

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

## **Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)**

Meeting Summary: January 28, 2015

### **Members and Alternates in Attendance**

Bill Eger, City of Alexandria

Del Pepper, City of Alexandria

Khoa Tran, City of Alexandria (by phone)

Jay Fiset, Arlington County Board

Chris Somers, Arlington County

Kristen Larson, City of Bowie (by phone)

Nicole Rentz, DC Council (Office of Mary Cheh)

Kate Johnson, DC Department of Environment

Edward Yim, DC Department of Environment

Laine Cidlowski, DC Office of Planning (by phone)

Kimberly Newcomer, DC Department of Regulatory Affairs

Tina Casey, DC Department of Transportation

Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County

Chris McGough, Fairfax County

Malcolm Watson, Fairfax County

Tim Stevens, City of Falls Church

Dan Sze, City of Falls Church

Shannon Moore, Frederick County (by phone)

J Davis, City of Greenbelt (by phone)

Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt (by phone)

Alan Brewer, Loudon County (by phone)

Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools (by phone)

Molly Berger, MD Department of Environment (by phone)

Liz Entwisle, MD Department of Environment (by phone)

Luke Wisniewski, MD Department of Environment (by phone)

Lyn Ericson, MD Department of Transportation

Laura Rogers, MD Department of Transportation

Kyle Haas, Maryland Energy Administration (by phone)

Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County

Akosua Dosu, Prince George's County

Julie Palakovich Carr, City of Rockville (by phone)

Gina Mathias, City of Takoma Park

Tom Ballou, VA Department of Environmental Quality (by phone)

Andrew Beacher, VA Department of Transportation

Garrett Moore, VA Department of Transportation (by phone)

Jim Ponticello, VA Department of Transportation

**Stakeholders and Presenters:**

Glenna Tinney, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee Chair  
David Caughran, Alliance to Save Energy  
Veronique Marier, Bethesda Green  
Adie Tomer, Brookings Institution  
Kelly Blynn, Coalition for Smarter Growth  
Grant Klein, Community Power Network  
Molly Plautz, Dominion  
Brian Toll, Ecobeco  
Michelle Petersen, Honeywell  
John Andreoni, Institute for Market Transformation  
Chris Forinash, Institute for Sustainable Communities  
Giulio Busulini, Italian Embassy  
Kate Zyla, Georgetown Climate Center  
Karen Akerlof, George Mason University  
Dann Skralew, George Mason University  
Scott Sklar, George Washington University  
Michael Reed, Groundswell Energy  
Brett Wiley, Groundswell Energy  
David Feldman, Livability Project  
Ken Walton, National Capital Planning Commission  
Andrew Kambour, National Governor's Association  
Sokwoo Rhee, National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Dale Medaris, Northern Virginia Regional Commission  
Jerry Pasternak, Pepco  
Kira Austin, Private Citizen  
Phillip Bane, Smart Cities Council  
Sandra Baer, Smart Cities Council  
Stuart Cowan, Smart Cities Council  
Odette Mucha, US Department of Energy  
Jamie Nolan, US Department of Energy  
Bucky Green, US Environmental Protection Agency  
Julia Hudson, US General Services Administration  
Emily Seyller, US Global Change Research Program  
Melissa Adams, Washington Gas  
Greg Drury, Wholeness for Humanity

**COG Staff in Attendance**

Chuck Bean, Executive Director  
Stuart Freudberg, Deputy Director  
Paul DesJardin, Department of Community Planning and Services Director  
Steve Walz, Department of Environmental Programs Director

Leah Boggs, Department of Environmental Programs  
Amanda Campbell, Department of Environmental Programs  
Jennifer Desimone, Department of Environmental Programs  
Maia Davis, Department of Environmental Programs  
Jeff King, Department of Environmental Programs  
Sunil Kumar, Department of Environmental Programs  
Isabel Ricker, Department of Environmental Programs  
Eulalie Gower-Lucas, Department of Transportation  
Erin Morrow, Department of Transportation  
Daivamani Sivasailam, Department of Transportation

### **Call to Order, Introductions, Chair Remarks**

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Chairman Berliner was absent due to illness. Hon. Jay Fisetto served as temporary chairman in his stead. Mr. Fisetto called the meeting to order and welcomed new committee members and alternates, including new appointees from state and local governments in the region and new stakeholders for 2015. A motion was made to approve the meeting summary from November. It was seconded, and the meeting summary was approved unanimously.

### **Smart Cities 101 Panel**

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Mr. Fisetto introduced Bill Eger, who would be moderating the panel. Bill is the Energy Manger for City of Alexandria, Chair of ESF-12 and Vice Chair of BEEAC. He is also part of the team leading Alexandria's Smart Cities Initiative, part of the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative. Alexandria sees the project as a potential blueprint or model for other localities in the region on how to approach resilience planning using 'smart city' tools, and to demonstrate how state-of-the-art technology applications can help achieve environmental goals.

Panel:

- *Bill Eger, City of Alexandria Energy Manger*: moderator
- *Adie Tomer, Brookings Institution*: metropolitan infrastructure and technology usage patterns
- *Philip Bane, Smart Cities Council*: helps cities apply technology to improve sustainability
- *Sokwoo Rhee, National Institute of Standards and Technology*: lead staff on the Smart America/Global Cities Challenge
- *Giulio Busulini, Italian Embassy*: best practices in e-learning and cybersecurity technology

Bill provided an overview of the concept of Smart Cities, and briefly discussed some of the current Smart Cities activities in the region. interest in Smart Cities is growing in the region and across the world. There are several upcoming opportunities in the region as well, for those that are interested:

- April 13 NVRC Smart Cities Workshop

- Summer – NIST Global City Challenge event in DC
- September – First Smart Cities Week in the US will be held here in DC

**Adie Tomer, Brookings Institution:**

“Smart Cities” is a fairly broad concept that is used to mean different things to different groups or contexts. Last year, Brookings brought together stakeholder to come up with a common platform for cities to become “smart” and produced a report: [Getting Smarter About Smart Cities](#) that lays out the basic principles identified through this effort.

Main Principles:

- Smart cities begin with an economically-driven, technologically-focused vision – an economic vision lays out who and what the city wants to be, how it wants to grow.
- A successful city vision must address three key economic drivers: productivity, inclusivity, and resiliency.
- Cities must reform government to successfully implement their economic vision – Government needs to work well, e.g. ensure agencies share resources and work together on projects.
- Cities must balance the relationship between project scale and risk tolerance – manage political risk with the scale of projects.
- Cities require stronger networks and improved communication tools – for both public engagement and city-to-city partnerships or information sharing.

**Phillip Bane, Smart Cities Council:**

Mr. Bane emphasized that creating smart cities is a local pursuit: not about data, but about people. Smart Cities Coalition brings together technology and software companies, higher education and think tanks, with local governments and planning entities to develop solutions to planning challenges. Smart Cities Council has provided several background documents to CEEPC members for reference.

Case studies:

- Amsterdam, Netherlands: The city has a huge number of bikes, which is great for the climate but has created some new or additional safety and traffic issues. They integrated a small piece of technology into roadways to provide advice to motorists and cyclists on avoiding accidents.
- Charlotte, NC – the Envision Charlotte project has increased energy efficiency in buildings in downtown Charlotte by over 10% in 18 months. The project focuses on reducing energy, waste, and water consumption. Participants include Duke, IBM, and Cisco. They were able to achieve this tremendous efficiency improvement largely through voluntary behavior changes. Smart Cities Coalition is hosting an Envision Charlotte demonstration March 23-24 which CEEPC members are welcome to attend (email Maia at [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org) ).

Smart Cities Coalition is organizing the first North American Smart Cities Week the second week of September in Washington, DC. COG is helping to plan this conference and all members are invited to attend. More information to come.

### **Sokwoo Rhee, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST)**

NIST organizes the Smart America/Global Cities Challenge to encourage collaboration and the development of standards so that communities can benefit from the experience of others to improve efficiency and lower costs. In 2014, 24 teams and more than 100 organizations participated.

Mr. Rhee's work focuses on cyber-physical systems (CPS), sometimes referred to as the Internet of Things (IoT), which involves connecting smart devices, systems and networks in new ways to improve processes or solve problems. CPS can be applied to diverse sectors, including transportation, energy, manufacturing, and healthcare. Cities and communities around the world are increasingly turning to these advanced technologies to improve services, promote economic growth, and enhance the quality of life—to become “smart cities.”

The next challenge NIST sees for cities to address is fragmentation. Many cities operate largely in isolation from other cities, each one solving the same problems individually, reinventing the wheel rather than learning from others experience. Cities are of course unique, but have many similar challenges, such as: street lights, stormwater management, or waste collection.

- NIST will be starting a new approach called “Action Clusters” that will bring cities, government partners, experts, technology companies and innovators together to discuss and start working to solve these challenges.

Examples of Smart America Challenge Projects:

- Lower Manhattan Smart Neighborhood Pilot: Noise and air quality detectors
- Autonomous vehicle project funded by the US Army
- SCALE project in Montgomery County
- San Francisco 2030 District
- Columbia University and Siemens pilot on battery storage for demand response

On February 12-13 NIST is hosting a Tech Gam in Washington, DC to bring all these groups and project members together. Additionally, the Global City Teams Festival in DC in June to demonstrate solutions that can be replicable around the world.

### **Giulio Busulini, Italian Embassy**

European countries are very interested in transferring information, best practices and learning between the US and Europe. The Italian Embassy and others are working with partner municipalities to help facilitate this process from the ground up. The European Union program Horizon 2020 funds companies, universities, etc. to make products that benefit citizens and societies. This program is the biggest EU Research and Innovation program ever, dedicating 80 billion euros over 20 years. The goal is to optimize the cost of research, make sure end users can apply the technology or research, and better leverage deployment opportunities.

## **Discussion:**

It was commented that the panel emphasized smart management as a big piece of smart cities, but that is simply good governance and not unique to “smart cities”.

- Mr. Tomer replied that the point is that cities will see much greater benefit from technology applications and will implement them more successfully if there is efficient management and communication between various sectors. Efficient cities don't need multi-million dollar budgets, with better coordination it is possible to do more with less.

A member commented that it seems correct that many projects happen in their own bubbles, but that we shouldn't need to reinvent the wheel each time. Another issue is that procurement officials, planners, engineering firms and others all have their own language. How do you get all these people to talk together in common language and create something actionable.

Dr. Rhee replied that this is very true, and it is why NIST is emphasizing learning from successful case studies. The goal is to make the smart cities program sustainable so that it can continue without federal dollars going forward.

- Mr. Bane noted that it can be very difficult to overcome the language barrier, and that is why it is so important for projects to have a champion that can relate to each group and make the case for each group or interest. Based on surveys, it appears the biggest barrier in the US is cost. The more learning can be shared and models used across jurisdictions, the lower the cost will be.

One member commented that there seem to be three types of approaches: (1) A staff member manages the project for the whole city, (2) A company approaches the city and proposes solutions, possibly for many sectors, and may or may not manage the program themselves, (3) Grassroots approaches: neighborhood groups and companies collaborate to propose and develop solutions.

- Mr. Tomer replied that grassroots approaches are likely to not work as well in the US. The first approach tends to work best or is the most commonly taken. It may not be the most efficient process but is powerful by putting the City's weight behind it.

## **Climate Action Champions**

*Sarah Ashton, Climate Actions Champion Program Director, The White House*

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Climate Action Champions is a new program, and MWCOC is a member of the first cohort of communities selected. There are 16 awardees across the country: 10 cities, four regional entities and two tribes.

Top three goals of the Climate Action Champions program:

- Share information and communicate with the public and industry stakeholders on the good things communities are doing.
- Streamline access to federal funding and technical expertise for these communities
- Enable these communities to provide feedback to the federal government to improve programs around the country

#### Communications and publicity:

- DOE is currently collecting information and opinions about how to get information out about communities' work and progress.
- Exploring the possibility of a YouTube partnership to do video case studies or lessons/training via video.

#### Access to Federal Funds:

- DC governments are much more looped into federal activities, but all regions can benefit from better understanding of agencies, process, opportunities.
- Ms. Ashton is working with other agencies to identify the relevant opportunities coming down the pipeline this year and will give Champions a six-month perspective to allow for better decision making and strategy on grant applications.
- DOE will also work with agencies to put Champions down for preference for technical assistance and funding.
- Ms. Ashton is also working with private philanthropies to help identify and fill gaps in program funding that the federal government cannot cover.

#### Feedback to government to enhance place-based initiatives:

- DOE and other agencies are interested in local government feedback on specific products, datasets, reports, etc. as well as broader suggestions to help shape future programs and funding

#### Next steps:

- Submit to DOE a summary of the top three priorities the COG region wants to pursue under the Climate Action Champions project. What types of assistance would be most helpful?

#### **Discussion:**

CEEPC members liked the idea of bringing in philanthropies to unlock additional capital. It was suggested that DOE convene national, regional and local foundations as well as governments at all levels to identify and fill funding gaps.

A comment was made that the region has been working on a large-scale solar procurement across jurisdictions for the last several years. Would this be a possible project for DOE support? It could potentially be expanded to electric vehicles and other green purchasing initiatives, and could be done through a coordination role, or could be an opportunity for funding.

Frederick County commented that it would be helpful to have a better fundamental understanding of how climate change applies to the County on a local level, e.g. downscaling national climate impact projections. They are also interested in assistance standardizing the greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory across jurisdictions, preparing a climate action plan, identifying opportunities to implement actions in the plan, and air quality monitoring stations in public spaces.

COG staff will take these and other member suggestions into consideration and compile the list of top priorities to share with DOE. Each member jurisdiction has a Climate Action Champions point person that we will be in touch with regarding the priorities and other next steps. An update will be provided at the next CEEPC meeting.

### **Climate and Energy Action Plan - 2015 Priorities**

*CEEPC members and COG Staff*

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At the beginning of each year, CEEPC usually chooses a few issues or actions to focus on for the upcoming year. Mr. Fisetite asked if there are any new initiatives or targets we'd like to add to our 2016 Climate and Energy Action Plan, or suggestions for focus areas for 2015.

#### **Discussion:**

It was remarked that the Climate and Energy Action Plan includes transportation because it is a significant source of emissions, but it seems there is little CEEPC can do to change transportation policy.

- COG staff replied that transportation-related climate actions are on the table and that the transportation planning Board (TPB) has raised the visibility of the need to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and air pollutants from the transportation sector. The multi-sector working group process and What We Can Do report will address specific strategies the region can take to tackle this challenge.

One member asked about the regional greenhouse gas inventory and implications for goal-setting. They suggested that understanding current emission levels would be helpful for determining what we have achieved, which strategies have worked, and how we can build on those successes.

- COG Staff replied that this will be completed through the multi-sector working group process ongoing.

Other suggestions were to spend more time talking about resilience, and to discuss waste issues, particularly composting.

One member suggested that the Climate and Energy Action Plan is more of a strategy than an action plan because almost all the actions must be taken individually by jurisdictions. Many of them also focus on government operations, which are only about 3% of regional emissions. It was suggested that additional resources and planning assistance from COG on how to actually achieve implementation would be helpful, and recommended that more goals for residents and the private sector be added.

- Ms. Davis commented that COG staff put together a Resource Guide, [available on the website](#), which complements the Action Plan with examples, case studies, and other resources on each of the measures.



One member on the phone commented that COG has a unique opportunity as a convener and educational forum to do something innovative related to energy markets, utility regulation and energy policy going forward like New York's *Reforming the Energy Vision* or Maryland's *Utility 2.0*. It was suggested that COG begin a process to bring people together to start solving these issues from a market perspective.

One member commented that BEEAC members already submitted priority issues for 2015 based on their work and goals in their jurisdictions.

- Mr. Walz responded that we have taken these into consideration and will be sure to include those in the 2015 focus areas. The broad categories BEEAC members selected are deeper energy efficiency, renewable energy deployment, and electric vehicles.

Another member agreed that Action Plan might not be the right phrase given the measures included. Given the challenge of reducing emissions community-wide, sometimes it is helpful to focus on things we do have control over, such as purchasing and government operations. It was recommended that COG work to provide technical support on the first four items in the Action Plan: GHG inventories and emission reduction plans for both government operations and community-wide.

### **Multi-Sector Professional Working Group**

*Steve Walz, COG Director of Environmental Programs*

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Mr. Walz gave brief background on the multi-sector working group, which arose from a joint resolution from CEEPC and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) asking COG to look into what we can do to meet the region's GHG goals. MWAQC and TPB have adopted resolutions affirming the COG GHG reduction goals and supporting establishment of the multi-sector working group (MSWG).

The goal of the working group is to identify viable strategies, potential targets for different sectors, and to use this information to develop an action plan for the region. The four sectors being evaluated are: Energy, Built Environment, Land Use, and Transportation. The group will look at high level strategies both short-term and long-term, including what we are already doing, opportunities and gaps, and other new measures that could help achieve the emission reductions.

The first meeting of the full MSWG will be this Friday. COG will then establish three subgroups: Energy and environment, Planning, and Transportation, which will meet three or four times to help in development of the analysis. The process will create a report we are currently calling "What We Can Do." This will analyze high-level strategies in the four sectors, to determine potential emission reductions, cost effectiveness, and co-benefits for the various strategies.

The working group and sub groups will look at and use jurisdictions' existing plans, relevant COG reports and plans, and other regions' experiences. We will provide regular updates to CEEPC and would like input from CEEPC members on the process and strategies under consideration.

### **Discussion:**

One member voiced concern that through the process as laid out, the region may miss an opportunity to have a significant impact on this issue. The member was under the impression that the analysis would also look at whether there is an opportunity to incorporate GHG goals into the transportation planning process.

- Mr. Walz responded that this is a critical component of what the working group will do. The group will look at setting targets for various sectors as well as strategies to get there, all of which will be evaluated in the “What We Can Do” report.

### **2015 Legislative Overview – What Important Legislative Initiatives are on the Horizon?**

*Isabel Ricker, COG Department of Environmental Programs*

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Ms. Ricker introduced the 2015 CEEPC Legislative Committee members and asked the Chair to approve the roster on behalf of the committee. Mr. Fisette as Acting Chair approved the roster.

The CEEPC Legislative Committee helps to set the annual COG Board Legislative Priorities, developing those related to climate and energy issues. The Board approved its 2015 priorities on January 14. The Climate and Energy Priorities are: 1) Advocate for clean energy finance; 2) Support deployment of clean, distributed energy generation technology; 3) Improve grid resilience; 4) Support energy innovation; 5) Improve air quality.

The session calendars are very different across the three jurisdictions this year. Both Maryland and Virginia’s sessions began January 14, but in Virginia bills must be introduced by January 23 and the session ends February 28. In Maryland, February 6, and the session ends April 13. DC’s Council Period began on January 2, but no energy or climate related bills have yet been introduced.

In Virginia, there are several important topics that legislators have introduced several bills on:

- EPA Clean Power Plan – we are tracking four bills on this topic, all intended to limit the ability of VA DEQ to develop a State Implementation Plan.
- Net metering – there are several bills to raise the system size caps. It seems likely that the commercial cap will be raised from 50 kW to 1MW.
- Community Net Metering – we are tracking three bills that would establish community net metering at different scales.
- Clean Energy Finance – two bills that would enable jurisdictions to implement PACE financing programs look likely to pass. We are also tracking bills to create tax credits, a grant program and a separate M&T tax class for renewables.
- Energy Portfolio Standards – several bills would strengthen the state’s commitment to clean energy sources through either establishing an energy efficiency resource standard, a zero-emission portfolio standard that would include energy efficiency, demand response and nuclear, and establish a state SREC registry.

- State Solar Development Authority – bills to establish this Authority look likely to pass.
- RGGI/Resilience fund – we are tracking two bills that would enter Virginia in RGGI and set aside the revenue in a resilience fund.

In Maryland, not many climate and energy bills have been introduced, but here are those that have, and those we expect to see:

- Renewable Portfolio Standard – a coalition of environmental groups plans to introduce legislation to increase the RPS to 40% by 2025 (from 20% by 2022). Other bills would create a thermal tier in addition to the renewable electric tiers.
- Net metering – there are likely to be bills to expand community net metering and to improve net metering and interconnection for renewables and other advanced technologies like storage.
- Smart meters – we are tracking several bills related to smart meters and ratepayer rights
- Water quality – there are several bills related to fracking, water quality and Chesapeake Bay protections. CEEPC usually does not take a position on these issues, as the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee tracks water quality bills.

In DC, we expect there may be bills introduced related to sustainable financing mechanisms for clean energy, to clarify contentious zoning issues related to solar PV, and other Sustainable DC bills, likely to include waste or recycling-related issues.

The CEEPC Legislative Committee will have a call in the next week to discuss taking positions on relevant bills, and whether to write comment letters on any. COG staff will continue to track bills and will provide an update at the next CEEPC meeting.

## **Announcements and Updates**

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Due to lack of time left in the meeting, project updates will be sent around via email. The updates have been copied here for ease of reference:

### **Climate Action Champions - Help Us Choose Our Top 3 Priorities!**

In December the White House named the COG region one of 16 [Climate Action Champions](#) around the country. The award gives the region access to technical assistance, federal grants and other support from the Department of Energy (DOE), National Labs, and other agencies. [COG was asked to submit the region's top 3 priority challenges/requests for support by February 11.](#) These may be requests for federal funding, specific technical assistance projects, or coordination/communication support. DOE will then begin sharing opportunities and connecting the region with assistance related to these priorities. To learn more or get involved, please contact [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org).

### **Multi-Sector Workgroup**

The Transportation Planning Board and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, with CEEPC's endorsement, asked COG to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional workgroup

to examine implementable local, regional, and state greenhouse gas reduction actions in four sectors – Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Built Environment. The workgroup will quantify benefits, costs, and potential implementation timeframes for greenhouse gas reduction actions and consider exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for all sectors, with staff and consultant support. The first [Multi-Sector Working Group](#) meeting was held January 30<sup>th</sup>. Transportation, Land Use, and Energy/Environment subgroups will hold their first meetings in late February -- meeting announcements will be sent by COG staff. The Working Group will be seeking input from CEEPC and other COG committees periodically throughout the year-long project. If you have any questions, contact Amanda Campbell [acampbell@mwkog.org](mailto:acampbell@mwkog.org), Gregory Goodwin [ggoodwin@mwkog.org](mailto:ggoodwin@mwkog.org), or Daivamani Sivasailam [siva@mwkog.org](mailto:siva@mwkog.org).

**Solar Bulk Purchasing (Solarize) Program Support:**

COG is pleased to announce that a vendor was selected to support solar PV market development activities, including solar co-op or Solarize programs, around the region! A team led by Community Power Network, and including the Local Energy Alliance Program, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, the George Washington University Solar Institute, Enduring Energy LLC, and Clear Rock Consulting, has been awarded a contract in response to COG's RFP#15-008 Consultant Support for Solar Photovoltaic Market Development Activities in the National Capital Region.

COG is now seeking participation from communities in which to launch solar education, outreach and organizing activities under the contract. COG is providing this support under the Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge II. To be eligible for support under this program, communities must be participants, or agree to participate in the Rooftop Solar Challenge II. Contact Isabel Ricker at [iricker@mwkog.org](mailto:iricker@mwkog.org) or 202-962-3245 for more information.

**Regional Solar Permitting Standard Implementation Update:**

COG DEP staff have begun outreach about the regional solar permitting recommendations to jurisdictions involved in the Rooftop Solar Challenge II. COG held a successful initial call with Prince George's County and will be moving forward, working with MEA and MDV-SEIA, to support the County's Department of Permitting and Inspections Enforcement to implement many of the recommendations as they move to MEA's online permitting portal. COG will post a blog and doing other online publicity about the new standard later this week, and will continue one-on-one outreach to other RSCII jurisdictions in the coming weeks and months.

**Annual COG Climate & Energy Survey:**

Stay tuned for the Annual Local Government Climate and Energy Survey. COG will be surveying local governments to help inform the work of the Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Work Group, the Climate Action Champions initiative, and the Annual Climate and Energy Progress Report. We will also be surveying the region's electricity and natural gas providers through the annual energy utility data request. Energy data for 2014 is anticipated by April, 2015. Contact [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org) or [iricker@mwkog.org](mailto:iricker@mwkog.org) with inquiries.

**Green Purchasing Vendor Fair:**

On January 29<sup>th</sup>, COG hosted a Green Purchasing Vendor Fair in the Ronald Kirby Training Center from 9:30am to 3pm. The event featured 28 green vendors and two panel discussions. The first panel, Greening the Supply Chain, had representatives from Green Seal, the Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council and SCS Global Services. The lunch keynote, given by Healthy Buildings International, addressed the effect of toxic products on indoor air quality and the benefits of a healthy building. The afternoon panel, Green Contract Language and Specifications, included presentations from Maryland's Department of General Services, the District of Columbia and GSA. The event was a collaborative effort between COG, the Baltimore Metropolitan Council and the Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program. Attendees earned 4 contact hours for Certified Professional Public Buyer (CPPB) and Certified Public Procurement Officer (CPPO) Certification/Recertification. Contact [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org) to learn more.

**Electric Vehicle Fleet Assessment**

To help support electric vehicle deployment in the region, COG is collaborating with [Vision Fleet](#) to offer a zero cost and zero obligation fleet electrification assessment to one or more of our member governments' fleets. This pilot assessment will establish a total-cost-of-ownership baseline for the existing fleet, provide recommendations on vehicles suitable for EV replacement, and assess the cost-effectiveness of a large-scale EV replacement program. Vision Fleet offers low or zero upfront cost, fixed-rate long term financing for EVs, maintenance and fueling infrastructure, as well as fleet analytics to improve performance. The results of the pilot assessment will be presented to interested committees and workgroups. Contact [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org) to learn more.

**Adjourn**

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The next CEEPC Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 25, 2015 at 10 am – noon.