

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Department of the Environment



Green Building Advisory Council

Meeting Date: 6/4/2014

Meeting Location: DDOE, 1200 1st Street NW

Attendees: Bill Updike (DDOE), Marshall Duer-Balkind (DDOE), Dave Epley (DCRA), Cliff Majersik (IMT), Scott Pomeroy (Downtown BID), Carl B. Reeverts (EPA-retired), Anica Landreneau (HOK), Laine Cidlowski (OP), Patty Rose (Greenspace NCR), Kate Johnson (DDOE), Beatrix Fields (DHCD), Robbie Sabbakhan (DCRA)

Main Points/Discussion:

Introductions (All)

Summary of Net Zero and Living Building Financial Study (Bill Updike)

- Bill summarized the findings from the net zero and Living Building Challenge study (<http://ddoe.dc.gov/publication/green-building-fund-grants>)
- Bill discussed some of the policy recommendations in the study and how they were being incorporated in the Sustainable DC Task Force recommendations
- Patty talked about the need to connect with the Smart Buildings Plan Grant

Green Building Fund Projects (Dave Epley)

- Dave discussed the various projects that are being funded through DCRA, including:
 - Green Building Displays – these are educational displays that visualize best practices for the Green Construction Code and green building in general
 - Online Roadmap – this is a continuation of the Green Building Fund Grant project to develop the Green Building Program Manual for the District to create an online “roadmap” that explains green building policies, programs and incentives in the District
 - DCRA is working on code training and code compliance analysis with various entities, including IMT and USGBC-NCR

Green Code Transition Plan Task Force (Dave Epley)

- Dave provided a summary of the work of the Green Code Transition Plan Task Force, including some of the initial thinking around the proposal to rewrite the Green Building Act
- The task force is focusing on the interaction between the new Green Construction Code and the Green Building Act in order to make sure they are aligned



- The task force report also includes an update of DCRA internal standard operating procedures
- There have been two public meetings that have included all of the SDC task forces, and the task forces are working to make sure their efforts are integrated
- The first draft of the task force report is due July 3 and the second draft is due August 15. The final task force reports are due in mid-September and then they will all be bundled together for issuance to policy makers and the public.
- Carl suggested that the various items should be published on a website and the minutes from the two public meetings for Sustainable DC should be published as well.
- Laine talked about the standard processes for all of the task forces
- Cliff asked if there was going to be a joint package of all the policy recommendations from all the task forces and Dave mentioned that the final plan will be out in January, and that he would talk with the SDC organizers about publishing a summary of all the policy recommendations

Green Building Fund Budget Update (Dave Epley & Bill Urdike)

- DCRA has requested \$2 million for the Green Building Fund for FY15
- DDOE/DCRA will present a budget proposal to GBAC at the August meeting
- Laine mentioned that there was no funding for additional Sustainable DC Challenge Grants in FY15—need to figure out how the Green Building Fund Grant program relates to the SDC grants
- Carl asked about when the council vote occurs and Bea provided a summary of the budget process

Benchmarking Update (Marshall)

- Marshall provided a status summary for the benchmarking program – as of April 1 all buildings 50,000 square feet and larger (representing 1490 buildings) were required to report. There was a 58% compliance rate on that date.
- Many owners were still waiting on PEPCO data, so they were given a one-month extension
- E-mails were being sent out to owners who delivered partial reports and how they need to comply fully
- Also reaching out to buildings with anomalies
- Public disclosure of the latest data will happen later this summer
- This year, there will be a special award given out during the Mayor’s Sustainable DC Award Ceremony for the highest ENERGY STAR rated building in the District. In the future, DDOE is looking into awarding the most improved building as well.
- DC is only a 7 buildings shy of Los Angeles in terms of total number of ENERGY STAR certified buildings, so we are promoting the idea of people getting certified in order to take first place in 2014. DC leads the nation in ENERGY STAR (and LEED) on a per capita basis of course.
- Patty mentioned the idea that instead of just having the District government certify our own buildings, offer DGS services to certifiable buildings
- Marshall discussed the benchmarking data quality grant (part of the Green Building Fund Grant program) awarded to NYU CUSP team. The grant will do quality assurance on the benchmarking

scores and create an internal tool that DDOE can use for QA work in years to come. The grant negotiation is still occurring and has not been fully awarded yet.

- Marshall talked about the Department of Energy “datapalooza” event that DDOE participated in and the press release from PEPCO about them being the 1st utility in the country to provide green button data (15-minute interval data from the day before). PEPCO will also be providing a service to do direct upload of meter data into EPA’s Portfolio Manager in order to make it easier for property owners to comply with the benchmarking law.
- Patty suggested that we give recognition to PEPCO at the Mayor’s Sustainability Award event
- Cliff asked about data from DC Water and Washington Gas and Marshall mentioned that development there was still nascent
- Kate mentioned that the meter threshold for Pepco is 5 meters (there is some PNNL research being conducted about the “ideal” threshold)
- Marshall also discussed the update on the SEED platform that DOE has been working on and Cliff mentioned that IMT is a sub to SEED, PNNL and DDOE on this effort

Roundtable Updates

- Carl – discussed efforts to work with the EPA Alumni Association and what links we might make between GBAC and EPA Alumni. He’s meeting with Charles Allen as a starting point.
- Cliff – mentioned a blog he wrote about all the great work that is happening in DC and how the country doesn’t realize DC’s leadership on sustainability initiatives. There is a great potential for impact from DC and we need to start telling the story better. There are a number of opportunities for the next Mayor, including ACEEE events and also Greenbuild 2015, which could be used as a coming out party for the next Mayor.
- Patty
 - Talked about the EcoDistrict Summit on 9/26 and garnering political support and the need to package what we already are doing (Laine talking about the Sustainable DC flyer)
 - Greenspace NCR is the prime grantee on two Green Building Fund Grants – the Smart Buildings Plan Project and the DC Smarter Business Challenge
- Dave
 - Talked about Green Construction and Energy Conservation Code compliance efforts
 - Summarized the Living Future Conference and his trip to the San Francisco buildings department (where they don’t have any FTEs working on implementation of their green code)
 - Mentioned the Green Building Program Manual development
 - Discussed civil infractions and fines update for the codes
- Robbie
 - Discussed the continued momentum of green building program at DCRA
 - Mentioned DCRA’s 3rd Annual Green Building Symposium (9/26) and how it will go in depth about the process of the new codes (Dave added that it will go into the weeds more than other conferences in the past)

- Discussed the national implications of the new codes and how everyone at the ICC national conference was looking at us (in particular for the new Green Construction Code)
- Bea talked about the DC Housing Expo (6/21) and the Decorate on a Dime home show
- Kate mentioned the contract award for the Climate Adaptation Plan and summarized the scope of work as well as an update to the Climate Mitigation Plan
- Laine
 - Summarized the work of the Healthy By Design and Food Access and Security Task Forces of the Sustainable DC Plan (Patty mentioned some connections to Enterprise, the National Center for Healthy Housing, and ASLA)
 - The Sustainable DC Plan won the American Planning Association's National Environmental Achievement Award
- Marshall
 - Mentioned that he was the chair of the Building Energy Performance Standards Task Force (because of Dave Good's departure from DDOE) and summarized the efforts of the task force
 - Marshall will be on a panel about big data at the EcoDistricts Summit
 - Marshall will be on a panel at Greenbuild 2014 in New Orleans (Dave Epley will be as well)
- Anica discussed a 6-story net zero energy project that she is working on in Virginia. She couldn't announce the project yet, but more details to come.

New/Continued Action Items:

- Do strawman proposal regarding change to Green Building Act
- Present FY15 GB Fund Budget and grant ideas to GBAC at 8/6/14 meeting
- Do presentation for DHCD on Green Building Program Manual and Green Construction Code

Date for next meeting: August 6, 2014

Location for next meeting: DDOE, 1200 1st Street NW, 5th Floor

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