

FY 2018 BEEAC Survey Results

Table 1 shows FY 2018 priorities indicated on the BEEAC surveys.

FY 2018 BEEAC Survey included 18 responses from 15 jurisdictions, 1 school district, 1 transport agency, and 1 regional commission.

* Technical assistance and implementation for clean energy technologies projects (solar, biomass, geothermal, district energy, CHP, microgrids, hydrogen and fuel cell, and wind power)

Table 1: FY 2018 Jurisdiction Priorities and BEEAC Priorities

TOPIC AREA	Priority Ranking									
	FY 2018 - Jurisdiction				FY 2018 - BEEAC				TOTAL	
	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Critical	High	Medium	Low	Jurisdiction	BEEAC
Technical Assistance*	5	7	5	1	6	7	3	2	18	18
Energy Efficiency	9	9	0	0	10	5	3	0	18	18
Residential Building Benchmarking	1	4	3	10	1	5	6	6	18	18
Energy Efficiency Financing	2	8	5	3	4	4	8	2	18	18
EVs, Infrastructure Site Planning, & Installation	0	10	5	3	1	10	5	2	18	18
Smart Grid	1	4	7	6	2	6	9	1	18	18
Energy Resilience	0	9	8	1	3	9	4	2	18	18
Energy Storage	0	3	10	5	0	7	9	2	18	18
Utility Programs	2	4	10	2	3	5	9	1	18	18
Cooperative Contracts	3	6	8	1	3	8	7	0	18	18
High Performance Street & Outdoor Lighting	2	8	5	3	3	7	4	3	18	17
High Performance Buildings	5	10	3	0	6	8	3	1	18	18
Energy-Related Curriculum Development & Training	-	-	-	-	2	11	4	0		17

Table 2: Ranking of Jurisdiction Priorities and BEEAC Priorities for FY 2018

Jurisdiction Priorities	BEEAC Priorities
1. Energy Efficiency	1. Energy Efficiency
2. High Performance Buildings	2. High Performance Buildings
3. Technical Assistance*	3. Technical Assistance*
4. Cooperative Contracts	4. Cooperative Contracts
5. High Performance Street & Outdoor Lighting Energy Efficiency Financing	5. Energy-Related Curriculum Development & Training Energy Resilience
6. Energy Resilience	6. Energy Efficiency Financing EVs, Infrastructure Site Planning, & Installation Utility Programs
7. EVs, Infrastructure Site Planning, & Installation	7. Smart Grid
8. Utility Programs	8. High Performance Street & Outdoor Lighting
9. Smart Grid	9. Energy Storage
10. Energy Storage	10. Residential Building Benchmarking
11. Residential Building Benchmarking	

Table 3: Links between FY 2018 BEEAC priorities and Local Actions in the [2017-2020 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan](#)

BEEAC PRIORITIES	Local Actions in the 2017-2020 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan
Energy Efficiency	1-a to 1-p, 1-s
High Performance Buildings	1-q to 1-t, 2-k, 4-m, 4-n, 4-p, 6-k
Technical Assistance*	1-p, 2-a to 2-k, 3-f, 5-m, 6-l, 8-d, 8-f, 8-g, 8-h, 8-j, 8-k
Cooperative Contracts	2-d, 2-h
Energy-Related Curriculum Development & Training	1-e, 1-n, 1-t, 2-c, 3-e, 3-m,
Energy Resilience	1-f, 1-o, 2-a, 2-h, 6-b, 6-c,
Energy Efficiency Financing	1-l, 2-d, 2-e
EVs, Infrastructure Site Planning, & Installation	3-c, 3-f, 3-h, 3-i, 3-k, 3-l, 3-n, 8-j
Utility Programs	1-j, 2-d, 2-e, 2-i
Smart Grid	1-o, 1-p, 2-a, 2-b, 2-d, 3-f, 8-j
High Performance Street & Outdoor Lighting	1-i
Energy Storage	2-b
Residential Building Benchmarking	1-b, 1-c, 1-d, 1-g, 1-n, 6-j

Summaries of Survey Questions:

Q4 – 18 responses

In FY2017, what did members find most useful about BEEAC?

Many members found the networking opportunities very useful, especially with regard to engaging with regional counterparts and jurisdictions. Hearing and learning from other jurisdictions was an important part of this, as members felt that the discussions informed their own initiatives and programs. Members also found the presentations to be informative and applicable, with the topics and speakers providing much insight into issues that were relevant to their jurisdictions. This was particularly true of presentations that had an “ask” of the jurisdictions and case studies. Having the agendas before meetings was also helpful for members.

Q5 – 18 responses (3 N/A, 1 None)

In FY2017, what did you find the least useful about BEEAC?

Many members felt that there were too many speakers in meetings, which resulted in speakers rushing through their material and some presentations being repetitive. Members would have liked to have more time for discussion and asking questions. A few stressed the need for having one topic per meeting, with fewer speakers, and more time for interaction with attendees. Related to time, it was suggested that meeting organization be improved in terms of sticking to meeting times and having more staff control over speakers that go off-topic or go on for too long. Another suggestion was that COG staff review presentations and talking points before meetings to make sure material is relevant to the audience and that speakers are not repetitive. Meeting frequency was also raised, and having a meeting each month was considered excessive. Members felt that some speakers were promoting their interests instead of informing jurisdictions. Also, some topics were relevant to some jurisdictions, but not to others.

Q7 – 12 responses (2 N/A, 2 None)

List any additional topics of interest.

A few members had energy-related topics of interest, such as energy planning and reporting, energy grid infrastructure, and energy efficiency standards. Community outreach/engagement was also a topic that members would like to be covered more. There is interest in continuing the solar market and community solar discussions (with a specific request for resolving uncertainty around energy contracts like PV PPAs). Financing topics were also of interest, examples included:

- Life Cycle Cost analysis

- PACE
- financing commercial retrofitting
- marketing sustainability efforts.

Other topics of interest included:

- flood resilience
- climate change resilience

Q8 – 14 responses

Of the above ranked areas, provide any examples of existing programs (e.g. implementation projects, outreach efforts, etc.) that fit in with these priorities.

City of Falls Church: Ground Source Heat Pump system for high school; implementation of C-PACE; conversion of streetlights to LEDs; installing EV charging infrastructure as part of a city hall renovation project; installing solar canopy as part of a new cottage housing development

Prince William County: Prince William County Property management division has a focus on enhancing energy efficiency of buildings through commissioning, retro commissioning, energy efficient equipment retrofits, building automation and analytics.

Fairfax County: Energy Action Fairfax, Green Business Partners, Solarize, Policy on EV-readiness in site design; green building design in capital facilities; green building policy; NVSWCD Conservation Assistance Program (small grants to community associations)

NVRC: Solarize NOVA

Charles County: Capital Services is currently working on a project to construct a solar parking canopy system in the County Government parking lot.

LCPS: All buildings designed to earn ENERGY STAR. LCPS has participated in the COG sponsored cooperative purchase of Natural Gas.

Prince George's County: Top priorities would be making commercial and residential buildings more efficient, the deployment of RE, EV charging, and microgrids. And everything that comes along with it.

Loudoun County: Implemented energy efficient geothermal systems in all the new fire stations. Involved all the County employees in energy conservation by having them take a monthly energy pledge. Each month, the County draws three names and recognizes employees for their participation by giving away LED lights and certificates of appreciation.

Arlington County: Green building incentive program. Solar co-op. Residential energy rebate program. Energy Lending Library, Rethink Energy podcasts. Green Home Choice Kitchen and Bath program. PACE

Frederick County: C-PACE; proposed municipal solar arrays; LED lighting upgrades in traffic lights, parking lots, and government buildings; Green Homes Challenge and Power Saver Retrofits; Maryland Smart Energy Communities grant funded projects, such as procuring all-electric buses for TransIT fleet.

Montgomery County: Residential energy outreach program aligns with energy efficiency priorities, as does the commercial programs (C-PACE and benchmarking). More attention could be spent on EE and RE financing opportunities (like the DC Solar for All presentation during the Community Solar meeting)

City of Gaithersburg: In the process of introducing benchmarking.

City of Greenbelt: Currently looking into installing solar panels on the roof of the Springhill Lake Rec Center thanks to the help of an MSEC-MEA grant, however, the funds only cover a portion of what could be installed; need additional funding. There is a form to be completed before the grant is actually awarded that includes the cost of the system and the budget for it, technical assistance here would be welcome. Hope to have more energy efficient outdoor street lights, but Pepco controls this.

DOEE: DC has a lot of programs pushing the bar on these topics. Green construction and energy conservation codes, microgrid projects, solar + storage, Solar for All, thermal decarbonization study, etc.

Q9 – 14 responses (1 N/A)

Which of the above topic areas had a direct impact on your programs/initiatives? (Provide explanation/comment.)

Energy efficiency was the most quoted topic area that had direct impact on member's programs/initiatives. Solar energy topics and high performance buildings were other areas in which members felt a direct impact. Other topic areas that were noted as having direct impact included:

- energy benchmarking
- EVs and infrastructure site planning
- microgrid topics

Q10 – 15 responses (1 N/A, 1 None)

What public outreach and engagement initiatives is your jurisdiction focusing on in FY 2018?

Energy efficiency (both residential and commercial) will be the major focus of members with regard to public outreach and engagement initiatives in their jurisdictions in FY 2018. This covers a range of differing initiatives including:

- Green Home/Green Kitchen & Bath Certification
- home energy audits

- community engagement events and education that focus on energy efficiency
- EnergySTAR certification (eventually STAR communities as well)
- energy lending libraries
- installation of energy efficiency technologies
- energy efficiency financing (such as residential rebates)

There is also some overlap with energy benchmarking with regard to these types of initiatives. Other initiatives are focused on the deployment of renewable energy (such as Solarize, PACE & C-PACE, virtual PPAs, solar cooperatives, etc.). EV infrastructure will also be a focus for FY 2018. Outreach related to multifamily properties is an area for improvement with regard to both energy efficiency and renewable energy deployment. Pesticide use and composting were also mentioned as future focuses.

Q12 – 10 responses (1 N/A, 2 None)

List any additional topics of interest.

There was no consistent theme in the responses, however, a few topics came up such as:

- building codes (residential building code in VA; is the Energy Rating Index useful as an energy efficiency improvement?)
- climate change adaptation and resiliency
- carbon tax/incentives
- residential, multifamily building energy initiatives
- policy options for EV-ready design.

Q13 – 13 responses (2 N/A, 2 None)

Which topics would you like to see more/less of in FY2018 at BEEAC?

Energy-related topics is an area that many members would like to see more of in FY2018 at BEEAC including:

- energy efficiency and conservation
- renewable energy case studies and financing – looking how this relates to multifamily properties moving forward
- residential and community solar
- EVs and EV infrastructure

Members would like to have more case studies from member jurisdictions to share ideas and results (examples: a presentation by Frederick County on their residential solar program or DC on their LEED for Cities designation). A

member stated that they would prefer less focus to be put on policy, and more into practical efforts that jurisdictions can participate in.

Q14 – 11 responses (1 N/A)

What BEEAC priorities should be linked to CEEPC?

Most members felt that all BEEAC priorities should be linked to CEEPC to some degree. A few members stressed some points such as energy efficiency, forest protection, water management, GHG inventory work, air quality, and renewable energy.

Q15 – 11 responses (2 N/A)

What legislative priorities should BEEAC focus on and advance to CEEPC?

A diverse number of responses was given for this question, including:

- community solar and solar in general
- utility rate legislation
- federal solar tax credits
- RPS
- EVSE siting
- forest conservation
- energy resilience

Q16 – 12 responses (1 N/A)

What would you like to see implemented this fiscal year that would better support your needs?

Again, members answered this question with a number of different responses including:

- greater support for sustainability activities and technical assistance to move specific projects forward
- continued updates of the GHG inventory for jurisdictions
- more workshops
- Aid in acquiring funding for sustainability initiatives