



## BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BEEAC)

Draft Webinar Meeting Summary: April 16, 2026

### **BEEAC Local and State Government Members in Attendance:**

- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria (Co-Vice Chair)
- Al Carr, DOEE
- Allie Shepard, Arlington County
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville
- Dale Medearis, NVRC
- Daniel Lee, WMATA
- Denzel John, City of Rockville
- Drew Stilson, Arlington County
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick
- Jeremy Good, Montgomery County
- John Silcox, Fairfax County
- Kevin Milstead, Prince William County
- Kurt Lawrence, Prince William County
- Lindsey Robinett Shaw, Montgomery County
- Luisa Robles, City of Greenbelt
- Maggie Beetstra, Fairfax County
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County
- Najib Salehi, Loudoun County
- Rich Dooley, Arlington County
- Samantha Heitsch, City of Alexandria

- Shawn O'Neill, Fairfax Water

### **Additional Attendees:**

- Bob Soule, Go Electric DMV
- Elizabeth Marik, Electrify DC
- Ella Schmitt, Howard County
- Jon Jenkins, Electrify DC
- Kathie Hoekstra, Alexandria Environmental Policy Committee Member
- Romita Biswas, Electrify DC
- Vanessa Bertelli, Electrify DC

### **COG Staff:**

- Alissa Boggs, COG DEP
- Caroline Sherman, COG DEP
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG DEP
- Leah Boggs, COG DEP
- Maddie Stoddard, COG DEP
- Maia Davis, COG DEP



## **1. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*Valeria Amor, Energy Manager, City of Alexandria and BEEAC Co-Vice Chair*

Co-Vice Chair Valerie Amor called the meeting to order and welcomed participants to the April BEEAC meeting. COG staff provided brief reminders on virtual meeting procedures, including use of the chat for comments, muting when not speaking, and the ability to raise hands for questions. Participants were asked to enter their name and affiliation in the chat for attendance tracking.

## **2. APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 19, 2026 MEETING SUMMARY**

*Valerie, BEEAC Co-Vice Chair*

Valerie Amor provided time for committee members to review the February 19, 2026 meeting summary and invited comments or proposed revisions. After a brief review period, no changes were raised either verbally or in the chat. Hearing no objections, the February 19, 2026 meeting summary was approved by general consent and entered as final.

## **3. FY 2027 REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES CLIMATE AND ENERGY WORK PLAN AND BUDGET**

*Leah Boggs, COG Staff*

COG staff presented an overview of the draft FY 2027 Regional Environmental Resources Climate and Energy Work Program and Budget, noting that the proposal will be brought to the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) for approval following member review. Staff encouraged BEEAC members to provide comments by the end of April or early May to inform revisions prior to adoption.

Staff emphasized that the overall program structure remains consistent year to year, with a continued focus on supporting local government implementation of regional climate goals. Core priorities include advancing the Metropolitan Washington region's greenhouse gas reduction targets—50 percent reduction by 2030 and long-term decarbonization by 2050—through coordinated efforts in building efficiency, zero-emission vehicles, and clean electricity deployment.

The FY 2027 budget totals approximately \$5.9 million, with a significant increase from the prior year driven by expanded grant funding, particularly for electric vehicle charging infrastructure. Staff noted that member dues funding has decreased compared to the previous year, reflecting broader constraints on COG's budget tied to organizational costs, including facility obligations.

The work program is organized into several major areas, including climate and energy policy, BEEAC-related technical support, infrastructure programs (such as EVs and solar), climate adaptation and resilience, and regional coordination with advisory committees. Additional program areas include vehicle emissions reduction initiatives, solid waste and recycling efforts, and urban forestry planning, including development of a regional tree canopy action plan.

Staff also highlighted an increased emphasis on data and analytics across program areas, reflecting feedback from regional stakeholders and policymakers. Members were encouraged to review the materials in detail and provide feedback on priorities, emerging needs, and potential adjustments to better support local implementation efforts.

#### **4. GREENHOUSE GASES AND CLIMATE PROGRESS (MIDCOURSE REVIEW)**

*Maia Davis, COG Staff*

COG staff presented highlights from the region’s final greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories and the draft Midcourse Review Report, which evaluates progress toward regional climate goals using key performance indicators across major sectors. The report assesses trends over the past 15–20 years and is intended to inform areas where additional or accelerated action is needed to meet 2030 targets.

Staff reaffirmed the region’s primary goal of reducing GHG emissions by 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The region has achieved approximately a 20 percent reduction between 2005 and 2023, meeting its 2020 target, though emissions have rebounded slightly following pandemic-related declines. Key drivers of emissions reductions include a cleaner electric grid, improved vehicle efficiency, and reduced vehicle miles traveled per capita. At the same time, population growth, increased commercial building space, and rising energy demand—particularly from data centers—continue to contribute to emissions increases.

The presentation reviewed trends across several sectors, noting significant growth in solar deployment, green building certifications, and electric vehicle adoption and charging infrastructure. However, commercial electricity consumption has increased substantially over time, and progress in some areas will need to accelerate to remain aligned with regional targets. Additional challenges include ongoing tree canopy loss, changing waste patterns, and lingering impacts from the COVID-19 period.

Staff emphasized that while measurable progress has been made, current trajectories may not be sufficient to meet 2030 goals without expanded and accelerated implementation across sectors. Feedback received from stakeholders, including environmental organizations, has called for stronger acknowledgment of this gap and greater emphasis on key drivers such as land use, transportation, and high energy-use sectors.

Committee members discussed technical aspects of the inventory methodology, including how data is collected and allocated across jurisdictions. Staff noted that results are derived from a combination of utility data, regional modeling, and jurisdiction-level inputs, with some sectors—such as transportation—requiring downscaling from county-level data. Members were encouraged to review the draft Midcourse Review Report and provide comments, particularly on priority focus areas and recommended next steps.

#### **5. ELECTRIFY DC HOMEOWNERS HUB NEXT STEPS**

*Vanessa Bertelli, Electrify DC  
BEEAC Members*

ELECTRIFY DC presented an update on the development of a proposed regional “Homeowners Hub,” a centralized platform designed to support residential electrification across the DMV. The presentation reflected input from multiple working group sessions with regional stakeholders, which have focused on defining the purpose, structure, and cost of the tool.

The proposed Homeowners Hub is envisioned as a “one-stop shop” to provide homeowners and renters with accessible, user-centered information on electrification pathways, costs, incentives, and

vetted contractors. Presenters emphasized that current resources are fragmented across jurisdictions and programs, making it difficult for residents to navigate options and take action. A regional platform would aim to standardize information, improve user experience, and expand access to trusted resources.

Presentation findings highlighted strong demand for consistent, centralized information, citing engagement from recent outreach efforts such as the Healthy Homes Fair. In particular, a vetted contractor directory emerged as the highest priority feature across jurisdictions, along with tools to support decision-making, case studies, and guidance for both homeowners and renters.

ELECTRIFY DC provided preliminary cost estimates for developing and maintaining the platform, noting that while initial development costs are moderate, ongoing maintenance and content updates represent the largest long-term expense. The concept assumes shared investment across participating jurisdictions, with potential cost allocation based on population. Presenters also emphasized that sustained maintenance—including updating contractor information, incentives, and resources—is critical to ensuring the platform remains useful and relevant.

Discussion with BEEAC members focused on governance, funding, and implementation considerations. Questions were raised regarding potential funding structures, including the role of COG, local jurisdictions, and alternative financing approaches. Members noted the value of a regional approach for improving efficiency and consistency, while also highlighting potential challenges related to procurement, participation, and long-term sustainability.

COG staff clarified that the concept remains in the exploratory phase, with no formal decision on funding or hosting. Members were encouraged to provide feedback and engage in follow-up discussions to help determine next steps, including governance structure, funding mechanisms, and opportunities for coordination with existing local programs.

## **6. ENERGY AFFORDABILITY**

*Romita Biswas, Electrify DC*

ELECTRIFY DC presented an overview of key drivers behind rising electricity costs in the DMV region, focusing on how utility cost structures, wholesale energy markets, and capacity constraints influence customer bills. The presentation explained the utility cost-of-service model, noting that customer rates reflect both long-term infrastructure investments (capital expenditures) and shorter-term operational costs associated with procuring electricity.

A significant portion of cost increases was attributed to changes in regional electricity market dynamics, particularly within PJM's capacity market. Staff highlighted recent increases in capacity prices driven by a combination of power plant retirements, increased demand (including from large energy users such as data centers), and changes in how generation resources are valued for reliability. These factors have reduced available supply and increased the cost of ensuring sufficient capacity during peak demand periods.

The presentation noted that these rising costs are ultimately passed through to consumers and may vary by jurisdiction depending on utility structures and rate designs. In particular, capacity and transmission costs—while not always directly visible to customers—can have a significant impact on overall electricity rates.

As a potential solution, the presenter emphasized the importance of demand-side strategies, particularly demand response programs that reduce electricity use during peak periods. By lowering peak demand, these programs can reduce the amount of capacity required and help lower future system costs. Examples include shifting energy use, utilizing smart technologies, and leveraging distributed energy resources such as solar, battery storage, and electric vehicles.

The presentation concluded that coordinated, regional participation in demand response could provide meaningful long-term cost reductions, though achieving these outcomes would require improved program design, stronger customer participation, and clearer communication of benefits. COG staff noted interest in further exploration of this topic through future discussions with BEEAC members.

## **7. 2026 MEETING SCHEDULE AND ADJOURNMENT**

COG staff confirmed the 2026 BEEAC meeting schedule, with sessions remaining on June 18, September 17, and November 19. Before adjourning, Staff also announced the launch of the 12th annual Climate and Energy Leadership Awards, noting that additional information would be shared with members following the meeting. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

*All meeting materials including speaker presentations and video recording can be found on the MWCOG website by clicking the link below –*

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2026/4/16/event-built-environment-and-energy-advisory-committee/>

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials. For more information, visit: [www.mwcog.org/accommodations](http://www.mwcog.org/accommodations) or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD)