



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 18, 2017
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE)

- Gretchen Goldman, Chair
- Seth Heald
- Robin Lewis
- Sarah Mazur
- Jacqueline Norris
- Maggie Shober
- Glenna Tinney
- Gabriel Thoumi*
- Tamara Toles - O'Laughlin, Vice Chair
- John Howes

STAFF

- Amanda Campbell
- Tim Masters
- John Snarr
- Stephen Walz

1. CALL TO ORDER, AGENDA, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair

Gretchen thanked everyone for their work on the Environmental Justice Toolkit, approved at the joint CEEPC/MWAQC meeting in July. The meeting agenda was approved with no changes. The meeting summary was approved without changes.

2. RECYCLING AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

A. COG Recycling

John Snarr, COG Staff

COG's recycling program manager shared that the region's waste diversion rate is approximately 48%. All localities require businesses to recycle. All residential systems use single-stream collection except Montgomery County. Recycling markets are affected by the changes in materials—now there are fewer newspapers, and more plastic and cardboard than before. Single stream has some downsides of lower quality and stream contamination. There is a need to identify an intermediate association in the area to sort materials, especially for glass. Many materials are exported to China.

The District of Columbia (DC) is adding several recyclables to their accepted materials which other jurisdictions could emulate. DC's requirements for take-out containers has reduced styrofoam waste. Three waste-to-energy plants operate in the region – one in Fairfax County, Alexandria, and

Montgomery County. The Fairfax County plant temporarily closed this year due to fire. It plans to reopen in November. The region is exploring long-haul backup disposal options. Local governments have contracts with these plants. Reducing and composting food waste is an area of opportunity in the region. Composting could increase if siting and environmental issues can be addressed. A few pilots are underway.

Members asked about how to promote recyclable product design. Mr. Snarr said that several states have formed Product Stewardship Councils to develop policies such as mandating electronics takeback.

B. The Circular Economy

Dave Feldman, The Livability Project and Green America's Center for Sustainability Solutions

The Circular Economy is an industrial economy that is restorative, sustainable, and collaborative; it is an alternative to the make, use, dispose model. The Circular Economy involves reducing waste, considering waste as a material for new products, designing products for recycling, shifting to renewable energy, and fostering the Shared Economy. All sectors that design, produce, distribute, use and sell materials are participants.

In the COG region, businesses and organizations such as Paintcare, Compost Cab, Alexandria Renew Enterprises, and Wider Circle contribute to more sustainable outcomes. Analyzing supply chains and working with public and private stakeholders to identify opportunities to shorten them and create more regenerative models could result in additional innovations in the region. Montgomery County's One Montgomery Green map, managed by the county's Sustainability Office, could be a starting point. The region could promote a shared branding and messaging strategy. Some areas have created sustainable strategies such as 'repair cafés', tool lending libraries, and makers trainings. The McArthur Foundation has provided funding and resources for related projects.

Some examples of policies supporting the Circular Economy include: Germany levies fines on consumers for producing too much waste, which promotes consumer choice of low-packaging goods; Amsterdam created dismantling services and resource banks (<https://amsterdamsmartcity.com/>) and Paris provides funding for businesses with innovative resource use ideas.

Members asked about regenerative agriculture. Mr. Feldman said that several farms are starting to explore this in Montgomery County, but it is not up to scale. Efforts to work within local governments and private companies were recognized as another strategy to promote the Circular Economy.

3. EJ TOOLKIT - NEXT STEPS

Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair; ALL

ACPAC discussed the next steps in distributing the EJ Toolkit. Members have been reaching out to their networks to share it as a resource. COG Staff will re-send the link to the toolkit and the blog. COG Staff will work to develop slides and talking points for use in communicating to others about the purpose and audience of the toolkit. Training webinars for local staff were mentioned. The toolkit will be highlighted at the next Region Forward Coalition meeting. Members also shared information about an environmental justice training held by EPA.

4. UPDATES

- **ACPAC Air Quality Subgroup**

As a follow-up to the local air quality actions conversation with Hans Riemer, ACPAC formed an ad-hoc subgroup to draft a brief project description and basic timeline for an air quality action analysis. The project description would involve a student/contractor doing an analysis to identify high-impact actions that the region could take or current actions that could be expanded upon to achieve no unhealthy air days. The subgroup held a call in August and plans bring the concept to TAC in October.

- **Letter in support of EPA continuing the greenhouse gas emissions standards for passenger vehicles and light-duty vehicles**

ACPAC reviewed and unanimously supported the draft letter to EPA from MWAQC, CEEPC, and TPB.

- **Air Quality Trends Report**

Air Quality staff have developed an Air Quality Trends overview report. The final draft will be published soon and will be shared with ACPAC members.

- **Other Updates**

CEEPC and MWAQC passed the climate action resolution that was developed following the announcement of the US withdrawal from the Paris Climate Agreement. It will go before the COG Board in October.

The Climate & Energy Leadership Award winners will also be recognized at the October COG Board meeting.

5. ADJOURN