



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 16, 2020  
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Tara Failey, Gretchen Goldman, Robin Lewis, Sarah Mazur, Guillermo Ortiz, Natalie Pien, Rodney Sobin, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney, Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Steve Walz

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Chair*

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made, and the February 24, 2020 ACPAC meeting summary was approved.

Tamara noted that the Global Climate Strike starts on Earth Day for a three-day live stream of events and climate activism. One day will be marked by a digital strike where over 8500 websites will go dark for 24 hours.

#### 2. 2030 REGIONAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING UPDATE

*Steve Walz, COG Staff*

- CEEPC is considering a 2030 target for reducing GHG emissions to fill in the large time gap between the 2020 and 2050 regional climate and energy action goals.
- The region's 2012 emissions met the 10% goal below the 2005 business-as-usual (BAU) projection; however, the data is showing limited reductions in emissions from 2012 to 2015, which reflect the long-term nature of the changes COG is looking to pursue.
- Staff is unable to assess if the 2020 goal was met as there is a 2-year delay in data availability. Staff is now in receipt of the final data to complete the 2018 inventory and will begin assessment.
- The ten guiding principles developed for the 2017-2020 Climate Action Plan will continue to be used to develop the 2030 Action Plan. They are:
  - Collective action
  - Effective partnerships
  - Lead by example
  - Integration
  - Flexibility
  - Transparency
  - Innovation
  - Community leadership

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

777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET NE, SUITE 300, WASHINGTON, DC 20002

MWCOG.ORG (202) 962-3200

- Inclusive engagement
  - Advocacy
  - Urgency
- Local government members, policy makers and groups like ACPAC are expressing urgency for the region to act now.
- The current plan has nine action areas that require inter-departmental coordination and collaboration within COG.
  - Reduce GHG emissions
  - Reduce energy consumption
  - Increase share of renewables
  - Build regional resilience
  - Advance sustainable regional mobility
  - Increase sustainable urban development
  - Move towards zero waste
  - Protect equity and health
  - Grow the regional economy
- COG's Department of Environmental Programs (DEP) staff works closely with the Department of Transportation Planning on helping to make the transportation systems more sustainable.
- DEP also coordinates efforts with the Region Forward Coalition. COG's priority to promote growth in Activity Centers is a broad effort that has resulted in energy benefits in residential buildings.
- Using protocols from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) as the basis of our planning approach, while it supplements pledges our local members have made, including the We Are Still In, Climate Mayors, Ready for 100, Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, and Cool Counties, it also allows for more implementation and a common reporting framework for action to support the other pledges.
- Staff is developing background materials to bring back to COG committees including ACPAC, CEEPC and BEEAC to get feedback on prioritization of the mitigation and resiliency strategies.
- Under consideration is a straight-line path forward from the 2020 goal of 20% which would lead to a 40% reduction target by 2030.
- A sobering analysis shows that under the BAU scenario regional GHG emissions start to increase again.
- An assessment of the technical potential to reach the 2030 goal revealed that a 40% reduction is attainable but will require action at a significantly larger scale than done in the past. Such actions might include a policy decision to push for net zero energy buildings and setting goals for tree canopy coverage, even with a tradeoff on where solar may be technically feasible.
- The GCoM protocol also provides a better tool to assess the risks of changing climatological

conditions. The tool weighs the probability of a change happening in our region, and the consequences of the change.

- The tool is showing significant overland flooding risk and storm surge risk up the Potomac River and tributaries. Moving forward, staff will use an inventory of resiliency actions now being undertaken to identify gaps and then to prioritize regional actions.
- Full details of the presentation can be found [here](#).

### Discussion

- Tamara pointed out that there are air quality aspects to all the action areas and that the implications should be thought through.
- COG staff is planning to do a SIP for ozone and looking at potential use of funding to develop more local measures to reduce ozone precursors and GHG emissions.
- Discussion around the background data and why the BAU scenario indicates an increase.
  - Building retrofits will be driven by meeting the increasing building code standard.
  - Electric vehicle penetration rate will depend on acceleration rate, federal backing of the CAFÉ standards, as well as local actions such as tax breaks and workplace charging incentives. Electric heavy-duty vehicles, school and transit buses, and long-haul delivery will have a big impact.
  - COG staff will provide the technical background documents to ACPAC.

### **3. COG SUPPORT FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION PLANS**

*Steve Walz, COG Staff*

COG is supporting four member governments prepare local climate action plans (CAP). A Task Order Contract with ICF and Cadmus has been secured to provide support. COG directly participates in a consulting team with ICF or Cadmus or ICF or Cadmus contract directly with local governments.

#### Fairfax County

- Community-Wide Climate and Energy Plan (CECAP).
- COG and ICF handling specific Project Tasks.
- Community driven process through Focus Groups and Task Force.
- COG handling:
  - Emissions inventory and projections.
  - Emission reduction scenarios.
  - Assistance with Goal Setting and Mitigation Analysis.
- ICF leads the Task Force process, mitigation analysis and report development.

#### City of Rockville

- Climate Action and Resiliency Planning Elements.
- COG and Cadmus handling specific Project Tasks.
- COG handling Greenhouse Gas Inventory.
- Cadmus handling mitigation and resilience analysis.

#### City of Frederick

- Climate Action and Resiliency Planning Elements.
- COG and ICF handling specific Project Tasks.
- ICF is lead on all tasks.
- COG serving in coordination, advisory, and consultation role.

#### Takoma Park

- Climate Action Plan recently developed.
- Cadmus received contract to provide technical support.

#### Discussion

- Tamara expressed the importance of having the proper level of community engagement in these processes and inquired if there is a gap between the people who benefit from the plans and the people who will not benefit.
- Fairfax County's process is led by a 40-member taskforce that includes input from diverse communities. Their process also includes public listening sessions in 4 quadrants as part of outreach.
- Montgomery County's approach includes a broad public input process, with a priority to reach marginalized communities.
- It is recommended that ACPAC members be the point persons to ask poignant questions in the public input processes.

#### **4. ADJOURN ACPAC RECRUITMENT UPDATE**

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Chair, COG Staff and Members*

As the recruitment timeframe has passed, COG Staff proposes to keep the current membership. If there is agreement by current members with terms ending in February 2020 to stay on until the end of the year, COG staff will ask the MWAQC Executive Committee for approval.

Tara Failey, Robin Lewis, Gabriel Thoumi, Glenna Tinney agree to continue their membership through the end of the year. COG Staff will follow-up with John Howes.

#### **5. MEMBER TIME**

*Gabriel Thoumi, Climate Advisers*

Gabriel Thoumi presented his work at [Planet-Tracker.org](https://www.planet-tracker.org). Gabriel Thoumi is Director of Financial Markets, Planet Tracker; Chair, 2 Degrees Investing Initiative US Board; and Adjunct Johns Hopkins University. He is a global investment research manager specializing in sustainability and environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues. He has over 15 years of experience with extensive technical knowledge on integrating scientific and ESG data into financial models to determine pricing signals and asset allocation strategies. He has participated in many successful funds including green bond funds, water funds, renewable energy funds, and others. He was co-winner of the 2015 Global Innovation Lab for Climate Finance. Full details of the presentation can be found [here](#).

**6. THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 6:30 PM.**

*Tamara Toles O'Laughlin, Chair*

The meeting adjourned at 6:30. The CEEPC Work Session is March 25<sup>th</sup> and the next ACPAC meeting is May 18<sup>th</sup>.