

## Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

Meeting Summary: May 21, 2015

### Members and Observers in Attendance:

Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County (Chair)  
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria  
Jeannine Altavilla, Arlington County  
Joan Kelsh, Arlington County  
Kenley Farmer, District of Columbia  
Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church  
Gina Mathias, City of Tacoma Park  
Garrick Augustus, Fairfax County (by phone)  
Ellen Eggerton, Fairfax County  
Chani Vines, US Department of Energy  
Sam Hancock, Emerald Planet  
Daniel Hill, Green Impact Campaign  
John Stroud, Highline Wealth Management  
Katherine Pelzer, Nextility

### COG Staff in Attendance:

Leah Boggs, COG DEP  
Maia Davis, COG DEP  
Sophie Earll, COG DEP  
Jeff King, COG DEP  
Isabel Ricker, COG DEP  
Lamont Cobb, COG DTP

### 1. Call to Order and Approval of April 16 Meeting Summary

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A motion was made to approve the minutes, and seconded. The minutes were approved unanimously.

### 2. Power to Save - DC Student Energy Assessment

*Daniel Hill, Green Impact Campaign*

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Green Impact Campaign brings student volunteers and small businesses together to provide energy education, audits and encourage efficiency improvements. GIC provides university students across the country with cloud-based tools and training to conduct free energy audits for local small businesses in their communities, gaining professional skills and hands-on experience.

Small businesses receive actionable information on how to make their business more energy efficient. GIC focuses on small businesses because they are usually a neglected sector in the energy efficiency space, but can benefit tremendously from bill savings provided by efficiency improvements.

*Power to Save* is a campaign GIC ran for the first time this year to encourage DC area colleges and universities to compete to do the most energy audits and identify the most potential savings. GOC partnered with Nextility to add their energy brokerage offering for the participating small businesses, to reduce their energy rates while being green.

There were 5 teams of 10 students from American University, George Washington University, Catholic University, Georgetown and Howard. Over 5 weeks, they audited 46 businesses, and identified 635,000 kWh and \$125,000 in energy savings.

The energy audit software they use, GEMS, streamlines the audit so it can be done in 20 minutes. Little to no training is required, as most questions are a simple checklist, and it works on an iPad so information can be entered as students walk around the building. It automatically emails the business with results, comparison to similar businesses/buildings and recommendations (including estimated savings) as soon as the audit is complete.

On average, DC small businesses are 600 square feet, have a \$300 monthly gas bill, a \$1600 monthly electric bill, and could save about 26% through simple energy efficiency fixes. Nextility also checks whether there is a lower rate available to them, and emails them that information.

GIC is working with Takoma Park to bring the *Power to Save* campaign there in the fall. Takoma Park is putting up scholarships and internships for the winning students. GIC has also gotten interest from several Virginia universities, which may turn into a statewide program.

**Discussion:**

Regarding follow-up, GIC does an after-audit survey to ask what measures the business owner completed, but they would like to make this more rigorous, to get more respondents, and to see what their utility bill savings is over time.

Students have much more success than sales people at getting these businesses to agree to an audit. GIC sees a 25% success rate, while utility audit programs generally see about 2%.

Their audits are not eligible for the Pepco rebates, because you need to use a Pepco-approved contractor. However, some businesses see their potential savings from the GIC audit and will go on to do a more comprehensive audit and sustainability improvements.

**3. Improving Pedestrian & Bicycle Access at Select Rail Stations in the Region**

*Lamont Cobb, COG DTP*

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COG's Department of Transportation planning has been working on a project to identify pedestrian and bike access improvements that could increase ridership at "opportune" rail stations in Activity Centers around the region. The project started in 2012 as a grant from the Transportation Land Use Connections program.

They defined "opportune" rail stations as those with excess capacity and a transit-dependent population. A consultant looked at existing plans for pedestrian and bike improvements near these stations and created a map of the projects by type and project status. The map shows cost estimates, and whether a measure has been funded, designed or implemented.

The average project cost is \$270, 000, which is quite cheap compared to other transportation projects being considered in the region, such as highway or rail expansions. These projects are also much easier and faster to implement.

They are tracking the projects over 5 years to show improvements, and working with WMATA to develop a method for prioritizing or ranking projects. DTP is hoping to do a GHG emission reduction estimate for the projects and present to the MSWG for consideration in the implementation action plan.

#### 4. CEEPC Draft Work Plan review and discussion

*Jeff King, COG DEP*

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Jeff provided a brief overview of the proposed FY 2016 Climate and Energy Work Plan. Members are encouraged to read it more carefully and send feedback or comments to COG staff. CEEPC will also be briefed on the Work Plan on May 27.

#### 5. Jurisdiction Roundtable, Discussion and Updates

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- **Arlington:** Starting an energy efficiency program to target the residential market. The county has a consultant to help with outreach and developing incentives. Recommend having a future BEEAC meeting focus on the residential energy efficiency space.
- **Fairfax:** Developing an energy dashboard for web reporting the County's energy consumption. Recommend having a future BEEAC meeting focus on energy, water and GHG reporting.
- **Falls Church:** Solarize NoVA is going well and runs through the end of June. Thus far, Vienna has 110 sign-ups, Falls Church as 85 and Herndon has about 60.
- **DC:** Moved up to third place in the county on ACEEE's City Efficiency Scorecard.
- **Montgomery County:** The County's Green bank legislation was introduced in April and will likely be taken up for vote by Council in June. The Maryland PSC approved the Pepco-Exelon merger in mid-May.

#### 6. COG Program Updates

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- **EV Workshop:** COG is hosting an EV Readiness Workshop on July 1, co-sponsored with MDE and the Maryland Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Council. More info to come.
- **Climate & Energy Awards Program:** The 2015 awards program has launched – see website for more information and to apply: <http://www.mwcog.org/environment/climateawards/>
- **SRII and Solarize Projects:**
  - Solar co-ops are taking off across the region. The Bowie and Arlington Co-ops recently selected installers, and the Rockville co-op, open to all Montgomery County residents, has had three info sessions and over 150 sign-ups. Solarize NoVA is going very well in Falls Church, Herndon, Vienna and Loudoun County.
  - COG is also working with Arlington and DC to do education for potential commercial scale solar customers, and will host a commercial solar workshop in the fall.
- **MSWG Update:** There will be a full MSWG meeting June 18 to start the discussion of setting GHG targets or goals for various sectors. The Energy and Built Environment subgroup will meet again on July 16 after BEEAC to receive a briefing, and provide feedback to ICF, on the draft results of their analysis.

#### 7. Upcoming Meeting Dates, Adjournment

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- CEEPC meetings – May 27 and July 22
- Full MSWG meeting – June 18 (no BEEAC in June)
- EV Workshop – July 1
- BEEAC-MSWG Energy & Environment Subgroup joint meeting – July 16