



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)

March 16, 2026
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.

Webinar information provided to members via email.

Chair: Ian Marcus

DRAFT VIRTUAL MEETING SUMMARY

ACPAC ATTENDEES: Glenn Hall, Alex Johnson, Julie Kimmel, Jack Lyman, Ian Marcus, Peter Mecca, Janet Phoenix, Cameron Ramey, Herb Simmens, Chris Tandy, James Wang, William Washburn,

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Sunil Kumar

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

Ian Marcus, ACPAC Chair

The meeting was called to order by new Chair Ian Marcus. The January 2026 meeting summary was approved with no amendments. The meeting had a quorum and there were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no COG announcements.

5:45 P.M. 2. CHAIR'S REPORTS AND STAFF UPDATES

Julie Kimmel, ACPAC Member

ACPAC Members

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

The Chair's Report is a new agenda item that will be incorporated at each ACPAC meeting. The purpose is for the Chair to report on previous CEEPC and MWAQC meetings, as well as on any related matters. There was no report out for the January CEEPC meeting.

The February MWAQC meeting was cancelled and replaced by the February 25 data center forum on energy. The Chair appointed Julie Kimmel to attend and give a report:

- 1- No interest from elected leaders to slow the growth in data centers due to the purported economic development benefits. Expected benefits come with a cost on communities.

- 2- No discussion on air pollution impacts.
 - a. Virginia Commonwealth University recent research shows that data centers create more air pollution than nearby power stations.
 - b. Leah Boggs mentioned that the MWAQC chair attended the energy forum and is interested in having a detailed discussion on air quality impacts.
- 3- The inability for localities to meet climate goals and impacts on water infrastructure was not addressed.
 - a. Staff will send information on the water and land use forums which are in March and April/May, respectively.
- 4- Data centers in Virginia are using behind the meter energy approaches to circumvent the seven-year wait list to connect to the grid.

Discussion

- Dominion Energy connects 1 GW of solar online annually; however, renewable energy sources are unable to power data centers alone.
- Pepco sees more renewable energy connected to the grid to mitigate increases in electricity costs.
- Residential customers are seeing an increase in electricity costs due to transmission infrastructure upgrades. Data centers should pay for the marginal cost of additional electric grid infrastructure upgrades.
- Maryland and Virginia both have legislation and regulations they are considering related to data centers.
 - Montgomery County citizen groups are advocating for a moratorium.

6:10 P.M. 3. (RE-) ORIENTATION

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

Sunil Kumar, COG Staff

COG staff provided an overview of COG's air and climate programs including the work programs of the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) and the Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEP) for new members and a refresher for returning members. The 2026 New Member Re-Orientation Handbook is available on [dropbox](#) for all members.

7:15 P.M. 4. MEMBER TIME

Cameron Ramey, ACPAC Member

New member Cameron Ramey provided details about her background and interests.

- Professional background
 - Climate planner and resilience practitioner at WSP: works with local and state governments across the country, including transportation agencies and the private sector, to develop GHG emission mitigation and adaptation strategies.
 - In the DMV, has worked with the City of Annapolis on developing the sea level rise

adaptation strategy for their maritime museum, in Prince Georges County on developing flood resilience strategies for homeowners and in Fairfax County on climate action and sustainability planning.

- Interests
 - Pickleballer, community gardens and mutual aid, libraries.

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

The next ACPAC meeting is on May 18, 2026. Chair Ian Marcus adjourned the meeting.

Meeting Documents:

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2026/3/16/air-and-climate-public-advisory-committee/>