



## Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County (Chair)
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. Barry Jackson, City of Rockville
- Hon. Takis Karantonis, Arlington County
- Hon. M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
- Hon. Alanna Mensing, City of Manassas Park
- Hon. Bob Weir, Prince William County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Mike Barancewicz, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Christopher Beck, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Noelani Brockett, Charles County
- Dave Feldman, Bethesda Green
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Stephen Gyor, District of Columbia
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Julie Kimmel, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Montgomery County
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Tim Miller, City of Laurel
- Jon Monger, Montgomery County
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Julie Rosenberg, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Meredith Soniat, District Department of Transportation (DDOT)
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Hon. Anita Bonds, District of Columbia
- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ)
- Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie
- Karen Cannon, Mobilize Frederick
- Angela Conroy, VDEQ
- Andrea Crooms, Prince George's County
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County
- Susan Elliot, ICF
- Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County
- Allyson Frantz, VDEQ
- Amy Gillespie, Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC)
- Tianni Ivey, Office of Supervisor Saines
- Eve Lukens-Day, EPA
- Demetra McBride, Arlington County
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Kate Roetzer, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- John Sheridan, Prince George's County
- Michelle Smyk, Prince William County
- Tim Stevens, Falls Church Climate Action Network (FCCAN)
- Emma Tarquinio, Chesapeake Bay Trust
- Deryn Thomas, Office of Delegate Stewart
- Christopher Topoleski, FACS
- Andy Young, City of Falls Church

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert d'Abadie, COG Transportation Planning
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning

## **1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY**

*Jolene Ivey, CEEPC Chair, Prince George's County Council*

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Jolene Ivey called the September CEEPC meeting to order. The July CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

## **2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES**

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

*Andy Young, BEEAC Chair*

- The committee met in September to learn about building decarbonization policy requirements and the impact of regulations like building energy performance standards (BEPS) on building owners.

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

*Julie Kimmel, ACPAC Chair*

- The committee met in September and received a presentation by COG staff on the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory methodology. The discussion was related to one of the nine recommendations outlined in the committee's memo to CEEPC, which is to continuously track the region's progress toward meeting its climate goals and push for course corrections as necessary.

### **C. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group**

*Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs*

- The Regional Elective Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVII) Strategy has been finalized.

### **D. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)**

*Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC*

- GWRCCC will be holding its annual Clean Transportation and Energy Conference on October 16, 2024, in Greenbelt, MD.
- GWRCCC received a grant to progress biodiesel for medium and high duty vehicles in DC.

### **E. Recycling Committee**

*John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs*

- The committee met in September for an organics update which included a presentation from the EPA on reducing food loss and waste, Convertus' Prince William County compost facility, Arlington's on-street collection bins for multifamily residents, and DC's curbside composting pilot one-year review.

### **F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)**

*Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Environmental Programs*

- The committee will be resuming its regular meetings to work on the Tree Canopy Action Plan.

### **G. Member Roundtable Updates**

*Meredith Soniat, DDOT*

- DDOT expects to be making conditional awards for the National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) program in the near future. DDOT was also recently awarded grant

funds to install four solar powered bike share stations by the end of 2024.

*Takis Karantonis, Arlington County*

- The County Board approved about \$2.5 million for the next budget cycle to add to the County's climate action fund for building electrification, resilience, and GHG reduction measures and programs. The Arlington Initiative to Rethink Energy (AIRE) program is beginning work on its Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funded Energy, Health, and Equity (EHE) project. The EHE project will provide a suite of technical, financial, and public engagement strategies specifically tailored to low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) and populations.

*Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Montgomery County*

- The County released its Zero Emission Bus Plan, which charts the path to a zero-emission bus fleet by 2033. The County's second bus depot, the Equipment Maintenance & Transit Operation Center (EMTOC), recently broke ground. EMTOC will be a solar powered microgrid able to charge electric buses. It will be the first on the east coast to produce green hydrogen for buses.

*Chris Beck, MDE*

- The Governor signed an executive order in June requiring the creation of a subcabinet on climate. The State's 22 agencies are developing climate implementation plans as a part of the executive order to specify what the State's Climate Pollution Reduction Plan requires of them. The plans are due November 1 and will be compiled into a subcabinet report.

*Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County Council*

- Chair Ivey presented two bills to the County Council that establish requirements for EV charging stations in multifamily buildings and some commercial buildings.

*Beth Groth, Charles County*

- The County received \$80,000 in formula funding from the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG). The funds are being used for technical assistance through DOE to do building assessments to be able to accommodate more EV charger installations in government buildings.

H. Staff Updates

- COG in partnership with Mason Energy will be hosting a Solar Forum on October 28, 2024 at the George Mason University Arlington Campus.

### **3. DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)**

*Chair Ivey and Members*

One of ACPAC's recommendations was to consider setting more aggressive climate targets. There is growing concern that due to the exponential electricity consumption growth, likely caused by the growth in data centers, COG's current projections don't properly account for the energy consumption that sector will affect in the next ten to fifteen years. There are doubts that COG will meet the current goals, and therefore should focus on implementation and accelerating action rather than setting more aggressive goals.

Discussion:

- Regulatory constraints in Virginia limit what can be legally imposed to meet climate targets.
- While sympathetic to ACPAC's concerns, it would be unrealistic to set more aggressive goals right now as it will be a challenge to meet the current targets.

Action: Further discussions will be held on how to move forward.

#### **4. CLIMATE ACTION OUTREACH**

*Christopher Topoleski, FACS*

Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) works throughout the region, primarily in northern Virginia, to connect houses of worship interested in reducing their GHG emissions with experts, coaching, and peer support. FACS advocates for policies that address climate change at the local level through its five advocacy hubs in Arlington, Alexandria, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Central Valley. FACS received an award through the Department of Energy's Buildings Upgrade Prize (UP) to help faith congregations in its network identify and fund building upgrades.

*Karen Cannon, Mobilize Frederick*

Mobilize Frederick was formed from the City of Frederick and Frederick County's Climate Emergency Resolution that was adopted in 2020. Mobilize Frederick is planning its third annual climate summit, which will include an exhibitor hall, panels, and breakout sessions. The organization leads the Green Schools program within Frederick County to certify schools under the Maryland Green Schools Program and implement environmental literacy and outdoor education programs for students.

*Tim Stevens, FCCAN*

The Falls Church Climate Action Network (FCCAN) is a citizen-led group focused on citizen education and networking, as well as coordinated advocacy regarding meeting the City's GHG emission targets. The Sierra Club Potomac River Group provided FCCAN with a grant launch to launch its website. FCCAN has held electrification events to demonstrate to consumers how they can cut household emissions.

#### **5. CLIMATE ACTION IN THE TRANSPORTATION SECTOR**

*Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff*

The Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVII) Strategy was developed jointly between the Transportation Planning Board (TPB) and COG and overseen by the Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group, which is a subcommittee of CEEPC. REVII was created to help the region plan to meet the demand for EV infrastructure by identifying locations for publicly accessible deployment and ensure all populations can access and benefit from EVs. The key components to the strategy are the EV ownership projections (low, medium, and high growth) and public station needs projections (low, medium, and high). The potential locations were scored on a parcel level based on different site characteristics and ranked from low to high. Jurisdictional profiles were created as a part of REVII and include the jurisdictions progress, registration projections, and charging needs projections.

Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Program granted COG \$3.9 million in Round 1b through the Community Program. This will fund the installation of charging stations at local government sites such as community centers and libraries across seven jurisdictions. The Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC) will serve as the lead partner for the workforce development and community engagement component of this grant. COG also submitted a proposal for Round 2 of the CFI Program. The Round 2 proposal for \$14.87 million would install charging stations at 90 locations across fifteen local governments and two private sector partners in metropolitan Washington.

*Amy Gillespie, MCEC*

The Maryland Clean Energy Center (MCEC) received an award of \$15 million through Round 1a of

the CFI Community Program and an award of \$33.4 million through Round 1b of the CFI Corridor Program. These awards will fund 29 corridor compliant sites and 58 community sites throughout the state of Maryland. These awards will also train 600 Apprentices and Journeyperson Electricians in EV installation. MCEC also applied for Round 2 of CFI in both the Corridor and Community Program. Round 2 application requests \$13.2 million for 110 community sites and \$27.7 million for 42 corridor sites.

## **6. ADJOURN**

*Jolene Ivey, CEEPC Chair*

Chair Ivey adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2024 include:

- Wednesday, November 20, 2024

*All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the COG website or by clicking the link below –*

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/9/25/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>