

**Built Environment & Energy Advisory Committee Meeting
Meeting Summary: 1/16/13**

Attendance:

Emil King, DDOE
Joan Kelsch, Arlington County
Olayinka Kolawole, DOE
Tyler Espinosa, Optony
Thomas Yurysta, Optony
Jayson Uppal, Meister Consulting
Jeannine Altavilla, Arlington County
Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
Said Said, Prince William County
Steve Walz, NVRC
Lisa Orr, Frederick County
Jeffery Bond, Prince George's County
Rachel Healy, WMATA
Ken Stadlin, MDV-SEIA
Sam Hancock, Emerald Planet
Bill Busker, Emerald Planet

By Phone:

Erica Bannerman, Prince Georges County
Luisa Robles, Greenbelt
Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County
Kristen Larson, City of Bowie

COG Staff

Leah Boggs, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP
Isabel Ricker, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP

1. US DOE Rooftop Solar Challenge/Solar Ops Meeting Outcome - Olayinka Kolawole, DOE Solar Technologies Office

Rooftop Solar Challenge round 2 funding (RSC II)

- Establish best practices locally → regional cohesiveness → national trend/market conditions

Meeting on Tuesday the 14:

- Goal: Foster relationships & communication between teams
 - o Share best management practices (BMPs) and energize teams
 - o other opportunities for communication: online forum
- 8 teams, each with about 20 jurisdictions

Next meeting "Solar Summit" in CA in May

Federal technical assistance available - NREL: research/analysis (surveys)

Also private technical assistance from ICLEI, Optony, Meister, ICMA

2. Regional Overview of the Rooftop Solar Challenge - Tyler Espinoza, Optony

- Goal:
 - Drive soft cost down and make solar more competitive with the fossil fuels
 - Increase certainty
 - Create ideal solar market
 - Accessibility
 - Empowering citizens
 - Pathways
 - Innovation
 - Build the network
- Currently looking for solar ready communities
 - San Francisco – has a pioneer program
- Benefits of participation
 - National team: Mid-America Regional Council (MARC) and National Association of Regional Councils (NARC)
 - Market assessment: by consultant assistance
 - Assistance: in meeting goals
- Kickoff meetings held on January 13, 2014 for COG region participants
- National Conversation and Relevancy
 - Leadership happening on the local level already
 - Workforce development – helps roofing industry
- Initial Interest
 - Surveys: used assessed and pinpoint needs
 - Educate: training for permitting, zoning and inspections to increase government capacity; set achievable goals
 - Outreach: consumer awareness
- How governments can get involved
 - Participate in workgroup
 - Compare baseline conditions to BMPs
 - Demonstrate Leadership

3. Rooftop Solar Challenge Next Steps - Tyler Espinoza, Optony

- Optony is working with all 8 national teams
- Currently over 100 participants
- Looking to recruit more COG jurisdictions
 - Will benchmark goals and needs
 - Set working groups
 - Implement BMPs
 - Will reevaluate SM3s (solar market survey) in early 2015
 -
- Jayson Oppal, Meister Corporation
 - Will take BMPs from Kansas City and apply them to other 9 regions
 - Progress Update:
 - Received results from all 8
 - DC: early leader: current revision, DC Community Solar, DC Sun, commercial PACE, municipal aggregation
 - MD: online permitting and inspection information, residential and commercial aggregation

- VA: low permitting fees, short permitting time frame, online inspection information
 - Q/A and Discussion
 - Joan Kelsch:
 - Q- How granular is the data? A- Based on census data, not precise.
 - Q- Who needs to sign on? A- department head or elected official
 - Lisa Orr:
 - Q- What is the hierarchy of solar programs being offered? A- Sunshot -> Rooftop solar challenge -> ASTI, Solar road map
 - Q- Should metro region have its own brand, like MARC/NARC Solar Ready II? A- Can develop your own name.
 - Next Steps
 - Set goals from Roadmap
 - Put action plans in place
 - Regional Opportunities
 - Standardize permit forms and process – contact building departments and permitting
 - Will help improve efficiencies on both sides – examples:
 - Browder County, FL has same permitting and prequalified certain systems for 25 municipalities;
 - NY State streamline 3 page permitting and incentives for any community that adopts the process
 - Recommendation: get VA and MD building inspectors to use a uniform permit process for solar
 - DC has pitched the approach to the permit office by increasing volume; in DC’s best interest to streamline the process
 - MEA is interested; however dealing with issue of additional revenue for permit office
- Ken Stadlin
 - VA allows HOA’s to ban solar
 - Presents an opportunity for feedback on barriers
 - Low pricing vs certainty
 - Logical and practical business practices
 - Q/A and Discussion
 - Lisa Orr:
 - Q- Is the state (MD) involved? A- MD is interested because of the RPS; MEA is providing funding to help
 - Need to entice beyond early adopters and provide resources for process, financing, and lease comparison
 - Kambiz Agazi:
 - Recommends to survey governments who went through the process to gauge issues

- Need feedback from installers
- Foresees barriers in VA; has a very regulated utility model
- Tyler Espinoza:
 - RPS is voluntary and there are no SRECs to drive the market
 - Looking into other solutions such as removing the HOA restrictions; looking to get conditions favorable to the state to prepare changes at the state level
- Ken Stadlin:
 - The survey is needed the most
 - MDV-SEIA is happy to provide information and solutions
- Thomas Yurysta:
 - Awareness is also the key
 - Workshops at the end of the year should educate consumers and installers on any changes
- Solarize – bulk purchase program
 - Leverage purchase power
 - Decrease learning curve
 - Could spread to other MD counties
- Prescreen municipal buildings
 - Optony does for free
 - Can group RFP for bulk purchase
 - Could do land/brownfields also
- Energy Sage
 - Expedia of solar
 - DOE funded start-up
 - Helps evaluate proposes, leases, installers, etc.,
 - Integrating a mapping component
 - Geostellar – other similar platform
- Mapdwell
 - Adding green roof, thermal, historic data

4. Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Pilot Program- Leah Boggs, MWCOG

- Purpose to advance CEEPC action plan goals
- Focus on the leaders – small, medium, large (communities) and NGOs
- Judging criteria – results, creativity, model, engagement
- Program launch is March 26

5. Climate and Energy Annual Survey – Leah Boggs, MWCOG

- 2013 CEEPC survey is underway beginning sent out on January, Friday January 24 - Friday, February 14
- Surveying the local governments, school districts and water and wastewater utilities and providers on a handful of climate and energy actions (not the whole CEEPC Action Plan this year), sustainable purchasing contracts, and alternative fuel vehicles

6. Roundtable Discussion

- Tyler Espinoza: EPA solar collaborative procurement underway
- Jeff King:
 - o Microgrid workshop – need to work with Steve Bieber (COG staff), manager of UASI program (Urban Area Security Initiative)
 - BEEAC as the umbrella work group for ESF-12 should participate
 - Workshop would be an exercise on extended power outage
 - Should also propose Energy Assurance Planning again this year
- Lisa Orr:
 - o Looking at solar on landfill – 4 acres
 - o Frederick County just obtain an electric transit bus
 - o Refrigerator replacement program for the low and moderate income and energy audits as part of the efficiency program
- Prince George’s County:
 - o Tours to 2 solar sites proposed
 - o Bid by March 8
- Leah Boggs:
 - o Washington Auto Show the week of Jan. 22
 - o Leah Boggs on Jan. 28 panel to discuss AFV policy and regional opportunities
- Rachel Healy, WMATA
 - o Grant for 12 electric conversion buses
 - o Lighting efficiency contract
 - \$1.5 mill per year paid through savings
 - o EV charging
 - Attempting to get funds through MD at transit stations (30-50 locations)
 - CHP project for long term ROI, gas micro turbines and fuel cells
- Regional Transportation Priorities Plan adopted by COG
- Net zero panel at January CEEPC meeting