



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

December 4, 2024
12:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.
Virtual Meeting

Chair: Kenny Boddy, Prince William County

MEETING SUMMARY

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

- Kenny Boddy, Prince William County (Chair)
- Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County (Vice Chair)
- Dave Snyder, City of Falls Church (Vice Chair)
- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- James Bierman, Fairfax County
- Collin Burell, District of Columbia
- Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Naomi Cohen-Shields, District Department of Transportation
- Sophia Cortazzo, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Susan Cunningham, Arlington County
- Dawn Hawkins-Nixon, Prince George's County
- Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Meagan Landis, Prince William County
- Keith Levchenko, Montgomery County
- Maribeth Guarino (Office of Councilmember Sayles), Montgomery County
- Kristin Mink, Montgomery County
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Yolanda Pensmith (Office of Supervisor Glass), Loudoun County

- Amalia Pleake-Tamm, Calverly County
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Evandro Santos, Prince William County
- Roger Thunell, Maryland Department of the Environment
- Kristen Weaver, City of Greenbelt

OTHERS

- Tauhirah Abdul-Matin, AECOM
- Faye Dastgheib, District Department of For-Hire Vehicles
- Allyson Frantz, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Tiara Lester, Frederick County
- Gwendolin McCrea, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Catherine Salarano, Maryland Department of the Environment
- Danielle Simms, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Noble Smith, Maryland Department of the Environment

COG STAFF

- Alissa Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs

- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Robert d'Abadie, COG Department of Transportation Planning
- Jen Desimone, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director
- Sunil Kumar, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Wyetha Lipford, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Department of Transportation Planning
- Wanda Owens, COG Department of Transportation Planning
- Jane Posey, COG Department of Transportation Planning
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation Planning

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Kenny Boddy, MWAQC Chair

Chair Kenny Boddy called the meeting to order. The September MWAQC meeting summary was approved without any changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Roger Thunell (MDE)

MWAQC-TAC held a call on November 12:

- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) staff briefed committee members on the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program implementation grant for medium- and heavy-duty vehicle charging infrastructure.
- The committee discussed EPA's emissions inventory (2022v1), part of which will be used to develop inventories for the 2015 ozone NAAQS Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan. The committee was also briefed on a list of questions sent to EPA concerning the above plan for their response.
- Montgomery County staff briefed TAC members on their regional tree canopy program and its relationship with air quality issues.
- TAC members discussed a recent EPA proposal for State Implementation Plan (SIP) deadlines and various requirements for the reclassified ozone nonattainment areas.
- The committee was briefed on the proceedings of the Environmental Justice (EJ) Subcommittee meetings/listening sessions.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) – Leah Boggs (COG Staff)

ACPAC held a webinar meeting on November 18:

- Jeff King (COG Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director) briefed ACPAC members on the proposed next steps for the recommendations' memo ACPAC sent to CEEPC. Regarding MWAQC's response to the recommendations on air quality, ACPAC received MWAQC's response letter in September. ACPAC has not indicated if they will send a response at this time. However, related to both CEEPC and MWAQC is data centers and land use planning, which was mentioned in the memo to CEEPC. Although land use planning is a local issue, ACPAC pointed out that the link between permitting for data centers and land use should be addressed in order to effectively address the related greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and air quality implications.
- CEEPC and MWAQC approved ACPAC to take charge of updating the Environmental Justice Toolkit last year. It will focus on communication strategies. Staff recently reviewed vendor responses from an RFQ, selected a consultant, and are in the process of onboarding the

consultant by the end of the year.

- At the November meeting, ACPAC Chair Julie Kimmel appointed a new officers subcommittee to develop a slate of potential officers for committee leadership in 2025. The subcommittee has until January 17, 2025, to develop a list of options for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. The committee will vote on new officers at the January 27 meeting.
- Lastly, there will not be a recruitment campaign this year, as all 18 members will remain on the committee in 2025.
- The next ACPAC meeting is January 27, 2025.

Clean Air Partners – Jen Desimone (COG Staff)

Clean Air Partners have been involved in the following:

- This fall, Clean Air Partners surveyed Baltimore-Washington residents on their perceptions and attitudes on regional air quality. The Public Awareness survey is conducted every three years. Clean Air Partners will use results to inform the development of future work programs and program initiatives. There have been more than 2,000 responses, which are currently being analyzed. The results will be brought to MWAQC in February.
- Clean Air Partners is in the process of planning next year's summer campaign. The campaign will kick-off during Air Quality Awareness Week (the first week of May), with the announcement of a gas-powered lawn equipment exchange. The Exchange will take place during May/June when residents can bring gas powered equipment into participating Ace Hardware stores in exchange for new electric equipment. Equipment available for exchange will include lawnmowers, weed trimmers, and leaf blowers. The gas-powered equipment will be taken to a recycling partner to be disposed of. The exchange will also be accompanied by Clean Air Partners backyard bubble events, which includes an exhibit to educate the public about ways to reduce emissions related to lawn and gardening.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – Jeff King (COG Climate, Energy, and Air Program Director on behalf of CEEPC leadership)

CEEPC held a webinar meeting on November 20:

- Solar Forum and Goals: Updates were shared on the recent solar forum under the EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG). A mid-course review for 2030 climate goals was proposed for 2025 to assess progress before considering more aggressive targets.
- In response to the ACPAC memo, the committee will explore designing and funding a regional climate outreach campaign in 2025.
- One of the priorities of COG leadership is to accelerate action across all sectors to meet the 2030 climate goals. There were a few highlights provided to CEEPC, which included a \$250 million grant for medium- and heavy-duty electric vehicle infrastructure along the I-95 corridor and efforts by Electrified DC to promote residential home electrification.
- Deb Harris (ICF) presented the timeline and milestones for the CPRG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), which is expected to be completed by late 2025.

3. LOCAL AND STATE UPDATES

Local Members and State Air Agencies

- Kenny Boddye (Prince William County) said that Prince William County will ratify a federal grant award for the Facilities and Fleet Management Agency to develop a zero-emissions plan for county facilities at the upcoming Board of Supervisors meeting. This aligns with the county's 2023 [Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan](#) and earlier 2020 goals. Lessons learned will be shared with the school division for potential collaboration. The initiative highlights progress toward sustainability and aims to deliver cleaner air outcomes.
- Tom Ballou (Virginia Department of Environmental Quality) said that VDEQ has started their next

phase of CPRG planning: The CCAP. They have a stakeholder group, which will soon begin a series of meetings, which will be followed up with a public outreach and engagement process. One of the main topics will be growing electricity demand in Virginia and how this will impact the state's climate action goals and strategy.

4. ELECTION OF 2025 OFFICERS

Kenny Boddy, MWAQC Chair

The nominating committee, including Shannon Moore (Frederick County), Colin Burrell (District of Columbia), and Kirk McPike (City of Alexandria), presented the proposed 2025 MWAQC officer slate. Tom Dernoga (Prince George's County) is nominated for Chair, Zachary Parker (District of Columbia), Alan Hew (City of College Park), and David Snyder (City of Falls Church) for Vice Chairs. The slate was shared in advance and posted in the [meeting materials](#).

Action: MWAQC members voted unanimously to approve the appointment of 2025 officers.

5. 2015 OZONE STANDARD MAINTENANCE PLAN AND REDESIGNATION REQUEST

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer

COG staff provided an overview of the 2015 ozone standard redesignation and maintenance plan development. Current design values (2021–2023 data) were influenced by wildfire events in 2023, leading to an EPA-approved exceptional events waiver, bringing the region into compliance at 70 parts per billion (ppb). Next steps include submitting a formal redesignation request and a maintenance plan by 2026, with milestones set for 2022 (attainment year), 2032 (interim year), and 2038 (final maintenance year). To proceed, the committee has sent questions to the EPA, including whether the on-road and non-road emissions inventories need to be updated from the MOVES2014b model to the newer MOVES4.0.1 or MOVES5; if Maryland, Virginia, and DC must meet additional requirements (e.g., New Source Review or control technologies) before submitting the redesignation request; and how to account for emission reduction credits from three Maryland power plants that closed in 2022. Final approval is expected by late 2026.

Discussion:

- MWAQC members emphasized the importance of explaining air quality updates to the public, noting the good news that the region meets the ozone standard. COG staff confirmed this but cautioned that compliance is at the threshold (70 ppb) and could change depending on future data. COG staff stressed the need for ongoing monitoring and continued efforts to improve air quality to maintain compliance and ensure successful implementation of the maintenance plan.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE SUBCOMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN

Kristin Mink, Environmental Justice Subcommittee Co-Chair

Kristin Mink provided an update on the group's work since its formation and May kickoff. The subcommittee's mission focuses on ensuring equity in air quality policies, projects, and programs, particularly addressing challenges in historically marginalized and overburdened communities. Efforts have included monthly meetings, public listening sessions, and community feedback to develop a comprehensive list of actions for improving air quality. These actions span short-term and long-term strategies for state/local governments, air agencies, and community advocates. The key strategies are organized into the following areas: Public Engagement, Air Quality Monitoring, Source Identification, Community Health Risk Assessment, and Actionable Control Measures. A collaborative and evidence-based approach underpins the subcommittee's work, drawing from air quality data, health studies, best practices, and climate change impacts. The Environmental Justice (EJ) Action Plan aims to serve as a practical resource for decision-makers, community members, and advocacy groups. Continued

collaboration and community input is vital in achieving meaningful air quality improvements for vulnerable populations.

Kristin also outlined the next steps for developing the EJ Action Plan. AECOM will finalize a draft plan incorporating proposed strategies and priority actions. The EJ subcommittee will review the draft and host a second round of public listening sessions to gather feedback. After revisions, the finalized plan will be published and shared for implementation by local and state governments, COG, MWAQC, community groups, and advocacy organizations. Public engagement remains central, with a call for active participation and collaboration to create a healthier, more equitable region.

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

Jeff King explained the development of the "complete list" of air quality improvement measures, a concept originating from the 2005–2006 ozone and fine particle control work. It includes all proposed ideas to ensure no potential solutions are excluded. From this list, priority actions are identified using specific criteria: Air Quality Improvement – Measures must lead to tangible improvements in air quality; Focus on EJ Communities – Actions should benefit historically marginalized, disadvantaged, or overburdened communities; Feasibility – Actions must be implementable and enforceable; and Cost-effectiveness – Economic considerations are essential for prioritization. This process ensures ideas reflect public input, particularly from EJ communities, and align with practical implementation. Jeff also highlighted the subcommittee's methodical approach of evaluating actions before developing the priority list, which focuses on feasible and impactful measures.

Jeff went on to highlight key EJ priorities aimed at addressing air quality concerns in overburdened communities. He emphasized that while the region meets ozone standards, ongoing efforts are needed to reduce emissions, especially as federal leadership may not prioritize strengthening national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). EJ communities face cumulative exposure to multiple pollutants, including ozone, fine particles, black carbon, and toxic metals, making public health a central focus. Key strategies discussed include Advocacy for Stronger Air Quality Standards; Enhanced Public Outreach and Education; Improved Enforcement of Pollution Sources; Additional Pollution Controls for Stationary Sources; Reducing Diesel Emissions; Fleet Electrification; Promoting Public Transportation; and Reducing Idling. Jeff acknowledged zoning challenges as a longer-term issue but stressed the importance of near-term solutions to protect EJ communities.

7. MDE TOOLS TO REDUCE POLLUTION IN EJ COMMUNITIES

Noble Smith, MDE Environmental Justice Coordinator

Noble Smith detailed Maryland's initiatives to address air quality and pollution, focusing on historically overburdened EJ communities. Maryland prioritizes environmental justice (EJ) under Secretary Serena McIlwain. An Assistant Secretary for EJ, Aneca Atkinson, was appointed to connect state resources with affected communities. Some key legislation includes:

- 2003: EJ defined as equal protection from environmental hazards.
- 2021: HB 1200 established "overburdened" and "underserved" communities using 24 demographic indicators.

An EJ screening tool maps these areas, requiring permit applicants to produce EJ scores for public review. Using a \$500,000 EPA American Rescue Plan grant, Maryland partnered with the University of Maryland and three communities (Cheverly, Curtis Bay, Turner's Station) to establish air quality monitoring networks and biweekly engagement. Targeted site visits address community complaints and focus on high-risk facilities. MDE educates communities, partners with Maryland State Police for enforcement sweeps, and provides outreach materials. Community-owned sensor networks track pollutants like black carbon, ozone, and particulate matter, calibrated against state monitors to ensure accuracy. Maryland's Climate Solutions Now Act (2022) targets a 60 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions (below 2006 levels) by 2031 and net-zero emissions by 2045. Noble emphasized using

localized data and partnerships to drive enforcement, education, and targeted actions, ensuring EJ communities are prioritized in Maryland's clean air and climate strategies.

8. ADJOURN

Kenny Boddy, MWAQC Chair

Chair Kenny Boddy adjourned the meeting. The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for February 26, 2025.