

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

MEETING SUMMARY: MARCH 22, 2017

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: (*) Indicates participation by phone

- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County (Chair)
- Hon. Jay Fiset, Arlington County
- Hon. Konrad Herling, City of Greenbelt
- Hon. Mary Lehman, Prince George's County
- Hon. Del Pepper, City of Alexandria *
- Hon. Fred Shultz, City of Takoma Park
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Dyan Backe, City of Gaithersburg
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Nicholas Bonard, National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)
- Maribeth DeLorenzo, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Ira Dorfman, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Gretchen Goldman, Chair, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- Megan Goold, Environmental Protection Agency Region III *
- Rachel Healy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Kate Johnson, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Veronique Marier, Bethesda Green *
- George Nichols, DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU)
- John Settles, Capital Sustainability *
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Tim Stevens, Virginia Sierra Club
- Theodore Trabue, DC Sustainable Energy Utility (DCSEU)
- Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation *
- Michelle Vigen, Montgomery County *

ADDITIONAL PANELISTS AND ATTENDEES:

- Kristen Baja, City of Baltimore Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability
- Allan Brewer, Loudoun County *
- Elizabeth Compitello, Delaware Valley Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Bernard Devlin, Town of Edmonston
- Robert Graff, Manager, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC)
- Christine Knapp, Philadelphia Department of Sustainability *
- Jim Price, Sustainable Pittsburgh, PA
- Claude Willis, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
- Amanda Campbell, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Michael Truax, COG Environmental Programs

1. CALL TO ORDER, WELCOME, AND INTRODUCTIONS

Vice-Chair Herling called the meeting to order prior to Chair Gross's arrival. New and continuing members in the room and on the phone introduced themselves. Upon her arrival, Chair Gross introduced two new members, Ira Dorfman and Gretchen Goldman. She also welcomed the members of the Mid-Atlantic Sustainability Network (MASN), and remarked that COG was one of the founding members of the network nearly ten years ago. Chair Gross summarized the MASN's strategy to find ways to work together across the Mid-Atlantic region to build collaboration on sustainability. Chair Gross went on to mention the federal budget proposal synopsis, which all attendees received. The Chair remarked that changes are coming, and meeting these changes will require CEEPC and other groups to rethink the way to continue making progress. Today's CEEPC meeting will be a step to assure members that the federal government withdrawal from climate action will not hamper the region's progress meeting its goals.

The meeting summary was approved with no changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) (*Michelle Vigen, Chair*)

BEEAC had to cancel and reschedule the January meeting for February due to the Presidential Inauguration. The February meeting focused on best practices for improving the energy efficiency and sustainability in historic buildings. BEEAC heard from two panelists, one from the National Park Service and another from Quinn Evans Architects, who provided information on how to view the embodied energy of historic properties, and to understand that the greenest building is the one already standing. They provided methods for repurposing historic buildings and how these practices can promote better living throughout the buildings immediate area.

In March, members discussed commissioning and retro-commissioning for building managers. Speakers from Commissioning & Green Building Solutions, Inc (CxGBS), Agarabi Engineering, and Setty & Associates provided information on commissioning and why it is important, and explained how to ensure the efficiency upgrades are up to the guaranteed standards. Members also reviewed the draft 2017-2020 Climate Action Plan, with BEEAC members providing feedback.

The next BEEAC meeting will be held on April 20th. Potential topics for the meeting are energy efficiency benefits of cool roofs, green roofs, and urban trees; the implications of PJM demand response program; or sustainable commercial properties databases.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) (*Gretchen Goldman, Chair*)

ACPAC is continuing to work on the environmental justice toolkit. The Climate and Energy Leadership Awards will launch on Earth Day. The awards will focus on three categories, pending CEEPC's approval. The categories will be education; government; and non-government.

CEEPC approved the proposed categories.

C. Member Updates

- Melissa Adams of Washington Gas reported that the utility entered a merger agreement with the Canadian company, ALTA Gas. The utility plans to continue to provide affordable, safe, and clean energy, with the new partners committing to continue this policy. New projects are being proposed, such as a goal to explore battery storage opportunities, which can be used to enhance the utility's clean energy goals. The next step in the merger will be to make filing notices in each jurisdiction to illustrate the benefits to rate-payers. Any

individual, or group is invited to reach out to Washington Gas for further information about the proposed merger.

- Dann Sklarew reported that a pilot program is beginning that will replace new stormwater pipes to help reduce the quantity of stormwater being released from university properties.

D. Staff Updates and Announcements

a) Legislative Committee Update, (Michael Truax, COG)

Michael provided an update of legislation that is being tracked in Maryland and Virginia. He presented key bills that the Legislative Committee has supported and other relevant bills.

b) Grant Proposals and Projects

Due to time constraints, Steve Walz referred members to a written summary of projects and proposals.

3. DRAFT CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLAN

*Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director
Maia Davis, COG Senior Environmental Planner*

Steve and Maia presented the draft 2017-2020 Climate Action Plan to CEEPC. The previous draft plan had identified four broad principles to guide the implementation process across the plan's climate action areas. The new plan took CEEPC's recommendation's and expanded the four guiding principles to make ten core principles, which include Collective Action; Effective Partnerships; Lead by Example; Integration; Flexibility; Transparency; Innovation; Community Leadership; Inclusive Engagement; and Advocacy. The plan itself has eight sections that discuss the various areas where work can be done, with the first five sections being similar to the original plan, and the last three being added to address equity, resilience, and the clean economy. Each section includes what the key challenges are to the region, and what communities can achieve by implementing local actions. Maia went through specific pages of the Climate Action Plan to provide examples and explain why certain additions were included.

CEEPC was given the opportunity to discuss the Climate Action Plan, and to propose any changes before voting on approving the plan. A few amendments relating to renewable gas and regenerative braking power for Metro trains were proposed and accepted. After discussion, it was agreed that other member suggestions will be accounted for through the dashboard or through tailored implementation of the Climate Action Plan, with the understanding that unique challenges and conditions in the future might require local jurisdictions to act in different ways.

CEEPC then moved to vote on the Climate Action Plan, which was accepted unanimously. The final plan is posted on COG's website.

4. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP IN THE MID-ATLANTIC

*Robert Graff, Manager, Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission (DVRPC), Office of Energy and Climate Change Initiatives
Elizabeth Compitello, Senior Research Analyst, DVRPC, Office of Smart Growth
Kristen Baja, Climate and Resilience Planner for the City of Baltimore Department of Planning, Office of Sustainability
Jim Price, Sustainable Community Coordinator, Sustainable Pittsburgh, PA*

Jeff King, COG, introduced panelists from the Mid-Atlantic Sustainability Network (MASN). He said COG helped launch the initiative with the collaboration of EPA Region 3 to address the need for sustained and wide spread market changes across a large area to more fully address the challenge of reducing emissions to mitigate climate change. Through the network, COG and other regional participants can better share challenges and solutions. After the CEEPC meeting, the MASN will hold an afternoon work session, focusing on the federal legislative and regulatory outlook, cooperative green procurement, and opportunities for electrification of transportation fleets through infrastructure investments from the VW Settlement and Electrify America. Members of CEEPC were invited to participate.

Robert Graff, DVRPC

Robert presented a summary of the DVRPC's region and mission in regards to climate action. He introduced the DVRPC's "Connections 2040" plan, which set a target to reduce the Delaware Valley's GHG emissions 50% of 2010 levels by 2030. Robert explained the regions energy use and provided a GHG emissions summary to create a snapshot the how the region developed a strategy to reduce emissions. This method helped to determine that the region already reduced its emissions by 15 percent, although most of the reduction is attributed to the switch from coal to natural gas as a fuel source. The DVRPC has a relationship with local partners to develop optimal pathways for a regional energy transition. The partnership is in the process of putting together a set of tools for the transition to electric vehicles and identifying attainable GHG emission reductions. The DVRPC coordinates a Climate Change Adaptation Community of Practice, which discusses climate change adaptation issues and goals. DVRPC is also involved in the New Jersey Resilient Coastal Communities Initiative, a NOAA funded project and partnership with the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection to provide coastal communities along the Jersey Shore with the ability to prepare for flood risks in response to the expected increase of storm severity.

Elizabeth Compitello, DVRPC

Elizabeth provided additional information on climate and energy initiatives in the Philadelphia region. Most of the work done by the DVRPC and its partners developed organically out of the relationships built with Municipalities. Elizabeth presented two examples of projects that DVRPC is working on with its municipalities. The Regional Streetlight Procurement Program involves working with municipalities attempting to retrofit their streetlights with more efficient bulbs. Most local jurisdictions in the region own their own streetlights, which allows for an easier process to develop a program compared to areas where street lights are utility owned. Through energy performance contracts, this program enabled 35 of the 45 municipalities to proceed with the program, replacing more than 28,000 outdoor lighting fixtures, at a cost of \$13 million, ultimately saving 7,282,834 kWh, avoiding 3,759.7 MT of CO₂e, and attaining \$1.4 million in energy savings.

Another project that Elizabeth presented was the Solar Energy Work initiative. This project aims to reduce the soft costs associated with solar energy for municipalities, and to create regional regulatory consistency for solar projects. The plan produced a guidebook to assist municipalities with the regulatory guidelines on developing a solar PV ordinance. This plan helped install 37 new solar PV systems, with a total capacity of 274 kWh.

Kristen Baja, City of Baltimore

Kristen began her presentation with the acknowledgment of the City of Baltimore's historic planning actions that resulted in extensive racial segregation, creating an equity disparity throughout the entire city. The historical legacy is driving current action to implement programs that emphasis equity over equality. This is done by going straight to the city's residents to build needed trust and relationships. By going directly to the communities, Baltimore implemented a plan that prioritizes issues that the communities agreed were the most pressing, in addition to focusing on the neighborhoods that need the help the most. One of the most notable issues was

the absence of a place to go in the event of an emergency. To address this, the city created resiliency hubs, which act as a shelter during and after an emergency for residents who cannot afford to go elsewhere. Importantly, these hubs are run and organized by the communities, not the city, which allows residents to feel more confident using them.

The program also created a peer-to-peer engagement network, which allows ambassadors from the neighborhoods to be trained to go out and talk to the neighborhood's residents and provide them with information to assist the community on methods to become more resilient and sustainable.

Jim Price, Sustainable Pittsburgh

Jim provided an overview of the Sustainable Pennsylvania Network, a voluntary certification program that currently has 131 criteria to laude companies for their efforts to become more sustainable. The tools allow for the Sustainable Pennsylvania Network to collaborate with companies to identify their current sustainability metrics, and how to move forward to better those scores. This process can be compared to the LEED certification process, with multiple levels of sustainability similar to LEED's silver, gold, and platinum awards.

Jim also spoke about the South-Western Pennsylvania Sustainable Community Development Network, which provides networking and data support for Western Pennsylvania municipalities. This is an effort to bring together the multitude of jurisdictions that are located throughout Pennsylvania, some of which are home to only a few hundred people. The network helps these municipalities find ways to become more sustainable. An aspect of the program allows municipalities to receive free assistance from corporate members, teaching the municipalities how to improve their operational efficiency.

5. ADJOURNMENT

With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at noon. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled for May 24, 2017.