



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: November 17, 2022

### BEEAC Members in Attendance:

- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (Chair)
- Marc Aveni, Loudoun County (Co-Vice Chair)
- Kendra Wiley, DC (Co-Vice Chair)
- Alex Hirtle, Prince George's County
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg
- Emily Curley, Montgomery County
- Bettina Bergoo, VA Department of Energy
- Elizabeth Lovinggood, WMATA
- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Kevin Milsted, Prince William County
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County

### Additional Attendees:

- Amanda Dewey, ACEEE
- Curt Bjurlin, Climate Solutions Leader for Stantec Consulting

- Cyrena Chiles Eitler, Stantec Consulting Services Inc.
- Najoua Jouini, Tetra Tech
- Emily Golla, ICF
- Chad Laurent, Cadmus Group
- Elise Logan, Cadmus Group
- Colleen Turner, Michael Baker
- Ida Namur, AECOM
- JaLeesa Tate, Tetra Tech
- Kathie Hoekstra, Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission
- Shawn O'Neill, Fairfax Water

### COG Staff:

- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Robert Christopher, COG DEP
- Maia Davis, COG DEP
- Jeff King, COG DEP
- Gail Crichlow, COG
- Rick Konrad, COG
- Tim Masters, COG DEP

### **1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)*

Chair Dawn Ashbacher called the meeting to order, and introductions were given.

### **2. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2022 MEETING SUMMARY**

*Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County (BEEAC Chair)*

The September 15 BEEAC meeting summary was approved.

### **3. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS CLIP**

A short video of the [2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards](#) was viewed.

### **4. JURISDICTION UPDATES AND PEER EXCHANGE**

BEEAC Committee Members addressed the following questions:

1. What metrics or performance measures does your jurisdiction have in place or are under consideration to evaluate energy and climate equity programs and policies?
2. What legislative priorities should BEEAC advance to CEEPC for inclusion in the COG Board legislative focus in 2023?

The Chair also asked members for input on topics they would like covered by BEEAC in 2023, including equity and electric vehicles.

*Marc Aveni, Loudoun County*

Loudoun County has an equity officer and departments that have traditionally worked with underserved communities like housing and family services. The County is struggling to develop goals and metrics, and to address questions like how to define the populations they serve and should metrics be income based. The County is also working hard to find identified qualified census tracts and existing data sources to use. The County is looking for feedback from residents in these target areas concerning what their needs and wants regarding energy efficiency.

*Bettina Bergoo, Virginia Department of Energy*

At the state level, VA is outlining a strategy to comply with the federal justice requirements for applications for formula and competitive clean energy grants. A lot of work is being done to define disadvantage communities in Virginia.

*Shawn O'Neill, Fairfax Water*

Fairfax Water is in the process of equity developing goals.

*Emily Curley, Montgomery County*

The Montgomery County Green Bank received \$18 M of additional funding from the County's fuel energy tax, with 20% of the funds targeted in equity emphasis areas (EEAs). The EEAs have been a great resource for the County and have become a standardized methodology to identify areas to

funnel funding and work within. The County is also looking at a targeted electrification pilot for low-income communities and homeowners.

The County's building energy performance standards (BEPS) is still in the regulation development process and includes a carve out for under-resourced buildings, such as affordable housing, nonprofit-owned buildings and small businesses. These building types might have more of a challenge in reaching the performance standard targets. The County recently started a community-led heat mapping exercise around data collection. The initiative is still under way and the data will be used to funnel financing resources and incentives.

*Alex Hirtle, Prince George's County*

The Prince George's County Climate Action Commission has been meeting on a regular basis. Electric vehicles (EVs) are emphasized as an area to address equity issues. The County is looking at a program that will help subsidize the price of EVs for people to buy or lease them.

The County is also looking to dedicate funding for commercial and residential solar projects, green buildings particularly within the office buildings and schools.

*Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County*

Frederick County's power saver retrofits program which won the 2022 Climate and Energy Leadership Award for the government sector has a legislative requirement to serve low- and moderate-income (LMI) communities with money from RGFI. The program has its own metrics related to energy efficiency savings, where it needs to meet a certain payback. The program also looks at improvements that are done and the energy savings; however, they do not have metrics for equity. Through the program, County learned that equity metrics is not a built-in feature for LMI projects due to the wide-ranging diversity within the community. Not English language proficient people is only one group within the LMI community who may qualify for the program. The County is thinking through how to define underserved and if they should include specific questions on the application to obtain certain information.

*Kendra Wiley, DC*

The District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) and the DC City Council use the racial equity impact assessment (REIAs) process to evaluate proposed legislation and program initiatives for potential negative or positive outcomes. DOEE has a program analyst that leads the equity work. The DC Affordable Housing Retrofit Accelerator program provides energy audits and assists affordable housing compliance with BEPS requirements. Funds from the American Rescue Plan Act are used to pay for the program.

DC is thinking through a strategy to use funds from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), while considering how to structure the new DC Council bill on heat pumps for low-income households and capitalizing on the IRAs heat pump rebate program. The DC Council bill includes a provision that 5,000 low-income households need to have residential electrification retrofits at no cost by 2025.

DC is also working on protecting the definition of net zero energy, which for DC means deep energy efficiency, onsite renewables, and off site, renewable energy. DC does not want a building to reach net zero energy by buying renewable energy credits (RECs).

On the transportation side, DC adopted the California 2035 gas ban and is researching the used

vehicle market for LMI households. The secondary market isn't robust as the rental car companies are only keeping cars for 3 to 5 years and then selling them on a huge market.

## **5. ACEEE LEADING WITH EQUITY INITIATIVE AND CLEAN ENERGY SCORECARDS**

*Amanda Dewey, ACEEE*

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) discussed their Leading with Equity Initiative, including key findings and ACEEE scorecards which evaluate key cities and states using prioritized equity-focused metrics. The initiative was launched in February 2021. Through the initiative, ACEEE held two sets of three workshops with community-based organizations, advocates, and utilities to help define and drive the development of new equity-focused metrics to include in the next editions of ACEEE's state, utility, and city scorecards. The initiative aims to ensure community-based organizations and disinvested community interests drive the development of improved equity-centered metrics, while also assessing current decisionmaker capacity to report on desired metrics (e.g., data collection and availability).

The 2020 State Energy Efficient Scorecard ranked MD at 6, DC at 8, and VA at 25 out of 51 states. The 2021 City Clean Scorecard ranked DC at 3 and Baltimore at 24 out 100 major cities.

Amanda Dewey's full presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

## **6. COG CLIMATE CONTRACTS**

*Maia Davis, COG Staff*

*Rick Konrad, COG Staff*

*Jeff King, COG Staff*

*Contract Consultants*

COG's new Greenhouse Gas Mitigation/Climate Adaptation Master Contract vehicle will be discussed, including introductions from the contract consultants.

The main elements of COG's Master Contracts include:

- Support for GHG inventories, Mitigation Planning and Implementation
- Contractors awarded Master Contract on an "Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity" ("IDIQ") basis.
- Tasks can be performed for local, regional, and State government agencies, non-profit organizations, stakeholders, as well as regional councils such as COG.
- This Contract is valid for three (3) years. COG may extend this Contract for up to two (2) additional one-year periods.
- Individual Task Orders (TO), issued in the final year of the Contract, may have a Period of Performance which extends beyond the termination date of this Contract.

Two ways for COG Members to access the master contract:

1. Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
  - a. Coordinate with COG to develop high-level scope of work (SOW)
  - b. Enter into MOU with COG
  - c. Task Order (TO) Process to select contractor
  - d. COG procurement guidelines are followed

2. COG Cooperative Rider Clause
  - a. Review the Using COG Masters Contracts Guide
  - b. Fill out a Rider Request Form
  - c. Piggyback an existing TO Award if you have a similar SOW or develop a new TO in-house
  - d. Follow your local agency purchasing guidelines

Consultants are prohibited from writing scopes of work for planned projects as they will be ineligible to bid on it.

Consultant presentations and contract documents can be downloaded [here](#).

## 7. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Leah Boggs reminded jurisdictions to submit the BEEAC 2023 Priorities Survey by December 16, 2022.
- Jeff King reported that staff is working to populate the regional EV information clearinghouse before the first Work Group meeting. The first meeting is projected to be in February 2023.
- Maia Davis reported the local greenhouse gas inventory fact sheets for each jurisdiction have been completed and posted for review. Comments are requested by December 12, 2022

## 8. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### 9. 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 or by clicking the link below –*

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2022/11/17/built-environment-energy-advisory-committee/>

**The next BEEAC meeting is February 16, 2023.**

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