

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee Strategic Planning Assessment

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Introduction

For almost three decades, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) has succeeded in its attaining significant improvements to the region's air quality. Solutions at the local, state, and federal levels have spanned the gamut from policy changes resulting in fewer emissions from power generation, service and manufacturing businesses, on-road and off-road vehicle emissions, and shifts in consumer behavior that encourage greater use of mass transit and bicycles. The result can literally be seen by all—the cleanest air since MWAQC was established in 1992.

Not every challenge has been eliminated, however, as ozone levels still remain a requisite area of concern. Additionally, announced and planned federal policy changes in environmental standards that may affect air quality, growth in the region, and the growing impact on air quality from climate change will require fresh thinking and new actions.

As a result of largely meeting its original mandate—and recognizing that there is still work to be done — MWAQC members (including elected officials, regional air management and transportation experts, and representatives from local governments and organizations), engaged in a Strategic Planning Assessment process as part of its FY 2019 Work Plan to:

- Improve MWAQC operations and processes to better meet the needs of its members.
- Identify and take action on potential new directions, policies, and priorities for MWAQC.

The following narrative offers a full picture of the Strategic Planning Assessment process, findings, and realistic recommendations to ensure that MWAQC's contribution to cleaner air and healthier residents remains vital and relevant.

Background

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) was established in 1992 pursuant to Section 174 of the Clean Air Act Amendments (CAAA) of 1990 through certification actions by the governors of Maryland and Virginia and the Mayor of the District of Columbia. The membership on MWAQC, consistent with Section 174 of the CAAA, includes local elected officials, state air quality and transportation agencies and a representative of the regional transportation planning body, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board.

MWAQC's charge is defined in federal law and augmented through federal (EPA) regulations governing state implementation planning and air quality conformity. This approach provides for consistency across metropolitan Washington as actions to reduce air pollution are more effective when implemented across the region. Since its inception, MWAQC has led the way in preparing all required plans as well as many supplemental actions, which has resulted in dramatic improvements in the region's air quality. These positive changes have helped ensure that the region's residents breathe healthier air.

MWAQC members are charged with developing regional air quality plans for criteria pollutants including ozone, fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide, as well as voluntary recommendations and initiatives. This work reflects regulatory requirements and best practices while recognizing the need to

address both cost-efficiencies and the unique requirements of MWAQC members. Significant regional progress has been made, with levels for five out of the six pollutants articulated in its original mandate now falling within the levels established by the National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS).

The work continues, however. The region continues to experience unhealthy air days, and committee members are mindful of future challenges to the region's air quality. For these reasons, MWAQC conducted a Strategic Planning Assessment in FY 2019 to identify opportunities to improve internal operations, identify collective priorities for the coming years, and ultimately deepen engagement among its members.

The Strategic Planning Assessment Process

In late summer 2018, MWAQC released a request for proposals for an experienced outside facilitator to guide the Strategic Planning Assessment process. In September, Jean Synodinos of Synodinos Consulting (Austin, TX) was engaged.

To gather member input as efficiently as possible, a preliminary survey was conducted in November 2018. Findings from this survey were shared and additional input was gathered at a membership meeting on December 19, 2018. This collective input formed a draft Strategic Planning Assessment that was then shared with membership on January 23, 2019 for review and comment, ensuring that this final assessment reflects the diverse voices and expertise of MWAQC members.

Preliminary Survey for MWAQC Members

This voluntary survey was launched on Wednesday, November 7th and remained open to all members through the 21st of the month. Members were invited to participate in one of three ways: online via Survey Monkey; in a Word document; or, over the phone with the consultant. Periodic reminders were emailed to members to encourage participation.

The survey was divided into three sections. The first section gathered information on participants¹ (e.g., name, organization, length of time on MWAQC). Next, voting and alternate members of MWAQC, its Technical Advisory Committee, and the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee were invited to share their thoughts on MWAQC operations, meetings, and processes. In the final section, participants were asked their thoughts on MWAQC priorities.

Twenty-nine individuals (51% of members and alternates), participated in the survey and provided a strong representative sample:

- Responses included representation from the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia.
- Respondents included elected officials, environmental/air quality agencies, and departments of transportation.

¹ Identifying information on participants was collected to ensure that responses reflected a representative sample of MWAQC's diverse membership. A commitment was made to all participants that their comments would remain anonymous when findings were shared with wider membership at the December 19th meeting and in this assessment.

- The length of MWAQC participation among respondents ranged from less than one year all the way to 30 years.
- Twenty-one respondents reported serving on one or more MWAQC subcommittees.

While full quantitative and qualitative responses to the survey's questions on operations and priorities are available in the Appendix to this assessment, key themes/findings that emerged specifically from the survey include:

Operations

- In-person meeting attendance is considered the most effective way to participate/communicate, but it is not always possible.
- More than 2/3 of survey respondents find agenda topics relevant and useful.
- Meeting materials are often too complex and difficult to understand for the policy-level committee members.
- It would be helpful to have more time with meeting materials prior to meetings.
- Members are unsure if/how they can suggest agenda items and/or comment on meeting materials.
- Finding materials on the MWCOG website can be challenging.
- Four out of five survey respondents believe that joint Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) meetings are beneficial.
- There is a desire to improve the consensus-building process among members.
- Members would appreciate the opportunity to offer feedback/input on what is working well and what might work better.
- Members would appreciate hearing about MWAQC accomplishments as well as the Committee's connection to the wider mission and work of MWCOG.

Priorities

- Approximately 2/3 of survey respondents believe that MWAQC's work strongly or highly aligns with their organization's work.
- Survey respondents prioritized the six core program areas from the FY 2019 Work Plan². Those program areas receiving the highest ratings included:
 - Develop and adopt air quality plans.
 - Address designations and data for the federal ozone standard.
 - Track data for federal standards.
- Survey respondents prioritized eight potential priorities and opportunities for future work³. Those receiving the highest ratings included:

² This question was included in the survey as a way of identifying how and where resources might best be allocated to meet members' needs. Each area is a fundamental core element of MWAQC's mission and will continue to be addressed. Full responses and analysis can be found in the Appendix to this assessment.

³ Please see the Appendix to this assessment for comprehensive responses and analysis.

- Communicate to leaders and public on actions to improve air quality.
- Support the transition to cleaner diesel equipment.
- Implement anti-idling campaign for trucks and buses.
- Advocate for federal clean air policies.
- When survey respondents were asked to share the areas of focus in which their organizations are engaged and might be considered by MWAQC, three categories emerged:
 - Energy and sustainability.
 - Communication and policy.
 - Transportation.

Gathering Additional Input and Insight from MWAQC Members

Comprehensive survey results, including representative qualitative comments from survey respondents, were shared with MWAQC’s general membership during a well-attended meeting on December 19, 2018 in the Kirby Training Center at MWCOG’s offices in Washington, DC.

Facilitated discussion collected additional insight on improvements to operations, program priorities, and additional opportunities or challenges. As with the preliminary survey, key themes emerged:

Operations

Meetings will be more valuable—and participation will rise—if they are better able to meet the needs of MWAQC’s diverse membership, particularly elected officials. Some of the opportunities for improvement discussed include:

- Reinstigate an orientation to MWAQC’s work for members
- Ensure that presentations are appropriate for audiences; keep technical work at the subcommittee level
- Delivery of meeting materials in advance of meetings
- Distribution of calendar invites
- Web-based video conferencing (in addition to conference calls)

Priorities

Most MWACQ members suggest that revisiting the larger mission and functions of MWAQC is a critical and essential first step in order to achieve consensus, clarity, and direction. For example:

- What role does—and should—MWAQC have in improving regional air quality?
- How does the work of MWAQC align/overlap with CEEPC and/or TPB? How is it different?
- How should MWAQC anticipate and address future challenges to regional air quality?

While consensus was achieved on several operational issues, there remains a deeper opportunity to redefine MWAQC’s mission and work going forward, and this redefinition has the potential to reenergize members.

Strategic Planning Assessment Findings and Recommendations

The following recommendations are based on a) preliminary survey findings; b) input gathered during the December 2018 MWAQC meeting; and c) feedback from draft recommendations in early 2019. Several items may require a reallocation of staff and resources but can be initiated now and improved in FY 2020.

Operations

Ensure that the content of meetings and materials better meet the needs of members (including elected officials) whose missions are broader. There is general agreement that meeting attendance and participation will rise when all members are better able to “connect the dots” between the work of MWAQC and their own work. This important issue may require a reallocation of MWAQC staff time and resources, however the steps below, rolled out now and improved in the next fiscal year, will substantively increase the value of meetings to all members.

- To assist members in understanding MWAQC’s core issues, staff will develop and provide an orientation session for members in February 2019. This “MWAQC 101” will include an easy-to-understand briefing book and at-a-glance one-sheets. Representatives from CEEPC and TPB will be invited to help MWAQC members understand how each committee’s work aligns and complements the work of the others. Future orientation sessions will also be offered at the start of subsequent years for new members as well as those members who would like a refresher on MWAQC’s mission, priorities, committee structure, etc.
- Presentations to MWAQC members will be reviewed—and delivered—to increase comprehension and clarity for all. (NOTE: Coupled with MWAQC’s commitment to emailing meeting materials at least one week in advance of meetings, MWAQC staff will work to standardize a process for both materials review and dissemination.)
- Knowing that elected officials, in particular, will benefit from additional tools that can help them convey information to their respective constituents and colleagues at the local and state levels, MWAQC staff will periodically provide at-a-glance action sheets to members that mirror presentation content. These may be provided at meetings and/or via email after meetings.
- Henceforth, technical work will remain at the subcommittee level as much as possible. If needed to help with committee decision-making, MWAQC may choose to set aside time in general meeting agendas to dedicate to technical work.
- To provide members with an ongoing opportunity to provide valuable feedback, MWAQC will periodically send meeting participants a link to a brief and voluntary online survey. Input will be used to continue to improve both meeting logistics and content.

Make logistical improvements to general MWAQC meetings and materials in 2019. These specific improvements will be implemented throughout the course of the year based on available staffing and resources.

- Beginning in January 2019 and continuing for subsequent calendar years, MWAQC staff will email calendar invitations for all meetings to membership.
- Going forward, staff will provide meeting materials at least one week in advance of meetings.
- In addition to the use of a teleconference line for meetings, MWAQC staff will investigate options for conducting meetings using a web-based video conference platform for members who are unable to attend in person in the first half of 2019. A recommendation will be presented to members in the summer of 2019 and will be grounded in available resources (costs and staffing).
- MWAQC staff will work with IT staff to streamline the hosting of MWAQC documents on MWCOCG's website. Members will be alerted to changes and improvements (ongoing).

Priorities

MWAQC members all share a common aim, but each has its own unique focus. An effort to identify and prioritize program work areas in December's meeting achieved progress, but not necessarily consensus. While member input provided direction on current program areas in the FY 2019 Work Plan, an important opportunity emerged to redefine and bring clarity to MWAQC's purpose and mission. In addressing this opportunity, MWAQC will be better poised to address forthcoming challenges to the region's air quality with the broad support of MWAQC members. As one member noted, the work of MWAQC is "a moral imperative."

Continue the progress towards reducing ozone levels in the region through the program areas already delineated in the FY 2019 work plan. Even as MWAQC considers opportunities for the future, work on this primary mandate must continue.

- While all of the FY 2019 program work areas will continue to be addressed, MWAQC staff will look to November's survey findings as a baseline for prioritizing efforts. This may impact allocation of available resources for the remainder of this FY and impact recommendations for the FY 2020 Work Plan. Respondents preferences for all six areas, in order, were:⁴
 1. Develop and adopt air quality plans.
 2. Address designations and data for the federal ozone standard.
 3. Track data for federal standards.
 4. Review and respond to TPBs transportation conformity analysis.
 5. Facilitate resolution of inter-jurisdictional policy issues.
 6. Provide for a public participation program (Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee).

MWAQC will take the calendar year 2019 to clearly define its purpose and role in leading improvements to regional air quality by first defining *what* MWAQC does and then *how* MWAQC does it. Input during the December 19 meeting suggests that members are more likely to participate actively, and choose meaningful and actionable goals, if there is consensus on both the

⁴ Please see Appendix for full survey findings.

“what” and the “how” of MWAQC’s work—two distinct questions that, when answered iteratively, will allow membership to prioritize additional opportunities with enthusiasm.

This important work requires that MWAQC members commit to additional discussion to arrive at a consensus that will help direct the program work areas and future priorities of MWAQC in FY 2020 and beyond. To that end:

- In February 2019, MWAQC staff will query members to assess how they would prefer to continue engaging in this work. Options might include: an *ad hoc* meeting of members in the spring or summer; creation of a temporary subcommittee of member volunteers representing MWAQC’s diverse membership; or, continued discussion among members as part of regularly scheduled MWAQC meetings. Regardless of the format that members prefer, the goal will be to find consensus on questions raised during December 2018 discussion that include, but are not limited to:
 - What role does MWAQC play, and what are its core functions?
 - What specific roles set out in the bylaws should MWAQC spend its time on to improve air quality and public health going forward?
 - In what ways does MWAQC’s work align with the work of CEEPC and TPB? Are there duplicative efforts that can be eliminated? Are there gaps in the work of these committees that need to be filled?
 - How can representatives from different and unique jurisdictions be best-served by MWAQC—and how can those needs be met?
 - How might MWAQC benefit from collaboration with others (e.g., Clean Air Partners)?
 - Are there funds and resources available for any recommended changes to MWAQC’s work?
 - Should MWAQC’s bylaws be updated to reflect this revised consensus?

APPENDIX

MWAQC Strategic Planning Assessment Preliminary Survey Responses (November 7-21, 2018)

Note: Identifying information from respondents was collected to ensure that responses provided a strong representative sample of MWAQC's diverse membership. No identifying information is offered in this Appendix.

Questions Regarding MWAQC Operations and Processes (questions 8 – 15)

Q. 8: Which do you find to be a more valuable and effective way of participating in MWAQC meetings?

Answer choices	Responses
In-person	43%
Via teleconference/webinar	30%
No difference	26%

Comments:

"I find in person to be a better way to communicate but having the other options is valuable for those who can't make the meeting."

Q. 9: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is "Rarely" and 5 is "Always," how often do you find the agenda topics relevant and useful?

Rarely					Always
1	2	3	4	5	5
0%	1%	26%	48%	22%	

Comments:

"If it is possible to get the documents farther in advance of the meetings that would be helpful, as they are often somewhat lengthy."

"Not sure whether any of our input is used or considered."

Q. 10: How would you describe your current level of involvement with MWAQC? Please consider attendance at meetings (in person or remotely), review of materials, participation in committees, etc.

Answer choices	Responses
Extremely involved	13%
Very involved	35%
Somewhat involved	44%
Not very involved	9%
Not at all involved	0%

Comments:

“My level of involvement has diminished due to my workload, but I still attempt to attend all meetings in person and contribute where I can.”

Q. 11: If you answered “Not very involved” or “Not at all involved” to Question 10, can you tell us why? Please check all that apply.

Answer choices	Responses
MWAQC’s current focus does not align with the priorities of my agency/organization	0%
There is currently no time in my schedule to participate	25%
I would participate more, but MWAQC meetings are currently held at times that conflict with other responsibilities	50%
Other (please specify)	25%

Other: Health issues

Q. 12: Thinking about participation in the MWAQC meetings (full membership meetings, not subcommittees), please indicate whether the following meet your needs as a member. If you respond “Does Not Meet Needs,” please tell us why in the comment box below.

Answer choices	Meets Needs	Does Not Meet Needs
Number of meetings	100%	0%
Meeting materials	77%	23%
Presentations/briefings	86%	14%
Accessing materials/information on COG website	95%	5%
Meeting technology (A/V, teleconference system)	95%	5%

Comments:

“As noted earlier, more time for review would be helpful, as would notification in advance of the materials being prepared so committee members would have an opportunity to suggest content.”

“Meeting materials have sometimes been provided last minute without time for adequate review. In addition, leadership should strive to develop positions/materials that are acceptable to the entire committee.”

“Over the last year or two, meeting materials have not been provided in a timely manner to allow thorough prior review. Another troubling aspect of recent meetings is the lack of emphasis on expressing a viewpoint within MWAQC documents that is acceptable to all members. Given the tri-state nature of the area and the many local jurisdictions that are involved, leadership should strive to develop positions that are satisfactory to all members.”

“Virtually impossible to find meeting materials if you start with the MWCOG website. I can only find them if I use the link in Sunil Kumar's emails.”

“When participating remotely it is a challenge to have materials in front of me and participate as well.”

“We seem to focus on what others are doing.”

“Meeting materials should be sent as early as possible. COG Staff and Exec. Cmte should ask other members for their opinions on potential presentations/briefings.”

“I’ve never been to a full meeting.”

“Website is very user friendly and a valuable resource.”

Q. 13: Thinking about any subcommittees on which you serve, please indicate whether the following meet your needs as a member. If you respond “Does Not Meet Needs,” please tell us why in the comment box below.

Answer choices	Meets Needs	Does Not Meet Needs
Number of subcommittee meetings	94%	6%
Subcommittee meeting materials	83%	17%
Subcommittee presentations/briefings	94%	6%
Accessing subcommittee materials/ information on COG website	94%	6%
Subcommittee meeting technology (A/V, teleconference system)	100%	0%

Comments:

“Same issues as noted above; sometimes MWAQC TAC meeting materials are not distributed in a timely manner.”

“Again, materials are not provided in a timely fashion to allow review and if necessary consensus building prior to the calls.”

“Generally, the TAC meetings are very good, but they could probably be shorter and possibly less frequent. We don't need as much detail every meeting on the ozone season and PM2.5. The slides are valuable, but we don't need to go through each one. As a DOT rep. I feel I get caught up in some exhaustive conversations on both TAC and the emissions subcommittee that would probably be better had off-line. As an example, I recall a rather lengthy conversation relating to crematoria. Also, funding agencies, such as MDOT, are not permitted to attend the Executive Committee meetings where much of the direction for MWAQC and the Subcommittees is discussed.”

“My experience has been with email. Difficult to find [materials] on website.”

“The meetings and associated resources are well done.”

Q. 14: Are joint meetings with the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee beneficial to supporting MWAQC priorities?

Answer choices

Responses

Yes	82%
No	18%

Comments:

“These two areas are directly linked.”

“Not really sure.”

“I haven't participated in these but believe it would be beneficial as these issues definitely impact Clean Air issues.”

“While there is some overlap for staff purposes, the missions are different, and the efforts of the committees should remain separate. The primary function of MWAQC should be to ensure that the region is meeting federal air quality standards and associated requirements.”

“I serve on both committees and I feel that there is definitely some common ground that requires collaboration.”

Q. 15: Do you have any suggestions to improve general membership meetings, subcommittee meetings, meeting-related communications from MWAQC, and/or other relevant MWAQC operations and processes?

Comments:

“More reporting on federal and international developments and more advocacy on public policy.”

“They do tend to be long and often seemed geared towards members that don't follow air quality on a daily basis as part of their job.”

“Early morning meetings or later afternoon meetings would better suit more who work full time outside of elected positions.”

“Presentations are too technical.”

“At the beginning of the year and perhaps at other times offer an opportunity (not during the meetings under new business) for members to suggest other topics for review or consideration.”

“Allow adequate time for meeting material review prior to each meeting. Strive to seek consensus on important issues, and ALL viewpoints should be represented, and not just those preferred by staff. Maintain a transparent process, and it is notable that the Chair's early departure at a recent MWAQC meeting without notifying committee members or rearranging the agenda so key topics could be addressed is a good example of the current lack-of-transparency.”

“Materials should be provided ahead of time with a reasonable review period based on the material content. If divergent opinions are noted, additional subcommittee meetings should be held to identify a consensus viewpoint prior to MWAQC meetings or TAC meetings.”

“Somehow a greater sense of urgency and import is needed for all MWAQC and related meetings.”

“Potentially having periodic reviews of MWAQC successes and opportunities at member jurisdiction meetings.”

“would like to see a direct connection or link to what the overall COG committee is doing. Don't see a thread to the main committee's work”

“In addition to the suggestions above, please send calendar appointments for all meetings. It is hard to keep track of all of the changes for MWAQC and all subcommittees. COG is great about doing this for Clean Air Partners. Boost membership participation. Use tools, like this survey, to better understand what members are looking for in terms of interesting meeting content.”

“While I know that scheduling is difficult, perhaps a better effort could be made in advance to confirm attendees and participants. This would help avoid using time at the beginning of meetings scrambling for a quorum. I understand this is unavoidable at times due to unforeseen circumstances and I do appreciate the effort.”

“Too many presentations involve reading power points to us. We can read power points ourselves -- and in half the time.”

“The earlier materials can be shared in advance, the better.”

“The meetings and associated resources are well done.”

Questions Regarding MWAQC Priorities and Opportunities (questions 16 – 21)

Q. 16: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is “Not a problem at all” and 5 is “A very big problem,” how do you rate the current state of the region’s air quality?

Not a problem at all					A very big problem
1	2	3	4	5	
0%	21%	50%	25%	4%	

Q. 17: On a scale of 1 to 5, where 1 is “Does not align with my organization” and 5 is “Highly aligns with my organization,” how does the current work of MWAQC align with your organization’s air quality priorities or mission?

Does not align with my organization					Highly aligns with my organization
1	2	3	4	5	
0%	17%	21%	21%	42%	

Comments:

“Recently I have been pushing for MWAQC to take stronger stands. As a result I find that MWAQC aligns with my council's goals and my own goals.”

“NASEO is concerned about energy-emissions nexus; both criteria and greenhouse gases are pertinent (add in HAPs too).”

“The direction that MWAQC took this year to focus on veritably unachievable goals at the behest of the Chair (like zero ozone action days) was troubling.”

Q. 18: MWAQC’s FY 2019 Work Program includes the following program areas: emissions inventory development; SIP/multi-sector strategy development; local measures; transportation conformity/mobile emissions analysis; and, public participation. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is "Low importance" and 5 is "High importance," how would you rate each action that supports the core areas?(NOTE: The FY2019 Work Program and Budget can be found as Item #3 in the May 24, 2018 meeting materials on this page: <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2017/5/24/metropolitan-washington-air-quality-committee-mwaqc/>)

	Low importance		High importance		
	1	2	3	4	5
Review and respond to TPB’s transportation conformity analyses.	4%	4%	21%	38%	33%
Develop and adopt air quality plans including emissions inventories and budgets.	0%	0%	0%	38%	62%
Address designation and data for the federal ozone standard.	13%	0%	4%	58%	25%
Track data for federal standards for fine particles, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulfur dioxide, and lead.	13%	0%	8%	58%	21%
Facilitate resolution of inter-jurisdictional policy issues.	8%	0%	33%	29%	29%
Provide for a public participation program (Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee).	0%	0%	58%	33%	8%

NOTE:

To assess the true value of these findings, scores of “4” and “5” were combined to identify members’ highest priorities. In this manner, the following preferences emerge:

	Percent of responses listed as a "4" or "5"
1. Develop and adopt air quality plans.	100%
2. Address designations and data for the federal ozone standard.	95%
3. Track data for federal standards.	92%
4. Review and respond to TPBs transportation conformity analysis.	70%
5. Facilitate resolution of inter-jurisdictional policy issues.	60%
6. Provide for a public participation program (Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee).	42%

Q. 19: In addition to core areas of focus, we are interested in identifying additional priorities/opportunities to improve regional air quality that are of value and interest to members. On a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 is "Low importance" and 5 is "High importance," how would you rate each of these potential priorities/opportunities?(NOTE: Some of these may have already been identified in the July 2018 What We Can Do draft plan. If you wish to review this document, it is archived as Item #2 in the July 25, 2018 meeting materials and can be found on this page: https://www.mwcoq.org/events/2018/?F_committee=120.)

	Low importance		High importance		
	1	2	3	4	5
Promote regionwide electric vehicle infrastructure and electric mobility.	0%	12%	25%	21%	42%
Expand green electricity generation and storage through battery incentives and green power purchasing programs.	0%	18%	18%	36%	27%
Support enhanced land use, tree canopy, building efficiency and renewable energy programs.	0%	17%	22%	26%	35%
Support the transition to cleaner on-road and non-road heavy-duty diesel equipment.	0%	13%	13%	22%	52%
Implement anti-idling campaign for trucks, tour buses, and school buses.	4%	9%	17%	26%	43%
Facilitate community monitoring initiatives (citizen science projects using low-cost sensors).	17%	12%	38%	29%	4%

Advocate for federal clean air policies.	0%	4%	29%	25%	42%
Communicate to regional leaders and the public on the need for actions improve air quality.	0%	4%	13%	52%	30%

NOTE:

To assess the true value of these findings, scores of “4” and “5” were combined to identify members’ highest priorities. In this manner, the following preferences emerge:

	Percent of responses listed as a “4” or “5”
1. <i>Communicate to leaders, public on actions to improve air quality.</i>	83%
2. <i>Support the transition to cleaner diesel equipment.</i>	74%
3. <i>Implement anti-idling campaign for trucks and buses.</i>	70%
4. <i>Advocate for federal clean air policies.</i>	67%
5. <i>Expand green electricity generation and storage.</i>	64%
6. <i>Promote electric vehicle infrastructure and electric mobility.</i>	62%
7. <i>Support enhanced land use, tree canopy, building efficiency and renewable energy programs.</i>	61%
8. <i>Facilitate community monitoring initiatives such as citizen science.</i>	33%

Q. 20: Is your organization addressing any other air quality issues that MWAQC is not currently addressing or are not listed in either question 18 or 19? If so, would you recommend that MWAQC consider addressing them?

Comments:

“More time with public and alternative regional transit.”

“Transportation is the main issue in the DC area, particularly public transit. How MWAQC could address this is unclear but should be discussed.”

“Takoma Park has identified working to ensure that development projects are more environmentally sustainable as a priority. It's a topic that WMAQC should consider working on.”

“Some overlap but some differences: 1. We've worked on promoting recognition/consideration of end-use energy efficiency in SIPs and other CAA planning and compliance; 2. We work to enhance communications between energy offices, air quality regulators, and PUCs; 3. We've worked on RE-grid integration; 4. we're increasing working on grid-interactive topics (building-to-grid, EV charging), distribution planning, distributed energy resource interactions (EE, DR/load management, DG, storage, microgrids)--which impact both onsite and EGU emissions. Also linkages among energy efficiency, distributed energy resources, and energy resilience (reducing grid and system stresses and providing service and survivability during outages).”

“The DC Council is currently working to pass the CleanEnergy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018. This would make the District a national leader in the effort to fight climate change. I encourage MWAQC to review the legislation and work with other member jurisdictions on advancing similar policies: <http://lims.dccouncil.us/Download/40667/B22-0904-Introduction.pdf>”

Q. 21: What else would you like to share that might help shape MWAQC’s Strategic Planning Assessment?

Comments:

“MWAQC should make sure the science is right and then engage fearlessly in public communication, public education and advocacy.”

“Transportation is the biggest contributor to air quality issues in the area and we need to be strong on that subject.”

“Stay focused on existing core functions and advocate for more local actions in the transportation sector. Work closely with the State's/District's air agencies on their federal and Clean Air Act mandates to realize synergies from their work, and to avoid duplication of effort (by COG/MWAQC) for maximizing the value of scarce financial resources.”

“Where needed and appropriate, MWAQC should focus their efforts on obtaining COST-EFFECTIVE emission reductions EQUALLY from ALL emission sources (point, area, mobile, and non-road).”

“Linking environmental sustainability and resilience will continue to grow in salience.”

“No major or significant pieces of advice. Keep up the good work!”

“MWAQC should be more of a resource for jurisdictions. A place where new ideas and best practices are gathered and researched, and information made available to the regional jurisdictions and the public.”

“Develop strategies for localities to reduce area sources of emissions for criteria air pollutants.”