



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 28, 2025

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria (Chair)
- Hon. Susan Cunningham, Arlington County
- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Erica Bannerman, Prince George's County
- Christopher Beck, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Michele Blair, City of Laurel
- Noelani Brockett, Charles County
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Rachel Healy, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)
- Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Montgomery County
- Giulia Manno, Prince William County
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Council (NVRC)
- Tim Miller, City of Laurel
- Shannon Moore, Frederick County
- Tom Osina, City of Manassas
- Jim Ponticello, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Erica Shingara, City of Rockville
- Dr. Dann Sklarew, George Mason University
- Antoine Thompson, Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- William Washburn, ACPAC Chair
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie
- Anna Bower, WMATA
- Amanda Campbell, City of Rockville

- Naomi Cohen-Shields, DDOT
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County
- Brady Dye, GWRCCC
- Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County
- Ryan Freed, City of Alexandria
- David McDonough, WSSC Water
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, VDOT
- Jason Papacosma, Arlington County
- Jessica Rodgers, Washington Gas
- Mike Sandler, Loudoun County
- Lindsey Shaw, Montgomery County
- John Silcox, Fairfax County
- Steven Swarr, Loudoun County
- Sunny Wescott, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert Christopher, COG Environmental Programs
- Robert d'Abadie, COG Transportation Planning
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Tom Harrington, COG Transportation Planning
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Tim Masters, COG Environmental Programs
- Erin Morrow, COG Transportation Planning
- Janie Nham, COG Transportation Planning
- John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Sarah Bagley, CEEPC Chair

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

2. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Robert Christopher, COG Climate, Energy, Air Program Staff

The CEEPC Legislative Committee sent comment letters for the following bills:

Virginia

- HB 1616: Offshore Wind Industry Workforce Program and Fund
 - The bill directs the Director of the Department of Energy to identify and develop training resources to advance workforce development in the offshore wind industry in the Commonwealth.
 - Vetoed by Governor Youngkin
- HB 1819: Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)
 - The bill includes adding a definition of property owner to include a lessee and providing that the lessee may also be eligible for a C-PACE loan by complying with certain conditions, including the consent of the fee simple property owner.
 - Signed by Governor Youngkin
- HB 18803/SB 1040: Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard Program Requirements
 - The bill removes the requirement for a solar-powered or wind-powered generation facility to have a capacity of no less than 50 kilowatts to qualify for a third-party power purchase agreement under a pilot program.
 - Vetoed by Governor Youngkin

Virginia Session Summary

- Governor Youngkin signed 53 bills in the 2025 session, including key energy related legislation; vetoed 38 others.
- Vetoed bills (HB 106, HB 108, SB 120) that would have expanded small-scale solar and energy storage, as well as bills (HB 638, SB 271) related to local solar procurement.
- Vetoed bills (HB 1601, SB 1449) that would have required developers to conduct impact assessments (noise, water, farmland, historic sites, forests, schools, etc.) for data centers over 100 MW.

Maryland

- HB 232: Environment – Municipal Recycling Plans – Requirement
 - Aims to establish the Maryland Beverage Container Recycling Refund and Litter Reduction Program to increase the reuse and recycling of beverage containers. The bill prohibits producers from selling, offering for sale, or distributing redeemable beverage containers unless that are registered with the Department of the Environment, pay a certain fee, and are part of a stewardship organization.
 - The bill did not make it out of committee.
- HB 407: Environment – Municipal Recycling Plans – Requirement
 - Requires the largest municipal corporation in each county to adopt or update recycling plans every five years, starting on or before January 1, 2026. These plans must provide for a reduction through recycling of a certain percentage of the municipal corporation's solid waste stream by weight.

- The bill did not make it out of committee.
- SB 149: Responding to Emergency Needs From Extreme Weather (RENEW) Act of 2025
 - Establishes the Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation Payment Program to secure payments from businesses that extract fossil fuels or refine petroleum products to provide revenue for state efforts to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change and address health impacts on vulnerable populations.
 - Passed in both Chambers but was vetoed by Governor Moore.

Maryland Session Summary

- Governor Moore signed two major energy packages:
 - Next Generation Energy Act (HB 1035/SB 937) – which expands in-state power generation and battery storage while limiting utility use of ratepayer funds for expenses like lobbying and trade association dues.
 - Renewable Energy Certainty Act (HB 1036/SB 931) – which establishes clear siting and decommissioning standards for commercial solar (and battery) projects and preempts restrictive local zoning for 1-2 MW solar installations.
- The Energy Resources Adequacy and Planning Act (HB 1037/SB 909), which would have created a strategic planning office on energy reliability, was vetoed due to an overlap with existing agencies.

Federal Actions

- Reversal of California Low Emissions Vehicle Waiver, which allowed the state to enforce stricter vehicle emissions standards.
- Investment Tax Credit Repeal Proposal, which would repeal tax credits for solar and other renewable energy projects.

Action: The committee voted in favor of writing a letter in support of the Investment Tax Credit.

3. MONTGOMERY COUNTY CLIMATE PROGRAM PROGRESS UPDATE

Sarah Kogel-Smucker, Climate Change Officer, Montgomery County

In 2017, Montgomery County adopted climate change goals of 80% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2027 and 100% elimination by 2035 with 2005 as the baseline. The County reduced emissions by 31% in 2020, despite a 13% increase in population.

The County's Climate Action Plan is divided into seven focus areas: Clean Energy, Buildings, Transportation, Carbon Sequestration, Climate Adaptation, Climate Governance, and Public Engagement, Partnerships, and Education. The Plan identifies 86 actions for the County to take. The Fiscal Year 2024 Annual Report assessed that the County has started 78 of the 86 actions and has made significant progress or completed 55 actions. Since the Climate Action Plan's release in 2021, the County has added \$171.1 million in investments in climate action programs and initiatives to the budget.

Some highlights of actions taken across focus areas include Green Bank Investments, Low-Income Electrification, Building Energy Performance Standards, Zero-Emission Bus Transition, Tree Planting Programs, Microgrid Projects, Climate Smart Campaign, and establishing the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.

4. UPDATE ON BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN PLANNING ACTIVITIES

Michael Farrell, COG DTP, Transportation Planner

Tom Harrington, Director, COG Multimodal Planning Program

The 1998 Transportation Planning Board (TPB) Vision Goals include a healthy regional core and dynamic regional activity centers with a mix of jobs, housing and services in a walkable environment, and a web of multimodal transportation connections between the regional core and regional activity centers. Since 1998 there has been strong growth in the urban core and activity centers, bike commute mode share quadrupled in DC, micromobility has greatly increased with shared bikes and e-scooters, and “Complete Streets” policies have been implemented.

Current bicycle and pedestrian (bike-ped) planning activities include the bicycle and pedestrian subcommittee of the TPB Technical Committee which functions as a coordination and information sharing body for local bike-ped plans and advises on bike-ped components of other TPB programs.

In FY26, updates are proposed to the Regional Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan (last updated in 2022) and the National Capital Trail Network map and progress report (last updated in 2024). The National Capital Trail Network prioritizes a long-distance, low stress regional trail system, serving activity centers and transit access areas. There are approximately 2,645 miles of planned bike-ped facilities, with 1,962 miles classified as low stress.

5. MID-COURSE REVIEW: LOCAL GOVERNMENT QUESTIONNAIRE DRAFT RESULTS

Maia Davis, COG Senior Environmental Planner

The Mid-Course Review aims to assess the status of goals, strategies, measures and actions toward the region’s existing plan framework and targets. The questionnaire was based on the Climate Action Area’s from the 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan. The questionnaire was sent to all COG member jurisdictions (24 in total), and 20 responses have been received so far.

Some highlights of the questionnaire’s results are:

- All responding jurisdictions have or are developing GHG reduction goals and plans.
- 80% developed their climate/energy plans with a focus on disadvantaged communities.
- Over 28,000 kW of installed solar capacity on local government facilities.
- 68% conduct energy benchmarking and reporting for local government facilities.
- 84% have evaluated their public fleet for opportunities to electrify.
- 58% provide transit benefits for local jurisdiction employees.
- 74% focused on improving bike and walking access to high-capacity transit stations.
- 68% have food composting drop off sites, and 58% have residential curbside organics recycling programs.
- 63% have adopted a jurisdiction wide tree canopy goal.

The Draft Mid-Course Review Report will be completed in the New Year (2026).

6. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT FUND WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET (FY26)

Jeff King, Director, Climate, Energy, and Air Program

The Regional Environment Fund Work Program and Budget are designed around the following program areas:

- I. Climate and Energy
 - a. Policy Development
 - b. Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)
 - c. Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency and Renewables
 - d. Adaptation and Resiliency

- e. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
- f. Member Support/Environmental Resources Work Program Development
- g. Climate and Energy Projects
- h. External Projects, Vehicle Emission Reductions, Resilience Reviews
- II. Recycling and Solid Waste Management
- III. Regional Agriculture and Forestry Management

The main priority for work activities is to support member jurisdiction's efforts to accelerate action on reducing GHG emissions to meet out 2030 Climate and Energy goals and supporting member jurisdictions climate plans and projects. Other priority activities include considering ways to develop a Regional Climate and Education and Outreach Program and completing the Mid-Course Review to assess progress in meeting existing climate goals.

7. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

Written updates provided in advance

- A. Member Updates
 - The City of Alexandria became the first city in Virginia to ban gas leaf blowers, with an 18-month phase in.
- B. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)
 - The Built Environment Energy and Advisory Committee hosted a panel discussion on workforce development called, Building a Climate-Ready Workforce in the Washington Region, at its April 17 meeting. Panelists included representatives from ICF Consulting, DMV-Emerald Cities Collaborative, Prince George's Community College and Montgomery County Community College.
 - As part of EPA's [CPRG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan](#) (CCAP) grant program requirements, COG is required to conduct an analysis of anticipated workforce shortages that could prevent achieving the goals described in the CCAP and identify potential solutions and partners. The discussion underscored the importance of regional coordination, early education pathways, and scalable models for workforce equity. It also laid the groundwork for more focused outreach and analysis in the CCAP development process and highlighted promising practices for building a climate-ready workforce across the Washington region. The recording and related materials can be found on the meeting page [here](#). The next BEEAC meeting is June 12.
- C. Air And Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)
 - ACPAC hosted the final community listening session on the new EJ Toolkit at its May 19 meeting. Equival Partners presented preliminary feedback received from engagement with community members and organizations. Three areas of concern are energy costs and reliability issues, data center impacts on air quality, prolonged heat events and flooding. ICF Consulting also provided an update on the CPRG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan requirements and presented draft details on the data center measure, including GHG inventory and projections. Related materials can be found on the meeting page [here](#). The next ACPAC meeting is on July 21.
 - ACPAC also launched its annual Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program on Earth Day. Winners serve as a role model for the region, and are recognized in front of local, regional, and national officials for their innovative climate stewardship projects and programs that engage and serve the region's underserved communities. This year five awards will be presented:
 - (2) GOVERNMENT AGENCY (local, state, regional, quasi-govt, utilities or authorities)
 - Small Jurisdiction (population < 90k)
 - Large Jurisdiction (population > 90k)

- (2) NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION (non-profit, for-profit, citizen or community-based groups)
 - Non-profit
 - For-profit
 - (1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION (K-12, public, private, or higher education)
- The deadline to submit an [application/project summary file](#) is June 30, 2025. For more information, visit the awards page [here](#).
- D. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group
 - The Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment Working Group held its latest meeting to discuss key initiatives, strategies, and research supporting the transition to zero-emission medium- and heavy-duty vehicles in the region. The Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) presented on the coordinated multi-state effort to advance zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) adoption. Key discussion points include surpassing the goal of 3.3 million EVs on the road by 2025, the importance of sustained state and local leadership amid evolving federal support and a call for local governments to leverage their roles in planning, permitting, and stakeholder engagement, especially as federal funding becomes more uncertain. The National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) also presented tools and research designed to inform infrastructure planning for commercial EVs. Their work emphasized the unique operational needs of medium- and heavy-duty vehicles and the critical role of data in driving effective policy and investment decisions. Two tools are:
 - Fleet Ready, a platform providing detailed, real-world vehicle operation data to guide fleet electrification and charging infrastructure siting.
 - EVI-X, a suite of modeling tools that support large-scale infrastructure network planning, station design, and economic feasibility analyses.
- E. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
 - None
- F. Recycling Committee
 - The Recycling Committee will be running separate, paid advertising campaigns in May and June. For May, it is the Battery Management Campaign with the message: “Batteries Can Spark Fires: They don’t belong in the trash or recycling. Avoid overcharging.” This is a \$72,500 media buy paid for by private and public sector sponsors across broadcast radio, digital radio, web digital ads, and paid social media posts. The June Go Recycle Campaign will run on the same media platforms with the message: “WASTED – 1/3 of all food we buy, we throw away. Plan your shopping to save money and reduce waste.” This buy is for \$65,000 and paid for by private and public sector sponsors.
 - In May, the Recycling Committee held two meetings. The first was on Tire Recycling and Disposal, the second on Getting Better Data. Recordings and other materials may be found at https://www.mwcog.org/events/2025/?F_committee=162.
- G. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)
 - The Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee is convening as subgroups to work on drafting recommendations for the RTCS Action Plan. The Chesapeake Bay Program’s tree canopy (land use/land cover data) is being released in June. The RTCS can provide CEEPC with a synopsis for the July meeting.
- H. Staff Updates
 - a. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program
 - The Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) for the Washington-Arlington-Alexandria, DC-VA-MD-WV Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is currently under development. Key elements of the plan include an MSA greenhouse gas (GHG) inventory, GHG projections, GHG reduction measures, a net zero GHG emissions scenario, a co-pollutant benefits analysis, and workforce development analysis. A new measure has been drafted for

stakeholder review on data centers, and a meeting is being hosted for interested local governments on May 29 to review. This summer COG will be hosting meetings with workforce development stakeholders to inform the workforce development analysis with the next meeting to be held on June 18. This fall the draft plan will be available for public comment and a final plan submitted to EPA by December 1, 2025.

8. ADJOURN

Sarah Bagley, CEEPC Chair

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

- 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/2025/5/28/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee/>