

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER VIRTUAL *LISTENING* SESSION THEMES

Cluster 1: District of Columbia

- Date: Saturday, August 24, 2024
- Time: 11am – 12:30pm eastern time.
- Number of Participants: 8

Cluster 2: Prince George's County and Montgomery County

- Date: Saturday, September 7, 2024
- Time: 11am – 12:30pm eastern time.
- Number of Participants: 6

Stakeholder representation from the followings organizations:

- MWCOG Action for All Committee
- West Potomac Capital
- George Washington University
- American University
- Sierra Club DC
- DC Department of Energy and Environment
- Prince George's County Council
- League of Women Voters
- Prince George's Sierra Club
- Pathways Urban Partnership
- Maryland Advocates for Sustainable Transportation



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

Cluster 3: Fairfax County and Arlington County

- Date: Saturday, September 14, 2024
- Time: 11am – 12:30pm eastern time.
- Number of Participants: 5

Stakeholder representation from the following organizations:

- MWCOG Action for All Committee
- West Potomac Capital
- George Washington University
- Arlington County Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission
- Arlington Transportation Partners

. BV"7 EBJ BP'K' & IRPQBOP'Y">KA 'Z

Data Limitations

- Improve air quality data accessibility and comprehensiveness
- Address health and air quality overlaps in rhetoric and planning
- Increase the amount and funding for air quality monitors and mobile efforts to gather a complete understanding of pollution impacts and hot spots

Community Engagement and Education

- Increase on-the ground outreach and educational opportunities on air quality
- There is limited public awareness and information on air quality and health impacts

. BV"7 EBJ BP'K' & IRPQBOP'Y">KA'Z

Enforcement and Accountability

- Increase accountability in industries and sectors regarding pollution
- Emphasize on the long-term benefits of addressing air quality vs. the cost of inaction
- There is perceived inadequate enforcement of air quality regulations, especially in marginalized areas

Equitable Actions for Air Quality

- The needs and concerns of disadvantaged populations are not being heard
- The Action Plan should prioritize proposed projects in the most impacted areas

. BV"7 EBJ BP'K' & IRPQBO'Z '5KA "[

Green Transportation

- Limit traffic congestion
- Convert bus fleets to zero-emission electric models
- Use smaller buses for routes that are less frequented to limit unnecessary emissions
- Electrify bus fleets and increase greener transportation methods to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve air quality

. BV"7 EBJ BP'K' & IRPQBO"[

Green Infrastructure

- Decrease the amount of impervious surfaces to reduce heat islands and air pollutant concentrations
- Develop more energy-efficient infrastructure or implement retrofits to existing infrastructure
- Insufficient tree canopy in certain areas leads to the disproportionate impact of pollution on marginalized communities

Intergovernmental relations

- Under Dillon's Rule, local governments in Virginia and Maryland are often limited in what they can achieve regarding stricter building codes and air quality initiatives

1 LQ>? B'4 RLQBP

Notable Quotes in Cluster 1:

- “I do not like calling my community disadvantaged. I call my community disfavored. There is a lack of information—people don't know about air quality and how it is impacting their lives.”
- “The current monitoring infrastructure is inadequate for fully capturing the variability and severity of air pollution across the region. Without more detailed and localized data, our ability to effectively target interventions and achieve environmental justice goals remains limited.”
- “Mortality from air pollution differs based on region. It’s time to hold polluters accountable—there’s a reason why some areas are more affected than others.”

Notable Quotes in Cluster 2:

- “The Council of Government Transportation and Planning board has set goals on greenhouse gas reduction but does not meet the goals they have set. If they can meet the goals in place, the air quality would be significantly improved. The board is not holding their people accountable.”
- “If you talk to 100 people in the community and ask them what a long term air quality plan is, you might get one or two that know something— that needs to change.”
- “The people who are most affected are least likely to show up at meetings like this and we need to hear their voices too.”

1 LQ? B'4 RLQBP

Notable Quotes in Cluster 3:

- “If you're trying to improve air quality in Arlington, it really has to come from the legislature and the governor in terms of legislation, because if the Arlington County locality wanted to, for example, make stricter building codes, we're not allowed to do that.”
- “There hasn't been a lot of pickup by developers on the green building incentive policy.”
- “We have a lot of areas that do not have enough of the tree canopy and have too much pavement and non-permeable pavement.”