



## Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Meeting

### DRAFT VIRTUAL MEETING SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

#### CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

- Hon. Penelope Gross, Fairfax County
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Takisha James, Town of Bladensburg
- Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt
- Hon. Koran Saines, Loudoun County
- Hon. Deni Taveras, Prince George's County
- Hon. Ann Wheeler, Prince William County
- Hon. Patrick Wojahn, City of College Park
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- John Bolan, District of Columbia (Council)
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Austina Casey, DDOT
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration
- Ira Dorfman, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition
- Stan Edwards, Montgomery County
- John Friedman, Washington Gas
- Kimberly Goddu-Alexander, Bethesda Green
- Stephen Gyor, DC Office of Planning
- Andrew Kreider, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Melissa Lavinson, Pepco
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Elissa McDade, WMATA
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg
- Ryan Opsal, Maryland Energy Administration
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University

- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club
- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of Environment

#### ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Hon. Monique Ashton, City of Rockville
- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- John Bloom
- Jamie Donovan, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Bill Eger, City of Alexandria
- Janet Gingold, Sierra Club
- Claudia Glen, WMATA
- Jenn Hatch, DOEE
- Joseph Jakuta, DOEE
- Gail Kenson, Naval District Washington
- Henry Miller
- Su Ly, US EPA
- Bill Pugh, Coalition for Smarter Growth
- Kari Snyder, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Kevin Vincent
- Andie Wyatt, Grid Alternatives

#### COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Chuck Bean, COG Executive Director
- Leah Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs (DEP)
- Maia Davis, COG DEP
- Katie Dyer, COG DEP
- Jeff King, COG DEP
- Tim Masters, COG DEP
- John Snarr, COG DEP
- Steve Walz, COG DEP (Director)
- Lyn Erickson, COG Department of Transportation Planning (DTP)
- Mark Moran, COG DTP
- Erin Morrow, COG DTP
- Dusan Vuksan, COG DTP
- Kanti Srikanth, COG DTP (Director)



## 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

*Penny Gross, CEEPC Chair*

Penny Gross called the webinar meeting to order. Introductions were made. Penny Gross will serve as the CEEPC Chair for the remainder of 2020. The committee held a moment of silence for the recent passing of CEEPC Chair Dan Sze, Erik Gutshall, and Lisa Feldt to honor their legacy. Dan Sze of Falls Church was a member of CEEPC for many years and was a strong advocate for water and air quality regionally. Erik Gutshall represented Arlington County and served on CEEPC advocating for innovative energy policies. Lisa Feldt, a former CEEPC member, represented Montgomery County for 2 years. CEEPC took a moment to recognize their strong contributions and leadership for climate and energy policy within the region.

Meeting minutes were approved for the July 22 meeting.

## 2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

*Gina Mathias, Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)*

BEEAC Chair Gina Mathias shared that BEEAC's September meeting focused on how C-PACE financing structure can be used to fund resilience measures so property owners can make their properties more resilient to natural disasters. COG staff presented the draft resolution on 2030 regional climate goals during the meeting. BEEAC did not have sufficient time to take formal action before the CEEPC meeting. BEEAC will provide technical comments for the draft Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan before the October 16<sup>th</sup> deadline. BEEAC's next meeting is November 19<sup>th</sup> where BEEAC will be closing out their net zero building decarbonization series.

*Leah Boggs, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)*

Leah Boggs shared ACPAC updates on behalf of Chair Tamara Toles O'Laughlin. ACPAC's September meeting focused on the 2030 Regional Climate Action Plan update, COG's Ozone Season Summary, and presentations on environmental energy and climate justice. The committee will examine the draft plan and provide comments by October 16<sup>th</sup>. As a reminder, in 2017, ACPAC released the [Environmental Justice Toolkit](#) as a resource on government measures, practices, and policies aimed at cooperative solutions. ACPAC discussed Prince George's County Environmental Justice Commission and Action Plan, where a portion of the plan will establish criteria to identify environmental justice communities and mapping cumulative impacts in communities that are exposed to a combination of stressors. ACPAC heard from The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) on their environmental and climate justice program and how they are combatting environmental injustices that have historical disproportionate impacts on communities of color and the working poor. The next ACPAC meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup>.

*Steve Walz, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)*

On behalf of Ira Dorfman, Steve Walz provided the update. GWRCCC joins groups across the country to secure grant funding to work on initiatives including expanding clean transportation fuel and clean transportation infrastructure in our region. Steve Walz thanked Ira Dorfman for his efforts to foster these efforts. As the initiatives move forward, CEEPC members will hear specific on the exciting work being conducting particularly on electric vehicle infrastructure, biofuels, and other measures.

*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Director*

Steve Walz has been working with Kanti Srikanth, COG Transportation Planning Director, on an October 21 work session to provide background on climate planning and interrelated efforts in the National Capital Region for the Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The TPB Technical Committee meeting on October 2<sup>nd</sup> will include a presentation on these efforts.

*Deni Tavares, Prince George's County*

Prince George's County held their annual car free day in September. The county has approved the Climate Action Task Force. The county is hopeful a concrete climate plan will be developed that is aggressive, progressive and implementable.

*Penny Gross, Fairfax County*

The Board of Supervisors will take action on the carryover budget on September 29. In the budget, there are funds for spending adjustments to energy and environmental programs which include \$4.5M to investments in Fairfax County Operational Strategy, almost \$2M to support the second year of a 5-year LED street light conversion plan, just over \$1M to support the development of a Climate Adaption Resilience Plan, and \$750,000 to install electric vehicle charging stations at county facilities.

*John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools*

Fairfax County Public Schools is nearing the release of their GHG Inventory Report for the year 2019, with expectations that the board will approve it. The report demonstrates a 30% reduction since the school board required reporting in 2008. One of the new features in the report is the ability to show a correlation between the public schools' efforts and COG's Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan. The report will share with CEEPC members once released.

*Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University*

Dr. Dann Sklarew shared a link for the live screen event on Virginia's Climate Future. Panelists include Virginia Delegate Rip Sullivan and Delegate Sam Rasoul.

*Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration*

The Maryland Energy Administration launched a new program, the [Public Facility Solar Grant Program](#) that provides funding for solar in public facilities. The program offers resources for both site evaluation/design as well as incentives to offset the capital costs of solar projects in the built environment.

### **3. REVIEW DRAFT 2030 REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN**

*Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs*

Maia Davis provided an overview of the draft 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan. COG is working with the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) to follow global best practices in climate planning. COG staff distributed the draft plan to CEEPC members and is asking members for feedback by October 16. The draft plan reflects 2030 and 2050 goals, where the draft resolution CEEPC will also review focuses on 2030. What the COG Board adopts will be ultimately be reflected in the plan. After adoption of the goals and the comment period, COG staff will work to incorporate changes and move forward to bring the full updated plan back to CEEPC for review and adoption at the November CEEPC meeting. If adopted before the end of the year, COG will submit the plan to the

Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) and the CDP global public disclosure platform. The region is on track to be the first US region to fully meet GCoM's global standards for climate planning.

COG's current overarching climate mitigation goals are what the COG Board adopted back in 2008 – 20% by 2020 below 2005 levels and 80% by 2050. The proposed mitigation goals are to reduce regional GHG emissions 50% by 2030, below 2005 levels, and resilience goals that to become a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030.

To achieve 50% reduction by 2030 goal, scenarios rely on aggressive Renewable Portfolio Standards in DC, MD, and VA. In the next 10 years, the region will require significant action including installation of more than 200,000 additional solar systems, over 20% of light duty cars will need be electric vehicles, and an 80% diversion rate of zero waste programs to meet the 2030 goal. New editions to the mitigation actions include equity actions and sequestration actions. The plan incorporates maps of Equity Emphasis Areas (EEA) overlaid with energy burden and climate impacts to help identify potentially vulnerable communities. Resilience actions have been realigned to put more emphasis on implementation over planning and additional actions have been added on equity and resilient infrastructure.

Discussion:

- For the communities in the region to understand what it will take to reach our overarching mitigation and resilience goals by 2030, education needs to be emphasized to understand the need for the aggressive work being done.
- COG staff are available to provide individual presentations to jurisdiction boards or others as necessary.
- Renewable natural gas is included under the 2030 scenario to help the region meet the 50% by 2030 threshold. It is not addressed in collaborative actions for CEEPC to work on together, but rather is a focus for natural gas utilities.
- The plan mentions the fire hazard when discussing drought in the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment section, though it is not ranked as a high risk compared to other hazards. CEEPC's Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee is looking at fire risk as a part of planting and maintaining a healthy regional tree canopy.

#### **4. COG BOARD RESOLUTION ON REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS**

*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Director*

COG staff heard from a number of jurisdictions in the region who are setting goals at 50% reduction or beyond by 2030 including Montgomery, Frederick, Arlington Counties and others. A number of jurisdictions are working on or updating their Climate Action Plans including Fairfax and Prince George's Counties that include consideration of these goals. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has suggested globally emissions need to fall by 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and net zero by 2050 in order to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius to avoid the most severe climate impacts. This research and stakeholder input from ACPAC, BEEAC and CEEPC has informed the 2030 regional mitigation and resilience goals.

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resolution reinforces the need to incorporate equity principles into CEEPC and COG members' actions to reach the climate mitigation and resiliency goals. Finally, the resolution directs CEEPC to report back a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards the climate mitigation and resiliency goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed.

Discussion:

- COG staff will incorporate language to add in a clause in the “therefore” section in the resolution about the importance of education.
- COG Executive Director Chuck Bean gave thanks to COG staff and CEEPC members for the work conducted and the aggressive goals being put in front of the COG Board. The goals and actions will have an integrated and multidisciplinary approach. COG has worked on equity for years but this past summer, the COG Board affirmed equity as a fundamental value. The COG Board will meet on October 16.

CEEPC approved the motion unanimously with the addition of the education language into the resolution. The resolution will go before the COG Board for approval at its October meeting.

## **5. ADJOURN**

*Penny Gross, CEEPC Chair*

The meeting was adjourned. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for November 18.