



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: April 20, 2023

BEEAC Local and State Government Members in Attendance:

- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (Chair)
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County (Co-Vice Chair)
- Adriana Hochberg, Montgomery County
- Andy Young, Falls Church
- Courtney Chinn, Arlington County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Erin Garnaas-Holmes, DC
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Mati Bazarro, City of Bowie, MD
- Kevin Milsted, Prince William County
- Stephen Gyor, DC
- Hamid Omidvar, Montgomery County
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
- Ryan Freed, City of Alexandria
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Luisa Robles, Greenbelt
- ~~Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville~~

Additional Attendees:

- Anna Bower, WMATA
- Mark Nystrom, WMATA
- Brenda Brickhouse, EPRI
- Heidi Scarth, EPRI
- Dale Medearis, NVRC
- Kathie Hoekstra, Alexandria Renew
- Elliot Harkavy, Center for Justice Research and Innovation
- Susan Gerson, Loudoun County Public Schools
- Shawn O'Neill, Fairfax Water

COG Staff:

- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Alissa Boggs, COG DEP
- Robert Christopher, COG DEP
- Kelsey Boatwright, COG
- Maia Davis, COG DEP
- Jeff King, COG DEP
- Tim Masters, COG DEP
- Steve Bieber, COG



1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Dawn Ashbacher called the meeting to order, and introductions were given. The Chair recognized Marc Aveni, Co-Vice Chair and announced that DC's Co-Vice Chair position is vacant due to staff changes and a replacement from DC is pending.

2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 16, 2023 MEETING SUMMARY

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)

The February 16, 2022 meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

3. REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Tim Masters, COG Staff

Tim Masters presented the 2023 legislative priorities that are put forth by CEEPC's legislative committee, which is a small group of CEEPC members who meet with COG staff to review legislative initiatives in D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. COG staff track various bills during the legislative session that fall within COG's legislative priorities. A series of ad hoc calls are held to determine specific bills to send comment letters. The committee primarily runs from January – April.

Presentation Summary

DC

- DC's legislative session is on a 2-year calendar and DC Council's 25th Council Period is 2023-24.
- Summary of DC legislative priorities:
 - Electric Bicycle Incentive Kickstarting the Environment ("E-BIKE") Act of 2023 (B250032) - To establish an electric bicycle instant rebate program for residents and certified business enterprises for the purchase and use of electric bicycles and cargo electric bicycles.
 - Healthy Homes and Residential Electrification Amendment Act of 2023 (B250119) - To amend the Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008 to create the Healthy Homes Program to install electric appliances for low- and moderate-income households; to amend the Green Building Act of 2006 to provide that the Green Building Advisory Council will advise the Mayor on implementation of this act; to amend the Construction Codes Approval and Amendments Act of 1986 to increase permit fees for installing appliances or other systems that combust fossil fuels on site; and to amend the District of Columbia Housing Authority Act of 1999 to prohibit the District of Columbia Housing Authority from installing appliances or other systems that combust fossil fuels on site when making a conversion through the Rental Assistance Demonstration program.

VA

- Session convened January 11, crossover was February 7 and adjourned on February 25
- Summary of VA legislative priorities:

- Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA) - a series of bills attempt to roll back climate progress by either weakening the VCEA itself or increasing Virginia's dependence on fossil fuels. Bills aimed at rolling back VCEA:
 - HB 1430 - Exempting "energy-intensive trade-exposed industries" from paying for the transition to a clean energy economy
 - HB 1643 / SB 1121 - Classifying coal mine methane as renewable energy
 - HB 1783 / SB 1485 - Prevents all public entities from moving away from natural gas
 - HB 2026 / SB 1231 - Removing the requirement to retire biomass-fired facilities by December 31, 2028.
- Clean Car Standards Repeal - 5 bills to repeal the Clean Car Standards were defeated by the Senate Agriculture, Conservation and Natural Resources Committee. One House bill passed. This bill was passed by indefinitely by the Senate.
- Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)
 - Dec. 7, 2022 State Air Board voted to withdraw from RGGI
 - Dec. 20, 2022 Joint Commission on Administrative Rules voted 5-4 objecting to RGGI withdrawal
 - Currently with Governor's Office, next will be a 60-day public comment period, back to Air Board
 - Objection will be filed with the Virginia Registrar and the State Air Pollution Control Board
 - Legislation: SB 1001 (Stuart): Clean Energy and Community Flood Preparedness Act; Repeal.
 - Directs the Director of the VA Department of Environmental Quality to take all steps necessary to suspend the Commonwealth's participation in the RGGI.

MD

- Session convened January 11, crossover was March 20, adjournment on April 10
- Summary of MD legislative priorities:
 - Clean Truck Act of 2023 (HB 230/SB 224) - passed Senate and moved to House; requires the Maryland Department of the Environment to adopt regulations on or before December 1, 2023 that establishes requirements for the sale of new zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the State of Maryland.
 - Electric Vehicle Infrastructure:
 - HB 7 - extends the duration of the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program through fiscal year 2027, increasing the total amount of rebates issued annually under the program to \$2,000,000.
 - HB 550/SB 548 - extends the duration of the Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program through fiscal year 2026, repealing the limitation on the total amount of rebates that the Maryland Energy Administration may issue in each fiscal year.
 - HB 830/SB 477 - establishes and alters certain requirements related to the installation of equipment for the charging of electric vehicles during the construction or significant renovation of certain housing units; and clarifies that a county or municipal corporation may require a greater number of electric vehicle parking spaces under certain circumstances.

- Community Solar (HB 908/SB 613) - makes permanent the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Pilot Program; requires a community solar energy generating system to serve at least 40% of its kilowatt-hour output to low-income and moderate-income subscribers under certain circumstances; alters requirements related to the siting and size of certain community solar energy generating systems projects.

4. CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Kelsey Boatwright, DC SEU Extern

Kelsey Boatwright discussed the challenges that jurisdictions face in climate and energy action plan implementation, accompanied with recommendations and opportunities for these challenges. Capital improvement plan investments made by local governments was highlighted.

Presentation Summary

Common Implementation Challenges

- Tunnel vision of current targets and planning
- Missing adaption and implementation integration
- Isolated methods of measurement
- Lack of governmental department coordination
- Absent project management and financial oversight
- Climate equity and community-driven policy

Implementation Opportunities

- Opportunity 1: Failure to Launch
- Opportunity 2: Coordination and Project Management
- Opportunity 3: Prioritize Heavy-Hitters
- Opportunity 4: Climate Equity & Policy
- Opportunity 5: Utilize Funding & Resources

Budgets and Capital Improvement Plans

- [Montgomery County](#): \$1.4 billion recommended for projects that advance Climate Change goals in FY23-28 Capital Improvements Program
- [Arlington County](#): \$649 million recommended in energy and environmental investments in FY23-32 Capital Improvement Program

5. EQUITABLE DECARBONIZATION

Brenda Brickhouse, Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI)

Brenda Brickhouse discussed the policy considerations and strategies governments can employ to achieve equitable decarbonization in the energy and built environment sector.

Presentation Summary

Policy considerations and strategies:

- How can modeling and decision-making consider present and future equity outcomes in addition to least cost objectives? How can the benefits and costs of the energy transition and their distribution be quantified?

Strategies

- Adding equity metrics into economic and load forecasting models and/or post hoc scenario analyses

- Tracking impact over time (ex. affordability, resilience, environment)

Power generation considerations and strategies:

- How can equity for consumers, communities, and workers be integrated into plant decommissioning processes? How can non-utility scale generation (e.g., rooftop and community solar) impact equity?

Strategies

- Proactive community involvement in decommissioning or siting processes
- Targeted workforce and supply chain opportunities for local power generation development

Energy efficiency and electrification considerations and strategies:

- How can costs of retrofits and upgrades be allocated equitably and better integrated onto program and rate design? What technologies and policies increase consumer adoption? What barriers prevent people from participating in programs or adopting new technology?

Strategies

- Elevate awareness, education, and access on available programs and products
- Financing and Investment opportunities for renters vs owners and for new construction vs retrofits

Resilience considerations and strategies:

- How can we better understand under-resourced community and household needs for services during a power outage or significant event? How can utilities and local governments partner and communicate to advance adaptation and resilience?

Strategy

- Assess Holistic community and household needs and pursue collaborative solutions

Discussion

- Matt Dooley commented that in the case of existing buildings, more needs to be done to ensure that LMI communities are not faced with huge electric grid infrastructure costs to accommodate for electrification. In VA, building owners are told by the electric utility that they are responsible for paying for grid capacity enhancements to meet increased electric demand needs. That should be the utilities responsibility.
- Ryan Freed commented that more needs to be done to address energy burden issues. Currently, Dominion Energy is still allowed to disconnect service for non-payment regardless of extreme heat or cold weather conditions.
- EPRI Resources:
 - [Equity and Environmental Justice](#)
 - [EVs2Scale2030 Report](#)

6. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program (Leah Boggs)

The [2023 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program](#) is accepting nominations and applications to recognize climate stewardship projects and programs in the Washington region, especially those that engage and serve the region's underserved communities.

The category submissions are in 3 sectors: government agency, NGO, and educational institution. Applications are accepted through June 30, 2023.

Regional EV Deployment (REVD) Working Group (Robert Christopher)

The first REVD working group meeting was March 16 and covered state National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (NEVI) plans and a walkthrough of the EV clearinghouse. The clearinghouse automatically pulls information from federal sites to get real time updates on grant opportunities and incentives specifically for local jurisdictions. It will feature local plans and products from the work group. The EV Ready Checklist provides examples and resources in 7 areas, community planning, zoning, building codes, permitting and inspections, government fleets, public education and outreach, and public safety and security. It will be sent out for review and comment.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Ashbacher adjourned the meeting.

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the MWCOG website by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/4/20/built-environment-and-energy-advisory-committee/>

The next BEEAC meeting is June 15, 2023.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)