

# Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

**The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**

Draft Meeting Minutes  
Monday, October 18, 2010  
Room 1  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC members:** Deron Lovaas, Chair; Bahri Aliriza; Bill Butler; Beverly Fourier; Linda Murphy; Jen Peterson; Caroline Petti; Richard Reiss; Larry Zaragoza  
**Staff:** Joan Rohlf; Jennifer Desimone; Maia Davis

## 1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 pm. The agenda and the minutes of April 19, 2010 were approved with no changes.

## 2. Air Quality Health Issues: Summer Health Advisories (Jerome A. Paulson, MD, FAAP; Harriet West, Managing Director, Clean Air Partners)

Dr. Paulson is an Associate Professor of Pediatrics & Public Health at *George Washington University*, Medical Director for National & Global Affairs, Child Health Advocacy Institute and Co-Director for the Mid-Atlantic Center for Children's Health & the Environment *Children's National Medical Center*. Dr. Paulson educates to health professionals and others and serves as a consultant for science-based approaches to child health issues. In his talk to the group he described acute and chronic long-term adverse effects of air pollution on children.

Members had many questions for Dr. Paulson. A key point made in his responses is that we are never singularly exposed to one air pollutant but instead are exposed to many at the same time. Therefore, it is important to study, understand and address the combined effects of exposure. Persons most affected by exposure are the elderly and anyone with a pre-existing lung condition. Children are another sensitive group because exposure can stunt lung growth and development. Dr. Paulson suggested measures such as no-idling buses at schools, considering proximity to schools when planning new roads and not building schools near highways, bus barns, truck depots, etc. When asked about leading causes of air pollution in the metro DC area Dr Paulson commented that there is not a lot of heavy industry in the area but there is an issue regarding exposure to air pollutants from vehicle traffic. Measures to address this issue include providing for and encouraging alternative transportation and the use of cleaner vehicles.

Harriet West, Managing Director of Clean Air Partners (CAP), presented on the background of CAP, the Air Alerts and outreach campaign. One member asked when the best time for sensitive groups to avoid outdoors. Ms. Desimone, COG staff, responded that there is a delay from the hottest point in the day to when the air pollution is the worst. Therefore, is the hottest point in the day is noon, the highest levels of air pollution may occur between 3-6pm, depending on the pollutant. Another member asked for a presentation on the dynamics of peak air pollutions at an upcoming meeting.

**3. Regional Energy Outreach Pilot Project: Update (Maia Davis, DEP Staff)**

Ms. Davis reviewed the draft WE CAN outreach plan. Ms. Davis asked the group for feedback on the draft homepage of the WE CAN website and asked for suggestions on community groups that we may want to engage. Member suggestions to the home page include adding a contact us link, making sure the pilot communities are highlighted on the homepage and making sure the website focuses on the bigger picture beyond the pilot program. Member suggestions for outreach include the Green Muslims, organizations that have participating community groups and engaging as many organizations in the region as soon as possible.

Current stats for the pilot program were reviewed. Over 100 people have signed up on [www.wecansaveenergy.org](http://www.wecansaveenergy.org). In the three pilot communities, WE CAN has been discussed at 18 community meetings and in 15 community newsletters. Over 1,000 program materials have been distributed, 2 local government access television programs have been recorded and one workshop has been held. The group discussed some of the lessons learned thus far in the pilot program. One of the barriers identified is confusion about whether signing up for your utility online triggers online bill pay. One member stressed the need for community champions to believe in and embrace the program and the need for a vision and goal for program participants. A few members felt that the program is missing a huge segment of the region’s residents if the campaign benefits aren’t fully available to multi-family residents. Members asked that the group continue to be informed of the progress.

**4. Committee Updates:**

Ms. Rohlfs invited ACPAC members to attend CEEPC on November 17 from 10:30 – 11:30am at COG offices to hear Peter Garforth speak about community energy planning. Arlington County and Loudoun County are working towards adopting community energy plans.

**5. Recruitment of New Members (Maia Davis, DEP Staff)**

Every fall new ACPAC members are recruited for the upcoming year. Ms. Davis discussed some new possible ideas on how to recruit a variety of new members including e-cards and social media recruitment that would direct viewers to the ACPAC webpage on COG’s website where an online application form would be available. New ideas for meetings included an orientation at the first 2011 meeting and educational tours of relevant sites and facilities. A few members expressed support of scheduling tours during some ACPAC meetings and reaching out to new organizations and people via the internet.

**6. New Business:**

Ms. Rohlfs also discussed electric vehicle programs and infrastructure projects coming to the region. The District of Columbia is in the process of purchasing 20 Nissan Leaf electric cars and planning charging stations in the city. A couple thousand Chevy Volts currently in production have been reserved by customers in the Metro DC area. One member urged the group to speak with their local elected representatives letting them know that now is the time for charging stations.

Next meeting David Krask of Maryland Department of Environment Maryland Monitoring Network will be present to discuss criteria for siting monitors and other monitoring network questions.

**7. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30pm.

**Next meeting: November 15 – 5:30pm – Room 1**