



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: NOVEMBER 19, 2025

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria (Chair)
- Hon. Susan Cunningham, Arlington County
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
- Hon. Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Christopher Beck, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Anna Bower, WMATA
- Noelani Brockett, Charles County
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Matt Goetz, Georgetown Climate Center
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Montgomery County
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Naeem Mia, Montgomery County
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Alison Riley, US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- William Washburn, ACPAC Chair
- Mark Wejrowski, EPA
- Brittany Whited, DOEE
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick
- Luke Wisniewski, MDE
- Dory Estrada, City of Takoma Park
- Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County
- Allyson Frantz, VA DEQ
- Jess Grannis, ICLEI USA
- Valerie Gray, Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control (DNREC)
- Jackie Guild, City of Annapolis
- Deb Harris, ICF
- Tianni Ivey, Office of Supervisor Koran T. Saines
- Emily Judson, WMATA
- Whitney Katchmark, Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC)
- Hokuma Karimova, City of Gaithersburg
- Kurt Lawrence, City of Falls Church
- Andrea Lizarzaburu, City of Takoma Park
- Ava Lovain, VA DEQ
- Anna Marshall, Baltimore Metropolitan Council
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Mike Sandler, Loudoun County
- Josey Schwartz, MDE
- Lacey Shaver, World Resources Institute (WRI)
- John Silcox, Fairfax County
- Michelle Smyk, Prince William County
- Yi Sun, Prince William County
- Steven Swarr, Loudoun County
- Julia Wack, VA DEQ
- Sunny Wescott, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA)
- Fiona Wissell, ICF

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ)
- Severin Beucker, Borderstep Institut
- Rob Bradley, Ernst and Young
- Sarah Burke, ICLEI USA
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Al Carr, DOEE
- Angela Conroy, VA DEQ
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah 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

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Sarah Bagley, CEEPC Chair

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Sarah Bagley called the November CEEPC meeting to order. The September CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

2. THE GERMAN ENERGY TRANSITION: LESSONS LEARNED

Dr. Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission

Dr. Severin Beucker, Bordestep Institut

In Germany, regulators are reshaping electricity distribution with the rise of behind-the-meter systems and collector grids. These systems let suppliers manage power flows directly to the meter, creating a new category of sub-distribution operators. Transmission system operators support this change because it consolidates generation and storage capacity, making integration into the transmission grid more efficient and predictable.

Smaller distribution companies view these new roles as competitive threats that could weaken their market position. The practice is legal and consistent with current regulations, but its long-term impact on competition, market balance, and grid governance remains unsettled. Stakeholders continue to debate how to define responsibilities and ensure fair participation in the energy market.

Discussion: Participants emphasized the importance of sharing resources and strengthening collaboration. They addressed the challenges of locating data centers in densely populated areas and identified opportunities to repurpose excess heat for local energy use.

3. MID-ATLANTIC CLIMATE LEADERS ROUNDTABLE

Maia Davis, COG Senior Planner

Jess Grannis, ICLEI

Lacey Shaver, WRI

Invited members of the Mid-Atlantic Climate Leaders Group

The Mid-Atlantic Climate Leaders (formerly Mid-Atlantic Climate Mitigation Network) has served as a regional network since 2010, bringing together local governments, state agencies, and partners to share best practices on climate mitigation, resilience, and sustainability. Originally convened by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and later transitioned to COG in partnership with WRI and ICLEI, the network continues to provide a forum for collaboration across the Mid-Atlantic region. Its role has been especially important in coordinating efforts around the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) program, which has required extensive planning and cooperation.

Through the CPRG program, regional and state agencies developed Priority Climate Action Plans (PCAPs) and Comprehensive Climate Action Plans (CCAPs) that set greenhouse gas reduction strategies and identified co-benefits such as improved air quality and workforce development. Each participating organization reported distinct takeaways.

- COG used the process to update emissions modeling and incorporate new measures on data centers and electrification.
- Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VA DEQ) produced their first comprehensive climate plans, outlining pathways to net-zero emissions and securing implementation grants for projects such as methane reduction and land preservation.
- Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) led statewide planning efforts, aligning CPRG deliverables with the Climate Solutions Now Act and supporting regional implementation grants focused on coastal restoration and clean transportation.
- Hampton Roads Planning District Commission (HRPDC) discovered new opportunities to integrate resilience and climate planning, highlighting transit, trails, and nature-based solutions.
- Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) prioritized transportation electrification, renewable energy, and climate literacy initiatives for government staff.
- District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE) advanced household electrification, deeper emissions inventories, and cross-agency task forces.

Collectively, these efforts demonstrated how the CPRG program has catalyzed new planning, strengthened partnerships, and expanded regional capacity to act on climate.

Discussion: Participants emphasized the heavy lift required to complete CPRG deliverables and the importance of sustaining collaboration as implementation begins. They noted that while future funding remains uncertain, the network provides a durable platform for sharing lessons, coordinating strategies, and supporting underserved communities.

4. CARBON MEASURES PROGRAM COALITION

Rob Bradley, Ernst and Young

A new framework for carbon accounting, known as E-liabilities, was introduced as a way to track emissions consistently across the value chain. The model treats a ton of carbon as constant from extraction through end use, while also incorporating inefficiencies such as methane leakage in pipelines or transmission losses in electricity. Accurate measurement requires both direct data and estimates, with the aim of replacing broad coefficients with real measurements wherever possible. Large industrial operations already collect detailed data, but challenges remain in capturing emissions from smaller, everyday activities such as office waste or employee commuting.

The approach seeks to strengthen accountability by ensuring transparent reporting and verifiable results. By moving beyond estimates and toward standardized measurement, E-liabilities accounting provides a clearer picture of emissions across sectors and supports more rigorous climate action.

Discussion: Participants raised questions about how the model accounts for leakage and inefficiencies in energy systems. The response clarified that these factors are included in the accounting process, though implementation is complex and requires careful estimation. Auditors are increasingly demanding precise data, which is pushing organizations to improve measurement practices.

5. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

Written updates provided in advance

A. Member Updates

- None

B. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

- The November 20th meeting will focus on energy assistance programs and battery energy storage systems (BESS). Panelists include representatives from state Low Income Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) agencies, area utilities, and the National Energy Assistance Directors Association to discuss the status of LIHEAP funds and potential contingency plans. The Clean Energy States Alliance will provide a comparative review of state energy storage procurement mandates, targets, and goals. The recording and related materials will be posted on the [meeting page](#).

C. Air And Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

- The first draft of the EJ Toolkit Refresh is under review by ACPAC with comments due by November 21. Staff will review comments and release a second draft for comments to COG committees, including CEEPC and BEEAC, as well as community-based organizations. The final version is expected by the January 2026 ACPAC meeting.
- The November 17th ACPAC meeting will include a presentation on the draft EJ Toolkit update, which highlights new elements of the update and a presentation from the Energy Justice Lab on its research and programs related to household energy insecurity. The committee will also discuss member recruitment.

D. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group

- The October 23rd meeting featured presentations on regional efforts to electrify food trucks and expand electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure. Montgomery County described its pilot program, funded by the Maryland Energy Administration, which offers incentives and loans to food truck operators to replace polluting generators with battery systems, highlighting both successes and logistical challenges. The DC Department of Energy & Environment shared its rapid pilot project, which electrified four food trucks through outreach, demonstrations, and tailored battery installations, emphasizing the importance of vendor engagement and exploring new models like centralized battery hubs. Finally, Alexandria presented its multifamily EV charging initiative, providing technical assessments and grants to condos and apartments to overcome cost and installation barriers, with a focus on future-proofing and equitable access. The presentations highlighted the value of pilot programs, stakeholder collaboration, and innovative approaches to advancing clean transportation solutions.

E. Recycling Committee

- COG was the “state” coordinator for America Recycles Day (ARD) 2025 on November 15th for the metropolitan Washington area. COG offered regional prizes of REI gift certificates. Keep America Beautiful (KAB) is the national organization that promotes ARD. COG hosted an online pledge form for its local contest on the [COG website](#).

F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)

- The Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee’s future Tree Action Plan is focused on tree preservation and was the focus of the October RTCS meeting. The District Department of Transportation’s Urban Forestry Division presented DC’s unique tree preservation laws for special and heritage trees, and Arlington County shared their regulation designed to protect the critical root zones of mature trees during construction.

G. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition

- The GWRCCC Job Fair, supported in part by COG’s Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant, took place on Tuesday, September 30, 2025, from 10 AM to 1 PM at the Westphalia Community Center in Upper Marlboro, MD. The GWRCCC Job Fair aimed to connect job seekers with employers and workforce partners from various industries, with an emphasis on clean energy careers including DaiTech, IBEW Local 26, and Power52. The event advanced

workforce development, strengthened existing partnerships, as well as establishing new connections across the Greater Washington region, and promoted access to career pathways. Prior to doors opening for the event, job seekers were lined up out the door and around the building.

H. Staff Updates

- a. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program
 - i) The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), led by COG, includes MSA greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, GHG projections, GHG reduction measures, a net zero GHG emissions scenario, a co-pollutant benefits analysis, and workforce development analysis. The draft CCAP was released for a public comment period between the first week of October through November 10, 2025. Approximately a dozen comments were received that touched on topics such as data centers, environmental justice, water, and transportation. The comments and responses will be shared with the CPRG Steering and Technical Committees. The final plan was submitted to EPA by December 1, 2025.
- b. Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Discretionary Grant Program
 - i) The most significant activities COG and its partners took in the third quarter of this CFI Project were Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and State TIP (STIP) updates, working on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (CE) form and narrative, creating projects online in the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPAC) website for all 37 EV charging deployment sites, hosting the project's first Job Fair, and planning 2 Community Listening Sessions.

6. ADJOURN

Sarah Bagley, CEEPC Chair

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

- Thursday January 22, 2026 (Public Policy Day at the Auto Show)
- Wednesday January 28, 2026
- Wednesday March 25, 2026
- 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/2025/11/19/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>