



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 11, 2019  
5:30 - 7:30 P.M.

### DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

#### ACPAC MEMBERS (\*VIA PHONE)

Gretchen Goldman  
Andrew Kambour  
Hilary Lewis  
Robin Lewis\*  
Sarah Mazur  
Guillermo Ortiz  
Natalie Pien  
Hyon Rah  
Rodney Sobin  
Glenna Tinney  
Gabriel Thoumi\*

#### GUESTS

Tara Failey

#### STAFF

Amanda Campbell  
Tim Masters  
Steve Walz

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

*Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair*

The agenda was approved. The meeting summary was approved as written.

#### 2. ADVANCEMENTS AND CHALLENGES IN ENERGY STORAGE

*Scott Sklar, President of The Stella Group, Ltd., and Adjunct Professor, GWU*

Battery storage technology has evolved substantially over recent years and has become much more user-friendly. Prices have reduced to the point where energy storage is nearly comparable with renewable energy costs, and prices are expected to continue to drop. There are about eleven different types of large storage batteries available. Batteries make economic sense in these three areas: smoothing out the wear and tear caused by unreliable electricity quality, providing power to critical functions on a dedicated sub-circuit, reducing electricity demand during high electricity demand days to avoid peak rates. Utility-scale battery storage provided over 600 megawatt hours in the US in 2016 and is expected to grow dramatically in the coming decades. Power smoothing battery back-up power helps reduce surges that can damage electrical equipment.

Maryland provides a tax credit for energy storage systems costs. The region is home to two zero

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energy buildings in Arlington, Virginia, and one net zero energy building at Washington Navy Yard that make use of battery storage.

ACPAC members inquired about the environmental impact of batteries. Mr. Sklar said that newer technologies that don't rely on rare earth metals are becoming competitive. All the modern battery companies offer recycling since it is less expensive to recycle them than replace them.

Other policies that local governments can implement to support the use of battery technology over other, more polluting forms of power could focus on replacing back-up generators fueled by diesel with battery storage. The air, water, and greenhouse gas impacts are much lower for battery power. Local governments could partner with universities to track electric grid reliability, especially in low-income areas. The data could pinpoint where back-up battery storage would be prudent to protect appliances in the least-reliable communities.

### **3. MEMBER (RE-) ORIENTATION**

*Amanda Campbell, COG Department of Environmental Programs*

ACPAC advises the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEP) and air quality, climate, and energy issues. MWAQC helps guide and approve state implementation plans for air quality standards. Priorities for 2019 include working to meet the 2015 ozone standard and developing the emissions inventory. CEEP's work is guided by the Climate & Energy Action Plan. Priority topics in the climate and air programs this year include electric vehicle deployment, renewable energy deployment, and a climate resilience framework.

ACPAC prompted the development of the annual Climate & Energy Leadership Awards and members judge the award applications every July. In 2017, ACPAC developed an Environmental Justice Toolkit – a guidance for local governments on considering equity when implementing air and climate policies. The toolkit has had numerous inquiries and is continuing to prompt discussion among committee leadership at COG. ACPAC also helped instigate and guide a project to identify and rank the next steps in air quality measures that the region could take to achieve no unhealthy air days, which resulted in a report called What We Can Do to Improve the Air. Additional webinars and trainings are being held to assist local staff in implementing the priority actions identified in the report.

Steve Walz added that COG is still working on finalizing the COG Sustainability Report. The report will be undergoing review by the building's management company, while one of the tenants is considering changing sites. The final report will contain information on the renovations of the COG building, which are still being finalized.

### **4. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

*Gretchen Goldman, ACPAC Chair, All*

Members unanimously approved of the following slate of officers that were proposed by the Nominating Committee:

Chair – Tamara Toles O'Laughlin

Vice Chair – Hilary Lewis

### **5. MEMBER TIME**

*Hyon Rah, ACPAC Member*

Ms. Rah has a background in architecture, planning, water management and sustainability. Her current company works with the hospitality industry to reduce its impact on the environment. Sustainability is becoming more marketable. Her work involves helping hospitality companies to consider the long term while managing flooding, transportation, stormwater management, waste, and energy.

## **6. ADJOURN**