

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: SEPTEMBER 25, 2019

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:

*Indicates participation by phone

- Hon. Dan Sze, City of Falls Church (CEEPC Chair)
- Hon. Mary Cheh, DC Council*
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Erik Gutshall, Arlington County
- Hon. Takisha James, Town of Bladensburg
- Hon. Leta Mach, City of Greenbelt*
- Hon. Del Pepper, City of Alexandria*
- Melissa Adams, Washington Gas
- Dr. Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County*
- Stephen Gyor, DC Office of Planning
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County*
- Rachel Healy, WMATA
- Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission
- Regine Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Deborah Moran, City of Gaithersburg*
- Ryan Opsal, Maryland Energy Administration
- Nicole Rentz, DC Council
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County*
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Tim Stevens, Sierra Club

- Colleen Turner, Maryland Department of Transportation*
- Hilari Varnadore, US Green Building Council

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- David Calvo, International Urban Cooperative
- Mikayla Hoskins, BuroHappold Engineering
- Adam Roberts, Bethesda Green
- Eli Sprang, National Association of Regional Councils
- Tim Wilke, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Leslie Wollack, National Association of Regional Councils
- Eli Yewdall, ICLEI

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Environmental Programs
- Erin Morrow, COG Department of Transportation
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation
- Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs (Director)



1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dan Sze, CEEPC Chair

The CEEPC Chair, Dan Sze, called the meeting to order. The July 26 CEEPC meeting summary was approved with one small addition after quorum was confirmed.

2. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park

- In July, BEEAC focused on the nexus between resilience planning, energy and the built environment. Needs that were identified include identifying the hazards, assessing vulnerability and risks and paying more attention to fuel supply that may be disrupted during a climate emergency.
- BEEAC also met this month, focusing on the nexus between energy efficiency, public policy, and investment impact on low- and moderate-income communities. The committee discussed best local and state practices supporting metropolitan Washington communities and identified the need to address rental properties. The City of Boulder's SmartRegs program is a good example to further explore for this region.

B. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

- At their September meeting, ACPAC members were supportive of the scope for the 2030 regional climate planning process. They expressed support for CEEPC becoming a Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) Signatory.

C. Tree Canopy Sub-Committee

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

- The Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee met for its second time on September 17th. This meeting focused on two main items: reviewing and discussing how to strengthen local tree related policies and ordinances, including provision local examples and model ordinance language; and setting tree canopy goals for major land uses.
- The Subcommittee will develop a "Cookbook" for jurisdictions in the Washington metropolitan region to use when crafting their tree conservation and protection ordinances. Members were invited to review and comment on a strawman Cookbook document.

D. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)

Steve Walz, COG Environmental Programs Director

- The week before, GWRCCC and MFCOG jointly hosted the third EV Circulator Bus Workshop and Tour. Transit properties as far away as Rhode Island attended. Local organizations participating included the National Park Service and the Metropolitan Airports Authority. Local transit agencies will soon be adding electric buses to their fleets. Montgomery County plans to introduce four Proterra buses to its Ride-On fleet in December.
- Today GWRCCC is meeting with the Metropolitan Airports Authority to discuss expanded electrification infrastructure at both Reagan National and Dulles Airports. GWRCCC facilitated today's tour of potential charging sites including ride-share queue lines, garages, cell phone lots, vacant real estate and rental car lots. Electrify America, EVgo, Greenlots, Dominion Energy and others are participating.

- Congratulations to area jurisdictions and companies for receiving clean transportation awards at our recent 2019 Awards Luncheon. Recipients included the State of Maryland's ZEEVIC Council (Colleen Turner); the Metropolitan Washington Airport Authority; Arlington Transit; Montgomery County Ride-On; DC Departments of Public Works, For-Hire Vehicles and Transportation; Prince George's County; Capital One; Royal Farms; Ourisman Honda; and EZ-EV, an Exelon Company.

3. REGIONAL CLIMATE AND ENERGY ACTION PLANNING

Janna Schonfeld, European Union

Ryan Glancy, International Urban Cooperation

Alexan Stulc, BuroHappold Engineering

Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs

Metropolitan Washington is one of four U.S. regions being recognized by GCoM as a U.S. Metro-Scale Climate Leader. The recognition comes with guidance and technical support for the development of CEEPC's 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan. Panelists reviewed EU in the US climate diplomacy initiatives; GCoM Reporting Framework and what means for CEEPC to become a GCoM signatory; and review the scope and timeline for the 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action plan development. CEEPC agreed to become a GCoM Signatory.

4. REGULATORY UPDATES

Steve Walz, COG Director of Environmental Programs

Mr. Walz briefed CEEPC on proposed climate-related state and federal rules/regulations CEEPC agreed to send two letters asking for strong action on air quality and renewable energy. The first letter, to EPA Administrator Wheeler, calls on EPA to maintain the requirements to control methane emissions in the oil and gas sector. The second letter is to the Virginia State Corporation Commission requesting they recommend that the General Assembly increase the cap on the total amount of allowed solar power available for local government and private sector bodies wishing to use third-party contracts for solar systems. Washington Gas abstained from voting on the letter to EPA.

5. PROPOSED TCI LOW-CARBON TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Joe Kruger, Georgetown Climate Center

The Transportation Climate Initiative (TCI), led by the Georgetown Climate Center (GCC), is a regional collaboration of northeast and mid-Atlantic states and the District of Columbia that seek to reduce carbon emissions from the transportation sector. TCI states have been working to develop a regional low-carbon transportation policy similar to the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) carbon trading system for electricity. This effort, if put in place, would support more clean transportation options and potentially provide for funding to support local and state efforts.

5. ADJOURN

A photo with committee members and GCoM guests was taken and the meeting was adjourned. The next CEEPC meeting is scheduled as Climate Planning Work Sessions on November 20-21, 2019.

