale Medearis, NVRC\*
- Del Pepper, Alexandria
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Nicole Rentz, DC Council\*
- Chris Rice, Maryland Energy Administration
- Erica Shingara, Rockville\*
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University\*
- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club
- Vaughn Stewart, MD House of Delegates
- Deni Tevaris, Prince George's County

- Colleen Turner, MDOT\*
- Hilari Varnadore, USGBC
- Luke Wisniewski, MDE\*
- Edward Yim, DOEE

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Shalom Flank, Urban Ingenuity
- Gary Green, MDOT
- Bracken Hendricks, Urban Ingenuity
- John Miller, Flywheel Development
- Harrison Newton, District Executive Office of the Mayor
- Jessica Pitts, Flywheel Development
- Philip Quebe, Cadmus\*
- George Mason University Sustainability in Action Students\*

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Erin Morrow, COG Department of Transportation
- Monica Nunez, COG Executive Office
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs (Director)



## 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

*Dan Sze, CEEPC Chair*

The CEEPC Chair, Dan Sze, called the meeting to order. The January 23 CEEPC meeting summary was approved.

## 2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

### A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

*Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs*

- BEEAC and GWRCCC partnered to host the DC Circulator Electric Bus and Charging Facility Tour on March 26, replacing the March BEEAC meeting. The tour was designed to help the decision-making processes for local governments and transit bus agencies. DDOT is hoping to purchase 31 additional electric buses with grant support for which COG provided a letter of support.
- In the BEEAC May meeting, participants reviewed the benefits of sustainable community initiatives including LEED for Neighborhood Development, LEED for Cities and Communities, and the Living Community Challenge. USGBC discussed potentially creating a cohort of COG members to apply for LEED for Cities and Communities.
- The topic of the July 18 BEEAC meeting will be low to moderate income housing energy efficiency.
- The renewed Clean Energy Financing Work Group will kick off in June. The group will focus on PACE, green banks, and environmental impact bonds as potential funding mechanisms for clean energy projects.

### B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

*Hilary Lewis, ACPAC*

- The 2019 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards applications and nominations are open until June 28th. The [COG website](#) has additional information.

### C. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

*Ira Dorfman, GWRCCC*

- The March 26 DC Circulator facility tour, conducted jointly with COG, had over 80 participants. Participants requested a follow-up meeting which will potentially be scheduled for August or September. Other recent activities include a hydrogen fuel cell meeting on Capitol Hill, discussing B100 biodiesel in DC's refuse trucks, and partnering with Washington Gas on a renewable gas workshop. Upcoming meetings include a May 30<sup>th</sup> Prince George's County event promoting propane vehicles.

### D. Member and Staff Updates

- Metropolitan Washington Racial Equity Cohort, *Monica Nunez, COG*  
The Government Alliance on Race and Equity (GARE), in partnership with the COG, is pleased to announce the inaugural Metro DC learning year cohort of governmental jurisdictions that will be systemically advancing racial equity in 2019. Eleven jurisdictions are signed up, but more are welcome. Designated staff will come to trainings once per month for ten months starting in September. For more information, contact Monica Beyrouiti Nuñez, COG's Government Relations Supervisor, at [mbeyrouiti@mwkog.org](mailto:mbeyrouiti@mwkog.org).
- Global Covenant of Mayors Climate Action Plan Support, *Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs*

The Global Covenant of Mayors selected metropolitan Washington as one of four US Metro-scale Climate Leaders. The region will receive technical support on updating CEEPC's Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan. A public announcement will be made on the selections soon.

- **Maryland and Virginia Street Lights Initiative, *Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs***  
The Maryland and Virginia Program to Facilitate LED Streetlighting Conversion by Local Governments is a U.S. Department of Energy grant funded project. The project team is led by the Maryland Energy Administration and the team includes Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy, Clean Energy Solutions Inc, National Association of State Energy Offices, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and COG. The project will provide technical support to local jurisdictions in converting existing streetlights to LED technology. Local governments that are not already involved and interested in receiving support can contact Jeff King.
- **US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Study, *Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs***  
The Commonwealth of Virginia has identified and authorized use of funds to help support the Northern Virginia Coastal study. There are now enough funds to cover the first two-thirds of the 50/50 cost-shared study focused on the northern Virginia tidal areas. COG is the non-federal sponsor for the study and is coordinating with the Army Corps of Engineers Baltimore District and local cost-share partners (Fairfax County and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority) to plan the study re-launch. The Corps will develop designs for new flood protection systems to reduce to risk to northern Virginia communities and built assets. Such a 'feasibility study' must be completed for northern Virginia to be eligible for 65/35 federal cost-share funding for construction of coastal flood protection systems. For more information, contact Steve Walz or Amanda Campbell.
- **Falls Church Electric Buses, *Dan Sze, City of Falls Church***  
Falls Church is looking into getting four electric school buses and its supporting infrastructure as well as EV charging stations in affordable housing developments.
- **WMATA Electric Vehicle Rollout and Energy Action Plan, *Rachel Healy, WMATA***  
WMATA is evaluating how to shift to EVs in the coming years. They are already making their new garages EV-ready and are putting out an RFP for an electric bus pilot soon. They are partnering with other transit agencies to determine the best approaches to overcoming the scale of the infrastructure investment.

WMATA also released an Energy Action Plan on Earth Day helping to spread their message of being a sustainable transportation option for the region. Other CEEPC members that would like to help spread that message should contact Rachel.

- **Takoma Park Street Lights and Climate Emergency, *Cindy Dyballa, Takoma Park***  
Takoma Park has almost completed their citywide installation of LED streetlights and the reaction has been positive. Their public works director would be happy to share their experience to help inform the regional effort.

Takoma Park declared a climate emergency in January. The primary action item from the declaration is that the city will revisit their energy and sustainability plan this summer. They would like to collaborate with others working on climate action plans.

- **Fairfax County Office of Environmental Energy Coordination, *Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County***  
Fairfax County established a new Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination in the FY 2020 budget which will be officially established on July 1<sup>st</sup>. The office's primary responsibility will be energy and climate planning, and it will be the point of contact on three initiatives. First, Fairfax County is beginning a community-wide energy and climate action planning process that will officially kick off in the fall. Second, the county is close to finalizing a commercial property assessed clean energy (C-PACE) assessment. Finally, the county will soon be issuing a solar power purchase agreement RFP. The contract will be rideable for other jurisdictions. Chris Rice from the Maryland Energy Administration added they will also have a similar solar contract that is rideable.
- **Sustainable DC 2.0, *Kate Johnson, DOEE***  
DC published its Sustainable DC 2.0 plan which includes a new commitment to achieve Mayor Bowser's pledge to make DC carbon neutral by 2050. DOEE is working to complete a strategy to get from 50% carbon neutral in 2032 to 100% carbon neutral by 2050. The deadline for the plan is the end of 2020.

### **3. LEED FOR CITIES AND COMMUNITIES**

*Hilari Varnadore, US Green Building Council*

In April 2019, LEED for Cities and Communities v4.1 was launched. Version 4.1 is a merger of LEED with the STAR Communities Index and offers a comprehensive framework to support planning, design, operation, and performance of cities and communities at the forefront of combating climate change. There are six LEED categories including Natural Systems and Ecology, Transportation and Land Use, Water Efficiency, Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Materials and Resources, and Quality of Life.

There are economic development benefits to being LEED Certified as businesses have considered it in locating new facilities. Erik Gusthall cited it as a factor in Amazon's decision to locate their second headquarters in Arlington County.

Upon registering, USGBC provides staff, tools, and resources to help applicants through the process. There is no set scope as to what constitutes a community. Anyone that has a project boundary and is committed to measuring and tracking performance can apply.

### **4. RESILIENT DC PLAN: LOCAL AND REGIONAL SOLUTIONS**

*Harrison Newton, District Executive Office of the Mayor*

*Resilient DC* is a tactical implementation strategy focused on making the District thrive in the face of change. This strategy brings together and aligns major planning efforts into a coordinated strategy to accelerate action, streamline implementation and integrate equity.

The District of Columbia needs the support of COG and its members for four parts of Resilient DC: 1) Securing a regional housing commitment; 2) Creating a regional climate adaptation effort; 3) Implementing the Clean Energy Omnibus Act; and 4) Creating a regional enhanced mobility strategy.

To help address concerns about gentrification, the plan establishes an economic mobility lab that reports real-time data attuned to equity and policy impacts on residents. The District is also seeking to maintain its historically good cooperative housing program through land trusts.

## **5. CLEAN ENERGY RESILIENCE: RESIDENTIAL SOLUTIONS**

*Edward Yim, District Department of Energy and Environment*

The District of Columbia is implementing engineering solutions aimed at providing energy resiliency for homes and residential neighborhoods. The solutions can be made available and applied in other jurisdictions. The first solution is a standardized design for an islandable single home with rooftop solar panels and a powerwall battery. The second product, is a cost-effective, streamlined approach to an islandable residential neighborhood microgrid (about 200 homes) powered by rooftop solar panels and a centralized battery system.

*Bracken Hendricks & Shalom Flank, Urban Ingenuity*

The DC Clean Energy Omnibus Act will result in 800 MW of new solar capacity, but different parts of the community will be differently ready to receive the new solar energy. The goal of this project is to lay the groundwork for a new approach to engineering energy production for residential on-site demand with a highly transferrable engineering and design package for a solar saturation microgrid. A strategic storage infusion could allow the use of solar to enhance voltage regulation. This approach could result in massive solar uptake and provide an open source package for RFPs. Urban Ingenuity hopes to get involved with deployment and pilot projects.

## **6. DRAFT REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT FUND WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET**

*Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs*

COG will develop the draft regional environment fund work program and budget. New elements will include the tree canopy committee, the US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Risk Study, streetlight initiatives, and local and regional climate action plan development. Staff will complete the work program and budget in the coming weeks.

Chairman Sze moved that COG email a draft of the work program and budget to CEEPC members for review, schedule calls to discuss, and that CEEPC members vote remotely to approve the plan and budget before the new fiscal year. The motion was approved.

## **7. ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled to be a joint meeting with the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee on July 26, 2019.