



Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY: MAY 27, 2026

CEEPC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

- Hon. Cindy Dyballa, City of Takoma Park (Chair)
- Hon. Sarah Bagley, City of Alexandria
- Hon. Susan Cunningham, Arlington County
- Hon. Frankie Fritz, City of Greenbelt
- Hon. Alan Hew, City of College Park
- Hon. Tom Peterson, City of Fairfax
- Hon. George Stewart, Prince William County
- Michael Barancewicz, Loudoun County
- Christopher Beck, Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE)
- Eric Coffman, Maryland Energy Administration (MEA)
- Jennifer Fioretti, Arlington County
- Randy Freed, Citizens' Climate Lobby
- Susan Gerson, Loudoun County
- Beth Groth, Charles County
- Rachel Healy, WMATA
- John Lord, Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS)
- Dale Medearis, Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC)
- Guilia Manno, Prince William County
- Brittany Whited, DOEE
- Jenny Willoughby, City of Frederick

ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES:

- Valerie Amor, City of Alexandria
- Mati Bazurto, City of Bowie
- Angela Conroy, VA DEQ
- Ed Cronin, VA Department of Energy
- Richard Dooley, Arlington County
- Bill Eger, Ethos Sustainability
- Hokuma Karimova, City of Gaithersburg
- Stefanie Kupka, City of Fairfax

- Christi Maple, Office of Supervisor Koran T. Saines
- Lymonie Martin, Office of Supervisor Koran T. Saines
- Matt Meyers, Fairfax County
- Regina Moore, Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)
- Opeoluwa Olawale, Washington Gas
- Devin Pharr, Office of Supervisor Andres Jimenez
- Amy Posner, City of Alexandria, REVD Chair
- Mike Sandler, Loudoun County
- Robert Sandoli, DOEE
- Bryan Scrafford, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)
- Steven Swarr, Loudoun County

COG STAFF IN ATTENDANCE:

- Alissa Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Leah Boggs, COG Environmental Programs
- Heidi Bonnaffon, COG Environmental Programs
- Maia Davis, COG Environmental Programs
- Sushanth Gupta, COG Environmental Programs
- Jeff King, COG Director Climate, Energy and Air Programs
- Alison Rufo, COG Environmental Programs
- Caroline Sherman, COG Environmental Programs
- John Snarr, COG Environmental Programs
- Kanti Srikanth, COG Deputy Executive Director

1. WELCOME AND MEETING SUMMARY

Cindy Dyballa, CEEPC Chair

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Chair Cindy Dyballa called the May CEEPC meeting to order. The March CEEPC Meeting Summary was approved.

2. PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY'S SUSTAINABILITY ANNUAL REPORT

Guilia Manno, Director, Prince William County Office of Sustainability

Prince William County's inaugural Environmental Sustainability Annual Report assesses progress and performance toward county climate mitigation and resilience goals. The foundational strategies that have guided the work on the Annual Report were created by the Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP) and the County's 2025-2028 Strategic Plan. The CESMP outlined 25 priority actions across energy, buildings, transportation, natural resources, and climate adaptation as a roadmap to meet the County's goals. The Strategic Plan includes a goal to preserve the County's natural beauty and resources.

Of the 25 priority actions in the CESMP, 17 have been initiated. Key accomplishments include growth in residential solar installations, reductions in transportation emissions per capita, stream restoration efforts, and expansion of community energy programs. A new data consolidation effort enabled development of the county's first government operations greenhouse gas inventory, improving the ability to track emissions and operational performance.

Case studies highlighted landfill gas capture for renewable natural gas, voluntary reforestation with private landowners, and environmental education initiatives. Emissions trends showed reductions in several sectors alongside significant increases associated with data center growth. Upcoming priorities include integrating climate strategies into long-term planning, advancing electrification, and expanding resilience planning.

3. MIDCOURSE REVIEW REPORT

Maia Davis, COG Senior Planner

The Midcourse Review Report measures progress toward COG Board adopted climate goals and priorities, which are reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50% by 2030 from a 2005 baseline, and 80% reductions by 2050, 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030, maintaining a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50%, and electric vehicle deployment as a regional priority.

At the March 2026 CEEPC Meeting, a presentation was given on the Draft Midcourse Review Report and its findings. Subsequently, comments were received on the draft report, and revisions were made to incorporate extensive stakeholder comments and include changes to the executive summary, adding goal lines to the solar and tree canopy graphs, and adding BREEAM certification to the green buildings analysis. Based on additional stakeholder comments, proposed revisions to current version of the draft are to add stronger language when stating that greenhouse gas reduction goals may not be met.

Discussion: Members called for stronger language to clearly reflect the likelihood of missing 2030 targets under current conditions, emphasizing the need for explicit acknowledgment of required policy changes. Accelerated and expanded implementation of regional climate strategies was

identified as a priority, with emphasis on addressing major sources of emissions and energy demand. Key focus areas include transportation, clean energy deployment, and the impacts of large energy users. Discussion highlighted the need to more clearly address data center growth, strengthen alignment with transportation and housing policies, and consider tradeoffs related to affordability, land use, and infrastructure capacity. Members emphasized the importance of system-level changes, including demand reduction and grid decarbonization, to complement existing strategies.

Action: The committee approved revisions to strengthen report language, including indicating that goals are unlikely to be met without deliberate policy changes and that effort must be accelerated and expanded, and accepted the report for transmittal to the COG board.

4. MARYLAND AND VIRGINIA DATA CENTER LEGISLATIVE OVERVIEW

Bill Eger, ETHOS Sustainability

New legislation expanded requirements related to data center siting, infrastructure impacts, and transparency. In Virginia, large facilities must submit site assessments evaluating impacts on land use and surrounding resources. New requirements include reporting on water use, stricter emissions standards for backup generators, and evaluation of opportunities to reuse waste heat. Additional legislation strengthens cost allocation to large energy users, updates transmission planning to reduce community impacts, and allows large customers to procure zero-carbon energy. Several proposals did not advance, including requirements for additional regulatory approvals, expanded local authority over siting decisions, and public disclosure of generator operations. Ongoing budget negotiations create uncertainty around the future of data center tax exemptions.

In Maryland, the Utility RELIEF Act Omnibus legislation lowers the threshold for large energy users, requires registration and reporting on energy and water use, and shifts infrastructure costs to those users. The law also introduces accelerated permitting pathways tied to clean energy and demand response, and supports transmission planning and battery storage expansion. Several additional proposals, including a moratorium and stricter siting requirements, did not pass.

Overall, both states advanced policies to increase transparency, improve cost allocation, and better integrate large energy demand into infrastructure planning, while leaving key policy questions unresolved.

5. REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT FUND WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET (FY27)

Jeff King, Director, COG Climate Energy and Air Programs

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. The FY27 work program continues work across climate policy, energy infrastructure, resiliency, and technical support, including emissions tracking, EV deployment, building electrification, renewable energy planning, and coordination on emerging issues such as large energy loads. FY26 accomplishments included completion of the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), 2023 greenhouse gas inventories, the Midcourse Review, data center forums, and the Environmental Justice Toolkit.

Action: The committee approved the proposed work program and budget.

6. COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES

Written updates provided in advance

A. Member Updates

- None

B. Built Environment Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC)

- BEEAC met on April 16 with presentations on Electrify DC's Homeowners Hub and energy affordability. With COG's support to scope out operational and implementation requirements, Electrify DC discussed the budgetary implications to regionalize the Homeowners Hub. If regionalized, the Homeowners Hub could serve as a one-stop shop to accelerate residential decarbonization across the DMV that puts homeowners at the center of the experience. The energy affordability discussion covered key drivers of electric utility cost increases including impacts of future electricity grid capacity. BEEAC will continue to explore energy affordability issues at its June meeting.

C. Air And Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

- ACPAC launched the 12th annual Climate and Energy Leadership Awards on Earth Day. The program is an annual effort designed to highlight projects and programs that develop unique solutions to climate issues in our region. This year five projects will be awarded.
 - i. **(2) GOVERNMENT AGENCY** (local, state, regional, quasi-govt, utilities or authorities)
 - g. Small Jurisdiction (population < 90k)
 - h. Large Jurisdiction (population > 90k)
 - ii. **(1) NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION** (non-profit, citizen or community-based groups)
 - iii. **(1) BUSINESSES AND FOR-PROFITS**
 - iv. **(1) EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION** (K-12, public, private, or higher education)

- The campaign closes on June 30, 2026. Outreach materials to promote the campaign are included in the meeting materials. Help promote and spread the word!

D. Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group

- The REVD Working Group convened on May 21, 2026, chaired by Amy Posner, Electric Vehicle Planner for Alexandria. The session opened with an Office Hours segment, providing members with an opportunity to share updates and exchange insights on EV programs including implementation challenges, funding resources, and lessons learned from the field. Owen Mabbott from Omility presented on Omility's fleet transition evaluation tool. The meeting concluded with a presentation from Emily Pape of Electrification Coalition on EV charging safety, risk, and insurance related issues.

E. Recycling Committee

- The Recycling Committee met on April 22 on Funding and Regulatory Challenges. The committee drew winners for its annual American Recycles Day contest. The committee is planning a Battery Management Campaign for June using paid media. The campaign will focus on safe battery use and disposal.
- F. Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS)
- Work is underway to draft Tree Canopy Action Plan Strategies, with a goal of having the Action Plan completed this fall. An electronic survey for COG governments' foresters and arborists is being developed. The survey responses will help inform the Action Plan development and the survey will be issued annually to capture changes to tree and forest practices and canopy. We may be reaching out CEEPC members for points of contact to complete the survey.
- G. Greater Washington Region Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC)
- See project updates for Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant.
- H. Staff Updates
- a. Midcourse Review
- i) The Draft Midcourse Review technical report received a wide variety of comments from committee members and stakeholders. At the May 27, 2026, CEEPC meeting COG staff will provide a summary of comments and how they were addressed in the report and ask CEEPC to participate in a next steps policy discussion. The discussion will inform the discussion CEEPC Chair Cindy Dyballa will lead with the COG Board. At the July COG Board meeting, a memo will be prepare highlighting CEEPC's input on the policy discussion. The Midcourse Review Report will also be presented and published. The next steps from a technical perspective will be testing dashboard options including a local and regional dashboard on the COG website and transitioning local and regional greenhouse gas inventories to ClearPath 2.0, which include a regional dashboard option.
- b. Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant Phase I – Planning
- i) The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) awarded \$3.9 million to COG through the CFI Program to support the installation of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure in partnership with Cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, and Manassas and Arlington, Fairfax, Frederick, Prince George's Counties and the Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition (GWRCCC). Phase I Pre-Construction funds, in which 15% of the total funds have been obligated, is currently underway and involves completion of the NEPA Categorical Exclusion (CE) process for all 37 proposed EV charging locations included in this project, developing equitable engagement and workforce development opportunities. The first NEPA submission for the City of Manassas EV charging stations is currently under review by FHWA and the remaining submissions are under development. The following engagement and workforce development activities have taken place this far in Phase I:
 - (1) GWRCCC Job Fair was held on September 30, 2025 at Westphalia Community Center in Upper Marlboro, MD.
 - (2) On October 7, 2025, an electric vehicle community listening session was held at the Sherwood Community Center in Fairfax, Virginia in partnership with GWRCCC and the City and County of Fairfax.
 - (3) On November 12, 2025, an electric vehicle community listening session was held at the Lorton Library in Lorton, Virginia in partnership with GWRCCC and the City and County of Fairfax.
 - (4) On January 22, 2026, on Public Policy Day at the Washington Auto Show, COG and GWRCCC hosted a cross-sectoral government and industry training event titled Charging Ahead: Reliable, Accessible, and Equitable EV Charging in Metropolitan Washington forum.

- (5) On February 25, 2026, Arlington County hosted an event to kick off the County's climate action plan and featured a tabling event (including climate and EV focused tables) and a small EV showcase.
- (6) The City of Manassas First Friday event on March 6, 2026, theme was Go Green and featured a Sustainable Transportation Tabling Event with the City of Manassas, OmniRide, VRE, and COG.
- (7) On April 11, 2026, COG partnered with Frederick County to discuss EVs with the community at the Thurmont Green Fest at Thurmont Regional Library.
- (8) On April 18, 2026, COG joined the City of Alexandria for its Electric Vehicle Ride and Drive and Showcase o discuss EVs with the community.
- ii) The next event is the June 17, 2026, GWRCCC Job Fair at the 2nd Baptist Church of District Heights: <https://gwrccc.org/event/gwrccc-upper-marlboro-job-fair-3/>. Job Fairs will also be planned for DC and northern VA. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program

7. ADJOURN

Cindy Dyballa, CEEPC Chair

Chair Dyballa adjourned the meeting. Upcoming CEEPC meeting dates for 2026 include:

- Wednesday July 29, 2026
- Wednesday September 23, 2026
- Wednesday November 18, 2026

All meeting materials including speaker presentations can be found on the COG website or by clicking the link below –

<https://www.mwcog.org/events/2026/5/27/climate-energy-and-environment-policy-committee1/>