



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC) AND REGIONAL ELECTRIC VEHICLE DEPLOYMENT WORKING GROUP (REVD)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: September 21, 2023

BEEAC and REVD Local and State Government Members in Attendance:

- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)
- Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT) (REVD Chair)
- Jacqueline Adams,
- Khalid Afzal, Montgomery County
- Li Alligood, City of Rockville
- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Mati Bazaruto, City of Bowie, MD
- Erin Belt, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Brian Booher, Montgomery County
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Al Carr, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Sophia Cortazzo, MDOT
- Chloe Delhomme, City of Manassas
- Chris Dempwolf,
- Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County
- Bill Eger, Arlington County
- Rob Emard, City of Gaithersburg
- Dory Estrada, City of Takoma Park
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Osvaldo Laboy, GSA
- Mark Lauzier, City of Manassas Park
- Audra Lew, City of Rockville
- Elizabeth Lovinggood, WMATA
- Demetra McBride, Arlington County
- Logan McSherry, Frederick County
- Kristen Mielcarek, Frederick County

- Kevin Milsted, Prince William County
- Elisabeth Pinsker, GSA
- Francis Rath, Manassas Park
- Darrel Reynolds, Prince William County
- Matthew F. Villareale, Prince William County
- Andy Young, City of Falls Church

Additional Attendees:

- Nguyen Phu Hien, YSEALI Fellow
- Kate Jones, The Berkeley Group
- Nolan Nicaise, ZoneCo
- Shawn Oneill, Biden School of Public Policy and Administration
- Brian Ross, Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development
- Steve Rosenstock, Edison Electric Institute
- Drew Turo, ICF
- Michael Zehner, The Berkeley Group

COG Staff:

- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Alissa Boggs, COG DEP
- Kelsey Boatwright, COG DEP
- Tim Canan, TPB
- Robert Christopher, COG DEP
- Pierre Gaunard,
- Jeff King, COG DEP
- Tim Masters, COG DEP
- Erin Morrow,



1. CALL TO ORDER AND OPENING REMARKS

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County Climate and Energy Manager and BEEAC Chair
Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation Electric Vehicle and Air Quality Programs Manager and REVD Chair

Chairs Ashbacher and Burke introduced themselves and the reason for the joint meeting and agenda for the day.

2. ELECTRIC VEHICLE PLANNING: BUILDING CODES AND ZONING PANEL

Jeff Brown, Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development
Steven Rosenstock, Edison Electric Institute
Brian Ross, Great Plains Institute for Sustainable Development
Michael Zehner/Kate Jones, The Berkley Group
BEEAC Members

The main agenda included a panel discussion with national experts discussing zoning and building codes related to EV (Electric Vehicle) planning. Panelists answered a variety of questions submitted in advance. Each panelist had up to three minutes to introduce themselves. The meeting proceeded with Q&A and discussions on the respective expertise of the panelists. All related materials and contact information of the panelists are available online.

Rockville Question on EV Charging Spaces:

Michael Zehner suggested a 10% threshold for EV charging spaces in parking areas while assessing community needs. Steve Rosenstock noted that state policies might already set requirements for charging sites. Brian Ross said targets are evolving due to local and state policies, emphasizing the importance of negotiations with stakeholders.

Kate Jones stressed incorporating these decisions into planning documents for easier adoption.

Montgomery County's Question on Charger Quality:

Michael Zehner raised the question of defining the requirement level and suggests tying functionality to permits. Brian Ross discussed aligning installer business models with local objectives. Steve Rosenstock talked about balancing different types of EV spaces and possibly offering exemptions if cost is prohibitive. Brian Ross mentioned that retrofit costs are higher than new construction and highlights the cost benefits of using smart chargers and onsite generation.

Falls Church's Question on Implementation Barriers:

Jeff Brown explained that local rules can't override the state's building code in Virginia. Brian Ross referenced Minnesota's approach, allowing flexibility for surface parking but not structured parking.

Frederick County's Question on Multifamily Housing:

Kate Jones emphasized community engagement and discussions with utilities. Steve Rosenstock, Brian Ross, and Michael Zehner touched on the importance of home charging, the benefits of workplace charging, and the need for flexible baseline requirements.

Arlington's Question on Environmental and Safety Regulations:

Jeff Brown stated that transitioning to modern codes will address these concerns over time, which the state is currently undertaking. Steve Rosenstock mentioned the current focus on stationary batteries. Brian Ross questioned if there's a distinct risk, as fossil fuel vehicles can also catch fire and if response techniques differ.

Prince George's County's Question on Futureproofing:

Brian Ross and Steve Rosenstock discussed the limitations and potential standards for future proofing. Michael Zehner and Kate Jones emphasized considering grid growth, resiliency, and the potential of microgrids and virtual power plants.

Frederick County's Question on Promoting Charging in Existing Buildings:

Michael Zehner advised against provisions that might make existing buildings non-conformant after a retrofit. Steve Rosenstock pointed out tax incentives available for building owners.

Closing Remarks:

Brian Ross raised the dilemma of supply and demand regarding EVs and chargers. Steve Rosenstock suggested collaboration and information sharing among different jurisdictions. Kate Jones emphasizes the importance of fleet vehicle electrification and including all forms of transportation in sustainability plans. Michael Zehner encouraged a holistic community approach, looking for funding opportunities, and considering public transportation electrification.

3. DRAFT EV PROJECTIONS

Drew Turo, ICF

The presentation centered around the status of the project and allowed for a brief Q&A at the end.

Key points covered during the presentation:

Objective: The project's aim is to develop a regional strategy for Electric Vehicle (EV) deployment.

Timeline: The assessment is looking at electric vehicle trends and projections starting from 2030 and extending to 2045.

Scenarios: Three different adoption scenarios were explored - Business As Usual, Medium, and High Adoption.

Business As Usual: based on current trends and growth rate.

High Adoption: based on jurisdictions' EV adoption goals, reaching a maximum of 80% market share by 2045.

Medium Adoption: an average of the Business As Usual and High Adoption scenarios.

Methodology: The projection methodology was based on current data like population and vehicle registration information. The different scenarios represent possible adoption rates and help predict how many EVs might be in the region by specific benchmark years.

Feedback and Next Steps: Attendees were given a chance to review the projections and provide feedback. The current draft of the projections will be circulated for comments. Feedback will be used to refine projections and will inform the next phase, which includes EV charger deployment planning and identifying high probability charging sites.

Question: An attendee inquired about data showing the current baseline to understand better the growth from today to 2030.

Conclusion: The next steps involve circulating the draft projections, incorporating feedback, and moving forward with the project. Any queries are to be directed to Robert for further action.

4. UTILITY DATA

Tim Masters, COG Staff

Every year, the Council of Governments (COG) sends out its annual utility energy survey to utilities in the Washington Metropolitan Region, collecting and analyzing various energy-related data. The data collection process involves a phase of processing and analysis followed by a QAQC period, which entails collaboration with utilities and local jurisdictions. The involves metrics such as account and consumption data, renewable energy data, street light data, and incentive program data, depending on the utility.

Key Points:

The survey for 2022 is in a draft stage, and the 2021 data still awaits certain confirmations from utilities about specific aspects, especially related to natural gas data. The past years have witnessed some turnover at facilities, affecting the data collection process. Visual data in graphs represents trends in electricity and natural gas consumption, showing a more stable trend in electricity compared to the more variable natural gas consumption, which is influenced significantly by weather and potential COVID-19 impacts. There are notable trends and variations in residential and commercial natural gas and electricity consumption in the region, with commercial electricity consumption being a prominent driver in the consumption growth.

There's been substantial growth in the number of renewable energy systems installed across the region, exceeding initial goals and expanding significantly in recent years, reaching nearly 73,000 systems with a total capacity of 807 megawatts in 2022 (draft data).

The COG has agreements with utilities to keep certain data private and not share it publicly. This synopsis underscores the utility energy data's annual update process, notable trends, and observations in energy consumption, and the remarkable growth in renewable energy system installations in the region. The data will continue to be analyzed, finalized, and shared among relevant stakeholders while respecting privacy and data-sharing agreements with utilities.

5. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT

Overview: CPRG is designed to back states and metropolitan statistical areas (MSAs) in developing climate action plans. Two-Tier Funding: Comprised of a formula-funded planning grant and a competitive grant of approximately \$4.6 billion.

Key Dates: A Priority Climate Action Plan is due in March, and a Comprehensive Climate Action Plan is set for late 2025. Proposals for competitive grants are due in April 2024.

Eligibility Criteria: To apply for the competitive grant, project concepts must be identified and included in the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP).

Regional Scope: The District of Columbia, in collaboration with the Department of Energy (DOE), is steering the PCAP and Comprehensive Action Plan (CAP) process for the MSA.

Steering and Technical Committees: Reaching out to chief administrative officers and city managers for nominations to a steering committee, which will include state and local government representatives, and a technical committee, which will likely include participants of the current dialogue.

Timeline: The plan, due on March 1, 2024, likely needs to be prepared by January to allow for final adjustments.

- EQUITY SURVEY

The climate, energy, and air programs are engaging in a robust equity work initiative through committees like the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee and the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee. A three-pronged approach to equity involves the creation of a resource guide, an update to the 2017 environmental justice toolkit, and initiatives under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program from the EPA.

- CEEPC SOLAR PANEL

Historical Context: A few years ago, COG Board of Directors solicited staff recommendations to hasten action on climate change, focusing on electric vehicles, renewables, and building energy efficiency.

Prioritized Work: Last year, efforts were aimed at electric vehicles (EVs), and commendable work has been done regarding EV planning, developing checklists, and establishing a Clearinghouse.

Current Focus: This year, the spotlight has shifted to solar and renewables.

Board Directions: After presenting to the board in September, the Climate Energy Environment Policy Committee (CPSI) has been tasked to return to the board with further insights on solar and renewables, potentially by mid-October. While the ideal scenario would have involved in-depth engagement with the group before progressing to the Climate Energy Environment Policy Committee (CC), timing constraints have modified this approach. Three strategic focuses: Solar Deployment on Government Facilities; 100% Renewable Procurement for Government Operations; Setting a New Aspirational Solar Rooftop Goal.

6. 2023 MEETING SCHEDULES AND ADJOURNMENT

Virginia Burke, REVD Chair

The next BEEAC meeting is November 16. REVD is considering having a meeting in December. Chair Burke 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/2023/9/21/built-environment-and-energy-advisory-committee/>

For more information, visit: www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)