



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Meeting Summary: January 17, 2019

BEEAC Members IN Attendance:

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (Chair)
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria (Vice Chair)
Emil King, DOEE (Vice Chair)
Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
Dale Medearis, NVRC*
Kevin Milsted, Prince William County*
Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County*
Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church, Sierra Club

Additional Attendees:

Candice Guillaudeu, Your Business Our World
Dr. Mary Haberl, SolarFour
Deb Harris, ICF
Brian Kim, City of Greenbelt
Chad Laurent, Cadmus Group*
Jessica Lavender, Fairfax County*
Bill Prindle, ICF
Philip Quebe, Cadmus Group
Lindsey Stanley, Frederick County
Carl Hill, The Climate Mobilization
Michael Freeman, Montgomery County Sierra Club

COG Staff:

Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Amanda Campbell, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP
Tim Masters, COG DEP
Stephen Walz, COG DEP

* Indicates participation by phone

1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park, BEEAC Chair

Chair Gina Mathias called the meeting to order and attendees introduced themselves.

2. APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 13, 2018 DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park, BEEAC Chair

The December 13 meeting summary was approved.

3. COG ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Jeff King, COG

- The annual EPA DERA Clean Diesel Funding Assistance program has \$40 million available. COG is petitioning for partners to go after this funding. COG has previously worked on changing out the locomotives in Union Station; they are now on their 5th locomotive change. Marine engines are also swapping out their engines for cleaner ones. COG is looking for new partners who have old diesel engines that need to be upgraded. Eligible partners would be anyone who has old diesel engines that run often. Schools are also eligible. The challenge is that Region 3 (which metropolitan Washington falls into) only gets about \$2.5 million out of the \$40 million nationwide, and this is usually divided into three projects (around \$800k per project).

Maia Davis, COG

- On February 21, COG will be hosting a Climate Disclosure Project (CDP) webinar focusing on their CDP Cities and investor matchmaker program. They assist in partnering cities or counties with investors for energy efficiency and renewable energy projects.
- CEEPC has asked COG to do a 2018 greenhouse gas inventory. Data needed for this next greenhouse gas inventory is available sporadically, but all data will only be ready in mid-2020, so community-scale inventories will be completed by the end of 2020. Access to ICLEI's ClearPath tool should still be possible, but jurisdictions should check their access status.

4. JURISDICTION UPDATES AND PEER EXCHANGE ROUNDTABLE

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park –

- The City is updating their sustainability action plan. They are also working on a climate resiliency plan and looking into minimum energy efficiency standards for Takoma Park's existing building stock.

Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt –

- The City has recently put solar panels on one of their recreation buildings with funding from the Maryland Energy Administration (MEA).
- There is an RFP out for a solar farm that will provide 80 to 90 percent of electricity for city buildings.
- The City has a DC fast charging station (in front the parking area of a municipal building, not on street). It has been there for over a year. With the help of EVI, the City has just implemented a charging fee to recoup electricity costs (\$2 flat fee, and 20c per kWh). The City plans to install more EV charging stations at parking spaces.
- The City also wants to procure more EVs for their fleet. Currently, there are three EVs in the City's fleet.

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County –

- The County was awarded a grant from MEA for their Power Saver Retrofits program, which helps low- and moderate-income groups install energy retrofits in their homes.
- The County is also updating its comprehensive energy plan.
- The County is working towards LEED for Communities certification. There is a pilot program in place with the purpose of achieving this. The certification program should be finalized in April, and so the County hopes to be certified by the end of the year.

Carl Hill, The Climate Mobilization –

- The Climate Mobilization is a nonprofit that was set up about 3 years ago. Montgomery County formed a chapter about 18 months ago and has been successful passing greenhouse gas reduction targets, including an 80 percent reduction by 2027, and 100 percent by 2035. Since that happened, a number of organizations have formed a coalition to work together on climate outreach in the County.

Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County –

- At the end of the month, the County's Department of Environmental Programs (DEP) will have a new director, Adam Ortiz from Prince George's County.
- The County is partnering with local breweries for an LED lightbulb exchange in January through to March. Information can be found on DEP's website.
- Maryland's Energy Star Tax Free Weekend will be on President's Day weekend in February. They are waiving the 6 percent Maryland sales tax for eligible Energy Star appliances. The County is doing three outreach events regarding that weekend.
- 6th Annual Montgomery County Energy Summit will happen on April 3.
- The County's Council passed an amendment to the CPACE financing law, which now allows financing use prior to construction. It also overcomes a few boundaries and will hopefully increase projects eligible for CPACE financing. This should be implemented by mid-February (later than expected due to impacts of the government shutdown).
- Energy Star Portfolio Manager is down due to the government shutdown, which may delay the County's energy benchmarking work.

Emil King, DOEE –

- DOEE is implementing their Solar for All program. Currently, they are working on constructing 11 megawatts of solar in the District, including a 2MW brownfield project. They are also installing systems on housing authority buildings and a new library. The DC Sustainable Energy Utility (SEA) will be managing contracts with another 10-11MW in the next few years. There are roughly 30MW of solar capacity in the pipeline, as well as a few community solar projects.
- Clean Energy DC Plan implementation is in full effect. The outreach campaign is underway.
- The Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act was just signed by Mayor Bowser. It will increase the District's RPS to 100 percent by 2032 and also increases the solar carve out. Pepco's standard offer service will also be required to have greater percentages of renewable energy in their energy mix. DC's Green Bank will have access to more funds through the act.
- The District is also updating their building codes.

Bill Eger, City of Alexandria –

- The City adopted the first phase Environmental Action Plan 2040 (EAP) on October 5, 2018 and focused areas in the short-term. The full EAP 2040 includes a large public engagement, Eco-City Summit, March 9, 2019 and is planned for consideration by Council June 2019. Concurrently the green building policy will also be considered by Council June 2019 along with the outcome of an open space study.

Najib Salehi, Loudoun County –

- Loudoun County started the Green Business Challenge in 2009. It has now become a statewide initiative. Candice and Mary have taken part in the initiative.
- Candice Guillaudeu, Your Business Our World – The [Virginia Green Initiative](#)'s (VGI) mission is to motivate Virginia residents to be more environmentally conscious. They do this through education and outreach, and through the Green Business Challenge scorecard (there are two scorecards; one for commercial businesses and another for residents). It is a way of generating ideas around a few core topic areas including energy, transportation, waste and recycling, products and services, and education and outreach. It is a point-based system with different

levels (Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Certification). The certifications are awarded in the Fall. VGI is open to all kinds of businesses and they do not have to pay membership to achieve certification.

- Dr. Mary Haberl, SolarFour – [SolarFour](#) is a solar consulting firm for energy solutions based in Leesburg, Virginia. Marketing was crucial to the company’s start and the Green Business Challenge provides a huge benefit to companies, as it is a great aid in marketing. Together with Candice, the company created an outreach program consisting of 25 informational workshops that spoke to what SolarFour does and it has helped the company a lot.

5. CLIMATE AND ENERGY 2019 LEGISLATIVE OUTLOOK

Tim Masters, COG

COG’s Board adopted 2019’s Climate and Energy Legislative Priorities on January 9. The priorities include supporting deployment of clean energy innovation and technology, expanding clean energy finance, enhancing energy security and resilience, supporting policies that preserve and protect regional air quality and public health, and supporting policies to meet the region’s climate goals. These have remained unchanged from 2018, except for the last priority, which was added as a means to take a position on legislative or regulatory changes that impact the region’s climate goals. COG’s Climate and Energy Legislative Committee will take actions in support of or opposition to pieces of legislation in the District, Maryland, and Virginia based on these priorities.

The District recently passed the Clean Energy DC Omnibus Amendment Act of 2018, which increases the RPS to 100 percent by 2032, establishes a solar energy standard post 2032 and standards for electricity suppliers regarding renewable energy purchases. It also removes restrictions on energy efficiency measures, expands the functions of the Sustainable Energy Trust Fund, establishes an energy performance standard program for buildings at DOEE, and authorizes Mayor to commit the District to participation in regional greenhouse gas emission reducing programs. Additionally, it requires DMV to issue regulations tying the vehicle excise tax to fuel efficiency. In Maryland, the Legislative Committee will be watching the Clean Energy Jobs Act, which would expand the RPS to 50 percent by 2030. A community solar bill is also expected, as well as an expanded polystyrene ban, and a green amendment to the constitution. In Virginia, a few bills have already been filed. There are two net metering proposals expected to come out of the Rubin Group, as well as two solar bills; the Solar Freedom Bill and another solar bill from Delegate Tran. Finally, at the national level, the Committee will be watching actions related to the Green New Deal; a comprehensive proposal to deal with climate change and income inequality.

6. BEEAC 2019 ANNUAL PRIORITIES

Leah Boggs, COG

BEEAC began surveying priorities in 2016 with the purpose of gauging what was of most value to the committee and how BEEAC’s work links with the priorities of the region and COG members. BEEAC sends out the survey in the Fall of each year to link with the end of the fiscal year of COG’s member jurisdictions. Over the past few years, the priorities have been consistent; focusing on energy efficiency, EVs, energy financing, and related topics.

Tim Masters, COG

BEEAC’s priorities for 2019 are: 1) Energy Efficiency, 2) Energy Resiliency & Climate Adaptation, 3) High Performance Building Technologies, 4) Grid Infrastructure, 5) Energy Financing, and 6) Technical Assistance for Clean Energy Technology Projects. Members found roundtable discussions

and meeting topics to be the most useful aspects of the committee, while discussions that were very specific to individual jurisdictions was seen as the least useful aspect, along with meeting accessibility for one or two members. Meetings that show practical regional examples are most useful to members, along with meetings that provide practical perspectives on sustainability work. These types of meetings are most useful for planning purposes. Specific topic areas that jurisdictions are interested include climate resiliency and climate adaptation, EV technologies and planning, local government priorities within current federal policy landscape, community engagement regarding energy efficiency measures, microgrids, energy metric analysis and building energy codes. BEEAC members want to focus on energy efficiency and EV planning. Members feel that BEEAC's priorities are effectively linked with COG's climate and energy, and air quality programs/plans, although more recognition of these linkages could be made during meeting discussions. Regarding legislative priorities, BEEAC members feel that the Committee should focus on providing comment on federal legislation to support the region's climate and energy goals. Moving forward, members would like to focus on setting goals and mapping out the work required to achieve goals. Currently, energy efficiency and EV planning are areas for action. The Air and Climate Policy Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is another COG committee that can work with BEEAC on some

7. COG CLIMATE SUPPORT CONTRACT

Jeff King, COG

COG members have expressed interest in climate action planning, which is why COG has partnered with Cadmus and ICF to provide a new contract vehicle for climate program support services. The contracts have COG's rider clause. The scope of work includes three main tasks: 1) providing greenhouse gas inventory support, 2) providing climate mitigation and sustainability program planning and support, and 3) providing adaptation and resiliency services. These are two-year contracts that have the option for an extra year after the initial two years.

Chad Laurent, Cadmus Group

Cadmus does a lot of work with local governments and understand how to bring global and state best practices to local projects in their local context, as it relates to utility territory and state regulations. Cadmus often works with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network and foundations that support those networks to help develop best practices and to convene stakeholder meetings. The tasks in these contracts were defined broadly, which allows for any number of projects relating to sustainable transportation, energy and resource planning, high performance building design, strategic electrification, and building programs. Cadmus is currently working with DC to develop a strategic implementation plan for Climate Ready DC. This is a five-year process in which Cadmus will provide funding and finance recommendations, put together resilient design guidelines, and provide technical assistance. Cadmus also completed a project in King County, Washington recently. Cadmus developed a plan for the County to reach 100 percent renewable energy (their goal is 90 percent by 2030). Similarly, Cadmus has worked with Bill Eger and the Virginia solar group to drive renewable energy forward in the state. Cadmus has worked with ICF on a number of projects and they work well together.

Deb Harris, ICF

ICF provides a range of services to local governments. Recently, ICF assisted Arlington County with their community energy plan and will be working on updating this plan and the data with John Morrill and other County officials. They also provided support for outreach activities. ICF also worked with Montgomery County to do an in-depth analysis of their commercial buildings because the County's climate action plan aimed to reduce energy use by 25 percent in the existing building stock over 10

years. ICF developed a detailed stock model and plan to achieve this. Congress passed a bill recently called the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act. It requires states to spend a minimum of their FEMA grant money on risk mitigation planning. ICF does a lot of disaster recovery work and have a keen interest to continue working with jurisdictions on related projects. ICF has had an integrative mix of work in the Philadelphia area that covers a lot of the scope related to the COG contract. This work scaled state level work to regional level work down to the Philadelphia County and City jurisdiction itself. The climate action plan that ICF worked on will be published in February. It includes resilience, adaptation and mitigation strategies. Philadelphia's energy master plan for the built environment includes a city-wide assessment and city government assessment. ICF created a tool for this work, which the city still uses and updates. CPACE financing analysis is another area ICF has worked on in Philadelphia. They also produced a resilience and adaptation climate risk assessment for them. This has included work on resilience audits.

Discussion:

- If there is a COG-issued task, COG will have to follow its own procurement policy, which is that they have to compete. As it relates to jurisdictions, COG does not need to be involved if its a deal between a city or county and one of the two firms. It's a case where the city or county will have to follow their own internal guidelines. No RFP would need to be issued for a contract, but the city or county's procurement team would have to decide what they are comfortable with at the task-order competition level. COG cannot do the procurement process on the city or county's behalf.
- It may be beneficial for ICF and Cadmus to discuss their skillsets and how they differ comparatively so that jurisdictions have a better idea of who to go to. Also, taking into account both companies' histories and understanding where there may be an opportunity for collaboration is important. This could be discussed in a potential follow up meeting.
- Cadmus and ICF are used to providing technical assistance for multiple projects. They can also group various tasks under umbrella agreements where a few communities might ask for the same thing at the same time. If communities can get together with specific task in mind, efficiencies can be gained to speed up the workflow.
- COG is thinking about issuing a management and coordination task order first, so that over the course of the next year, ICF and Cadmus can build capacity to support COG's jurisdictions in their planning and project areas.

8. NEXT BEEAC MEETING DATE AND ADJOURNMENT

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park, BEEAC Chair

This is Chair Gina Mathias' last meeting until July, as she will be on maternity leave. Chair Gina Mathias adjourned the meeting.

All meeting materials can be found on the MWCOG website or by clicking the link - <https://www.mwcog.org/events/2019/1/17/built-environment-and-energy-advisory-committee-beeac-meeting/>

The next BEEAC meeting is March 21.

The next CEEPC meeting is April 4.

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