



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE

September 16, 2019
5:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC MEMBERS (*VIA PHONE): Tara Failey, Andrew Kambour, Hilary Lewis, Robin Lewis, Sarah Mazur*, Hyon Rah*, Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, Natalie Pien*, Glenna Tinney*

COG STAFF: Steve Walz, Sunil Kumar, Maia Davis

1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tamara Toles O’Laughlin, ACPAC Chair

Tamara shared the results of the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards application judging. ACPAC was asked to publicly share and promote via social media only after the awards presentation on October 10, 2019. The local artist that creates the climate awards, [Janet Wittenberg](#), brought the awards to the ACPAC meeting and shared how she uses environmentally-friendly materials and practices.

2. OZONE SEASON SUMMARY AND PLANNING SCENARIO CONCEPTS

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Programs

The metropolitan Washington region has made tremendous progress in its air quality thanks to more than a decade of actions at the federal, state, and local government levels. While the region meets the federal standard for five air pollutants, including fine particulates, it does not meet the 8-hour standard for ozone.

Since March 1, the region has had one code red day for particulate matter. For ozone, as of September 12, 2019 there were no code red days, 10 code orange days, 68 code yellow days, and 118 code green days. Based on the recent ozone trends, the region is unlikely to attain the 2015 ozone NAAQS (70ppb) by 2020. If the region does not meet the standard, additional mandates will have to be put in place to achieve attainment. COG’s 2018 Report [What Can We Do to Improve Air Quality in Metropolitan Washington](#), can provide a good starting point for considering additional actions.

3. REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLANNING

Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) is an international alliance of cities and local governments with a shared long-term vision of promoting and supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and move to an inclusive, just, low emission, resilient society. GCoM has selected metropolitan Washington as 1 of 4 regions they are recognizing as US Metro-Scale Climate Leaders. In exchange for the becoming a GCoM signatory, GCoM will provide guidance and support for developing the 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan.

ACPAC members present were supportive of CEEPC becoming a regional GCoM signatory. ACPAC members expressed interest in exploring the GCoM planning priority of providing sustainable, affordable energy access and what that could look like in the regional plan. ACPAC members discussed the need to embed equity into all actions to be considered in the 2030 plan.

4. REGULATORY UPDATES

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

A wide variety of actions have been taken and underway that effect air quality. COG has commented on a number of them including vehicles, power plants, transparency and regulatory science, mercury and air toxics rule, and are developing a comment on methane emissions from the oil and gas sector. There are numerous other federal actions that have been taken that we are compiling and will share with them when its finished.

5. UPDATES

- Corp study ongoing. DC and Arlington are undertaking flood studies.
- Tamara made an announcement on the upcoming Climate Strike Marches on September 20, 2019.
- Andrew announced that the Federal House of Representatives on the climate crisis has issued a request for information on what would constitute a sound national climate policy.
- ACPAC's next in person meeting will be November 18, 2019.
- There will be no formal in-person ACPAC meeting in October. Members discussed coordinating an informal, member-led call.

6. ADJOURN