

# Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

Suite 300, 777 North Capitol Street, N.E. Washington, DC 20002-4239 (202) 962-3227 Fax: (202) 962-3203

<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes  
Monday, November 10, 2014  
Room 1  
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

**ACPAC Members:** Eric Goplerud, John Howes, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Brian McFarland, Maggie Shober, Glenna Tinney

**Staff:** Steve Walz, Jen Desimone, Maia Davis

**Guest Speakers:** Janet Phoenix, GWU and Breathe DC

## 1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda (Andrew Kambour, Chair)

The draft agenda and October meeting summary were approved without changes.

## 2. Health Effects of Air Pollution (Janet Phoenix, GWU and Breathe D.C.)

Janet Phoenix started her presentation discussing the nexus of indoor and outdoor air pollution and how they affect individual's health. Ozone, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, pollen, pests, dust mites, mold, cockroaches, and exposure to cigarette smoke are sources of air pollution that impact the health of individuals. The young and old are particularly susceptible as well as those with pre-existing conditions. For instance, an asthmatic child exposed to ozone can trigger an attack and the need for a hospital visit. The poor and minorities tend to have greater vulnerability to air pollution exposure and associated health problems, in part, due to community and housing situations. For instance, there is a higher prevalence of asthma in school children in NE and SE Washington DC, in part, due to exposure to highways and commuter traffic through those communities. Dr. Phoenix suggested that addressing these problems is a public policy issue and planning for transportation hasn't taken human health into account as much as it could.

In response to a question, Janet confirmed that improvements in air quality have not resulted thus far in reduced asthma rates; many additional environmental health factors also influence asthma rates. One member suggested that ACPAC could perhaps think about how to help local jurisdictions address "hot spots" - areas of concentrated health problems where poor air quality plays a role. Another member suggested that Janet's research be shared with transportation planning officials.

## 3. Clean Air Partners Communications: What's New (Jen Desimone, COG Environmental Programs)

Clean Air Partners (CAP) has created new outreach materials to reach out to new audiences. Members of the public can learn about the current air quality via phone, email, social media and the website. There are widgets for our partner's website and now there is an app people can download. CAP has created a toolkit that includes new graphics for social media outreach such as images and tips for each air quality code level and images and tips for specific audiences. There is also new winter promotional

material to bring attention to air quality concerns at this time of year. This includes a holiday guide, wood burning tips and more. CAP has expanded their social media initiatives through twitter chats, tweeting at other users, and through social media contests. In addition, more effort is being placed in work-place programs and building local partnerships.

ACPAC members suggested tweaking the toolkit to include messaging for YMCAs, churches, employers, and the health industry and suggested that CAP work to become a resource where individuals could reach out to CAP for an air quality related problem and CAP can connect them with partners that could be of assistance.

**4. ACTION ITEM: Recommendation to CEEPC re: Awards (Glenna Tinney, Vice Chair)**

At the upcoming CEEPC meeting, the committee will make a call on whether to continue the 2014 pilot Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program in 2015. Glenna led a discussion with members to take mutually agreed upon recommendations from ACPAC to CEEPC. ACPAC decided that (1) yes, they recommend continuation of the Awards Program, (2) ACPAC members will help get the word out about the program, and (3) they recommend expansion of the program. The discussion included potential ways the program could be expanded, such as focusing on a particular topic (like adaptation or community engagement) and rotate topics annually, adding an awards category for grassroots organizations or business associations, and opening it up to smaller localities that aren't COG members.

<b>Next meeting: December 15, 2014 – 5:30pm – 7:30pm</b>
--