



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

QUARTERLY MEETING - MEETING MINUTES

March 10, 2022

3:00 – 5:30 pm

MEETING ATTENDEES

Commission Members

Uwe Brandes

Jim Dougherty

Peggy Keller

Sandra Knight

Anthony Kane

Vaughn Perry

Nicole Sitaraman

Jason Turner

Molly Rauch

Maureen Holman

Kate Zyla

District of Columbia Staff

Sarah Edwards, Designated Staff Executive
to the Commission

Maribeth DeLorenzo, DOEE

Jenn Hatch, DOEE

Guest Speakers

Sandra Mattavous-Frye, People's Counsel

Sarah Kogel-Smucker (sp) Office of the
People's Counsel

Jeffrey King, Director of Climate, Energy &
Air Programs

Hilari Varnadore, Vice President for Cities

MEETING MINUTES

- 1) **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 3:04 pm by Uwe Brandes.
- 2) **Announcement of a Quorum** – A quorum is present.
- 3) **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion to approve (Molly, Anthony) was passed unanimously.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** - A motion to approve the December 10, 2020 meeting minutes (Maureen, Anthony) was passed unanimously.
- 5) **Chair's Welcoming Remarks** – Uwe Brandes welcomed commissioners, guests and members of the public to the meeting.
 - a) Welcome to the Commission's designated staff executive: Sarah Edwards (DOEE)
- 6) **Finance Report** - no updates
- 7) **Governance Report** - no updates

8) Committee Reports

- Will be reaching out to have sub-committee meetings this Spring

9) DOEE Report

- Progress reports for Sustainable DC, Climate Ready DC, and Clean Energy DC ongoing. DOEE will continue to update the Commission
- Keep Cool DC plan is resurfacing to have a comprehensive heat plan for the District
- Mayor's FY23 budget expected March 16.

10) Guest Presentations:

a) Office of the People's Counsel

Sandra Mattavous-Frye, People's Counsel

- Office of People Counsel (OPC) formed in the 1930s, reformed in the 1970s
- Primary objective is to represent all consumers of the DC utilities
- OPC appears before Public Service Commission (PSC), Telecommunications Commissions, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
- OPC engages closely with the public and attends hundreds of community & ANC meetings
- During the pandemic, the OPC helped ensure utilities and moratoriums were in place during the uncertainties of the COVID-19
- OPC focus areas include climate change, seeking to include climate considerations in all policies, and support equitable reduction of emissions
- PSC 1167 - Utility plans proceedings (OPC: Commissioned independent study) – engagement was critical to hold utilities to minimum standards to be designed to meet the District's long-term climate policy goals
 - Work with everyday consumers to make sure they are engaged and consulted in the climate change process - what climate changes means to them and how they can be involved in community conversations
- Air Quality is an Environmental Justice issue.
 - Transportation is a big air quality focus – District needs to prioritize fleet electrification in a manner which prioritizes the impact in heavily impacted communities;
- Data Management - all programs should track participation by race, income and geography.
- Green Jobs – can change the dynamics of the economy. Advisory Board of the DC-SEU is making good progress, but more impact necessary. Job training provision in the Exelon merger and creation of the academy in SE DC.
- WGL Jobs – what happens to them? Point of debate that begs a solution.
- Flood protection - Mayor's Task Force - need for consumer protection in the insurance sector - most homeowners do not have flood insurance.
- Energy Affordability - need to reduce the energy burden on low and middle income households. Need to broaden the funding sources.
- Climate Change Education - need for greater knowledge to empower communities to achieve buy-in if they are going to succeed.
 - Big part of climate justice and equity
- DCCCR: welcome any recommendation or efforts to help with the education outreach

- Q: How to balance tradeoffs of decarbonization and energy prices? A: Need to look at other funding sources, eg federal government, utility shareholders, grants, cost allocations, (answer does not always need to be rate payers)
- Q: Has OPC advocated for regular utility updates in the context of PSC 1167?
- Q: additional processes, is it a one-time review or a recurring processes to make sure all of the district laws are being abided by
 - Its a series of processes to be implemented to achieve the objective

b) Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Jeffrey King, Director of Climate, Energy & Air Programs

- COG board meeting yesterday had a focus on climate change
 - Focus on implementation to make a bigger impact
 - Need to approach problems in a more integrated and multi-sector manner
 - Need to put climate on the housing agenda: net-zero housing; net-zero communities
- Growth in emissions in Loudon offsets the reductions in the DC
- COG completes the RGGI for the entire region - aggregated information from all utilities
- TRB modeling emissions for the region, broken out by locality
- Water (nitrogen and methane emissions)
- Mission: 1) regional, 2) technical support to members –
 - Grants: example: EPA: locomotives at Union Station, climate action planning,
- Agenda:
 - 1) electrification of transportation (DC purchased new fossil fuel school buses, which is a missed opportunity)
 - 2) Commit to 100 (DC is a great success story of 100%) clean energy - need to get surrounding local governments to be 100% clean energy
 - Government is only 5% of energy consumption - need to bring along the other aspects of community/society
 - 3) Benchmarking and BEPS - (DC leader) - measure AND manage - pushing the existing building stock to net-zero (Problem in VA because of the state determined building codes)
- Need to do more regional climate planning – better position for federal grants
- Resilience: Potomac River Coastal Impact Study (Army Corps)
 - Identifies key infrastructure at risk and poses potential solutions
 - Only for the VA side of the Potomac because DC opted out. DC trying to re-engage
- Resilience: Military Base Resilience Initiative - opportunity to engage with the community surrounding the base to increase overall resilience
 - , COG is the leader, focus now is on solutions, (microgrids, water, pedestrian access)
- Q: Analysis on housing...was climate and affordability explicit? What about displacement and racial equity? A: Great awareness, some steps, but climate is not being explicitly advanced. Focus is on increasing housing production.

Affordable housing. Affordable housing near transit. Amazon fund example. Equity emphasis areas. Overlaying other issues.

- Q: School bus electrification - WRI has a dedicated initiative. No dedicated focus at COG right now. [Note: COG does not engage in schools or economic development.]
 - DOEE: To the question about WRI's Electric School Bus Initiative and the District, we are familiar with this work. School transportation is the purview of the Office of State Superintendent for Education (OSSE) which has a Division of Student Transportation.
 - We are also working at DOEE on a Transportation Electrification Roadmap which should be complete this year. We can certainly follow up with the CCCR in further detail on this and arrange a briefing it that would be a topic of further interest.
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- Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition (new director: Antoin) - transition to clean vehicles, Antoine Thompson at GWRCCC..... <https://gwrccc.org/our-team/>
- Q: Next steps? A: DC is doing good work, but we need more help with Fairfax and Loudan. DC can/should continue to lead by example

c) **United States Green Building Council LEED for Cities Program**

Hilari Varnadore, Vice President for Cities

- Robert Wood Johnson Grant - how housing can address equity <https://www.thepolicygap.com>
- District has been leading the nation in green buildings.
- USGBC is working across scales: buildings, communities, and cities
- DC has been a leader in helping to test new city performance frameworks.
- Rigorous assessment completed by DC; next step was to explore city-to-city benchmarking
- Lowest performing issues: Equity/Empowerment and Natural Systems and Human Experience
- 130 cities participate and 260 projects
- See slides for full list of criteria categories
- Innovation criteria: Louisville as example: “Trees as medicine”
- DC LEED v4.1 - Santa Monica is first LEED Platinum
- What you should be thinking about:
 - Be Ambitious: 2030 actions - Own your leadership status. Chicago (social), Berlin (car-free), Prague (circularity)
 - People-Centered: Transparency by ward, Just-transitions, anti-displacement
 - Resilience and Accessing Nature - heat, chief heat officer, smart surfaces, pedestrian orientation, incubation of companies and organizations
 - Lifestyles and Behavior Change - food, procurement,
 - DOEE: The Green Food Procurement Amendment Act of 2021 charges DOEE with establishing a baseline of GHG emissions that result from the District Government's food and beverage purchases, and meeting reduction targets.
 - <https://code.dccouncil.us/us/dc/council/laws/24-16>

- Q: Innovation: How should we be thinking about innovation? Clean & quiet construction machinery (Oslo), zero-emissions delivery zones (Santa Monica), proto-typing in DC as incubator, low-tech strategies to expand inclusion.
 - COG: COG was a member of the GCOM Metro Scale Climate Leaders Program, with Chicago, Kansas City, Denver funded by the European Commission. Kansas City just put out its plan too. <https://kcmetroclimateplan.org/>
- Q: What about resilience? How do you evaluate resilience and natural hazards?
- Q: If we are Platinum, does this mean we will easily become truly sustainable and net-zero? What does performance mean? A: We need trend lines which are performance-based. Also need to be sensitive to community-based performance. No guarantee you will remain Platinum. Santa Monica as model?

11) **Public Comments** - None

12) **Review of Upcoming Meetings**

13) **Adjournment**

Additional Links

<https://climatepartners.org/category/news/>

<https://www.mwcog.org/about-us/cog-and-our-region/>

<https://www.mwcog.org/about-us/cog-board-and-priorities/2030-framework/>

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2008/11/12/national-capital-region-climate-change-report-climate-change/>

<https://www.mwcog.org/documents/2020/11/18/metropolitan-washington-2030-climate-and-energy-action-plan/>

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/climate-and-energy/greenhouse-gas-inventories/>

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/data-and-tools/climate-and-energy-progress-dashboard/>

<https://www.wri.org/initiatives/electric-school-bus-initiative>

<https://www.givinggrove.org/>

<https://www.usgbc.org/leed/rating-systems/leed-for-cities#tools>

Virtual event featuring Santa Monica's work on innovation Wednesday at 12 noon,
<https://www.usgbc.org/articles/attend-leed-cities-showcase-series-webinars>

<https://doee.dc.gov/service/clean-transportation-initiatives>