



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: JANUARY 22, 2025

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria (Chair)
- Hon. Wala Blegay, Prince George's County
- Hon. Susan Cunningham, Arlington County
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. Barry Jackson, City of Rockville
- Hon. M.C. Keegan-Ayer, Frederick County
- Hon. Stacy Seiberling, City of Manassas Park
- Hon. Bob Weir, Prince William County
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Noelani Brockett, Charles County
- Adriana Caldarelli, Prince George's County
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Susan Gerson, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS)
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Jenn Hatch, District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE)
- Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Montgomery County
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Jon Monger, Montgomery County
- John Morrill, Fairfax County
- John Nenghabi, City of Gaithersburg
- Lauren Paulet, City of Frederick
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Alison Riley, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- Matt Ries, DC Water
- Julie Rosenberg, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Maria Sinner, VDOT
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Anna Bower, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Andrea Crooms, Prince George's County
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Al Carr, DOEE
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County
- Susan Elliott, ICF
- Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County
- Ryan Freed, City of Alexandria
- Deb Harris, ICF
- Hokuma Karimova, City of Gaithersburg
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Elizabeth Lovinggood, WMATA
- Eve Lukens-Day, EPA
- Elisabeth McCollum, PRR
- Sam McKenzie, PRR
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Dr. Opeoluwa Olawale, Washington Gas
- John Sheridan, Prince George's County
- John Silcox, Calvert County
- Jordan Smith, PRR
- Michelle Smyk, Prince William County
- Sunny Wescott, Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (DHS CISA)

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

- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Mark Moran, COG Transportation Planning
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Katherine Rainone, COG Transportation Planning

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Sarah Bagley, CEEPC Chair, City of Alexandria Council

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

2. OUTLOOK FOR 2025

Climate, Energy and Air Program Staff

The overarching theme of priority work activities for 2025 is to continue supporting efforts to accelerate action on reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to meet the 2030 Climate and Energy Goals and support local climate plans and projects. Near term activities include the work plan and budget in May, Legislative Committee activities, and responding to the Air and Climate Policy Advisory Committee (ACPAC) memo.

Other priority activities include continued work on the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), Annual Utility Data Request and Analysis, 2023 GHG Inventory, Climate and Energy Awards, Tree Canopy Action Plan, EJ Toolkit, and Military Installation Resilience (MIR) Program.

The COG Board adopted its legislative priorities in January. Under the Climate and Energy Innovation and Air Quality Projection section there were eight legislative priorities:

- Support Policies to Meet the Region's Climate Goals
- 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
- Enhance Incentives and Financing Mechanisms for Climate Resiliency
- Support Policies that Preserve and Protect Regional Air Quality and Public Health

In Virginia, bills being tracked include implementing energy efficiency standards in data centers, requiring water and energy use reporting for data centers, changing renewable energy portfolio standard requirements, and financing for clean energy projects.

In Maryland, bills being tracked include a loan program to establish green and renewable energy for nonprofit organizations and establishing a climate change adaptation and mitigation payment program to secure payments from fossil fuel or petroleum products to provide revenue for adaptation and mitigation projects.

3. CLIMATE GOALS MID-COURSE REVIEW: TECHNICAL APPROACH

Maia Davis, COG Senior Climate Planner

In response to the November 2024 ACPAC memo, CEEPC directed staff to prepare a Mid-Course Review to assess progress in meeting the 2030 Climate and Energy Goals. The findings of the Mid-Course Review will help to inform possible considerations for establishing new goals and assist with CCAP development. Staff's recommended approach is to assess the status of goals and actions toward the region's existing plan, identify key metric and performance indicators, and summarize the status of the collective priority climate actions in the region.

COG staff requested feedback from CEEPC members on areas of analysis, performance indicators, local government survey questions, and ways to communicate results.

Discussion: Members identified clean electricity, buildings, transportation, mode shift and travel behavior, and sequestration as the climate action areas to focus on in the Mid-Course Review. Members recommended leveraging the Mid-Course Review to do more work in the data center sector. Members also noted the importance of considering the economic context when prioritizing actions.

4. DEVELOPING A REGIONAL CLIMATE OUTREACH AND EDUCATION INITIATIVE: SUMMARY OF EXISTING PROGRAMS

Deb Harris, ICF

Elisabeth McCollum, PRR

The November ACPAC memo recommended developing a regional climate education and outreach campaign. As a response, staff worked with the consultant team to review existing initiatives in the region to help inform the next steps in the work. The scope of regional climate programs was defined as "a climate or sustainability program, initiative, plan, or activity with education or outreach efforts for the public" with the focus areas being energy efficiency, sustainability/resilience planning, renewable energy, transportation, nature-based solutions, or environmental justice. Initial research identified 150 initiatives, with the majority being organized and implemented by government agencies, followed by utilities, non-profit partnerships, and collaborations with colleges and universities. Key observations from the research showed that most resources are jargon-heavy, there is a lack of consistent and targeted environmental and social justice programming, multilingual resources were not often provided, and there was not a clear call to action. The opportunities identified for a COG Education and Outreach initiative included supporting specific partners with the development of easy-to-use graphics to help explain the impacts of climate change, focusing a portion of the content on specific actions low/moderate income households can take to be more sustainable, and offering material translation expertise for languages other than English for partners' education materials.

Staff requested written feedback from the committee to advise on the next steps for the climate outreach and education initiative.

5. CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANT UPDATE – PLANS FOR ENGAGEMENT EVENTS FOR THE COMPREHENSIVE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN

Susan Elliott, ICF

Through the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) process, COG will be conducting engagement sessions throughout the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA). The goals of this engagement are to build support for the plan, foster regional collaboration, and incorporate low-income and disadvantaged communities (LIDAC) input. The key

audiences are COG committees, MSA localities (non-COG members), community-based organizations (CBOs), local climate leaders, tribes, LIDACs, Equity Emphasis Areas (EEAs), Environmental Justice populations, climate and energy advisory committees, and data centers or other focus topics. The approach to engaging the nine non-COG member jurisdictions within the MSA is to work with regional planning commissions, local climate groups, and regional CBOs. Through these avenues, CPRG efforts and outcomes from the Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) can be introduced and develop an understanding of the stakeholders and their related programs and issues.

6. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

Written updates provided in advance

- A. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)
 - Al Carr (DOEE) has been appointed as BEEAC Chair and Mati Bazurto (City of Bowie) has been appointed as BEEAC Co-Vice Chair. Staff is working to fill the Co-Vice Chair position for Virginia.
- B. Air And Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
 - ACPAC meets on January 27 and will vote for the new 2025 officers. ACPAC has kicked off the work of updating the Environmental Justice Toolkit. The Toolkit will focus on communication strategies and COG Staff has secured a consultant, Equival Partners, who will engage with community organizations for input on specific strategies. The community outreach will begin in March 2025.
- C. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group
 - The next REVD meeting will be at the auto show on January 30.
- D. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
 - Join GWRCCC's Opening Reception on February 26, 2025, 6pm to 8pm, at 899 North Capitol Street NE, Washington, DC (free). GWRCCC is pulling together a Maryland Biofuels Task Force, please contact Antoinethompson@gwrccc.org.
- E. Recycling Committee
 - No update.
- F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)
 - The RTCS subcommittee will be working to support the development of actions for the Tree Canopy Action Plan being drafted this year. These will be concrete actions to reach and maintain the Regional Tree Canopy goal set in April. The RTCS is also tracking generally assembly bills affecting tree canopy and forests.
 - The RTCS also wants to thank Michael Knapp, in Montgomery County's Planning Division, for his excellent leadership as RTCS chair these past few years as he'll be stepping down as chair.
- G. Staff Updates
 - A. Auto Show
 - [Electrifying the Future: Strategies for Climate Pollution Reduction Forum](#). On January 30, COG is hosting its annual event at the 2025 Washington Auto Show. Electrifying the Future: Strategies for Climate Pollution Reduction will convene the region's experts and practitioners across the public and private sectors to discuss the roll electric vehicles play in achieving the region's climate goals. This event is free to those who pre-register, and attendees will gain access to the Sneak Peek of the Washington Auto Show's floor after the forum.
 - B. Charging And Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) Grant
 - COG submitted a proposal under the Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) Number 693JJ323NF00004 from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary (CFI) Grant Opportunity (Round 1A) on June 13, 2023, but was not awarded in Round 1A. COG requested its Round 1A proposal be

reconsidered under the NOFO Number 693JJ324NF00017 from the FHWA CFI Discretionary Grant Opportunity (Round 1B and Round 2) on June 21, 2024. FHWA awarded this project as part of the Round 1B announcements on August 26, 2024. In the fall, COG coordinated with its local government partners on the grant to update the scope and timeline for submission to the regional Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The Round 1A awarded project was adopted into the TIP on November 1, 2024, and the District of Columbia TIP, in December 2024. The FHWA-COG grant agreement is now fully executed, with FHWA signing the agreement last week, January 12, 2024. The next step is for COG to submit a baseline report to FHWA due a month after the executed agreement, work with FHWA and partners to get subrecipient agreements in place, and coordinate with partners to start National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Categorical Exclusion (CE) documentation. In addition, COG has been coordinating with Round 1A and 1B grantees in MD, VA, and around the country through a cohort coordinated by the Electrification Coalition.

- Unfortunately, COG's Round 2 application submitted in September 2024 was not awarded. However, the Maryland Department of Transportation (MDOT), the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE), and Virginia Energy have been awarded under Round 2. More information on Round 2 awardees can be found here: https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cfi/grant_recipients/round_2/ and <https://electrificationcoalition.org/resource/charging-and-fueling-infrastructure-grant-round-2-awards-trends-and-takeaways/>. Thus far, \$1.78 billion of the \$2.5 billion allocated to the CFI program has been awarded and there is one potential final round of the CFI program slated for the future with the funding anticipated to be at least \$700 million. COG will keep an eye out to see if the Round 2 application can be resubmitted in the final round.

7. ADJOURN

Sarah Bagley, CEEPC Chair

Chair Bagley adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2025 include:

- Auto Show, January 30, 2025
- Wednesday, March 26, 2025
- Wednesday, May 28, 2025
- Wednesday, July 23, 2025
- Wednesday, September 24, 2025
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025

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

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2025/1/22/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>