



## GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

### Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

### QUARTERLY MEETING - MEETING MINUTES

June 09, 2022

3:00 – 5:30 pm

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/ldr.php?RCID=2ee94f21dad489664f00bd62a10e3dc5>

#### MEETING ATTENDEES

##### *Commission Members*

**Uwe Brandes**  
**Jim Dougherty**  
**Peggy Keller**  
**Sandra Knight**  
**Anthony Kane**  
**Chelsea Mervenne**  
**Steve Moore**  
**Jason Turner**  
Molly Rauch  
**Maureen Holman**  
Kate Zyla  
**Alan Etter**

##### *District of Columbia Staff*

Sarah Edwards, Designated Staff Executive  
to the Commission  
Conor Rattey, DOEE

##### *Guest Speakers*

Linda Toth, ARUP, Green Building  
Advisory Council  
Nick Bonard, DOEE, Regulatory Review  
Division  
Jenn Hatch, DOEE, Green Building and  
Climate Branch

#### MEETING MINUTES

- 1) **Call to Order** - Meeting called to order at 3:06 pm by Uwe Brandes.
- 2) **Announcement of a Quorum** – A quorum is present.
- 3) **Approval of the Agenda** – A motion to approve (Jim, Chelsea) was passed unanimously.
- 4) **Approval of Minutes** - A motion to approve the March 10, 2022 meeting minutes (Anthony, Jason) was passed unanimously.
- 5) **Chair’s Welcoming Remarks** – Uwe Brandes welcomed commissioners, guests and members of the public to the meeting.
  - a) Welcome from the Commission’s designated staff executive: Sarah Edwards (DOEE)
    - i) Policy Updates

**(1) Construction Codes Coordinating Board**

- (a) passed a proposal for all-electric new residential construction
- (b) Anticipated a proposal for commercial construction
- (c) Recommendation proposed by Jim Dougherty to send the CCCB a letter to request additional information regarding their actions and offer general support. Recommendation was affirmed by Uwe Brandes.

**(2) Net Zero Energy Legislation**

- (a) Council is considering the opportunity to advance net zero energy requirements for new construction.

**(3) Climate Commitment Legislation**

- (a) Will codify the District's carbon neutrality target, adding and accelerating interim targets.
- ii) Update on Commission's Report and Drafting Process - subcommittees are drafting initial recommendations, with a target publication in October/November.
- iii) Update on Commission Seats
- (1) Three members expired their terms and opted out of reappointment
    - (a) Environmental Justice, Energy, and Insurance seats on the Commission
      - (i) One is a mayor appointed role and the other two are Council appointed
      - (ii) Uwe issued a call for nominations for additional commission members
      - (iii) Jim Dougerty recommended Brenda Richardson for the Environmental Justice seat with others to follow

**6) Presentations**

**Linda Toth, Arup**, Representative of the Green Building Advisory Council (GBAC)

- GBAC Embodied Carbon Working Group - subgroup of the Green Building Advisory Council to make recommendations to best mitigate carbon emissions
- Developing legislative proposal on building materials and construction practices to reduce the overall carbon footprint of buildings in the District
- Because of the purview of GBAC, proposal only applies to vertical construction, not horizontal infrastructure
- Current plan is to offer a bill that would amend the Green Building Act to require new embodied carbon policies in the next building code update cycle
- Commission Questions:
  - Jason Turner: Recommend focusing on why these initiatives matter, especially for African Americans and low-income residents. Recommend incorporating a discussion of Environmental Justice, with coordination with more members of the Council.
  - Uwe: Is there a need to extend beyond vertical construction to also horizontal infrastructure? What are your reflections on the role of public and private entities and who should be engaged to advance this work?
    - Different jurisdictions have taken different approaches for horizontal and vertical construction projects.
    - Vertical construction requirements will impact public buildings and will mandate an update in the 3-years code revision cycle.
    - Working group is seeking not to impact the finances for affordable housing, necessary buildings, etc. There needs to be more thought

on how this will align with the long, and short term plan to not burden necessary construction.

- Uwe: Commission should explore coordination with the Construction Codes Coordinating Board.
- Congressional Height Limits have created a building culture in DC which favors concrete construction, so the impact would be significant. One new case study to be explored is [80M Street SE Project](#) which is a Mass Timber “overbuild” on an existing office building.

**Nick Bonard**, DOEE, Regulatory Review Division, [Update on the DC Flood Task Force](#)  
Summary of Task Force

- Established by the City Administrator September 23, 2021
- 13 district agencies and 16 consulting members (federal + public partners)
  - Reports to the Deputy Mayor for Operations & Infrastructure
- 2 Teams and 9 Categories - action plans will be completed for each of the categories

#### **Team 1: Residential Resilience**

- Flood insurance
- Repairing flood damage
- Floodproofing
- Sewer line back ups

#### **Team 2: Governance and Coordination**

- Flood infrastructure
- Regulations and permitting
- Mapping & modeling
- Planning & coordination

#### **Flood Insurance:**

- Key Issues - September 10, 2020 storm revealed the following
  - Only a small % of residents have flood insurance
  - NPIF doesn't cover all post-disaster needs
  - How can the district expand insurance uptake or provide alternative options to homeowners to recover from flood damage?
- Questions to consider:
  - What should a payout cover, speed of pay out, who is eligible, are there subsidies? Focus on renters? Low income households?

#### **Floodproofing:**

- FloodSmart Homes - residential structures in 100 and 500 year floodplains flood protected by 2032.
  - DOEE to heavily subsidize the cost of elevating utilities, installing sump pumps, floodproofing, and flood vents
  - Task force submitted a request for \$2.6M for FloodSmart Homes in FY 2023 - if approved they have a 1 year pilot to assess as many

homes as possible. First year focused on single family homes (721/1000 in the FloodSmart building count).

- 98% of single family homes in the 100- year are in Wards 7&8
- 82% of single family homes are 500- year are in wards 7&8

### **Regulations and permitting:**

- Council consider the Climate Resilience Act that would expand DOEE's authority to regulate flood zones beyond the 100-year flood zone
- DOEE would propose rulemaking to regulate the 500-year flood zone
- Improving information access for homeowners about flood risk (Disclosure)

### **Infrastructure Projects/Funding:**

- Developing a list of infrastructure projects to mitigate flooding and flood risk - goal is to understand what the needs are and potential timelines to implement
- Federal infrastructure bills provides funding opportunities for Flood Resilience projects
- District needs to develop Shovel Ready projects in order to access federal funding
  - The District doesn't have many shovel ready projects for nationally competitive resilience funding sources.
  - Will need local money to get the designs ready for the largest funding opportunities.
  - If/When awarded, grants from the federal government will require some level of a match.

### **SW/Buzzard Point Flood Resilience Strategy (Pilot):**

- Objectives - design a network of connected and floodable green/blue infrastructure in the floodplain that can revert to their primary recreation function after floods.
- Strategy will reshape open spaces in the neighborhood to reduce rainwater driven flooding while providing park benefits to surrounding community
- Updating physical infrastructure will go hand in hand with increasing quality of urban spaces
- Funding
  - \$500K in local capital funds for design process
  - ~100K from FEMA for outreach
  - \$18M from FEMA for construction
  - \$6M in local funding for construction
    - Pilot to point to for future infrastructure projects
- Current Design Status
  - Listening sessions and workshops this summer

### **Commission Questions:**

- Chelsea: Any partnering with the weatherization program in DC? Where is engagement happening, and how is the representation of the community?

- Yes, there are conversations to cross-reference floodplain work and weatherization work.
- DOEE has been very involved with the ANC, Southwest BID, and specific outreach efforts to set up design boards in parks and public spaces and events to learn about the redesign in the place.
- Sandra Knight: Where are we on the comprehensive flood study?
  - The integrated flood model is currently underway. This project will help map the interior flooding, which is very important, for stormwater related flooding. Gathering data, and working with DC Water to access all the sewer pipe data to get accurate models.
- Jason Turner: 98% of floodplain houses are in Wards 7 and 8 - will the redistricting of the wards affect that? Is that a factor in the data?
  - Those numbers were prior to the redistricting,
  - There needs to be more direct outreach, at churches, school, and advocacy on the street level.
- Uwe: These projects need to be communicated effectively. They are complicated and technical, but communities need to know how public space will change in their neighborhood, and understand the project in plain language. This could be the first step in the right direction for many future projects. People need to see themselves in the projects, and know that the government is helping them.
- Uwe: In your previous presentation to the DCCCR, there was an exchange about the legal process of flood mapping - is there an update?
  - We want our regulations to include the knowledge of climate change (and the current FEMA maps do not)

**Jenn Hatch**, DOEE, green building and climate branch: Carbon Free DC Updates

- Carbon Free DC (forthcoming publication) is the vision through 2050 to guide implementation plans, like Clean Energy DC.
- Used community feedback to guide conversations, generate ideas, and charge a pathway. Community priorities (Housing, health, transportation, opportunity, tools & resources) used to set new targets and metrics (like energy burden)
- Modeled a pathway for 87% carbon reduction by 2050 without offsets - further than other global cities
- Need to see the biggest reduction in the building structure
  - Assess living, working, and playing in a carbon neutral city - take all of the factors into account to build a carbon free city with homes/buildings that are resilient, affordable, healthy, and clean
- Goals, include land use and transportation, waste and embodied carbon, and the electrical grid
  - Setting metrics in coordination with DDOT, utility affordability administration, and others
- Based on modeling, the largest area of remaining emissions comes from the electric grid unless DC converts grid to all renewables
- Carbon Free DC will be used to measure progress over the long term, with regular updates on implementation plans like Clean Energy DC.

- Commission Questions
  - Anthony: Is there a plan to revisit the plan? Will we actually meet carbon free by 2050
    - Currently there is no pathway all the way to zero. Get to 80% and then fill in the gap after hitting that target. There is no prescribed timeline for such a long-term plan. But DOEE plans to revisit the different implementation plans as needed as updated in different sectors arise.
  - Anthony; How are we going to transition away from fossil fuels when we have legal obligations to the utilities? How for existing buildings?
    - DOEE has several programs to encourage energy efficiencies and renewables, but we don't yet have a plan for retrofitting all buildings. Action steps will be amended as Clean Energy DC is updated.
    - Council is considering legislation that would require net zero construction for new projects. And the Codes Board passed a proposal that requires electric only for new residential construction
  - Sandra: How do we build renewable infrastructure into the plan?
    - The backbone of the entire pathway is efficiency first. The more we can drive efficiency, the easier it will be to switch to renewable energy. DC needs to encourage the utilities to do more. This and transportation have a lot to do in terms of transitioning and advocating for our grid to modernize.

7) **Finance Report** - no updates

8) **Governance Report** - no updates

9) **Committee Reports**

- Mitigation Committee covered three main areas from their last meeting:
  - Renewable Energy - questioning foundational data that exists. Curious about the targets other agencies have and where our ambitions match with other cities.
  - EE and NZ in Buildings - contextualizing EE against broader goals. Questioned impact of the pandemic on ability to retrofit and meet goals. Ensuring equitable rollout of EE retrofits
  - Air Quality - Understanding air quality issues in the district, understanding number of code red days, overall goals. Equity nexus - understanding whether the electrification of buses will reach low income neighborhoods.
- Adaptation Committee updates:
  - Maureen Holman is the new subcommittee chair.
  - Previous meeting focused on Resilient Design Guidelines and Resilient Buildings; Floodplain Regulations; and Heat
  - Outstanding questions regarding speed and scale of adaptation in the city
- Engagement Committee updates:
  - Education & awareness - understanding how the various campaigns are performing, looking into language access. Understanding community acceptance of new technologies & affordability.

- Workforce Development: Discussion around job retention tracking, types of jobs, and the role of District Government v private sector - how can we incentivize private sector to support green workforce development
- Resilience Hubs: to be further discussed

Review of Key Dates:

- July 22 - Sub-committee Meeting
- September 8th - Next Quarterly Public Meeting.

10) **Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 5:14 PM.