



METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE (MWAQC)

May 20, 2026
9:00 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.
Virtual Meeting

Chair: Dave Snyder, Falls Church

MEETING SUMMARY

MWAQC MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES

- David Snyder, City of Falls Church (Chair)
- Alan Hew, City of College Park (Vice-Chair)
- Kenny Boddy, Prince William County
- Tom Ballou, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
- Virginia Burke, Maryland Department of Transportation
- Collin Burrell, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Tom Dernoga, Prince George's County
- Jessica Gaetano, Calvert County
- Jacinta Green, City of Alexandria
- Jason Groth, Charles County
- Joseph Jakuta, District Department of Energy and Environment
- Keith Levenchenko, Montgomery County
- Sonia Vasquez Luna, City of Manassas
- Nekesa Matlock, City of Laurel
- Doris McCleod, VDEQ
- Rachel McQuillen, City of Fairfax
- David Myles, City of Rockville
- Tom Peterson, City of Fairfax
- Lauren Paulet, Frederick City
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation
- Evandro Santos, Prince William County
- Laurie-Anne Sayles, Montgomery County
- Julius D "JD" Spain, Arlington County
- Roger Thunnel, Maryland Department of the

Environment

- William Washburn, Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee
- Jenny Willoughby, Frederick City
- Kristen Weaver, City of Greenbelt

OTHERS

- Emily Bull, MDE
- Samuel Kay, DOEE
- Neely Law, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Damian Pitt, VCU
- Abigail Rivas, Loudoun County
- Catherine Salarano, MDE
- Danielle Sims, VDEQ
- Morgan Standley, Fairfax County
- Ivan Suen, VCU
- Chuck Turner, VDEQ

COG STAFF

- Alissa Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Heidi Bonnafon, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Robert d'Abadie, COG Department of Transportation Planning
- Jen Desimone, COG Department of Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Climate, Energy, and Air

- Program Director
- Sunil Kumar, COG Department of Environmental Programs

- Dusan Vuksan, COG Department of Transportation Planning

1. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD, APPROVE MINUTES, CHAIR'S REMARKS

Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair

Chair Dave Snyder called the meeting to order. Members and participants were requested to enter their names and affiliations into the chat for attendance purposes. The committee meeting summary from December 03, 2025, was approved without any changes.

2. COMMITTEE REPORTS

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Emily Bow (MDE)

MWAQC-TAC held a calls on January 13, February 10, March 10, April 14, and May 12:

- MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) – Emily Bow (MDE)
- The TAC provided updates on ongoing technical and regulatory activities:
- Regional air quality conditions remained in the good to moderate range, with no exceedances reported during the monitoring period.
- Members reviewed progress on the 2015 ozone NAAQS redesignation request and maintenance plan, including emissions inventories for milestone years 2017, 2022, 2032, and 2038.
- EPA finalized several actions, including attainment determinations and a clean data determination; an exceptional events waiver lowered the region's design value to attainment levels.
- The committee discussed the American Lung Association report and updates to the air quality forecast protocol for 2025, including same-day forecast adjustments when conditions worsen.

Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) – Leah Boggs (COG Staff)

ACPAC outreach, policy engagement, and emerging issues:

- The committee launched its 12th annual Climate and Energy Leadership Awards, with applications due June 30.
- Members discussed findings from regional data center forums, highlighting concerns about growth, infrastructure demand, and environmental impacts, including limited discussion of air quality impacts.
- A mid-course review indicated that data centers account for approximately 11% of greenhouse gas emissions and contribute to increased electricity demand.
- ACPAC also received a presentation on air pollution and health impacts, including research on Parkinson's disease.

Clean Air Partners – Jen Desimone (COG Staff)

Clean Air Partners an update on seasonal campaigns and outreach:

- The summer campaign launched during Air Quality Awareness Week with a focus on lawn and garden emissions reduction.
- Outreach events are being held across the region in partnership with local agencies and retailers.
- The annual lawn equipment exchange program will allow residents to swap gas-powered tools for electric alternatives.

- Planning is underway for summer ozone awareness efforts and reduced driving campaigns.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) – Heidi Bonnaffon (COG Staff on behalf of CEEPC leadership)

CEEPC reported on policy coordination and climate planning activities:

- Upcoming meetings will include briefings on data center-related legislation in Maryland and Virginia.
- The committee is advancing the mid-course review report, which found that the region met its 2020 goals but must accelerate actions to meet 2030 targets.
- Plans are underway to develop a public-facing data dashboard to track climate progress.
- Members encouraged continued participation in the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards program.

3. LOCAL AND STATE UPDATES

Local Members and State Air Agencies

- The District of Columbia reported progress on NOx and VOC RACT certifications for the 2015 ozone standard, with minor technical comments received.
- Virginia announced the reinstatement of its CO₂ budget trading program and reentry into RGGI beginning July 1.
- Maryland reported no updates.
- No additional updates were provided by local jurisdictions.

4. FY 2027 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Jen Desimone, COG Air Program Chief

- Staff presented the FY 2027 work program and budget:
 - The primary priority is finalizing the 2015 ozone redesignation request and maintenance plan.
 - Core activities include emissions tracking, transportation conformity, regional coordination, and public outreach.
 - The total budget reflects a 2.4% increase, with equal contributions from local, state, and transportation partners.
 - Staff highlighted continued work on air quality trends reporting and communication efforts.

Action: The committee unanimously approved the FY 2027 work program and budget.

5. AIR QUALITY PLANNING UPDATES – OZONE SEASON AND REDESIGNATION REQUEST/PLAN

Sunil Kumar, COG Environmental Engineer

Sunil Kumar provided an update on regional air quality trends and the status of the 2015 ozone standard redesignation request and maintenance plan. He noted that the region continues to demonstrate long-term improvement in ozone levels, with recent design values below the 70 parts per billion standard. Early in the 2026 ozone season, only limited exceedances have been observed despite periods of high temperatures. Mr. Kumar explained that the region has received a Clean Data Determination from EPA and is now advancing the formal redesignation process. Staff are developing the required emissions inventories for milestone years 2017, 2022, 2032, and 2038, along with contingency measures to ensure continued compliance. Preliminary projections show continued declines in emissions supported by established safety margins and updated modeling assumptions. The goal is to finalize the maintenance plan, complete public review, and submit the redesignation request to EPA by the end of 2026.

Action: The committee received a briefing on the ozone season and redesignation request plan.

6. LOCALIZED AIR POLLUTION IMPACTS FROM DATA CENTERS IN NORTHERN VIRGINIA

Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU)

Researchers from Virginia Commonwealth University presented findings on the current and potential future air pollution impacts associated with data centers in Northern Virginia. The analysis focused on emissions from backup generators and found that reported emissions are already increasing in areas with high concentrations of data centers. The presenters emphasized that while current emissions are notable, permitted emissions levels are substantially higher and could result in greater impacts if utilized more frequently. The study also identified disparities in exposure, with higher concentrations of pollution correlated with communities that have lower income levels, lower educational attainment, and lower rates of homeownership. In addition, the researchers highlighted the overall scale of backup generator capacity in the region and its implications for regional air quality and infrastructure planning. Members noted that this research provides an important foundation for continued examination of data center-related impacts.

Action: The committee received the briefing.

7. VIRGINIA DEQ DATA CENTER MONITORING PROJECT

Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Virginia DEQ staff presented an overview of the agency's data center air monitoring initiative, which is being conducted in response to rapid data center growth and related community concerns. The project includes a phased approach, beginning with the deployment of portable air quality sensors in Loudoun County, followed by expansion to Prince William County and the use of regulatory-grade monitoring equipment. The sensors measure pollutants including PM2.5, carbon monoxide, and nitrogen dioxide to identify trends and potential areas of concern. Preliminary findings indicate that air quality levels remain below national standards, although localized short-term spikes have been observed and will be evaluated further. Staff noted that the monitoring results will help inform future decisions on permanent monitoring locations and continued analysis of emissions associated with data center operations.

Action: The committee received the briefing.

8. ADJOURN

Dave Snyder, MWAQC Chair

Chair Dave Snyder adjourned the meeting. The next MWAQC meeting is scheduled for July 22, 2026.