



## AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)

Chair: Julie Kimmel

### Draft January 27, 2025 Virtual Meeting Summary

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Greg Farley, Stacey Garfinkle, Julie Kimmel, Jack Lyman, Ian Marcus, William Marsh, Peter Mecca, Era Pandya, Herb Simmens, Chris Tandy, James Wang

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon, Robert Christopher, Maia Davis

**5:30 P.M. 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**  
*Julie Kimmel, Chair*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Kimmel. The November meeting summary was approved. The meeting had a quorum. There were no amendments to the agenda.

#### Announcements

Leah Boggs provided an update on CEEPC's response to ACPAC's May 2024 memo to the policy committee.

- CEEPC voted to approve focus on 3 main areas:
  1. Setting more aggressive goals,
  2. Enhanced progress reporting, and
  3. Education/outreach campaign.
- Through the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) process COG will look at what it will take to achieve the existing goals of 50% by 2030 and 80% by 2050. This process will also look at a pathway to net zero by 2050.
- The process also includes a mid-course review that will incorporate an inventory of contributions toward the regional goals via local climate plans and a survey to local climate and energy COG member governments.
- The outreach and education campaign will have a regional scope and will require working with COG member governments on how to best design a campaign that meets their needs.
- CEEPC noted that addressing issues related to the growth in data centers and land use requires a longer-term assessment and outlook. In the interim, COG Staff is working with ICF to develop a methodology to more accurately inventory energy and GHG emissions attributed to data centers.

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.  
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## Discussion

- Members expressed the importance of more frequent re-examination of current climate goals and setting more aggressive goals and working towards achieving them.
- The COG Board has the discretion to set new goals. As an alternative, they have set sub-goals including:
  - 250,000 rooftops by 2030,
  - 50% tree canopy across the region, and
  - Prioritized electric vehicle planning.

### **5:40 P.M. 2. REGIONAL LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

*Robert Christopher, COG Staff*

Robert Christopher provided an overview of CEEPC's legislative subcommittee and an outlook for legislative initiatives in DC, MD, and VA. The subcommittee primarily runs from January through April which matches the run of the legislative sessions in Virginia and Maryland.

## Presentation Summary

- The COG board adopts legislative priorities every January. This year they adopted priorities covering transportation funding, housing, environment, water quality, climate resiliency, and air quality.
- The COG 2025 legislative priorities related to climate, energy, and air quality include:
  - Support accelerated multi-sector actions to reduce greenhouse gases and criteria pollutants
  - Ensure sustainable secure energy access for all
  - Support solar deployment and aggressive state renewable portfolio standards
  - Expand clean energy innovation, technology and finance
  - Support aggressive energy efficiency goals
- In Maryland the focus is on supporting green energy initiatives for nonprofit organizations and addressing climate change adaptation. The Green and Renewable Energy for Nonprofit Organizations Loan Program (HB 145/SB 105) provides zero-interest loans for energy projects, while the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation payment program (HB 128/SB 149) secures payments from fossil fuel products to fund adaptation and mitigation projects.
- In Virginia, the legislative efforts are focused on three main themes - emissions and energy efficiency, infrastructure and development, and financing and innovation. Bills including SB 1160 and SB 1196 aim to set emissions targets and improve energy efficiency standards, particularly for data centers. The Electric Rural Vehicle Infrastructure Program (SB 1225/HB 1791) and the Solar Interconnection Grant Fund (HB 2113) support infrastructure development programs. Financing and innovation are encouraged through the Virginia Clean Energy Innovation Board (HB 2509) and the Driving Decarbonization Program (SB 457).

## Discussion

- Member William Marsh recommended tracking VA HB 2281 which allows VA localities to do more community choice aggregation.

6:10 PM

### 3. CLIMATE GOALS MID-COURSE REVIEW: TECHNICAL APPROACH

*Maia Davis, COG Senior Climate Planner*

In November 2024, in response to ACPAC's memo to CEEPC, CEEPC directed staff to prepare a mid-course review to assess progress in meeting the 2030 climate and energy goal. Maia Davis presented a proposed approach for conducting a Mid-Course Review.

#### Presentation Summary

- Purpose of Mid-Course Review: to assess progress toward meeting COG 2030 Climate and Energy Goals, use findings to help inform any possible considerations of establishing new goals, and to assist with development of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP).
- Approach includes:
  - Goals: Assessing the status of goals, strategies, measures and actions toward the region's existing plan framework and targets.
  - Performance Indicators: Identify the key metrics and indicators to examine closely to enable a reasonable assessment of progress.
  - Local Government Survey: Summarize status of the collective priority climate actions in the region.
- Specific approach elements:
  - Reviewing local goals and actions to get the region to 2030 goals.
  - Following the 2030 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan adopted in 2020
  - Cross-checking and aligning with Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) submitted to EPA in 2024.
  - Analyzing 1-3 Performance Indicators for each Priority Climate Action Area
    - Example Area of Analysis 1: Zero Energy Vehicles
      - Performance Indicators: # of electric vehicles and charging stations and ports.
      - Supporting Local Actions Survey: expand light-duty EV deployment in the government fleet and in the community/by the public.
    - Example Area of Analysis 2: Zero Energy Buildings
      - Performance Indicators: # of green buildings and building energy consumption trends.
      - Supporting Local Actions Survey: deep building retrofits at government facilities and commercial buildings.

#### Discussion

- The discussion focused on the following points:
  - Setting achievable only goals maintains the current energy and climate conditions.
  - Priority or recommended areas should include: clean electricity, zero emissions, and equity, zero waste, tracking deployments of solar/battery storage/e-v installations

6:35 p.m.

### 4. MEMBER TIME

Member Ian Marcus discussed his background and interests in climate and air issues.

**7:00 p.m. 5. ELECTION OF 2025 OFFICERS**  
*Stacey Garfinkle, Ian Marcus, and Peter Mecca, Nominating Subcommittee*  
*ACPAC Members*

DC Member William Washburn was voted as the 2025 Chair and VA Member William Marsh was voted as the 2025 Vice Chair.

**7:30 P.M. 6. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN**

The next meeting is March 17, 2025. Chair Julie Kimmel adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

All meeting documents can be found on the January 27, 2025 [meeting page](#).