

Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG) Meeting

Washington Metropolitan Council of Governments
777 North Capitol Street, NE, Washington, DC

September 8, 2011 IGBG Meeting Highlights- DRAFT

“Promoting cooperation on green building issues in the Metropolitan Washington region”

Attendees:

Joan Kelsch, Chair, Arlington County
Luisa Robles, Greenbelt
William Marsh, Loudoun County
Mike Barancewicz, Loudoun County Public Schools
William Baty, Loudoun County
Perrilyn Fanfulik, WMATA
Carla Grana, WMATA
Laine Cidlowski, District of Columbia
Steve Walz, NVRC
Erica Shingara, Rockville
Ellen Eggerton, Fairfax County
Noel Kaplan, Fairfax County
Suzanne Kelley, AIA
Lisa Orr, Frederick County (conference call)
Leah Boggs, COG
Amanda Campbell, COG
Joan Rohlf, COG
Jeannine Altavilla, COG

- **Call to Order, Welcome, and Introductions (Joan Kelsch)**
 - o Chair Kelsch called the meeting to order at 9:37 am.
 - o Introductions

- **Approval of July 27, 2011 Meeting Summary (Joan Kelsch)**
 - o The minutes were approved with the following changes:
 - o Pg. 2 of the July 27th meeting summary under Green Building Report Update, 2 comments (Noel Kaplan):
 - The last bulleted recommendation seemed unparallel to previous recommendations

- Should reflect how the COG regional LEED certified recommendation is being addressed
 - Top bullet in last paragraph change language to “a report on the status of” ...all recommendations in last report.’
- **MobilizeGreen Sustainability Intern Program for Local Governments (Leah Boggs)**
 - o COG, in partnership with Mobilize Green (a DC-based non-profit that helps local governments and communities advance sustainability priorities) and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability, plans to seek a Walmart grant to recruit, train, and place interns in host local governments in the National Capital Region to work on projects tied to local and regional environmental, energy and sustainability initiatives. The two main focuses of the internship are 1. Sustainability/ greenhouse gas reduction and 2. Diverse workforce development. Intern selection occurs through the Americorps program.
 - o COG is seeking grant funding to support a total of ten (10) interns for an approximately 3 month term during Summer 2012. COG staff is submitting the proposal tomorrow (Sept. 9, 2011). To help us gauge interest levels, let us know if your jurisdiction would be interested in hosting a college-level intern, beginning Summer 2012.
 - o One IGBG member from Loudoun County recommended acquiring interns—they experienced great mutual benefits from their internship program.
 - o COG staff contact: Leah Boggs, 202-962-3336 or lboggs@mwkog.org.
- **AIA and the Building Code Process (Suzanna Wight Kelley, AIA)**

The American Institute of Architects discussed their advocacy and support of buildings codes and the IgCC on the local level (see also slides posted under meeting materials).

 - o Buildings are responsible for 71% of US electricity consumption. The American Institute of Architects has set forth a goal of achieving carbon neutral buildings by 2030. The International Green Construction Code (IgCC) is one of many model codes that AIA publishes. ‘Reference Standards’ such as ASHRAE help to define standards in rating systems and codes. ‘Rating Systems’ such as LEED are a voluntary approach that rewards top-performing buildings, whereas codes are regulatory and enforceable. Codes do not require commissioning—one reason for this is that it is a challenge to identify a way to enforce a failed commissioning. Occupancy permits are the primary enforcement tool for codes.
 - o IgCC is an overlay code with additional requirements above baseline minimum model codes. It is customizable by region. The IgCC applies to commercial & high-performance buildings, is integrated with I-Codes, relies on ASHRAE/USGBC/IES Standard 189.1 included as jurisdictional compliance option, and is tied to building performance. So far there are no mandatory adoptions of the IgCC codes, although several jurisdictions have

adopted a voluntary version. The next latest revision of the IgCC should be available in early 2012.

- o Current challenges are that we are aiming for a rapid transformation in building codes in the midst of a slow economy.

Q/A

Q: What does adopting a voluntary code accomplish?

A: It allows developers/owners to use the code as a model for green building. It isn't enforceable unless it is adopted as a mandatory code.

- **Jurisdiction Roundtable Updates**

- A. DC: The District is holding meetings to update the Green Buildings Act. There is general concern about how to enforce the bond requirement. Councilmember Cheh is holding intergovernmental and external meetings.
- B. Fairfax County:
 - a. Next week there will be a public workshop to consider a strawman proposal for a green building policy. Stakeholder meetings were held earlier in the summer, and the Planning Commission will take feedback before presenting the policy to the Board.
 - b. The first zoning approval for Tysons Corner is coming before the Board. 50% of the rooftop area will be green. There is a lot of rainwater harvesting in the project proposal. It is transit-focused, near Tysons West.
- C. Loudoun has three initiatives to report:
 - 1. Staff launched a Master plan development effort, holding public meetings with stakeholders and water authority. Plan includes energy reductions through voluntary approaches
 - 2. The Energy Plan for Moorefield Station is under development.
 - 3. The County's Economic Development department is looking at how to encourage the retention of renewable energy businesses. They will hold their first meeting at the end of the month.
 - 4. A rezoning application for a site next to the mall has been submitted, that would include an agreement to share ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager data for ten years. If data is not provided, there will be a fee.
- D. Erica Shingara, Rockville, MD reports:
 - 1. MD jurisdictions are allowed to adopt the IgCC, although this will wait until after the adoption of latest revision
 - 2. They allow tax credits if buildings achieve energy efficiency certification
- E. Joan Kelsch, Arlington County, VA reports:

1. They have used EECBG funding for solar installations in four libraries. They are holding ribbon-cutting ceremonies later in September
 - a. 250 panels making up 60 kW solar PV system on 1 library
 2. They are hiring—two staff have resigned
- F. Leah Boggs: The Green Building Report is still undergoing revisions. Draft final to be completed by October/November.

- **Next Meeting Date and Adjournment**

- o Next meeting is on October 13, 2011