



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: SEPT 27, 2023

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Takis Karantonis, Arlington County (Chair)
- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Penny Gross, Fairfax County
- Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Monique Ashton, City of Rockville
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Michael Barancewicz, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Dorothy Estrada, City of Takoma Park
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Danielle Freedman, Pepco
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Maureen Holman, DC Water
- Takisha James, Town of Bladensburg
- Brian Lee, City of Laurel
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Scott Pomeroy, Scalable Strategies
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Maria Sinner, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church
- Julie Rosenberg, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick
- Luke Wisniewski, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Hon. Amy Chung Fry, Town of Cheverly
- Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County
- Robert Bornhofen, DC Water

- Joy Champaloux, Councilmember Glass' Legislative Aide
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Bill Eger, Arlington County
- Dorothy Estrada, City of Takoma Park
- Garrett Fitzgerald, Montgomery County
- Michael Knapp, Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)
- Debra Maes, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Demetra McBride, Arlington County
- Matthew Meyers, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Sharath Rereddy, City of Alexandria
- Kate Roetzer, WMATA
- Adam Riedel, Arlington County
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- Brittany Whited, DOEE

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Kelsey Boatwright, COG Environmental Programs
- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Wyetha Lipford, COG Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Brian LeCouteur, COG Environmental Programs
- Katherine Rainone, COG Transportation Planning
- Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director for Metropolitan Planning

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Takis Karantonis, CEEPC Chair

Climate, Energy, and Environmental Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Takis Karantonis called the September CEEPC meeting to order. Chair Karantonis noted the submittal of a public comment letter to CEEPC available under [meeting materials](#). The July CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

A. Regional Electric Vehicle Working Group (REVD) Joint Meeting

Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs

- The joint meeting was focused on zoning and building codes related to vehicle electrification. The meeting included panelists from the Great Plains Institute, Edison Electric Institute, The Berkeley Group, and the Virginia Department of Housing and Community Development. REVD and BEEAC members got an update from ICF staff on the draft EV projections in support of the Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVI) Strategy. Projections are expected to be finalized by early October.

B. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County

- The most recent BEEAC meeting was the joint meeting with REVD. The topic zoning and building codes was a section of the [Local Jurisdiction EV-Ready Checklist](#), which was published on COG's [EV Clearinghouse](#) in July. Some discussion points of the joint meeting were EV needs for multi-family housing, code language for EV charging, parking space requirements for commercial buildings and employee parking.
- The next BEEAC meeting is November 16, 2023.

C. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs, on behalf of Era Pandya, ACPAC Chair

- The 2023 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards projects have been judged and the winners will be announced at the October COG Board meeting. In their most recent meeting, ACPAC learned about the climate and weather conditions leading up to the Canadian wildfires and the consequential poor air quality days that occurred in June.
- The next ACPAC meeting is November 13, 2023.

D. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

Antoine Thompson, GWRCCC

- GWRCCC's [Annual Conference](#) is on October 4, 2023, with pre-conference workshops on EVs happening on October 3, 2023.
- GWRCCC is looking for partners for a pilot project under the Jumpstart Grant program from the Department of Energy (DOE).
- [Clean Energy to Communities \(C2C\) Program](#) will be opening applications in January for a new grant opportunity in which recipients would work with GWRCCC.

E. Recycling Committee

Adam Riedel, Arlington County

- The Recycling Committee met last week to discuss the topic of composting programs in the region. They heard from representatives from DC, Prince George’s County, and Compost Crew to hear about their programs and approaches to collecting food waste/organic material.
- At the end of June, the committee concluded their annual [Go Recycle Campaign](#), which is a \$70,000 media campaign to promote good recycling behaviors across jurisdictions in the region. They are seeking federal funding for future Go Recycle Campaigns as well as battery management education and outreach campaigns.
- The next Recycling Committee meeting is December 7, 2023.

F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RCTS)

Michael Knapp, RCTS Chair

- The RCTS has been working towards completing the Report on the Regional Tree Canopy Recommendations, which consists of three parts. Part one is entitled “A Case for Conserving Trees and Forests in the Metropolitan Washington Region”, part two is entitled “Tree Canopy Goals for the Metropolitan Washington Region”, and part three is entitled “Identifying the Right Level of Tree Canopy for your Community”. Part one has been finalized, parts two and three are nearly completed.
- The next RCTS meeting is October 20, 2023.

G. Member and Staff Updates

Hon. Jolene Ivey, Prince George’s County

Prince George’s County District 5 is working on requiring developers to put solar panel canopies as well as permeable pavement in new development parking lots when it is not possible to have enough trees. In addition, the district is breaking ground on a new solar powered affordable housing project in Fairmont Heights in October.

Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park

The City of Takoma Park has recently hired Dorothy Estrada as their Sustainability Manager. With the help of Ms. Estrada, the city will be teaming up with Montgomery County on a program called “Electrify MC”, that provides electrification and energy efficiency incentives for single family homes.

Takis Karantonis, Arlington County

Arlington County has been awarded LEED Platinum for cities, after launching their program six years ago.

Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria

The City of Alexandria is six months into a composting pilot led by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). There are currently 900 households in the program. The city has received reports of high levels of satisfaction with the program and is considering extending the free pilot to continue gathering data. The City Council approved an open space plan for the parcel that was previously Landmark Mall. This plan will make 130,000 square feet new tree canopy as well as 30,000 square feet of preserved canopy.

Randy Freed, Prince William County

Prince William County’s Board of County Supervisors will be voting on the County’s Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP) on October 24. The CESMP has three cross cutting measures, which are an adaptive management framework, evaluation of greenhouse gas (GHG) implications of projects, and institutional capacity building.

3. NHTSA PROPOSED FUEL EFFICIENCY STANDARDS

Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs

CEEPC approved two comment letters in May in support of EPA's light-duty and medium-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards, as well as EPA's heavy-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has proposed a rule to establish Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) Standards for Passenger Cars and Light Trucks for Model Years 2027–2032 and Fuel Efficiency Standards for Heavy-Duty Pickup Trucks and Vans for Model Years 2030–2035. Proposed standards would require an industry fleet wide average for passenger cars and light trucks of roughly 58 miles per gallon in model year 2032 and 2.6 gallons per 100 miles for heavy duty vehicles in model year 2038. The comment letter was proposed with the CEEPC, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC), and Transportation Planning Board (TPB). The letter can be found under the [meeting materials](#).

Action Item: The comment letter was approved unanimously. Before being submitted, this comment letter will go to MWAQC for approval later today.

4. EPA CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT (CPRG) UPDATE

Jeff King, Director, COG Climate, Energy, and Air Programs

The CPRG program was created under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and provides \$5 billion in formula planning grants and competitive implementation grants. COG has been awarded \$1 million as a sub-recipient of DC to complete the planning for the DC-MD-VA-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The MSA includes nine new jurisdictions to the South and West of the COG Region. In order for a project to be eligible for the competitive implementation grants it must be included in the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP), which is due March 1, 2024. COG will be inviting participation in Technical and Steering Committees from local and state governments.

5. EQUITY IN CLIMATE, ENERGY, AND AIR PROGRAMS

Leah Boggs, Senior Environmental Planner

An update of equity programs across COG programs and projects is as follows: MWAQC included an objective to include a racial equity lens in its FY24 work program, ACPAC plans to update its 2017 EJ Toolkit, and as a part of the CPRG program, engagement with low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) will be a significant part of creating the regions Climate Action Plans. Moving forward as a joint effort of COG, CEEPC and MWAQC will be creating an equity resource guide. The resource guide will include best practices across sectors, how to identify and quantify inequities, and how to factor these inequities into policies and programs. Immediate actions include a survey across MWAQC, MWAQC-TAC, CEEPC, and BEEAC to gauge what COG members are already doing in and what they need more assistance in as it pertains to equity.

6. SOLAR DEPLOYMENT ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Takis Karantonis, CEEPC Chair

CEEPC Local Government Members

COG Environmental Program Staff

COG Staff will be using this discussion to inform recommendations on solar to the COG Board in the form of a resolution.

Topic 1: How do you react to policies and actions to expand renewable energy deployment in local government facilities/schools, large off-site locations, and carports?

Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County

Prince George's County is almost done installing 5 new solar canopies and would like for the new goals/recommendations to reflect canopy and parking lot installations as well as rooftop installations. The new goals should allow for emerging technology and deployment tactics in the renewable energy field.

Dorothy Estrada, City of Takoma Park

Tree canopy shading can be a challenge to traditional rooftop solar, so the creative use of canopy installations is essential, so tree canopy and renewable energy generation are not in conflict. Providing incentives and assistance with commercial and residential retrofits in order to be solar-ready will help reduce barriers to rooftop solar installation. A regulatory consideration should be made to allow solar retrofits on historic buildings that currently would not be allowed. Workforce development needs to be considered in solar deployment strategies.

Demetra McBride, Arlington County

Arlington County has run into challenges installing rooftop solar due to its density and size, many buildings are very tall but have low surface area on the roof. The County plans to partner with places of worship and nonprofits to install solar canopies in parking lots, as they tend to have more parking space.

Topic: What kind of focus should we try to introduce in terms of procuring renewable energy?

Jolene Ivey, Prince George's County

If the COG region takes a unified approach to solar power, it will give the region better leverage over solar developers.

Dawn Ashbacher, Frederick County

Cleaning the grid is important for the region to meet COG's climate goals and large-scale solar will play a part in that. Joint procurement for large-scale power purchase agreements (PPAs) and Virtual PPAs will be helpful to county operations as a starting point. Further discussions on the land use challenges would be helpful.

Topic: Should the region set a new goal for 250,000 rooftop solar installations by 2030?

Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park

Setting a new goal makes perfect sense. It is unclear if the focus is on government operations or the community. Montgomery County has gotten state approval to do Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) which was a huge undertaking but is very different from the City of Takoma Park installing solar on its library, although both should be pursued.

Penny Gross, Fairfax County

Setting and expanding goals is great both in municipal and private sectors. Fairfax County encountered a challenge that solar installers would not bid on a project if it was too small. The capacity of solar installers must be taken into consideration so that the region is not set up for failure with the goals.

Monique Ashton, City of Rockville

Initiating and planning for new goals is important. A higher demand will cause more investment in this space. Helping jurisdictions with PPAs could be very impactful.

7. ADJOURN

Takis Karantonis, CEEPC Chair

Chair Karantonis adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2023 include:

- Wednesday, November 15, 2023 – virtual only

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the COG website or by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2023/9/27/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>