

**Energy Advisory Committee**  
Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments  
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC

**October 20, 2011 DRAFT Meeting Highlights**

**Attendance:**

Bill Eger, City of Alexandria  
Bill Topper, DOD-MDW  
Daniel White, DDOE  
Eric Coffman, Montgomery County  
Jeannine Altavilla, MWCOG  
Jeff King, MWCOG  
John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools  
Karen Anderson, Montgomery County Public Schools  
Kristin Heery, NARC  
Leah Boggs, MWCOG  
Leslie Cook, EPA ENERGY STAR  
Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools  
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County  
Olayinka Kolawole, DDOE  
Rachel Healy, WMATA  
Dr. Sam Hancock, Emerald Planet  
Yonatan Tadesse, MC Fuhrman and Associates

**By Conference Call:**

Lisa Orr, Frederick County  
Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt  
Maia Davis, MWCOG  
Sarah Cosby, Dominion

**Call to Order** (Olayinka Kolawole)

- The meeting was called to order at 10:10am.

**Approval of September 15, 2011 Meeting Summary** (Olayinka Kolawole)

- Summary from September meeting approved with no changes.

**Montgomery County Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program** (Eric Coffman, Montgomery County and Yonatan Tadesse, MC Fuhrman & Associates)

- Program established as a replacement for the planned PACE program. Designed to collect data to justify the continuation of cash flow to energy efficiency.
- Ties to Home Performance with ENERGY STAR (HPwES). In order to qualify for the program an HPwES audit must have already been completed. Eligible homes can get up to \$3,000 towards their improvements, based on some fixed rebates and percentages of certain improvements. Improvements must be done by a professional after approval in the program to ensure their benefit and help create jobs. Audits not funded; this program helps homeowners to act on audits.
- Application process is entirely online. Their audit, contractor recommendations, approval for access to two years of utility bills, and a survey are required in order to receive the rebates.
- Based on twenty-five of the first completed rebates, people are most interested in programs that give them incentives either monetarily or through competition and education; financing programs are the least popular among these initial responses.
- Program is marketed through contractors. County ran workshops with contractors to help them spread the word. Put ads in local newsletters, papers, and media.
- This is 20% of Montgomery County's EECBG money. Not likely that any future program will be structured the same.
- Online system being used for this program also collects data for ARRA programs on County facilities and the commercial program.
- The program launched August 25. So far 279 applications have been received and about 223 have been approved. Anticipating that the funding will last through February.

**Loudoun County Public Schools Portfolio Manager with Demonstration** (Mike Barancewicz and John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools)

- Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS) started using Portfolio Manager (PM) after a presentation by DDOE. PM has been a great tool, and EPA support has been key in utilizing all of its features.
- Showed EPA tool that converts various energy units to trees, cars, households, etc as a great way to show impact of energy savings (<http://www.epa.gov/coalbed/resources/converter.html>).
- VEPGA shares best practices among its members. They have created a Master Account on PM so that members can not only see their buildings compared to national averages, but also regional averages and examples.
  - So far only Arlington County and LCPS have shared their PM buildings on the VEPGA master account.

- Any user of the master account can see all of the individual data for each building. Energy costs can be hidden.
- LCPS thinks that it would be a very useful tool for COG to have a Master Account that all members can use to share their building data. This would be a great regional data set.
- So far LCPS has saved \$42 million and reduced 756,000 metric tons of carbon emissions. This savings could pay for 700 teachers for a year, 3,500 students for a year, or construction costs for a middle school.
- LCPS believes that there is value in starting this system by reviewing all information and tracking bills by hand. There were numerous errors in LCPS' building portfolio between the utility and the physical addresses. Some buildings were being metered incorrectly; some buildings did not belong to LCPS. By identifying these errors the baseline changed.

#### **Utility Perspective on Solar and Integrated Resource Planning (Sarah Cosby, Dominion)**

- Integrated Resource Plan
  - Integrated resource planning is required in Virginia on a biannual basis. Due to its North Carolina requirements, Dominion conducts this process on an annual basis, and the plan is issued publicly.
  - The Integrated Resource Plan forecasts load obligations for 15 years and develops a plan to meet these obligations through supply and demand resources.
  - The plan is based on a model that develops a base plan for the most economic solution, as well as some alternative demand to show current market sensitivities. The model takes into account carbon prices and environmental regulations.
  - In Dominion's plan released September 1, 2011, they announced the closure of two coal facilities, and the conversion of 3 coal facilities to biomass (wood waste with 150MW capacity). A natural gas facility is being built in Warren County and in Buckingham County a natural gas plant just came online. An advanced clean coal facility is being developed that will partly be fueled by biomass, and be capable of using CCS technology.
- Solar Distributed Generation Plan
  - Net metering and standby charges
    - In the 2011 General Assembly session HB 1983 raised the maximum allowable size of net-metered residential systems from 10kW to 20kW.
    - The legislation allowed for utilities to develop a standby charge for net-metered residential systems greater than 10kW.
    - The charge will cover infrastructure costs associated with maintaining grid connection to the customer-generator.

- Dominion has filed their plan and it is currently under litigation so it cannot be discussed further.
- Similar charges have been approved or are under consideration in North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Arkansas, New Hampshire, Montana and California.
- Solar Distributed Generation Plan- 2011 HB 1686
  - Utilities can petition the State Corporation Commission for approval of solar distributed generation demonstration programs to assess the benefits for the distribution system.
  - Dominion filed for 30MW of company owned solar and 3MW for a community tariff program. The tariff proposal would be an example for an alternative to net metering. Currently there are about 3MW of solar net metered generation which would allow for an even comparison. Based on current average residential installations this would represent about 600 customers. This is a first of its kind tariff.

#### **Climate, Energy and Air Quality Survey (Jeannine Altavilla, COG)**

- Last year COG combined all of the annual environmental surveys into one form. This year will be the same.
- A main contact in each jurisdiction will receive a copy of the survey, with last year's responses filled in.
- There are additional questions to ensure that all of the 2011 goals in the workplan are covered, and more of the 2012 goals are covered, as well.
- Surveys will be sent out Monday, January 16 and should be returned by Friday, February 3, 2012.
- John Lord requested that the surveys be unlocked for easier input of data.

#### **Roundtable Exchange**

- LCPS- attended the Virginia Governor's Conference on Energy. One interesting topic discussed was offshore wind; the overall impression is that there is a need for a financing mechanism. The Governor is looking for policy at federal level.
- Leah discussed COG's EV Planning Process. She noted that at the recent meeting it was brought up that some municipalities see a second home meter (for EV charging) as a code violation.
- LCPS- Tuesday October 25<sup>th</sup>, the National Capital Chapter Association of Energy Engineers (AEE) is meeting at LCPS Public Schools Administration Building. Leah can forward an invitation to this committee. In addition to presentations, there will be a tour on a hybrid bus to a new school designed to ENERGY STAR standards.

- DDOE- Working on incentive programs. More information will be available as information on the Mayor's sustainability plan is released.
- Sam Hancock- Working on a grant with the American Embassy in Moscow and US State Department of State to create a one hour television program on innovators and green technology. Looking for examples to use. Would welcome suggestions from local entities. Filming will be done in the first half of December.
- Loudoun County- The Green Gala announcing winners of the second annual Green Business Challenge will be Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Montgomery County-
  - Another EECBG program is providing partial funding for building managers to take courses in energy management.
  - Offshore wind in Maryland is still an active issue. A bill is expected this year. Current discussions include a long-term PPA type agreement that would be funded through utilities' base rates.
  - A public draft of the commercial and multi-family study is expected in February.
  - MD PSC just finished accepting testimony for EmPOWER MD programs. County put in a lot of comments. Some promising programs, areas for improvement.
- MCEC Clean Energy Summit next Friday October 28<sup>th</sup>. Jeff is moderating a panel on EV.

#### **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned 12:10pm.
- Next planning conference call is November 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10am.
- Next meeting is November 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am.