

## Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

### MEETING SUMMARY: OCTOBER 20, 2016

#### **BEEAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

- Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County (Chair)
- Dyan Backe, City Gaithersburg \*
- Lorne Bruce, City of Falls Church
- Edward Chan, City of Alexandria \*
- Shane Cochran, City of Alexandria
- Rachel Healy, WMATA
- Joan Kelsch, Arlington County
- Lisa Orr, Frederick County \*
- Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County \*
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville \*
- Molly Simpson, District of Columbia \*
- Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church
- Kate Walker, City of Falls Church
- Olayinka Kolawole, District of Columbia\*
- Kate Johnson, District of Columbia
- Akosua Dosu, Prince George's County\*
- Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County
- Lindsay Shaw, Montgomery County
- Larissa Johnson, Montgomery County\*

#### **ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:**

- Rupal Prasad, Philadelphia Office of Sustainability\*
- Cal Broomhead, San Francisco Department of the Environment\*
- Indrajeet Viswanathan, DCSEU
- Stella Tarnay, Biophillic DC
- Amanda Aparicio, Montgomery County Parks
- Bernard Devlin, City of Edmonston
- George Nichols, DCSEU
- Scott Tjaden, PEPCO
- Scott Jean, PEPCO

#### **COG STAFF:**

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Michael Truax, COG Environmental Programs

- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
  - Aaron Waters, COG Environmental Programs
- (\* ) Indicates participation by phone

### 1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions from Michelle Vigen (BEEAC Chair)

### 2. APPROVAL OF SEPTEMBER 15, 2016 BEEAC MEETING SUMMARY

*Michelle Vigen (BEEAC Chair)*

Meeting summary approved with no comments.

### 3. ROUNDTABLE INTRODUCTIONS AND JURISDICTIONAL NARRATIVES

*BEEAC Committee Members*

- **City of Falls Church:** Falls Church is currently developing a stand-alone energy plan for the city. They've recently been awarded a Go Green Virginia Platinum certification.
- **Arlington County:** A technology working group is developing a database for energy usage in all buildings within the county. The data will be displayed at [data.arlington.us](http://data.arlington.us). Arlington's commercial PACE (C-PACE) program is set to be unveiled in early 2017.
- **WMATA:** WMATA is currently investigating PACE opportunities within their properties. METRO is currently performing an internal energy audit of entire system to assess energy usage, and externally in terms of energy supply.
- **City of Edmonston, MD:** Edmonston has recently received the Sustainable Maryland certification. They are in the process of installing the first EV charging station within the city.
- **PEPCO:** Pepco is completing a master plan for the installation of electric vehicle charging stations in the District of Columbia. They have invited BEEAC members to visit their Watershed Sustainability Center in Rockville. This site is able to provide tours of the facility and host meetings.
- **MWCOG:** The [Fleets for the Future](#) project is underway and is currently accepting survey submissions from fleet and procurement managers through December 31<sup>st</sup>.
- **Fairfax County:** Fairfax County has published their FY 2017 Sustainable Initiatives, available online [here](#).
- **City of Gaithersburg:** Gaithersburg is investigating a ban on conventional pesticides and is searching for alternative methods of pest control. Gaithersburg has recently been awarded a grant from MEA to increase energy efficiency within municipal operations in addition to receiving a Sustainable MD Certification.
- **District of Columbia:** DOEE will soon be releasing the finalized Comprehensive Energy Plan after all feedback has been received and incorporated.
- **Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC):** MNCPPC is investigating methodology by which they can begin greening the fleet. They are also completing two large solar projects on their properties which will total approximately 4 MW.
- **Montgomery County:** Montgomery County issued C-PACE press release last week. The first projects to utilize this program are currently underway. They have also published public building benchmarking data set, available [online](#).

#### 4. PANEL DISCUSSION: PATHWAYS TO GHG REDUCTIONS THROUGH IMPROVEMENTS IN THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

*Panel Facilitator: Michelle Vigen, BEEAC Chair*

*Panelists:*

*Kate Johnson, District of Columbia Office of Energy and Environment\**

*Rupal Prasad, Philadelphia Office of Sustainability\**

*Cal Broomhead, San Francisco Department of the Environment\**

**\*Panelists presentations can be found on the committee website [here](#).**

##### A. DC Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)

Climate Ready DC is the Districts adaptation plan, and contains three focal areas: analyzing climate impacts, assess risks and vulnerabilities, and identifying and prioritizing solutions. The plan is organized around transportation, building and development, neighborhoods and community, and governance and implementation. This plan is currently investigating the implementation of micro-grids and flood proofing, exploring resilient buildings such as cool roofs and solar, and improving emergency preparedness and building capacity of community organizations.

DOEE used data from global climate change to determine effect of heat, precipitation, sea level rise, extreme weather and storm surge within the district. This data predicted that average temperature increase is expected to increase by 10 degrees by 2080. Heat emergency status in the District is activated when the heat index is greater than 95 degrees, and the number of these events are expected to triple by 2080. Data suggests an increase of heavy storm events due to climate change; therefore, data was used to complete a vulnerability and risk assessment for major flood impacts. This assessment was used to identify priority planning areas with concentrations of assets at risk, including the areas of LeDroit, Watts Branch, Downtown DC, Buzzard Point, and the Blue Plains water treatment facility. Climate Ready DC also considers areas of vulnerable populations when determining the areas or greatest risk.

##### B. Philadelphia Office of Sustainability

Greenworks is Philadelphia's sustainability program based on the original Philadelphia sustainability plan from 2008. The former plan had 5 goals with 150 initiatives to be completed over a timeframe of 8 years. Philadelphia is currently in development of the next version of plan which will focus on engagement with individuals, communities, and institutions. Recent feedback, which was received after the implementation of the first plan, indicated that stakeholders wanted the new plan to become more achievable. The previous plan's goal of 20% energy consumption reduction wasn't achieved possibly due to population growth, extreme weather, and increased development. Although greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions were reduced during the previous plan; the city did not reach its GHG reduction goals.

The Greenworks energy benchmarking program captures data from all buildings larger than 50,000 sf, totaling more than 2.8 million square feet, which represents 25% of buildings in the city. Buildings which participate in the benchmarking have reported lowered emissions even while increasing consumption. Participating building owners receive scorecards which detail energy intensity. This data can be viewed at <http://visualization.phillybuildingbenchmarking.com/#/>. The City of Philadelphia has estimated the building challenge has reduced energy consumption by 5% in the properties of the 30 active participants.

### **C. San Francisco Department of the Environment**

The San Francisco Climate Action Strategy (CAS) is an extension of the city's 2004 Climate Action Plan. Some of the plan's core strategies include: 100% renewable energy usage, 50% of all trips outside of personal vehicles, and zero waste. Additionally, San Francisco is dedicated to increase tree canopy within the city limits. To date, it has achieved a 23% reduction of emissions from the 2006 baseline levels while increasing GDP by 49%. Improvement of utility infrastructure has led to decreases through the 100% Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) implementation. Recently, San Francisco eliminated the two oldest conventional power plants in an effort to reach these goals. The 100% RPS goal will be actualized through the usage of a combination of hydropower, wind, solar, and biogas. In an effort to decrease transportation emissions, the city is installing EV charging stations in multi-family residential units and commercial sites. Innovative programs in the city involve integrated districts which incorporate solar and microgrid systems to increase resilience. San Francisco has also analyzed its trans-boundary transportation footprint in relation to air travel and commuting, and they are beginning to consider fugitive emissions from varied sources, which are assumed to be substantial.

### **Discussion**

- DOEE conferred with NASA to obtain large climate change data, which they then down-scaled to be used for the Climate Ready DC Plan.
- Philadelphia reached 91% compliance by focusing on outreach and sharing benchmarking data. They will be evaluating their programs to determine whether benchmarking has had significant GHG reductions.
- San Francisco Department of Environment (SFDOE) is not funded from the City and does not receive money from the city's general fund. The major source of funding is from the utilities. SFDOE receives approximately \$7 million to run programs through the utilities. They are also a part of regional partnership of governments which also provides funding. Additionally, there is a \$7.5 million contract with waste haulers in conjunction with the Department of Public Works to support other programs.

### **5. 2017-2020 CEEPC ACTION PLAN AND DASHBOARD**

*Maia Davis, COG Staff*

The next step in the development of the action plan will be to open a dialogue with CEEPC. Receiving feedback from BEEAC before CEEPC is an important part of the process. BEEAC's feedback will help determine the feasibility of the listed implementations options. Additionally, COG's Department of Transportation Planning has requested a work session to provide input on plan. The final step in the process will be to ask CEEPC to adopt the plan at the January meeting. The November BEEAC meeting will be cancelled so BEEAC members can attend CEEPC. This process will ensure a collaborative feedback in the development of the new plan.

### **Discussion**

- Submit comments on the CEEPC Action Plan and dashboard submit to Maia Davis in writing before the end of October, 2016. COG can host a call if necessary.
- This list represents a list of options available to jurisdictions and is voluntary and flexible.
- This list has not been evaluated for long-term reductions potentials, except for the options which were derived from the MSWG.

- Benchmarking will track from base year 2005 those options which are available both regionally and jurisdiction specific. Goal is to provide tracking available to each jurisdiction as a service.

## **6. COG UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM**

- COG staff is developing a new platform and is requesting topics to be addressed.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

The next CEEPC meeting is November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The November 17<sup>th</sup> BEEAC meeting is cancelled. BEEAC members are invited to participate in the CEEPC's November 16<sup>th</sup> work session.