Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)

July 15, 2024
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Webinar information provided to members via email.

Chair: Julie Kimmel

DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC ATTENDEES: Julie Kimmel, Jack Lyman, Peter Mecca, Jacqueline Norris, William Washburn, James Wang, Ian Marcus, Era Pandya, Deborah Shprentz

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES: Charles Brown (AECOM), Khrystle Bullock (AECOM), George Aburn

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Alissa Boggs, Robert Christopher, Jeff King

5:35 P.M.   **1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**
Julie Kimmel, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Kimmel. The meeting did not have a quorum and there were no amendments to the agenda.

Leah Boggs of COG Staff announced that Staff began research on the EJ Toolkit. An update will be given at a future meeting.

5:40 P.M.   **2. COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY PRESENTATION AND PUBLIC FEEDBACK**
Charles Brown, Equitable Cities, LLC

Equitable Cities presented a proposed stakeholder engagement strategy to support the work of the EJ Subcommittee. The EJ Subcommittee was established to support MWAQC's commitment to incorporate environmental justice and equity in its work program. The subcommittee is designed to work collaboratively with stakeholders to develop an Action Plan to support its members environmental justice and equity programs and projects related to air quality.

Presentation Summary
- Project overview and goals: to develop an Action Plan that will assist members on how to consider equity when implementing air quality polices, projects, and programs.
  - Stakeholder engagement will lead to the Action Plan
- Action Plan goals: develop tiered priorities and action steps for achieving goals, recommended performance metrics, and guidance for effectively tackling EJ-related issues.
- Draft stakeholder approach includes:
  - Use EPA EJScreening Tool - includes detailed air quality indicators such as PM2.5, diesel particulate matter and air toxics cancer risks, highlights health disparities (ex. Asthma), and has socioeconomic mapping indicators (ex. low income, limited English speaking, and over age 64).

- Use EJ Screening Tool for composite index of environmental indicators:
  - Particulate Matter (PM) 2.5
  - Ozone
  - Diesel
  - Air Toxics Cancer Risk
  - Air toxics Respiratory
  - Toxic Releases to Air
  - Traffic Proximity
- Create two-Phased equitable and inclusive stakeholder engagement plan
  - Pre-draft listening sessions: 4 virtual clusters + 1 metro wide meeting
  - Post-draft listening sessions: 4 virtual clusters + 1 metro wide meeting
    - Same areas as pre-draft sessions for consistency in engagement, continuity of input empowerment and ownership
- Examples of pre-plan community engagement questions
  - What are your primary concerns related to air quality in your community?
  - What are your priorities for improving air quality?
  - What goals should the Action Plan prioritize?
  - How can we ensure the plan addresses equity and justice effectively?
- Examples of post-plan community engagement questions
  - Do you feel the draft Action Plan addresses your primary concerns?
  - What aspects of the plan do you think are most effective?
  - Are there any areas where you feel the plan could be improved?
  - How can we enhance the plan to better address equity and justice?

Discussion/Comments

- ACPAC Member Deborah Shprentz: The DC Department of Regulatory Affairs is hosting online sessions on air quality issues. The meetings are advertised on Eventbright and at public libraries. The MWACQ's community strategy should try to engage with DC participants.
- ACPAC Member James Wang: It's important to make it clear to the public and stakeholders what the action plan will entail, COG processes and MWAQC's responsibilities.
- George Aburn, member of the public:
  - MWAQC's EJ action plan community engagement strategy is good, but generic.
  - The region is advanced and has a lot experts that can be utilized.
  - The engagement strategy should connect and take advantage of the existing work and meetings that are currently taking place, including the DC's air quality sessions.
  - EPA's EJScreening tool isn't effective for capturing community based air monitoring data and doesn't have NOx emissions data. The inventories from COG's SIP would be more effective.
  - A large segment of the community attended the May MWAQC meeting and spoke about common issues being discussed at ACPAC.
  - There are other mapping techniques that can be used to show most impacted areas.
- ACPAC Member Jack Lyman:
  - Make efforts to collaborate with other groups doing similar work and existing scheduled meetings/sessions, instead of reinventing the wheel.
  - The plan should outline clear goals and organizational responsibilities.
  - Consider using NOx data from the EJScreening Tool (highlight from Bill Washburn's chat comment) and the Loudoun Climate Project's data
  - Q – (Referring to the map in the presentation.) What is causing the high impacts in Prince William County?
    - AECOM can provide details on the what caused the occurrences at a follow-up meeting.
    - Race and income are often assumed as major factors. The mapping included a spatial comparison that excluded race and income. Separate

maps showing racial and ethnic minority and low-income comparisons were included.
- ACPAC Member Jacqueline Norris: confirmed that there is a targeted list groups.

Agenda Item 3 was a closed session for ACPAC members and COG Staff only.

6:25 PM   3.   CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS JUDGING
Julie Kimmel, ACPAC Chair (Moderator)
ACPAC Members

Members judged the 2024 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards applications in the categories of government, non-governmental organization, and educational institution. Winners will be announced at the COG Board meeting in October.

7:30 P.M.   4. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

Chair Julie Kimmel adjourns the meeting.

- **2024 Meeting schedule** (*Virtual meeting only):
November 18, 2024*

Meeting Documents:

https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/7/15/air-and-climate-policy-advisory-committee/