



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

Quarterly Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2023

3:00 – 5:30 pm

Meeting Recording:

<https://dcnet.webex.com/dcnet/ldr.php?RCID=4785c29f82873e0fd831b50435334fd7>

<p><u>DC-CCCR Commissioners</u></p> <p>Present:</p> <p>Uwe Brandes Jim Dougherty Alan Etter Maureen Holman Anthony Kane Peggy Keller Jason Turner Erica Green Kathryn Zyla Edward Yim Jim Landau</p> <p>Absent:</p> <p>Justin Lini Colin McCormick Steve Moore</p>	<p><u>DOEE Staff</u></p> <p>Connor Rattey (Designated Staff Executive) Jenn Hatch Alyssa Wooden Brittany Whited</p> <p><u>Invited Speakers</u></p> <p>Commissioner Richard Beverly (PSC) Melissa Deas (HSEMA) Anica Landreneau (GBAC) Oana Leahu-Aluas (DOEE)</p> <p><u>Other Guests</u></p> <p>Alex Fisher Chelsea Mervenne Erin Palmer Glenn Hall Hailey Morris Howard Kurtzman Kevin Bryan Stella Tarnay Toni Hunter-Davis Victoria Kiechel Erika Nunez Anna R Kenya Troutman Anthony Scerbo Sabine O'Hara</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 9/14/2023 meeting agenda (Jim Dougherty, Anthony Kane) was passed unanimously.
4. **Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes** – A motion to approve the 6/8/2023 Quarterly Meeting Minutes (Jim Dougherty, Jason Turner) was passed unanimously.
5. **Chair’s Welcoming Remarks** (Uwe Brandes)
Welcome to Commissioner Erica Green who is an educator, community activist and Advisory Neighborhood Commissioner in Ward 8.
6. **Finance Report** – None
7. **Governance Report** – None
8. **Committee Reports** – None
9. **Guest Presentations:**

Richard Beverly, Commissioner, Public Service Commission

- The format of PSC rate cases is evolving from long, complicated evidentiary proceedings to a format that requires parties to present their cases with focused oral arguments, backed up with concise written briefs. This was demonstrated in a recent Washington Gas hearing.
- Commissioner Beverly believes there is an urgent need for the PSC to adopt a framework for cost-benefit tests to evaluate plans submitted by utility companies. He believes the PSC must adopt integrated distribution plans, including meaningful GHG reduction targets, to determine what needs to be developed and how to integrate it into the system. He also believes there is a need for updated interconnection rules, based on issues highlighted in recent cases.
- Both utilities (Washington Gas and Pepco) have proposed multi-year plans that do not include performance-based ratemaking, which is something that Commissioner Beverly would like to see in these plans. In the current structure, rates are set based on costs of service (i.e., rates are set based on costs incurred by the utility plus a profit margin). Performance-based ratemaking incorporates performance targets (e.g., hit a target number of interconnections) that the utility must achieve in order to earn full compensation.
- Q – Edward: In recent months there have been a number of high-profile noncompliance issues. How is the PSC thinking about enforcement?
 - A – One potential approach to addressing these would be to withhold approval of the utilities’ rate cases until they come into compliance.

- Q – Anthony: The District’s commitment to carbon neutrality by 2045 would require the elimination of natural gas. What is your perspective on the District’s goals and how they relate to the PSC and Washington Gas?
 - A – Washington Gas has a federal charter, in perpetuity, to supply natural gas. This hinders the PSC’s ability to restrict the sale of gas in the District, even when Council and the Mayor pass legislation that would require the elimination of fossil gas. The PSC can support GHG reduction efforts through other means, like gas leak reduction.
- Q – Edward: With efforts to electrify homes, is the PSC doing anything to ensure that gas pipe replacement programs aren’t installing new pipes in places where they are no longer needed?
 - A – This would be difficult to do with the information currently available. But if a study were conducted to identify a way to do this effectively, it would be worth bringing to the PSC’s attention.
- Q – Uwe: The PSC is in a tough position between the District’s plans/goals and the limited authority that it has. Does the PSC have a planning function that would allow it to address this mismatch?
 - A – Not to the same degree as other District agencies, but there should be coordination between those planning agencies and the PSC.
- Q – Uwe: Is the District’s State Energy Plan, and the process for updating that plan, a source of constructive guidance for the PSC?
 - A – It is helpful for PSC staff, but generally not for PSC Commissioners.

Melissa Deas, Chief Resilience Officer, HSEMA

- HSEMA’s mission: To reduce long-term risk from natural hazards by increasing our ability to adapt to changing conditions and to take action to collaborate innovative solutions with the focus on the whole community.
- To achieve this mission, HSEMA does hazard analysis, information sharing, capability development, and outreach and engagement.
- HSEMA is organized into three bureaus:
 - Executive Office – includes support for planned events (e.g., inauguration, parades), which are the most common events in the District that trigger activation of HSEMA and partners
 - Mission Support – hazard mitigation, identification of major risks, community risk assessments, public messaging, data collection, updating HSEMA’s plans
 - Operations & Intelligence – 24/7 monitoring of District activity, alert notifications, trigger coordination for event management, bring in agency partners for big events, demobilization/financial reconciliation after events
- HSEMA manages Resilient DC plan, prepares Hazard Identification and Risk Assessments (HIRAs), technical hazard memorandums, community risk assessments (CRAs), and several other strategic, operational, and tactical plans.

Anica Landreneau, Private Sector Representative, Green Building Advisory Council

- Embodied carbon emissions are the lifecycle emissions of products and buildings. This includes pre-operational emissions, including emissions from raw material

extraction, manufacturing, and transportation of building materials. Most of these emissions are not captured in the District’s GHG inventory.

- Building material emissions are reported in their environmental product declarations (EPDs), which many project teams already collect.
- GBAC private/nonprofit sector members have developed policy recommendations to regulate embodied carbon in the District. Priorities include:
 - Building code amendment for new construction, incorporating limits on global warming potential in EPDs
 - “Buy clean” policy for public procurement of materials – agencies must establish GWP limits
- DC Council has been receptive to the recommendations but has not indicated a timeline for introduction of legislation.
- The GBAC agreed to actively coordinate with the DC-CCCR on this issue in the future.

Oana Leahu-Aluas, Sustainable DC Program Analyst, DOEE

- [Sustainable DC 2.0](#) (current version) aims to make DC the healthiest, greenest, most livable city within a generation.
- The plan defines sustainability as advancing progress on economy, equity, and environment together.
- [SDC annual progress reporting](#) is key to keeping initiative ongoing and ensuring accountability.
 - As of 2023 progress report, the most actions (80%) have been started; 21/167 actions are complete.
- Sustainable DC is updated every 5 years. DOEE is starting to develop SDC 3.0, with a focus on refinement/improvement, rather than overhaul. Specific update priorities include:
 - Enhancing equity – growth in equity tools & resources allow us to better integrate equity throughout the plan
 - Updating targets – make sure they are measurable and trackable
- Some actions have associated legislation, some don’t – Sustainable DC can be a roadmap for policymakers as to what legislation needs to be presented; advocacy tool for community organizations; advocacy tool for DC government employees when applying for grants or budget enhancements.

10. 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](#).

11. Governance Discussion (Uwe Brandes)

- The Commission has engaged with almost all agencies required by its establishment legislation, but there are more stakeholders that should be engaged to promote and advance the Commission’s recommendations. These include other boards and commissions, business leaders, and the general public.

12. Public Comments

- Stella Tarnay (Co-founder and Executive Director of Capital Nature): Encourages Commission to pay more attention to nature-based solutions and the impacts of climate change on the District's ecological systems and biodiversity.
 - Capital Nature is organizing a BlueGreen Resilience Corridors Working Group. Commissioners are invited to participate.
- Toni Hunter-Davis (Mrs. DC Earth pageant winner): Interested in partnering with Commission to use her platform as a public figure to advocate for Commission priorities.

13. Discussion & Upcoming Meetings

- Next quarterly meeting: December 14, 3-5:30 PM
- Maureen Holman/Kevin Bryan: Engaged with Greater Washington Clean Cities Coalition (GWCCC), targeting heavy vehicles and exploring strategies to reduce their emissions. Would like the Commission to discuss alternative fuels, electrification, and the transition to a carbon free future in the transportation sector.
- Other proposals for future conversations:
 - Green Food Purchasing Act
 - Mental health and climate change

14. Adjourn: 5:30 PM