

CLIMATE ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC) PROJECT UPDATES

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) Environmental Justice Tool Proposal

ACPAC took a proposal to the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), seeking approval to update the 2017 Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit. The update would build on the 2017 EJ Toolkit – taking into consideration existing environmental, climate, and energy justice resources, including those developed since publication of the 2017 EJ Toolkit, to refine and expand upon the approaches identified in the existing Toolkit. The update is expected to include regional and nationwide best practices, case studies, and other relevant information or examples, as appropriate. At MWAQC's February 22, 2023, meeting, members voted to approve development of an updated EJ Toolkit. Please contact [Leah Boggs](#) with any questions. ACPAC will seek approval for development of the update from CEEPC at the March meeting.

Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group

With the adoption of Resolution R40-2022 in September 2022, the COG Board (1) established a Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group to serve as a forum for members to collaborate and coordinate action; and (2) called for the development of an EV Deployment Clearinghouse. The initial meeting of REVD took place on March 16, 2023. The meeting included an overview of the COG Board Resolution and key priorities. Staff provided a walkthrough of the current [EV Clearinghouse](#) and its features and a discussion of the local government EV Ready Checklist in development. The District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia gave presentations of the state NEVI Plans. Please contact [Robert Christopher](#) with any questions.

CEEPC Legislative Committee

CEEPC's Legislative Committee has commented in support of or opposition to a number of bills in Maryland's General Assembly, and Virginia's General Assembly.

- In Virginia, the Legislative Committee sent comment letters opposing actions that would repeal aspects of or negatively impact the Virginia Clean Economy Act and Virginia's Clean Car Standards. Most of these bills opposed by the committee did not pass, with the exception of bills that encourage methane coal capture and biomass energy generation. The committee also provided comment in support of bills that would have encouraged electric vehicle (EV) charging station deployment and renewable energy deployment in Virginia; however, none of these bills passed. Virginia's General Assembly session adjourned on February 25, 2023.
- In Maryland, the Legislative Committee sent comment letters in support of EV related bills including the Clean Truck Act of 2023 and bills aimed at extending the duration of Maryland's Electric Vehicle Recharging Equipment Rebate Program. The committee also commented in support of the County and Municipal Street Lighting Investment Act, the Energy Savings Act, bills that would make the Community Solar Energy Generating Systems Program permanent, and a bill that establishes an electric bicycle rebate program. Maryland's General Assembly session will adjourn on April 10, 2023.

The Legislative Committee continues to track legislation in the District of Columbia and the State of Maryland for comment. Please contact [Tim Masters](#) with any questions.

Local Climate Planning Support

COG has contracts that were signed in October 2022 with 6 contractors to provide expert local and regional planning and implementation support in all sectors of strategies needed to meet our 2030 climate goals and more. The Contractors include AECOM, Cadmus, ICF, Michael Baker, Stantec, and Tetra Tech. COG member communities can engage with these contracts and receive support from COG staff through an MOU with COG. COG members can also access these contractors directly through the COG Rider Clause. COG staff is currently supporting the development or implementation of climate, energy or electric vehicle plans for Charles, Frederick, Loudoun, and Prince George's Counties and Cities of Falls Church and Rockville. Please contact [Maia Davis](#) to answer questions or get you connected with support from staff or the consultants.

Battery Management Campaign

The COG Recycling Committee is launching a new Battery Management Campaign in April to educate the public on preventing battery fires by keeping relevant batteries out of the curbside trash and recycling. The month-long paid media campaign will run with \$70,000 in COG-raised sponsor funds on broadcast radio, streaming radio, paid social media, and digital web platforms. Battery fires are becoming a huge and expensive problem for both public and private sector waste management operators.

Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee

The Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS) has completed a second draft document entitled, "Tree Canopy Goals for the Metropolitan Washington Region". Also completed in draft form is a companion document that includes, "Metrics for Success" and methodology for determining the right level of tree canopy for your community. Both documents are being reviewed internally by COG leadership. Once reviewed, they will be forwarded to CEEPC for review and comment.