

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

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<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/committee/>

The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) is an advisory body to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Draft Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 18, 2011
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Beverly Fourier, Andrew Kambour, Brian McFarland, Linda Murphy, Caroline Petti, Alexander Ryan-Bond, Glenna Tinney, Larry Zaragoza

Staff: Joan Rohlf, Jen Desimone, Maia Davis

1. Call to Order, Adoption of Agenda, Approval of Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 5:34pm. The agenda and minutes from March 14, 2011 were approved with no changes.

2. Conversation with Jay Fiset (Arlington County Board Member and CEEPC Chair)

Jay Fiset presented on the Arlington County Energy Plan. The project kicked off in January 2010 and the process has involved community town hall meetings and a Community Energy and Sustainability Task Force comprised of 29 key community stakeholders. The energy plan has goals for competitiveness, energy security and the environment. Greenhouse gas reduction measures are established for efficient buildings, district energy and combined heat and power (CHP), transportation and renewable. The plan is up for Board adoption next month. The energy plan will be incorporated into the County's Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Fiset took time to answer ACPAC member questions. District energy was of significant interest to the group and he discussed how the county was working on identifying financing and incentives, existing and potential for district energy in the county and how the county is trying to insure new buildings are "district energy ready." When asked about renewables, he explained that the county's focus would be on solar and although there is potential for wind power off the Virginia coast there is limited wind opportunities in the county. When asked about the county's position on nuclear, he stated that there are no plants in the county so it never came up. The main issue on power plants that was discussed in there planning process was the 40-45% of energy loss that is experienced between the plant and buildings.

As CEEPC Chairman, Jay Fiset also addressed questions on the broader Metro DC region's efforts. He briefly discussed the CEEPC 2010 – 2012 Climate and Energy Workplan, the progress on the Workplan its update to incorporate new topics, such as district energy. He then described some of COG efforts already underway on district energy and building energy performance labeling. Mr. Fiset also answered questions about other similar community energy planning efforts in the region, such as the effort in Loudoun County. COG efforts on district energy. One member asked how ACPAC may be more connected/ involved with CEEPC and Jay suggested that assistance and feedback with the regional energy outreach campaign would be most helpful.

3. Clean Air Partners Air Quality Forecasting and Outreach (Jen Desimone, COG DEP Staff)

Forecasts are developed for ozone and particulates. These forecasts are developed daily using the current and previous day conditions, several forecast models and the experience and consensus of forecasters from COG,

MD Department of Environment and VA Department of Environmental Quality. Overall forecasts are 78% accurate. An air quality index (code green, yellow, orange, red or purple) is determined and the public is then informed of these forecasts using the many media outlets including websites, hotlines, social media and television meteorologists. The Clean Air Partners annual public awareness campaign includes radio ads, online ads, transit ads, online and social media, school curriculum and summer camp outreach and more.

During the discussion, one member stated it's a policy in their home not drive on code red days. Another member pointed out that it seems that code orange days have increased throughout the years. However, the main reason there are more code orange days is due to the standards becoming stricter in 2008. This brought up questions about monitors in the region. There are 13 monitors, all of which track ozone and 2 also track particulate matter. Last year 5 monitors were dropped in northern Virginia which amounts to a savings of \$100,000.

4. MWAQC Committee Update (Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP Staff)

Joan briefly describes a key topic that will be discussed at the upcoming meeting of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC). At this time, it seems the new plan for fine particulates will not be done until February 2012 so that the new MOVES and travel demand models can be incorporated into the results and plan. As MWAQC moves forward with this project COG staff will be briefing ACPAC more fully.

5. Member Time: Air Quality (Bill Butler, GenOn)

Bill Butler is an environmental engineer for GenOn that is responsible for tracking regulation and administering environmental compliance. GenOn is a large independent power producer in the United States. In our region, GenOn has four Power plants in the area including 3 in MD and 1 in VA fueled by coal, oil and/or natural gas. The 3 Maryland coal plants spent \$1.6 B on MD Healthy Air Act controls, including SCRs for NOX and Scrubbers for SO₂, PM, and mercury. The VA plant has good SO₂, NO_x, and PM controls, with additional PM and dust controls expected in accordance with their agreement with the City of Alexandria.

Members had several questions for Bill about GenOn's responsibilities versus utilities, whether GenOn is involved in nuclear, plant performance and ash disposal. Bill explained that GenOn is a wholesaler to utilities and the utilities are responsible for the transportation and distribution of power, GenOn is not involved with nuclear and they have taken steps to reduce SO₂; however, that increases ash which they send to an ash landfill.

6. Future Meeting Topics

Caroline Petti suggested future agendas continue to periodically include "Member Time" for ACPAC members to share information about their organization/affiliations and projects that may be of interest to the group. Caroline asked for volunteers and topics. Alexander Ryan-Bond volunteered to discuss the Ozone Transport Commission and Larry Zaragoza volunteered to discuss citizen activism in Fairfax County.

Members also had other suggestions for future meeting topics including:

- Identifying and discussing how ACPAC can provide feedback and assist with WE CAN Energy Challenge
- Smart grid and smart meters
- Summer 2011 air quality forecasts

7. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:37pm.

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| Next meeting: May 16 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5 |
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