



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: JANUARY 28, 2026

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park (Chair)
- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Susan Cunningham, Arlington County
- Hon. Frankie Fritz, City of Greenbelt
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. Barry Jackson, City of Rockville
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Hon. Tom Peterson, City of Fairfax
- Hon. George Stewart, Prince William County
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Danielle Freedman, Pepco
- Matt Goetz, Georgetown Climate Center
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Montgomery County
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools
- Jennifer Macedonia, Montgomery County
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Rachel McQuillen, City of Fairfax
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Hal Metzler, City of Hyattsville
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- Jim Ponticello, VDOT
- Alison Riley, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Nancy Schumm, City of Gaithersburg
- Bryan Scrafford, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)
- Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- David Snyder, City of Falls Church
- Mark Wejrowski, EPA
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick
- Luke Wisniewski, MDE

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Hon. Thomas Dernoga, Prince George's County
- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Al Carr, DOEE
- Thomas Dernoga, Prince George's County
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County
- Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County
- Tianni Ivey, Office of Supervisor Koran T. Saines
- Hokuma Karimova, City of Gaithersburg
- Brian Keightley, Fairfax County
- Kurt Lawrence, City of Falls Church
- Andrea Lizarzaburu, City of Takoma Park
- Tasin Malik, DDOT
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Kevin Milsted, Prince William County
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Mike Sandler, Loudoun County
- Lindsey Robinett Shaw, Montgomery County
- John Silcox, Fairfax County
- Morgan Standley, Fairfax County
- Yi Sun, Prince William County
- Chris Topoleski, FACS
- William Washburn, Former ACPAC Chair
- Sunny Wescott, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Laura Bachle, COG Transportation Planning
- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert d'Abadie, COG Transportation Planning

- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- Caroline Sherman, COG Environmental Programs
- Dusan Vuksan, COG Transportation Planning

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Cindy Dyballa, CEEPC Chair

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Cindy Dyballa called the January CEEPC meeting to order. The November CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

2. MID-COURSE REVIEW

Maia Davis, COG Senior Planner

Caroline Sherman, COG Environmental Programs

Regional progress toward the 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal of 50 percent below 2005 levels was reviewed across several performance indicators, including electric vehicle adoption, charging infrastructure, travel behavior, waste diversion, and tree canopy coverage. Hybrid and electric vehicle ownership continues to grow, and modeling shows that reaching the higher end of projected adoption levels will be necessary to stay on track for 2030. Charging infrastructure has expanded significantly, with the region already meeting projected needs for fast-charging ports and making steady progress on Level 2 charging. Population and job growth have contributed to modest increases in total vehicle miles traveled, while VMT per capita has declined. Transit ridership is recovering from pandemic-related disruptions, with agencies adjusting service to meet changing travel patterns.

Waste diversion trends show fluctuations tied to economic conditions, changes in material generation, and broader shifts toward digital practices and lighter packaging. Local case studies highlighted efforts to expand recycling, composting, and electric vehicle infrastructure. Tree canopy analysis underscored the importance of maintaining a 50 percent regional canopy and documented a significant net loss of acreage between 2014 and 2021. Examples from several jurisdictions demonstrated community-based tree planting and urban forestry initiatives. Next steps include releasing a draft report and developing an online dashboard to support local and regional climate planning.

Discussion: Members asked for clarification on data sources, tree canopy measurement methods, transit ridership trends, and how performance indicators connect to regional climate goals. Several participants highlighted the value of additional transportation and housing data, including information on housing near transit. Others suggested expressing tree canopy benefits on a per-acre basis. Participants emphasized the importance of coordinating climate, transportation, housing, and air quality efforts.

3. ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT 2.0

Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Senior Planner

The updated environmental justice toolkit incorporates new case studies, expanded resources, and examples of policies and programs that integrate equity into climate and energy work. The update was informed by community-based interviews, listening sessions with local governments, national research, and input from advisory committees. The toolkit highlights eight approaches, with particular emphasis on building community trust, meeting residents where they are, and reducing barriers to participation. Key practices include offering childcare stipends, providing translation services, and ensuring virtual and phone access to meetings. Additional approaches focus on community-driven data collection, leadership development, and partnerships with trusted organizations. Examples include resiliency hubs, community air monitoring, and local tree-planting initiatives.

The toolkit also underscores the importance of embedding equity into climate and energy programs, including electric vehicle deployment, charging infrastructure reliability, and strategies to reduce energy burdens. Regional climate and implementation plans increasingly incorporate environmental justice considerations, reflecting a shift toward addressing inequities alongside engagement. The conclusion stresses the need to sustain momentum despite reduced federal support and to continue learning from local and national examples.

4. LEGISLATIVE PREVIEW

Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs

CEEPC's Legislative Subcommittee reviews bills across the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia that align with COG's legislative priorities. These priorities include climate, clean energy, air quality, greenhouse gas reductions, equitable energy access, renewable portfolio standards, energy efficiency, and protections for public health. The overview highlighted key session dates for Maryland and Virginia and provided examples of bills under consideration, including measures related to data center emissions, backup generation limits, electric vehicle infrastructure, portable solar systems, participation in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative, and energy efficiency financing for nonprofits.

Discussion: Members highlighted the volume of climate and energy legislation introduced in Virginia and emphasized the importance of tracking bills related to data centers, utility reform, distributed generation, and demand-side management. Participants noted that opportunities for progress in Virginia appear stronger this year and encouraged adding several bills to the tracking list. Additional comments raised concerns about water supply, cooling needs for data centers, and regional coordination on long-term infrastructure planning. Members also underscored the importance of improving last-mile transit connections and integrating housing and transportation considerations into future CEEPC discussions.

5. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

Written updates provided in advance

A. Member Updates

- None

B. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

- BEEAC's new officers are Mati Bazurto from the City of Bowie as Chair, Valerie Amor from the City of Alexandria and Al Carr from DC as co-vice chairs. BEEAC's first meeting of the year is February 19th.

- C. Air And Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- At the January 26th meeting, ACPAC voted for new officers for the year. ACPAC also concluded its recruitment campaign for new members on January 16th. The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee will approve 4 new members at the February 11th Executive Committee meeting.
- D. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group
- At the January 22 Charging Ahead: Reliable, Accessible, and Equitable EV Charging in Metropolitan Washington forum, regional partners convened to discuss advancing dependable, community-serving EV charging infrastructure across the metropolitan Washington area. The event opened with updates on the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) program, including recent progress on federal funding, coordination with NEVI programs, and complementary state and local initiatives in DC, Maryland, and Virginia.
 - A panel on reliable and accessible public charging, featuring speakers from Voltpost, the Maryland Energy Administration, and the DC Department of Energy & Environment, highlighted curbside charging opportunities, operational challenges, and strategies to improve uptime. Presenters emphasized the need for strong maintenance practices, standardized reporting, and equitable placement of new charging assets to ensure that underserved communities benefit from deployments.
 - A second panel focused on accelerating EV adoption, with contributions from Drive Electric DC, the Maryland Clean Energy Center, Montgomery County Green Bank, and Pepco. Speakers discussed consumer education, long-term ownership support, and financial tools to expand access—particularly for multifamily housing and community-serving locations. The session also underscored the importance of partnership-driven ecosystems to sustain regional EV momentum.
- E. Recycling Committee
- No updates. The first meeting of the year is January 29th.
- F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)
- The former RTCS chair Mike Knapp (Montgomery County) presented to a general audience of the Chesapeake Bay Program about how the Bay Program’s land use/land cover data was utilized by COG to develop its 2024 50% regional tree canopy goal. Most notably, the data will be used to track regional canopy trends over time.
- G. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition
- No update.
- H. Staff Updates
- a. Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Phase I – Planning
 - i) The most significant activities for 2026 will be to complete the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process documentation for FHWA review, develop preliminary site designs for all 37 EVSE installation locations, and workforce development and engagement activities, such as the Auto Show, community listening sessions, and career fair(s).
 - b. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program
 - i) The region's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) was submitted to EPA and is available online at: <https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2025/11/25/comprehensive-climate-action-plan/>.
 - c. ElectrifyDC Homeowners Hub
 - i) [ElectrifyDC](#) is a multidisciplinary team with expertise in electrical engineering, mechanical contracting, data science, communications, public engagement, consumer marketing, decarbonization policy, and community health. Their programs include an annual Health Homes Fair, Electrify DMV Network which is a convening of manufacturers, service providers and local governments working to reduce fragmentation and accelerate

electrification, and Regional Homeowners Hub. The Regional Homeowners Hub will be a user-centered online portal and information hub for homeowners and renters. Elements of the Hub will include integration of resources, descriptions of basic technologies, and aggregating electrification events, open houses, and workshops throughout the region. COG is supporting build out of the Homeowners Hub through integration of its work through BEEAC.

6. ADJOURN

Cindy Dyballa, CEEPC Chair

Chair Bagley adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2026 include:

- Wednesday March 25, 2026 (In Person)
- Wednesday May 27, 2026
- Wednesday July 29, 2026
- Wednesday September 23, 2026
- Wednesday November 18, 2026

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the COG website or by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2026/1/28/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>