



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 17, 2019
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE): Gretchen Goldman, John Howes, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis, Hyon Rah, Gabriel Thoumi*, Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

COG STAFF: Amanda Campbell, Tim Masters

1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL, MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair

The agenda was approved. The meeting summary was approved as written.

2. ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLE INITIATIVES IN THE GREATER WASHINGTON AREA

Ira Dorfman, Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition

The Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition (GWCCC) is 25 years old and is one of 90 such coalitions in the United States. The coalitions of stakeholders in these regions work to displace gasoline with cleaner fuels. GWCCC works closely with COG and is a member of CEEPC. Other members include Washington Gas, the District of Columbia, DC Water, and private companies. Initiatives include:

- Meeting charging needs in downtown District of Columbia, including along major thoroughways and at Union Station,
- Engaging with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority and Metro to install charging at their facilities,
- Working with Uber and Lyft to promote the use of electric vehicles,
- Partnering to produce events including the Circulator tour, an electric vehicle track at the Auto show in February, and a transit operators workshop with Proterra, and
- Investigating the feasibility of employing battery-powered ferries.

One of the challenges in urban areas is finding sites available for charging stations. GWCCC is working with DC Department of General Services to identify available properties that are too small for structures. Additional challenges remain for multi-family housing residential charging or for those without access to a garage.

School districts often find purchasing electric school buses difficult to justify given high prices, so some are analyzing propane as a much cleaner alternative to diesel. Propane use for generators on food trucks is another initiative the group is exploring. GWCCC is working to repower additional older diesel switcher locomotives to newer cleaner engines. Involving heavy rail companies has been challenging probably due to the less stringent regulatory environment in that sector.

There is a lot of interest in connecting the biogas resources at DC Water's wastewater treatment plant to be available as a fuel for fleets such as UPS and FedEx.

Reasonable accommodations are provided on request, including alternative meeting material formats. For more information, visit: www.mwco.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)

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Mr. Dorfman mentioned some of the novel technologies emerging such as charging embedded in the pavement in Norway and solar storage. The National Labs are supporting research into clean vehicle technologies.

Members discussed the benefits of electric school buses versus propane and how to find ways of funding the cleanest fuels.

3. FEDERAL AIR QUALITY ACTIONS

Gretchen Goldman, Union of Concerned Scientists

Some major changes in climate, energy, and air regulations include the following:

- The Affordable Clean Energy Act was published this week, which is less restrictive than its predecessor, the Clean Power Plan;
- Changes to the cost-benefit analysis policies disallows the accounting of co-benefits with other toxic emissions, which reduces the weight given to health, with reduced public comment requirements;
- Loosening of standards affecting fuel economy, NO_x, SO₂, and the guidance on Maximum Achievable Control Technology; and
- The Mercury and Air Toxics Rule changes will potentially allow more toxic air emissions.

Several changes are slated to be published this year or next year. The final Strengthening Transparency rule, which effectively excludes historical, health-related or proprietary data from being used in the consideration of environmental rules, is expected in December, 2019. Updates to the ozone and particulate ambient air quality standards are expected to be published at the end of 2020.

The result of these changes is an erosion of the degree to which agencies can make science-based decisions on air quality standards. Air quality often disproportionately impacts already marginalized populations. The Union of Concerned Scientists has conducted some analyses of the impacts.

4. REGIONAL AIR QUALITY UPDATES AND OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Amanda Campbell, COG Staff

So far this ozone season we have observed one code orange day. The code orange day occurred June 1 and developed due to re-circulating local emissions added to by contributions from the west and north due to the wind trajectories that day.

COG produced a new air quality dashboard available at this link:

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/data-and-tools/air-quality-progress-dashboard/>

Clean Air Partners is planning to provide air quality activities at summer camps, hold a concert promotion for clean air, and visit festivals and events with air quality awareness materials and messages for the public on how to reduce air pollution. The media campaign will include attention-grabbing visual ads on transit, social media, and online. For more information, see the meeting materials on the website.

COG's Turn Your Engine Off diesel idle reduction campaign handed out materials on idling laws in Virginia, the District of Columbia, and Maryland, and surveyed drivers on their company policies related to idling. Most companies had an anti-idling policy, but many did not have incentives or disincentives related to idling. The information collected in the survey will be used to inform future anti-idling activities.

5. AWARDS JUDGING PREP AND OVERVIEW

Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, ACPAC Chair

Ms. Toles O'Laughlin described the process for judging the Climate & Energy Leadership Awards which will occur during ACPAC's July meeting. The awards categories are: government, NGO, and educational institution.

6. AIR QUALITY, CLIMATE AND ENERGY PROJECT UPDATES

- COG was awarded a technical assistance grant from the Covenant of Mayors to assist with the Climate Action Plan development.
- Climate & Energy Leadership Awards applications close on June 28.
- ACPAC 2019 remaining meeting schedule:

Meeting July 22

August – no meeting

Meeting September 16

Meeting October 21

Meeting November 18

December – no meeting

ACPAC 2020 tentative schedule: no meetings January, June, August, December

7. ADJOURN.