

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, October 15, 2012
Room 4/5
5:30 P.M.-7:30 P.M.

ACPAC members: Sarah Bunn, Bill Butler, Beverly Fourier, Raphael Isaac, Caroline Petti, Brian McFarland, John Reed, Glenna Tinney, Kyle Todd

Staff: Joan Rohlf, John Snarr, Maia Davis

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

The meeting was called to order at 5:33pm. The agenda and minutes from September 10, 2012 were approved with no changes.

2. Plastic Bag Report (John Snarr, COG DEP Staff)

Plastic bags have both aesthetic and environmental impacts. Plastic bag management has become a marquee environmental issue and the metropolitan Washington region has drawn national attention for management programs. COG's Plastic Bag Report looks at national and international programs. In this region, initiatives include bag recycling, a COG Board Resolution in 2009, District of Columbia Bag Fee in 2010, Montgomery County Bag Fee in 2012 and Chestertown, MD Bag Ban in 2012. In addition, fee legislation in Prince George's County, Virginia, and Maryland has been attempted but unsuccessful thus far.

John Snarr answered several questions from ACPAC related to local initiatives. John clarified that stores that sell food must comply with the bag fee program and that includes, not only grocery stores, but stores that simply have a candy rack (like Barnes and Nobles). He also clarified that in the District the money collected by for the bag fee is dedicated to Anacostia cleanup efforts (\$5 million in 2.5 years). There are fines for non-compliance; however, the focus is more on education of retailers. More study is needed to determine how much fee programs decreases plastic bag use and COG is looking into studying the impact of these programs.

3. Draft 2013-2016 CEEPC Workplan Discussion (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

CEEPC is in the process of developing a list of short term goals that will help the region meet longer term greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in the *2008 National Capital Climate Change Report* and sustainability goals in *Region Forward*. ACPAC members had many suggestions for the CEEPC Workplan, some of which include measures related to low impact development techniques, expanding parkland and acreage of greenspace, residential purchase of renewable energy credits, several steps for building energy efficiency (track energy,

identify top inefficient buildings, energy audits, energy plan/strategy). It was also suggested that Hawaii is a good case study for climate adaptation planning.

4. MWAQC and CEEPC Updates (Joan Rohlf, COG DEP Staff)

MWAQC and CEEPC met on September 27, 2012. MWAQC submitted to EPA a proposed 2-tier mobile vehicle emissions budgets for the PM2.5 maintenance plan. EPA is okay with the concept but had additional questions and staff has submitted answers back to EPA. At the October 24 MWAQC meeting MWAQC will be asked to approve the maintenance plan to go to public comment. The Sept 27 CEEPC meeting featured a green purchasing panel discussing the challenges and opportunities for local government green purchasing. A Task Force was established to work on the CEEPC Workplan and make recommendations to CEEPC at the November meeting.

5. Green Procurement: Local Government Obstacles and Opportunities (Maia Davis, COG DEP Staff)

After the Sept 27 CEEPC meeting, a Sustainable Procurement Workshop was held. The CEEPC panel discussion and workshop revealed both obstacles and opportunities for local governments. A main obstacle is that most local governments in the region have decentralized purchasing and most people doing the purchasing are not environmental specialists. It makes it hard to understand how to get started, how to prioritize and purchase the right products. A main opportunity to overcome these challenges is when a local government can identify a green purchasing champion. Also, there are many existing resources that can make the process easier for novices.

6. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35pm.

Next meeting: November 19, 2012 – 5:30pm – Room 4/5
