

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

MEETING SUMMARY: MARCH 23, 2016

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Penny Gross, Fairfax County (Chair)
- Del Pepper, Alexandria
- Jay Fisette, Arlington
- Fred Schultz, Takoma Park
- Nicole Rentz, representing Mary Cheh, District of Columbia City Council
- Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Michael Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools (alternate)
- Austina Casey, District Department of Transportation *
- James Flynn, Bladensburg
- John Lord, Loudoun County Public Schools *
- Gina Mathias, Takoma Park *
- Veronique Marier, Bethesda Green *
- Kathy Magruder, Maryland Clean Energy Center *
- Dale Medearis, NVRC
- George Nichols, DC Sustainable Energy Utility (alternate)
- Tim Stevens, Virginia Sierra Club
- Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Chair
- Ted Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility
- Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County *
- Kathryn Zyla, Georgetown Climate Center

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Roger Fernandez, EPA
- Rachel Goldstein, MARS
- Scott Johnstone, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation
- Susan Kolodziejczyk, National Geographic
- Alison Taylor, Siemens
- Alexis Blakely, DC SEU
- Bill Eger, Alexandria *
- Scott Pomeroy, Downtown DC BID
- Laura Rogers, MD Department of Transportation
- Chris Somers, Arlington

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Sophie Earll, COG Environmental Programs

- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Isabel Ricker, COG Environmental Programs
- Madison Wagner, COG Environmental Programs
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
- Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs

(*) Indicates participation by phone

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Pledge of allegiance. Introductions from Penny Gross followed by approval of minutes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) (*Michelle Vigen, Chair*)

- In February, BEEAC focused on High Efficiency lighting projects, particularly using LED lighting for streets. Takoma Park, Chevy Chase Village and Arlington County have been working on LED streetlight projects. Streetlight conversion is not always a simple process as they are regulated by public utilities. DOE outdoor lighting and accelerator program meeting introduced Opportunities for Technical Assistance to COG members, particularly in Maryland. These programs will facilitate outdoor lighting retrofits. COG is investigating DOE outdoor lighting accelerator program.
- In March, BEEAC focused on renewable energy; BEEAC was briefed on renewable energy potential study conducted by ICF in addendum to the Multi-Sector Work Group. The study will show how much renewable energy is needed to reach the 10 percent CEEPC goal. Also learned about the community solar program in Maryland, MD Public Service Commission just drafted regulations for that program.
- Next meeting in April will look at state energy plans.

Discussion

- A question was raised whether the committee looked at athletic field lighting?
 - Ms. Vigen said not specifically, but light pollution is being considered, and that BEEAC will look into this.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Glenna Tinney, Chair*)

- ACPAC focused on Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit and the Climate and Energy leadership awards.
- ACPAC's subcommittee on EJ research focused on EJ foundation and principles. They will be reviewing national documents, case studies from Mid-Atlantic region, tools, and state agency program resources and citizen science. March meeting focused on EJ principles and foundational documents, citizen science. Will begin researching case studies from South Carolina, Connecticut, Takoma Park, and Sustainable DC for their April 2016 meeting. Further research will be focused on narrowing scope and putting together deliverable to bring to CEEPC, BEEAC and MWAQC. COG staff will continue to perform research on state agencies and initiatives.
- Climate and Energy Leadership awards: Materials for the 2016 Awards have been updated and are available online. Application timeframe is from April 22nd to June 22nd, Categories for eligibility have been updated including the addition of education.

Communities have been changed as well to be inclusive of all local government sizes in one category. Nominations for leading practices in the broad range of climate solutions are encouraged from all sectors. Nominations are encouraged. They should be directed to COG Staff who will follow up with nominee for additional information. Applications will be judged at the July 2016 ACPAC meeting.

Discussion

- A suggestion was made to include an update on number of nominations, broken down by categories, at May meeting. This will allow committee members to seek further submissions via outreach to members in the event that nomination submittals are lacking.
- COG staff acknowledged and expressed appreciation for National Geographic's financial support of the Awards Program.

A. CEEPC Legislative Committee (LC) (Isabel Ricker, COG Environmental Programs)

- Virginia's legislative session concluded March 12. Two bills that the legislative committee was tracking have passed. The first requires the State Corporation Commission to prepare a study on evaluation protocols for utilities' energy efficiency programs. The second extends the manufacturing and tools tax exemption for solar and wind projects through 2027, and makes some changes to project size eligibility requirements.
- The Maryland General Assembly session ends April 11th. The recently approved Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Act of 2016 reauthorizes the 2009 GGRA and increases the state's GHG emission reduction goal to 40 percent below 2006 levels by 2030. The House also passed the Clean Energy Jobs Act of 2016 which increases the RPS to 25 percent by 2020, up from 20 percent by 2022. Another bill passed in the House requires utilities to interconnect distributed energy projects to the grid within 20 days. The committee is tracking two PACE bills: first, the House passed a bill to lift the 100 kW cap for renewable systems under PACE financing; second, the Senate passed a bill to require the Maryland Clean Energy Center to conduct a study of implementation options and feasibility for residential PACE programs. Other bills being tracked, such as the Maryland Green Bank bill and energy storage incentive bills, did not pass crossover.
- In DC, the PSC is accepting comments on modernizing the energy delivery system, due by April 16th. The Exelon-Pepco merger item is on the DC PSC agenda for March 24th. In the DC City Council, Councilmember Cheh has submitted the RPS Expansion Amendment Act of 2016, raising the District's RPS to 50 percent by 2032 and increasing the solar carve-out to 5 percent (from the current 2.5 percent). This is in-line with the Sustainable DC Plan goals. The Bill would also extend the alternative compliance payment (ACP) structure and slow the rate of ACP price decline to help the solar market in DC. It also establishes a program at DOEE to increase the pace of installation of solar on low-income homes. Councilmember Cheh is hoping for a hearing before the end of the Council session in June.
- Chair Gross noted that the Virginia Budget Bill includes a \$20 Million line item to address storm water issues.

B. Member Updates

- Georgetown Climate Center announced DC joined NY, VT, NH, DE and others working on the Transportation and Climate Initiative to explore market based solutions to GHG reductions in transportation.

- Arlington submitted an RFP for operating its Commercial PACE program. Additionally, three public buildings are targeted for installation of solar arrays, to be operational by the end of 2016.
- Fairfax Co adopted a 20-year environmental vision in 2004 and is now updating and reviewing the vision to reflect up-to-date state and federal guidelines as well as community support. All environmental, transportation and land-use programs will be addressed.
- COG recently partnered with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) on a grant project team to undertake a national effort to setup cooperative purchasing process for alternate fuel vehicles and infrastructure. In addition, two technical assistance programs have been awarded; one on geothermal analysis was assigned to a Falls Church campus redevelopment site; the other is for microgrid planning support. Staff are working with localities to identify proposed locations for microgrid site analysis.

3. CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY LEADERSHIP - PLEDGES AND PLANS

Roger Fernandez, EPA Center for Corporate Climate Leadership (moderator)

Scott Johnstone, Vermont Energy Investment Corporation

Alison Taylor, Siemens

Susan Kolodziejczyk, National Geographic

Rachel Goldstein, Mars

Roger Fernandez described his area of focus at EPA, including managing the EPA Green Power Partnership program and leading the Center for Corporate Climate Leadership. He provides technical assistance and recognition to large institutions, encouraging and supporting their efforts to purchase renewable energy. At the Center for Corporate Climate Leadership, which includes municipalities and schools in addition to corporate partners, he supports implementation activities for sustainability across various industry sectors.

Vermont Energy Investment Corporation (VEIC) – Scott Johnstone presented on corporate leadership: climate pledges and plans. VEIC is a nonprofit corporation which aims to reduce the economic and environmental cost of energy for all people. In 2007, VEIC set a 20-year goal to reduce carbon emissions. Only 20 percent of emissions come from operations; the remainder are associated with employee activities.

VEIC has a goal to reduce total GHG by 50 percent by 2027, including both business operations and employees' footprint. In the seven years since program began, VEIC has already achieved a 24 percent reduction. VEIC takes a holistic approach to considering GHG emission with employees. It implemented sophisticated survey tools to develop reports, which can be shown to clients and internal operations. VEIC considers every idea to achieve its reduction goals, with an emphasis on measures that don't increase costs. They started a loan program for energy efficiency upgrades for employees and created community solar initiative to enable employees to buy solar from VEIC's array. If employees don't want to or can't participate, VEIC will use the energy from the array's on site. This also saves VEIC money as employee engagement results in better employee retention. Other companies have started to use this framework and VEIC is sharing its plan as a business opportunity. It also is working in the District of Columbia as the DCSEU to implement its broader community energy savings plan.

Siemens – The Company’s North American headquarters is located in the District of Columbia, with many employees located across the United States. Siemens looks at itself as an infrastructure and technology company. Sustainability is deeply impeded in corporate philosophy. One common theme that top executives consider in all applications is sustainability. Siemens adopted an aggressive position on climate change in 2006. Decisions are also based on consideration of 5 global megatrends, including: digitalization, demographic changes, climate change, urbanization, and globalization.

Sustainability is integrating the triple bottom line in operations. The company’s goal is to become carbon neutral by 2030. Sustainability goals have been reported on since 2006, integrated into the company’s externally verified annual report. These reports drive programs in many different operational forms.

Siemens uses an internal €100 million fund to drive energy efficiency programs. It will begin to incorporate microgrids at facilities worldwide. It will strive for innovation in fleet services to reduce reliance on ICE in vehicles. Its environmental portfolio invests in energy efficiency and environmentally beneficial products. This portfolio outpaces all other portfolios with a 25 percent ROI.

Sustainability in cities is also a major priority. The City Performance Tool (CyPR) helps cities to become carbon neutral. The tool allows cities to input real and current data and plug-in end goals and outputs. This allows Siemens to become corporate advisor and good corporate citizens in cities. Siemens is already working with the District of Columbia, Minneapolis, and San Francisco. It released its Green City index which ranked the District #8 in 2011.

National Geographic Society (NGS) – The Society is working on finding motivations for working with citizens to incorporate sustainability goals. In 2003 the first existing building to become certified as LEED building was owned by NGS. In 2007, it enabled employees to become empowered in greening operations, working hand in hand with HR to enable change within staff. National Geographic’s Green Grants program establishes grants for innovative ideas among constituencies. This includes projects such as gardens and solar arrays to allow organizations to green their operations. C.O.R.E. goals (Carbon neutrality, 0 waste, Resource stewardship, Engaging healthy Employees) are focused on reduction. It has achieved a 25 percent reduction over last ten years through various initiatives, including how partners can reduce waste. Its focus for the future is on innovative new ideas.

MARS – Mars is a large global business focused on candy, pet food, gum, food, and drinks. It has approximately 75,000 employees, and is family-owned, with its headquarters in McLean VA. The company operates on 5 principles: quality, mutuality, responsibility, efficiency, and freedom. These help shape the culture of sustainability. Mars supports scientific consensus on climate change, working on their part to keep the temperature change below 2 degrees Celcius. The largest portion of its GHG emissions comes from agriculture usage. The company also is looking at reduction of fossil fuel usage. Reduction of water use is also a priority. The company has set a long-range goal to achieve zero fossil fuel usage and zero GHG emissions by 2040. Reports are issued annually.

Mars is committed to assessing its supply chain including evaluating sourcing of coffee, palm oil, cocoa, fish and seafood products to be sustainably sourced by 2020. It has a commitment to reducing deforestation, with updated policies on palm oil, beef, soy, paper, and pulp. MARS recently built a landfill gas to energy project and solar array. In 2015, it supported building capacity at wind farm committing to being a long term purchaser of power from the farm, including owning and retiring the renewable energy credits from the farm. For the future Mars is focused on collaboration with innovative agencies in the academic, public-private partnerships and NGOs.

Discussion

- How have your organizations been involved regionally or locally?
 - MARS joins local organizations where its manufacturing is located; for example, Mars joined the Chamber of Commerce in Philadelphia. Siemens is a part of the Greater Washington Board of Trade's Green Committee, sharing best practices, and is also a member of the DC Chamber of Commerce. Siemens holds science days to engage students on a range of topics including renewable energy and energy efficiency. They empower employees to help with the events and to engage young people in technology and science. NGS is a part of the Smarter DC Challenge in addition to meeting at sustainability group on monthly basis. NGS also has a National Science Foundation grant to work with museums. VEIC has about 40 local employees to engage with local population through the DC SEU. EPA can assist in local and regional efforts, including support to identify and secure expert speakers for events.
- What are goals for Siemens?
 - Installing microgrids at facilities as well as driving facilities to procure green or renewable energy.
- How does National Geographic address customer recycling of old magazines, particularly as it is printed on slick paper?
 - Concerning the ability to recycle past issues of National Geographic magazine, issues can be put into single stream recycling. National Geographic also has a program to match owners of old collections with users such as providing old issues to prisons, nursing homes, schools, etc.

4. COG CORPORATE SUSTAINABILITY REPORT *(Steve Walz and Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs)*

Big Picture: COG took actions to identify corporate sustainability leaders in the region to serve as a model for organizational sustainability reporting and to determine a framework (GRI's G4) to measure and evaluate its sustainability efforts. The COG sustainability report will contain indicators used to analyze sustainability, focusing on stakeholder and employee engagement, energy, water efficiency initiatives, and procurement and policy initiatives undertaken. Going forward, COG will be determining reporting standards, gathering input from COG committees and stakeholders, and compiling the collected data into a report.

Discussion

- What is the time frame for completion?
 - Time frame for completion should be by the end of 2016.

- Potential feedback from stakeholders: Is this the right framework? Does it include the correct measures? Is it missing/not focusing enough on anything?
 - Asked COG staff to send an e-mail to the committee requesting input.
- What is the focus of this reporting?
 - Internal operations is the primary focus. Only looking at the COG, for example in this building.

5. FY 2017 WORK PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT *(Steve Walz and Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs)*

COG's fiscal year begins in July and COG is working with the budget framework created in January. BEEAC has already provided input, and now CEEPC is being asked for its input.

The Regional Environment Fund was put in place in the 1990s and informed the 2008 climate report, which drives the work of COG's energy and climate programs. The key driver of the actions is found in the Climate and Energy Action Plan. Specific work areas include:

- Climate and Energy Policy Development will include GHG inventory and progress reporting, legislative work, and provide regional voice in state energy policies.
- BEEAC work will continue to provide technical assistance to CEEPC. This will provide tools to complete work and aid in capacity building throughout the region as well as dealing with the regional emergency support functions. For example, COG is working with the water sector to help it be better able to provide water during electric outages.
- The Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency, and Renewables subject area will focus on implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency efforts, increase distributed energy sources, and increase available AFV infrastructure. Working on cooperative purchasing, green banks, distributed energy systems and microgrids. Continued work with Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition to expand EV infrastructure.
- The Sustainability and Adaptation subject area will include efforts on regional planning coordination of these goals.
- The Plan continues support for ACPAC.
- The Vehicle Emission Reductions area will include cooperative purchasing and analysis of AFV fleets. Vehicle Emissions Reductions will work on federal and state grants to green the fleets in the region and upgrade/retrofit vehicles.
- Regional Solid Waste Management and Recycling will focus to create workgroups and committees to reduce the region's waste to landfills, and increase recycling efforts.
- Green Infrastructure will focus on urban forestry and agriculture efforts. Recently hired Food Value Chain Coordinator to evaluate best practice in food chain.
- Member Support and Program Development is another focus area that COG will use to work with members and support their targets and priorities.

Discussion

- Staff requested input from CEEPC on what should be its highest priorities and additional input of particular interest from the jurisdictions.
 - Resiliency and adaptation are very important and have not received enough funding and attention in past years, but this work plan looks to increase support to these

efforts. Education and citizen awareness is an important aspect of the Work plan. Outreach and Education a key component of work plan.

- Address water quality and availability issues and awareness in the work plan. COG is actively looking at water-energy nexus and will continue to build focus on this area of interest. There will be a joint meeting in July with the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy committee to address nexus of water policy and the COG.

6. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn the meeting approved unanimously.

The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2016.