



AIR AND CLIMATE PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ACPAC)

Chair: William Washburn

Final May 19, 2025 Meeting Summary

ACPAC MEMBERS: Stacey Garfinkle, Julie Kimmel, Jack Lyman, William Marsh, Jacqueline Norris, Audrey Nwaze, Era Pandya, Deborah Shprentz, Chris Tandy, James Wang, William Washburn

OTHER: Kevin Bryan, Liana Quinones, and Dana Brunson (Equival Consulting), Karen Connan (Mobilize Frederick), Erica Green (DC Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency), Staci Hartwell, Vivek Ravichandran, Chris Topoleski, Tamara Dickerson (CEEJH), Krys White (CEEJH), Frederick Johnson (CEEJH), Karen Campblin (NAACP), Andrew Felbin (University of MD), Carlton Poindexter (Young, Gifted & Green), Fiona Wissell and Jon Clinger (ICF)

COG STAFF: Leah Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon, Robert Christopher, Maia Davis

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

William Washburn, Chair

The meeting was called to order by Chair William Washburn. The March 2025 meeting summary was approved. The meeting had a quorum and there were no amendments to the agenda.

There were no announcements.

5:45 P.M. 2. COG ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TOOLKIT: JOINT COMMUNITY LISTENING SESSION #2

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

Kevin Bryan, Equival

Members of the public and community organizations will join ACPAC in a community listening session, facilitated by Equival, to discuss effective outreach and communication strategies for environmental justice issues. These recommendations will be compiled into the EJ Toolkit.

Presentation Summary

- Leah Boggs provided an overview of COG's committee structure and roles. Staff also discussed the purpose of developing a new EJ Toolkit.
- Equival discussed:
 - The community outreach engagement and information gathering methodology.
 - Presented preliminary community feedback from the following questions:

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. Visit www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

- How would you describe the community (communities) that you are a member of or where you live?
- What are some topics or issues related to climate, energy, and air that are important to your community/communities?
- What are some topics or issues related to climate, energy, and air that are important to your community/communities?
- How do you/your organization/members prefer to receive information on climate, energy, and air quality issues?
- What are the greatest challenges and barriers in building a sustained and productive relationship with local government staff in your city or county? What are some examples of successes in building sustained and productive relationships with local government leaders, agencies, and staff in your city or county?
- Final results of community feedback and recommendations are due to COG by June 30, 2025.

6:50 P.M. 3. CLIMATE POLLUTION REDUCTION GRANTS (CPRG) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS AND DATA CENTERS REGIONAL IMPACTS

Leah Boggs, COG Staff

Fiona Wissell, ICF Consulting

ICF provided an overview of the CPRG program's Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) requirements and gave details on the data center measure, including GHG inventory and projections, as well as actions local governments can encourage data centers to take to improve energy efficiency and reduce emissions.

Staff Leah Boggs and Maia Davis reported that some of the data center work is in response to ACPAC's memos sent to CEEPC in May 2024. The response has been integrated into the CCAP.

Presentation Summary

- Two new elements added to the CCAP are:
 - Conduct education and public outreach to support measure implementation (Engagement measure).
 - Clean and efficient data centers (Buildings and Clean Energy measure).
- VA (nearly 500), TX (nearly 300), and CA (nearly 300) are the top 3 states for data centers.
- There are over 300 data centers within a 50-mile radius of Washington, DC, about 200 are in Loudoun County.
- As part of the CPRG program the GHG inventory was updated to break out data center GHG emissions from the broader commercial buildings sector.
- City of Manassas, Frederick County, Loudoun County, Prince George's County, Prince William County reported expected growth in data centers.
- The key drivers of data center energy use are servers/IT equipment and cooling systems.

Discussion

- A member of the public expressed concerns about the impact data centers have on water and increased air pollution.
 - The data center analysis is done in context with the CPRG grant; therefore, water and impacts are included relative to energy use. Water and noise issues would be addressed by local government zoning and permitting.

- A member of the public inquired if the CCAP data center measure will include recommendations on future technology such as quantum computing.
 - Quantum computing was not projected in the 5-10 outlook results from the local governments surveyed in the region.

7:30 P.M. 4. NEXT ACPAC MEETING AND ADJOURN

The next meeting is July 21, 2025. Chair William Washburn adjourned the meeting at 7:30.

All meeting documents can be found on the May 19, 2025 [meeting page](#).