



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency**

**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**

December 14, 2023

3:00 – 5:30 pm

Meeting Recording:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/webappng/sites/dcnet/recording/9df26b7f7ce9103cb667005056818bdf/playback>

<p><u>DC-CCCR Commissioners</u></p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Uwe Brandes Jim Dougherty Alan Etter Maureen Holman Anthony Kane Peggy Keller Chelsea Mervenne Justin Lini Jason Turner Kathryn Zyla Edward Yim Jim Landau</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>Colin McCormick Steve Moore Erica Green</p> <p><u>DC-CCCR Staff (DOEE)</u></p> <p>Connor Rattey</p>	<p><u>Invited Speakers</u></p> <p>Kevin Bryan Alyssa Wooden Howard Kurtzman Liz McLaughlin Lise Van Susteren Steve Peterson David Sacks Karen Sistrunk Minnie Quartey Annan Julie Lawson</p> <p><u>Other Guests</u></p> <p>Jenn Hatch Brittany Whited Emily Conrad Lily Cheng Adrienne Farfalla Amelia Chucholowski Antoine Thompson Barb Wanchisen Brenda Richardson Brian Rodgers Diana Boyadjian Jill Hamilton Lynn Miller Max Broad Sherice Muhammad Saul Kinter Stella Tarnay</p>
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1. **Call to Order 3:03 PM**
2. **Announcement of Quorum** – Quorum confirmed.
3. **Approval of Agenda** – A motion to approve the 12/14/2023 meeting agenda (Jim Dougherty, Anthony Kane) was passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – A motion to approve the 9/14/2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes (Edward Yim, Jason Turner) was passed unanimously.
5. **Chair’s Welcoming Remarks** (Uwe Brandes)
  - Federal Government released the fifth [National Climate Assessment](#)
  - COP28 has wrapped up. Mayor Bowser was in attendance and released Carbon Free DC: the District’s strategy to be carbon neutral by 2045.
  - Reflections from COP28:
    - COP28 featured discussions on youth engagement and elevating youth voices in the climate space. Also focused on private sector engagement, decarbonizing supply chains and a renewed focus on heavy industries. Reduction of fossil fuels are directly addressed in the final agreement. (Uwe Brandes)
    - Increased discussion of climate and health connection and sub-national entity representation (cities, states) was a big focus. (Kate Zyla)
    - Moving away from fossil fuels needs to happen faster. COPs do not reflect climate science and have not historically risen to the level of evidence-based need. Local and regional governments must call for bolder action. We have an unsustainable level of production and consumption. (Edward Yim)
    - Governments participating in COP have limited capabilities to implement goals. (Jim Dougherty)
6. **Staff Report** (Connor Rattey)
  - Staff report included updates on administrative items and projects, events, and accomplishments from DOEE and other stakeholders. The report, including relevant links, is available on the [CCCR website](#).
7. **Finance Report** – None
8. **Governance Report** – None
  - Two seats remain open and nominations are welcome.
9. **Committee Reports** – Mitigation Committee
  - Commission will draft letter to DOEE regarding Clean Energy DC 2.0 plan. Materials available here [CEDC 2.0](#) and letter will be organized via email.

- The documents lack specific details on achieving net zero. Calling it a carbon neutrality plan is not reflective as there is still more to do. (Anthony Kane)
- Heavy Duty Vehicle: Fleet Fuel Transition (Maureen Holman, DC Water & Kevin Bryan, Equival Partners)
  - The District needs a comprehensive strategy to shift to a zero-carbon transportation sector. Strategy should consider carbon emissions as well as air quality/human health.
  - DC Water is replacing 13 diesel-powered heavy-duty vehicles with new B100 biodiesel engines. Partially funded by Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grant from EPA. Project team believes that this is a good interim step to improve vehicle emissions while the market for electric options continues to develop. The DERA grant requires the replaced engines to be scrapped, rather than sold in the second-hand market.
  - Regulatory frameworks and market-based data on transitioning this fleet is currently absent.

## 10. Guest Presentations:

DC Green Food Purchasing Program. Presenter: Alyssa Wooden, DOEE

- Green Food Purchasing Amendment Act of 2021: Requires DOEE and covered agencies to:
  - Establish a baseline assessment of food-related GHG and track food-related emissions annually and meet emissions reduction targets.
- DOEE released the first [Green Food Report](#):
  - Total GHG emissions show that meats are greatest contributor.
  - Unhealthy diets contribute to leading causes of death in DC. Green food program may improve community health in the District.
  - Key agencies: DC Public Schools, Department of Corrections, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Behavioral Health.

Climate Change and Mental Health. Lead Presenter: Howard Kurtzman, Ph.D., Joint Advocacy and Outreach Committee of the Climate Psychiatry Alliance and Climate Psychology Alliance of North America

- Climate impacts on mental health include anxiety, depression substance misuse, suicide, adverse prenatal brain development, climate anxiety in youth, reduced work and school performance.
- Impacts vary across populations and settings and we don't have much data or research on local impacts.
- General principles:
  - Mental health is a fundamental component of overall health.
  - Psychological and social resilience is key to adaptation to climate change.

- Adoption of a public health approach to building resilience will prevent or reduce negative impacts of climate change across the entire population.
- Recommendations:
  - Assess mental health and social impacts across all segments of the District's population.
  - Build community resilience programs.
  - Train health care and social service providers.
  - Communicate with professionals, leaders and the public.
  - Cover mental health and social dimensions in environmental education.

Panel on the Formation of DC Youth Advisory Council.

- Karen Sistrunk (OPC): Office of the People's Council is an independent agency that advocates on behalf of District residents, including at the Public Service Commission. Recently a major focus is climate change, education, and community engagement. OPC convened a youth climate conference last May focused on empowering youth to know their role and use their voices. OPC believes that a youth climate council would be beneficial to the District.
- Dr. Minnie Annan (BGCGW): Boys and Girls Club of Washington has created the [Center of Transformation](#) with a mission to raise Club youth's awareness of climate change and other global issues, empowering them to use advocacy to create a more just, responsible, equitable, and sustainable planet.
- Julie Lawson (DOEE): DOEE is working on an effort to support DCPS in piloting some 6th grade curriculum and learning experiences related to climate change next year. Extreme heat is one area of focus. Coolidge High School is launching an Introduction to Sustainability course. Anacostia High School has done Environmental Justice course work.

**11. Public Comments**

- No comments

**12. Discussion & Upcoming Meetings**

- Next quarterly meeting: March 14, 2024, 3-5:30 PM
- Breakfast for Commissioners to be scheduled for January.

**13. Adjourn: 5:28 PM**