



BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: June 17, 2021

BEEAC Members in Attendance:

- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (Chair)
- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and the Environment (DOEE)
- Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
- Timothy Stevens, City of Falls Church
- Kate Walker, City of Falls Church

Additional Attendees:

- Emily Badin, City of Takoma Park
- Brandon Bowser, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- Leslie Chinery, ICF
- David Comis, Maryland Energy Administration

- Chloe Delhomme, City of Manassas
- Brenda Dix, ICF
- Claudia Glen, WMATA
- Ernest Jennels, Conquest Solutions
- Theo Milford, Conquest Solutions
- Steve Walz
- Emma West, WMATA
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick
- Jennifer Zettl, City of Alexandria

COG Staff:

- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Maia Davis, COG DEP
- Katie Dyer, COG DEP
- Thatch Gerike, COG DEP
- Jeff King, COG Director of Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Wyetha Lipford, COG DEP
- Tim Masters, COG DEP
- Amanda Woolsey, COG DEP



1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Gina Mathias called the meeting to order. Leah Boggs (COG staff) went over the virtual meeting guidelines.

2. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 15, 2021 MEETING SUMMARY

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (BEEAC Chair)

The April 15 BEEAC Meeting Summary was approved.

3. COG UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

- [Mid-Atlantic Electrification Partnership](#)

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

The Mid-Atlantic Electrification Partnership project, a \$6M, 39-month effort funded by the US Department of Energy, has launched. The purpose of this program is to support and foster a regional electric vehicle (EV) ecosystem in DC, MD, VA and WV. Project partners will develop, install, and manage publicly available Level 2 EV charging stations; and will create e-Mobility hubs. This will include 200 high-speed chargers throughout the project area. Project Partner Pepco will provide the infrastructure necessary to install the charging equipment for taxi/rideshares. The locations of the charging stations are still to-be-determined. To learn more about these opportunities, contact [Ira Dorfman](#) or [Alleyn Harned](#).

- DC Water RFI

Katie Dyer, COG Staff

DC Water's Request for Information for a proposed microgrid at the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Facility was recently closed. The RFI was issued on May 14 and closed on June 14. The purpose of the RFI was to collect input on approaches, and planning processes for operation of a microgrid project at the Blue Plains plant in Washington DC. A microgrid would improve the safety, reliability, and resiliency of the plant. The RFI will help inform DC Water in the development of a future Request for Proposals for microgrid projects. This is expected to be issued in the fall of 2021. DC Water has also applied for a FEMA hazard mitigation assistance grant for project scoping. This was submitted as a project that will contribute funding to the planning and concept development phase of the project. The output of the first phase will include a roadmap for implementation of a microgrid at the Blue Plains facility.

- [DMV Climate Partners Website](#)

Maia Davis, COG Staff

The DMV Climate Partners website was recently launched. It allows users to access information about climate and energy work happening across the region. Climate and energy news and events, as well as job opportunities, funding opportunities, and resources for residents will be key features of the website. In addition to sharing information about COG members' work across the region, there will be climate information to educate people about climate change in the DMV area and the climate impacts, as well as what they can do in their personal lives to make an impact on climate change.

- DMV Green Bank Roundtable

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

COG is working with the Montgomery County Green Bank to have a regional discussion on green banks. The Virginia legislature recently passing a bill to allow localities to establish green banks. A dialogue about green banks, the types of financing they can provide, as well as the potential for collaboration across the region is needed. COG and the Montgomery County Green Bank will host a roundtable discussion to discuss programmatic updates, commonalities, and collaborative opportunities and to discuss a framework for collaboration to promote growth of individual programs within the region. BEEAC members received a save the date for this event for July 19.

- Zero Energy Buildings and Codes Technical Session

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

Leah Boggs provided an update on the status of building codes and practices in the region. DC, Maryland, and Virginia have adopted different iterations of the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), which is developed by the International Code Council (ICC). A code status document can be found [here](#) – CEEPC Agenda Item #2: DRAFT Regional Building Codes Status. There is interest for a technical session to look more closely at the cost benefits of zero energy buildings, as well as the transition to all electric buildings. COG staff have not confirmed a date for such a technical session yet but will likely organize an event for September. A second technical session looking specifically at building codes is also being discussed.

- [2021 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards](#)

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

ACPAC did not conduct the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards program last year due to COVID-19 but are picking it back up this year. There will be two award categories (government agencies and NGOs) instead of three. The committee decided not to include educational institutions as the school year was truncated due to COVID-19. The deadline for applications is June 30. Contact [Leah Boggs](#) of COG Staff for more information.

- COG Externs Introduction

Jeff King, COG Director of Climate, Energy and Air Programs

The District of Columbia's Sustainable Energy Utility (DC SEU) Workforce Development Program prepares young professionals for careers in clean energy. Amanda Woolsey and Thatch Gerike, externs from this program, will be working with COG for the next few months.

4. JURISDICTION UPDATES AND PEER EXCHANGE

Local government members will highlight energy and building-related events, projects, and programs. Members are asked to address the following:

- What infrastructure investments are included in your jurisdiction's capital improvement plans (CIP), comprehensive plans, and other plans?
- Are those infrastructure investments linked to climate and energy resilience planning?
- What are the challenges to integrating specific climate and energy resilience planning to other broad-scope plans?

Ellen Eggerton, City of Alexandria

The City of Alexandria is working on stormwater piping capacity, stormwater drainage, spot improvements, and stream restoration. The city is also working on the waterfront Bulkhead elevation project and construction of an underground tunnel for the city's combined sewerage. The city has

dedicated rapid transit programming being done, including bike and pedestrian trails. The city completed the [Electric Vehicle Charging Readiness Strategy](#) report in May. After the city's green building policy was adopted last year, they are now building public buildings to net zero energy standards. The city is also updating their Energy and Climate Change Action Plan. They will be working on this for the coming year, and there will be public meetings for those interested in joining. The challenges faced when integrating climate and energy resilience planning into broader-scoped plans include a lack of staff resources for coordination and collaboration, as well as resources to work on this. There is a limitation to jurisdictions tackling these programs and projects at once.

Kate Walker, City of Falls Church

The City of Falls Church has a lot of infrastructure projects going on. Transportation is the biggest part of their CIP. A lot of focus is on connectivity and multimodal transportation like sidewalks and streetlights. The city is doing a whole replacement project for their streetlights to go from conventional to LED lighting. In addition, the city has identified six stormwater projects with the biggest flooding issues in the city. They have started a new stormwater commission that is looking at future green infrastructure opportunities. All the city's facilities have ongoing reinvestment projects focused on energy efficiency, especially with regard to HVAC system replacements. At the moment, the links of CIPs to climate and resilience planning are not explicit. The challenge is a lack of staff resources, although there is a high degree of citizen involvement, which really supports the city's energy and climate plan. The other challenge is that there are so many intersecting plans that tying them all together with an environmental focus can be very challenging. There is also an issue of measurable results versus actions that are taken. For example, building electrification and electrification of vehicles are not likely going to show a measurable change in the city's greenhouse gas inventory because the transportation is calculated down from regional numbers. In terms of showing results, there is a challenge there.

Chloe Delhomme, City of Manassas

There is a lot of undergrounding of electric transmission wires in the City of Manassas. This has been increasing the resiliency of the entire network, with 80 percent of transmission already underground. The city is also transitioning to LED streetlighting. In terms of transportation, there are a lot of multimodal projects with bike and PED facilities, roundabouts and green streets have also been included in the CIP. As part of the city's new comprehensive plan, there is a green infrastructure map. The hope is that this will guide the city in further efforts and future CIP projects. In terms of challenges, staff resources as well as funding are big issues.

Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie

The City of Bowie has a lot of CIP projects. The first one is a project that the city is working on with BGE to install two EV fast charging stations at two of their facilities. They should go online within the next two weeks. They are also working on two other locations across the city. These are public EV charging stations. The city already has two new EV charging stations. They have invested in converting the city's vehicle fleet to electric vehicles. The city has a few CIP projects focusing on stormwater management. Recently, the city council approved energy efficiency CIP projects as well. In collaboration with BGE, the city is working on conversion of all their lighting for parks and in facilities to LED lighting. They are also working with BGE on streetlight conversions. There are a lot of "hybrids"; some of the streetlights belong to the city and some of them belong to BGE. BGE has already converted about 200 of the city's streetlights to LED. Another project that is being worked on with the Department of Public Works is a microgrid for the city's wastewater treatment plant. The City of Bowie has a committee called the Staff Sustainability Committee that oversees how sustainability

and climate action can be incorporated throughout city projects. In terms of challenges, resources and funding remain the greatest challenges for the city.

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County

Frederick County is working a lot with stormwater infrastructure in their capital planning. Different departments that deal with stormwater issues, as they relate to flooding, have been working together. The county will be working with COG on some studies related to resiliency planning and climate and energy planning. The county's hazard mitigation plan is also being updated, which is focused on flooding. There is an interest to start incorporating climate and energy with resilience planning as part of that plan. The challenges are resources and trying to get people thinking about climate and energy issues along with everything else.

Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville

The City of Rockville recently received technical assistance from Maryland to study the potential for a microgrid and solar installation at a few adjacent sites. One is a building that the city plans to renovate and move a number of essential functions to in an effort to have an emergency operations center there. That is planned for this summer. The city also had an energy audit at city hall with the Pepco Building Tune-up program. They will be doing some upgrades as they go. The city is always looking for opportunities to get bicycle network updates in their CIPs and they are working on getting some of the pedestrian plans funded. The city's comprehensive plan is under final review stages. That plan includes climate change and climate resilience policies too. The city is also planning to install six EV chargers with Pepco. Challenges include lack of resources and funding.

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park has a five-year CIP and, while there is a lot included in that plan that addresses climate and energy planning, energy efficiency, and EVs, there is not a formal process to evaluate or link those programs to the city's climate goals. One of the challenges is staff time. Also, developing the process and putting it into place to include that type of evaluation and narrative in the planning process of their CIP is a challenge. Although there is a lot in the CIP that addresses stormwater, EVs, sidewalks, and all the typical things that would be found in an improvement plan and comprehensive plan.

5. INTEGRATING RESILIENCE PLANNING AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLANS

Rich Dooley, Arlington County

Arlington County has a Community Energy Plan (CEP), which was recently updated. This plan has goals and policies looking out to the year 2050, along with milestones between now and then. The county is also working on a roadmap which will focus on actions and setting up strategies over the next 30 years to implement those policies and to help the county reach its CEP goals. The roadmap will be finalized in early 2022. The county is also working on a decarbonization of transportation plan, which will be assessing the county's bus fleet for the possibility of electrification. Regarding stormwater, there are multiple initiatives at play. Arlington County has been involved in resiliency planning efforts since 2016 and are pivoting to a stormwater program framework called A Flood Resilient Arlington. This includes several initiatives including development of a risk assessment and management plan that incorporates climate projections through 2040 and 2070. The county is also forming an interdepartmental stormwater working group. The county has issued stormwater-dedicated bonds. Upcoming actions and plans with regard to stormwater include the creation of flood resilient design and construction guidelines, a resilient streams strategy, a strategic compliance plan for permits and a climate-based green infrastructure plan. The CEP dates back to

2013 and was updated in 2019. In that update, the County Board approved a new goal area or chapter in the CEP on resilience. The other goal areas in the CEP include buildings, renewable energy, transportation, county government activities, and education and human behavior. Arlington County has launched a project to develop an Energy Assurance Plan (EAP) for county government activities, as well as for the entire community. The EAP will help improve the county's climate readiness and resilience. The county is undertaking a facility and energy inventory, looking at key assets. The environmental, operational and socio-economic vulnerabilities of those facilities will also be a focus and the county plans to review the best practices for energy resilience and look at specific strategies to mitigate any adverse impacts. recover from the impacts of potential energy emergencies. So that is it for my formal presentation.

Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick and Brenda Dix, ICF

The City of Frederick has guidance on incorporating climate resilience into the capital improvement program. One of the recommendations from the city's Climate Action Plan (CAP) was to develop this guidance on incorporating climate resilience into the CIP. The draft document provides some background information on climate change and hazards in the City of Frederick. A five-step process for identifying projects for inclusion in the CIP from a resilience perspective was developed. At the highest level, step one is identifying and addressing climate change risks by assessing sensitivity first, then determining exposure. The second step is identifying climate opportunities. Step three is documenting in a project submission form that would go to the city's Office of Sustainability. Step four is reviewing this documentation before sending for mayor and board approval. Step five is project implementation. Considering resilience and sustainability in projects helps meet the city's goals and aligns with the Climate Emergency Resolution. It is also important from an investment perspective.

Brandon Bowser and David Comis, Maryland Energy Administration

The Maryland Energy Administration (MEA) is the state energy office and the custodian of the strategic energy investment fund. This fund is the financing mechanism that puts capital into energy-focused projects and greenhouse gas reduction projects. It is funded by proceeds from the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI). MEA uses this to fund its Resilient Maryland program and a Resiliency Hub grant program. Resilient Maryland was introduced in February 2020. It was launched as a pilot to help organizations get past that initial hurdle of taking a concept for a resilient energy system, such as a microgrid, and move toward actionable implementation. Resilient Maryland gives organizations the critical planning capital they need to design resilient energy system for their facilities. MEA markets this program to all sectors of Maryland's economy; businesses, nonprofit organizations, critical infrastructure, government infrastructure, multifamily housing, agricultural entities critical to food supply chains. Microgrid projects have the highest demand so far in the program because those are the most complicated projects. Resilient Maryland offers up to \$100,000 per project for these projects. MEA has identified five key deliverables that are needed to get stakeholders to understand a project and capital providers to see what the risk profile looks like and offer favorable financing. These are a detailed feasibility report, preliminary engineering data and a system design, a 20-year financial pro forma, a greenhouse gas reduction report, and an implementation barriers report. Resilient Maryland has had 21 awardees across nearly every sector of the state's economy. This type of energy investment is needed everywhere in Maryland. The MEA Resiliency Hub program is designed to provide emergency power in neighborhoods. The funding is for low- and moderate-income neighborhoods. The intention of the program is to provide a Resiliency Hub, which is a building that provides critical energy services to residents. For example, it's a place where residents can recharge cell phones, or heat up in winter. It's a place where there is light for safety and security and, at the request of the Maryland Department of Health, it's a place to go plug

in durable medical equipment. The Resiliency Hub is not the same as an emergency shelter. It's not designed to serve food. It is not designed as a place for people to sleep, although in certain situations that might occur. The Resiliency Hubs are not required to be designed to handle worst case emergency scenarios. The real purpose of a Resiliency Hub is to provide power when the grid goes down, not for massive natural emergencies. MEA has another program called the Solar Technical Assistance Program that started this year and is open to all state and local government within Maryland. Unlike normal grant programs, this program does not reward money, but rather provides technical assistance. It specifically looks at sighting solar panels on state and city buildings.

6. 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE AND ADJOURNMENT

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park (BEEAC Chair)

Chair Gina Mathias adjourned the meeting. The next BEEAC meeting is on September 16.

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the MWCOG website or by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2021/6/17/built-environment-energy-advisory-committee/>

The next CEEPC meeting is July 28, 2021

The next BEEAC meeting is September 16, 2021

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)