

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 18, 2013
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Michael Cakouros, Ed Comer, Brian DiNunno, Gretchen Goldman, Ravi Gupta, Raphael Isaac, Andrew Kambour, Sally Kane, Katherine Lizotte, Brian McFarland, Caroline Petti, John Reed, Kyle Todd

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Maia Davis, Amanda Campbell

Guest Attendee: Todd LaPorte

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The agenda and minutes from February 11, 2013 were approved with no changes.

2. Draft National Climate Assessment (Todd LaPorte, George Mason University)

Todd LaPorte provided a background and summary of the draft National Climate Assessment. The first two reports were released in 2000 and 2009, respectively, and the third report is currently out for public comment until April 12, 2013. The current draft involved over 200 scientists, 60 lead authors, and the process involved stakeholder input.

Todd summarized what the draft National Climate Assessment says regarding climate impacts anticipated in the National Capital Region. By 2080, average temperatures may be 10⁰F higher causing more poor air quality days and more asthma related emergency room trips. Late season cold snaps will affect the growing season. There will be an increase in number of days over 95⁰F by 15 in the northeast and 10-20 in the southeast. Approximately 50% more heavy precipitation events (if you average northeast and southeast). Sea level rise will increase by 1-4 feet by 2100.

Todd explained that although actions are in place right now to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, they are not nearly enough to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions and adaptation planning is occurring but implementation of strategies is spotty or incremental. The report emphasizes the need for adaptation planning and goes over the adaptation planning process.

The key discussion points from the group will be incorporated into the comments COG submits on the draft National Climate Assessment and ACPAC members are also encouraged to make comments during the public

comment period. Some of the discussion focused around the type of traction the report will have with policy makers. It was pointed out that communication is key and that policy makers want to hear the solutions rather than the problems. People don't relate to negative messaging and discussing long-term scenarios; its more effective to discuss short-term objectives, co-benefits, and win-win options.

3. Progress Toward Climate and Energy Goals (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

Maia pointed members attention to the draft 2016 Climate Action Plan handout, which includes progress local governments are making toward the goals. Maia highlighted some of the successes, such as greenhouse gas inventories and action plans, tracking and benchmarking energy performance of government buildings, green building policies, and renewable energy systems on government property. On ACPAC member pointed out it may be helpful for ACPAC members to identify and discuss actions that may need the most attention by COG staff to further progress. It was also recommended that win-win options is communicated and thinking about how communities could do differently in their existing projects. It was also suggested to try to highlight more small local jurisdiction examples and further help small jurisdictions get together and learn from each others' experiences. CEEPC will be asked to adopt the 2016 CEEPC Action Plan at their May meeting.

4. Member Time (Raphael Isaac, Solar Electric Power Association)

The Solar Electric Power Association (SEPA) is non-profit with more than 1,000 utility and solar industry members. SEPA provides information on the solar market, solar technologies and business models to help utilities make smarter solar decisions. Raphael discussed solar market growth and drivers, unrealized solar potential in the US, renewable portfolio standards, solar technologies, financing models, top US utility solar rankings, and largest utility solar projects.

Next meeting: April 15, 2013 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
