



**AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)**

**July 21, 2025**  
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Webinar information provided to members via email.

Vice Chair: William Marsh

**DRAFT TELECONFERENCE MEETING SUMMARY**

**ACPAC ATTENDEES:** Julie Kimmel, Peter Mecca, Jacqueline Norris, James Wang, Ian Marcus, Deborah Shprentz, Chris Tandy, Mark Rodeffer, Greg Farley, Audrey Nwaze, Stacey Garfinkle

**COG STAFF:** Leah Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon, Sunil Kumar, Caroline Sherman

**5:35 P.M. 1. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS, MEETING SUMMARY APPROVAL AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*William Marsh, ACPAC Vice Chair*

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair William Marsh. The meeting had a quorum and there were no amendments to the agenda. The May 19 meeting summary was approved with no amendments.

There were no amendments to the agenda.

**5:40 P.M. 2. OZONE SEASON SUMMARY**

*Sunil Kumar, COG Staff*

Sunil Kumar provided the 2025 ozone season summary, highlighting regional air quality trends through mid-July.

The season's peak is June through August and long-term trends show a marked decline in high ozone days compared to the late 1990s. The region's ozone design value for 2021–2023 meets the 70 parts per billion (ppb) standard, aided by exceptional event waivers granted for wildfire-related data. So far in 2025 most days have fallen within the "Good" Air Quality Index (AQI) category for ozone, with only 4 Code Orange days reported.

PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels have also shown strong improvement, with annual and 24-hour design values well below federal limits. The two Code Red days in 2025 are due to fireworks on July 4-5.

Although the region is in ozone attainment and is working on an ozone maintenance plan, the four monitors out of the 14 that have a high probability of putting the region back into nonattainment are – McMillan (DC), Prince George's County Equestrian (MD), Beltsville (MD), and Arlington (VA). Out of the four, the Equestrian Center has the highest potential based on the current 4<sup>th</sup> highest ozone values of 78, 72, 71, and 66. The four monitors will be closely watched.

## Discussion

- September/October 2026 is the targeted timeframe to submit a plan to EPA for redesignate as an Ozone maintenance attainment area. The process includes developing comprehensive inventories for 2022 (attainment year), 2032 (intermediate year), and 2038 (final maintenance year). EPA's typical review process is a year or more, so the expected final decision is 2027-2028.
- Temperature increases are expected over development of the Maintenance Redesignation plan. The 2025 ozone season saw high temperatures and high humidity days. While high temperatures can increase Ozone production, high humidity has the opposite effect on Ozone. Other factors which impact Ozone production are cloud cover, wind, rain and timing. There are multiple variations that could impact each year out to 2038 which presents challenges.
- The current federal administration is proposing to get rid of 30 or more air quality related rules, most are related to vehicle emissions. A list of rules was presented at MWAQC.

### **6:15 P.M. 3. EJ TOOLKIT COMMUNITY OUTREACH RESULTS**

*Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Staff*

COG Staff briefed members on the results of the EJ Toolkit's community outreach component completed Equival, the consultant on the project.

## Presentation Summary

- Equival used COG's Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs) to identify disfavored census blocks within the metropolitan Washington region
- 12 out of 24 COG jurisdictions have EEAs to varying degrees.
- Equival targeted their interviews by relative proportion of EEAs.
- Equival met with ACPAC members and other communities at 7 community outreach events
- Core areas of concern:
  - Impacts on air quality (vehicular, industrial, data centers, and cumulative)
  - Energy costs and reliability
  - Climate impacts (prolonged heat waves and flooding)
- Common themes:
  - Community based organizations suggested going beyond a formal structure to speak more directly with residents and gauge their concerns
  - Lack of trust that leaders listen to community concerns
- Next steps:
  - Synthesize Equival's research with other EJ processes including 2 listening sessions with local government staff (February, March 2025)
  - Research for Comprehensive Climate Action Plans (CCAP) —both COG's and local governments' Climate Action Plans
  - September 4<sup>th</sup> CCAP Climate Leaders' Engagement webinar.
  - Staff will present a draft EJ Toolkit Refresh at the November ACPAC meeting.

### **6:40 P.M. 4. CLIMATE AND ENERGY LEADERSHIP AWARDS JUDGING**

*William Marsh, ACPAC Vice Chair (Moderator)*  
*ACPAC Members*

Members judged the 2025 Climate and Energy Leadership Awards applications in the categories of small and large government, non-governmental organization non-profit, for-profit and educational institution. Winners will be announced at the COG Board meeting in October.

**7:30 P.M. 5. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN**

Vice Chair William Marsh adjourned the meeting.

- **2025 Meeting schedule** (Virtual meeting only):  
September 15, 2025

Meeting Documents:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2024/7/15/air-and-climate-policy-advisory-committee/>