

Energy Advisory Committee
Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC

April 19, 2012 DRAFT Meeting Highlights
Held at COG Headquarters

Attendance:

Olayinka Kolawole, District Department of the Environment
Tim Stevens, Falls Church
Bill Topper, Military District of Washington
Karla Perri, The Spectrum Group
Luisa Robles, Greenbelt
Bill Eger, Alexandria
Sam Hancock, Emerald Planet
Larisa Dobrianski, Global Energy Network
Ken Lasso, Falls Church (Teleconference)
Steve Walz, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (Teleconference)
Aida Velazquez, Ronald Regan National Airport (Teleconference)
Najib Salehi, Loudoun County (Teleconference)
Phuong Le, Fairfax County (Teleconference)
Lisa Orr, Frederick County (Teleconference)
Amy Heinemann, NC Solar Center/NC State University (Teleconference)
Charlie Heaps, Stockholm Environment Institute
Karen Butler, EPA

Staff

Julia Allman, COG DEP
Maia Davis, COG DEP
Jeff King, COG DEP
Joan Rohlfs, COG DEP

Call to order (Olayinka Kolawole)

- The meeting was called to order at 10:03am.

Approval of March 15, 2012 Meeting Summary

- The meeting summary was approved.

DSIRE – Database of State Incentives for Renewables and Efficiency (Amy Heinemann, NC Solar Center/ NC State University, by teleconference)

- Amy Heinemann provided an overview of DSIRE, which is an online database providing information on renewable energy and energy efficiency policy at the national, state, and local level. It provides comprehensive information on rules, regulations, policies, and incentives at the federal and state level. At the local level DSIRE provides information from the nation's 50 largest cities and counties as well best practices from smaller jurisdictions. It also contains information on many utility-provided incentives. Important functions of the DSIRE website

include ability to tailor searches; the DSIRE Library, which contains reports and presentations; and Policy Comparisons, which provides Excel documents comparing policies across states.

- Ms. Heinemann also highlighted a number of policies and incentives that are of interest to local governments. State Public Benefit Funds are designed to offer incentives to governments and non-profit organizations to offset lack of access to certain tax incentives. REC Purchase Programs help small renewable generators receive incentives through RPS programs. Revolving Loan Programs are often provided by the state to local governments, offering technical assistance and financing for efficiency investments. Net metering, net metering aggregation, and third-party ownership options such as PPAs.

Long range Energy Alternatives Planning (LEAP) System (Charlie Heaps, Stockholm Environment Institute)

- Charlie Heaps shared information about the LEAP software tool and how it may be used at the international to the local level for greenhouse gas reduction modeling and policy planning. The Stockholm Environment Institute (SEI) is an international research organization working on sustainability and development issues. Mr. Heaps is based at the Boston, Massachusetts branch located at Tufts University.
- LEAP is a model-building tool used for GHG assessments, establishing baselines, and building future scenarios. The program is highly flexible. It can incorporate a number of methodologies, from simulation and optimization to econometrics. Additionally, it can incorporate not only energy-related emissions, but also inputs such as agriculture, land use change, HCFC production, and cement production that contribute to emissions. Outputs include both emissions levels and economic analysis.
- Potential applications of LEAP include modeling the emissions impact of a policy or set of policies, finding least-cost methods of meeting an emissions cap, and managing and reporting ongoing GHG data collection.
- LEAP was recently used in a number of international and sub-national projects. Key scenarios to be discussed at the Rio +20 Conference were developed with the program. At the local level, the State of Massachusetts and the City of Seattle used LEAP to develop their climate action plans.

EPA Target Finder (Karen Butler, EPA)

- EPA ENERGY STAR Target Finder is a decision-making tool for engineers, building managers, and architects to provide inputs in the design process of new buildings and significant retrofits. It assists in setting whole-building energy consumption targets, demonstrating compliance with performance standards, and providing peer comparison and public disclosure.
- Target Finder has embedded standardized metrics for expressing building energy intensity on a scale of 1 to 100. It recognizes that different classes of building uses—such as schools, hospitals, or offices—have very different energy use profiles, and thus cannot be compared with raw energy consumption data alone. The rating system, which also normalizes for weather and climate data based on zip code, allows for ranking and comparing buildings within a portfolio based on the score. Additionally, ratings are based on source energy, rather than end use, to convey the lifecycle environmental impact of the building's energy use.

- Target Finder can be used to set evaluate design strategies, set building-specific targets, to evaluate energy throughout the design process, and to determine whether energy goals were achieved using Portfolio Manager.

State Legislative Update (Julia Allman, MWCOG Department of Environmental Programs)

- Maryland's 2012 legislative session ended on April 9. The Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Legislative Advocacy Committee submitted letters of advocacy on 5 bills in Maryland this session.
- Bill descriptions and status updates can be found on the EAC Legislative Update handout.
- Copies of the letters submitted this session can be found on the CEEPC page:
http://www.mwcog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=250

Roundtable:

- Karen Butler:
 - EPA's Portfolio Manager will be updated in June. She will provide webinar info to EAC.
- Jeff King:
 - A recent Chief Administrative Officers meeting discussed the Urban Area Security Initiative, and a possible project providing funding for backup power for hospitals.
 - COG will be hosting a panel in partnership with the German Embassy on Energy from Sewage on May 1.
 - MWAQC has approved funding for a new task, working on technology and coordination with DOD, pursuant to President Obama's Executive Order on sustainability. EAC can assist on developing ideas for how to structure the project.
- Larisa Dobrianski:
 - LEAP and similar tools may be useful for energy assurance planning, particularly in recognizing co-benefits of certain energy management choices.

Next Meeting Date and Adjournment

- Next meeting to be held on May 17th.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:00pm.