CEEPC SURVEY SUMMARY

CEEPC Questionnaire Responses Summarized

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Agenda Item #3

Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

MCR: What are your top 2 or 3 priority areas for action over the coming year?

- Transportation
  - Low and zero-emission transportation, fuels, and vehicles
  - Reducing VMT
- Buildings
  - Energy efficiency and decarbonizations
- Energy
  - Affordability and reliability
  - Data center solutions
  - Local renewable energy
- Natural Hazard Mitigation
  - Focus on heat

MCR: How do you think COG/CEEPC could best support members in ramping up implementation of climate actions?

- Identify and share national best practices
- Help develop communication strategies
- Legislative advocacy and tracking
- Local climate action assessments
- Cooperative purchasing/contractual
- Funding and resource opportunities
- Continued support with GHG inventories
- Work with utilities to improve and publicize green power programs
- Coordinate on broad policy issues with other Committees and COG Board
- Cross-functional taskforces on the regional, state, and local levels

MCR: Anything missing for priorities and actions?

CEDS: What are you seeing? Are there existing or emerging policy and economic trends in your communities that the CEDS should consider?

- Data Centers
- Affordability
  - Energy
  - Housing
- Unemployment overall
  - Specifically, federal employment
- Diversification of economic development policy
- Benefits of transit to the economy
  - Urban form and land use that supports quality transit
- Growing trends of small businesses and eateries

CEDS: What are our greatest opportunities and barriers? How can we better align energy policy, energy affordability, environmental protection, and economic development?

- Greatest Opportunities
  - The region has great resources
  - Strong economic and fiscal foundation
- Barriers
  - Policy tends to feel piecemeal and not comprehensive in addressing the problem
  - In VA, each jurisdiction is in competition with one another due to state tax policies
- Better alignment
  - Policy focused on resiliency
  - Make smart prioritized decisions to support the wider community
- Multi-faceted approach when it comes to strategies
  - i.e., combining building energy efficiency and environmental protection in a strategy
- Requiring data centers to commit to using clean energy
- Prioritizing innovative, responsible, and best-in-class businesses that align with regional priorities and available resources
- Strengthen the evaluation of economic development proposals
  - More comprehensive assessments

CEDS: What are you working on? What initiatives are underway that we should be aware of and that would align with the CEDS?

- Prince William County
  - Building on existing state legislation and advancing the implementation of its Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan, adopted in 2023, to strengthen local sustainability policies and align with economic development opportunities.
- City of Frederick
  - Data centers moratorium.
- City of Falls Church
  - Building and transportation GHG emissions and tree related mandates.
- City of Takoma Park
  - Focused on housing: affordability, quality, and increasing the amount and types available.

Other initiatives that we should be aware of and that would align with the CEDS?

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