

Summary

Comments and Recommendations of Joint Discussion of IGBG and EAC: Energy and Green Building Initiatives as Recommended Climate Change Strategies

October 15, 2009

George Nichols and Joan Rohlf of COG reported that Mr. Jay Fiset (Arlington Board Member) appointed a working group of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee to develop the Climate Action Workplan. The Workplan Matrix was distributed to meeting attendees. COG staff is soliciting ideas and suggestions, with particular focus on performance measures, completion dates and the schedule.

IGBG and EAC member comments were as follows:

- Noel Kaplan noted that most jurisdictions have policies but may not be doing the COG LEED Plus.
- Does 10% reduction take into account growth? Per capita? Per square foot? – Business as Usual assumes growth.
- The term “required” in 1.a) is difficult in Virginia when applied to private sector development. Check to see what original report says for greening private sector buildings.
- Stella Tarnay suggested supporting greening the codes in addition to the IGBG report. Could COG members adopt the 30% improvement for residential and commercial sectors. Adopting strong enforcement policies and funding as new codes are adopted is critical. Virginia jurisdictions don’t have the same authority as jurisdictions in Maryland and DC – Virginians can adopt code that is approved, but can’t do more.
- Jurisdictions should enforce energy codes in existing buildings – but we aren’t enforcing very much.
- By 2012 – need to work on existing buildings and transportation. Codes won’t impact the short term.
- Set energy performance goals and rating and disclosure for government buildings.
- Promote an average score of 75 Energy Star for all buildings. Put this in 2 b. Many public buildings can’t be benchmarked, because they aren’t included in Energy star. Energy Star is good for benchmarking offices, schools, courthouses, etc. In many cases, the CBECs database can be used to benchmark building not included in Energy Star.
- Local governments should establish energy targets for public buildings.
- How to track 10,000 homes retrofitted? Can we measure total regional energy use? Can track HPwES program instead of all retrofits. In Virginia, permits are not required for window installation, etc. so this could be very difficult to track.
- There was general consensus that 10,000 homes are too many. If you include weatherization, we might be able to achieve 10,000 by 2012? Count only government programs (HPwES, utility sponsored programs, etc).

- Members will report back on the number of homes they are predicting will participate in weatherization, HPwES, etc. to better estimate the goals.
- Can we track the number of windows sold, caulk sold, etc.? This is difficult.
- How many HPwES projects are each of the utilities budgeted for?
- Develop and track education programs in the schools.
- Section 1b – there is concern that IGBG does not have the resources to complete reports on greening schools and residential construction. It is recommended that these be removed from the list.

Be more specific on energy in buildings, not just LEED requirements.

- Section 4 should read “Develop policies, programs and incentives for retrofitting existing buildings, commercial and residential
- Reorganize Section II.A.4 to reflect that some items refer to all buildings, some refer to residential, and some refer to commercial buildings
- 4a-f all residential
 - 4b – does this refer to only residential or commercial as well?
 - 4g – I commercial
 - 4b – change to regional cooperation not “all three states”
 - Add 4h – establish regional cooperation to train and certify commercial building operators, and facility managers. There should be regional cooperation on the management of commercial buildings, training for energy managers, contractors, etc.
 - 4g - -benchmark **and disclosure**
 - Building operations and management needs to be addressed. Need a goal. Promote and implement. Receive building management training. Use LEED-EB for existing buildings. Retrocommissioning.
- For green power purchases, certification of green power products for regional standardization. (This should be added as a strategy.)
- Overall: There was general consensus that the work plan should reflect realistic assumptions regarding existing staff resources. There were many comments are about realistic expectations and the ability to achieve some of the items listed.