

Energy and Climate Change Task Force Meeting #7 Summary

October 25, 2022 | 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Hybrid In-Person & Virtual Meeting

ECCTF Attendees: Stephen Walz, Leah Devendorf, Mary Harris, Marian Pegram, Sangina Wright, Praveen Kathpal, Rose Stephens-Booker, Raquel Nicora

Members of the public (in-person and virtual): Arthur Impastato, Bill Pugh, Chad Briggs, Kathie Hoekstra, David Peabody, Ramani Vaidyanathan, Sarah Glassco, Charles Juris, Berline Lewis.

1) Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Overview

The hybrid meeting commenced at 6:02 p.m. with introductions and roll call. There was a moment of remembrance for Ellen Eggerton. Mr. Bill Eger walked Task Force members through the agenda.

2) General Climate Action Updates

- Mr. Eger recapped the ECCAP Community Workshop #3 which had around 30 members of the public in attendance and in which a lot of helpful feedback was received.
- Mr. Julian Gonsalves presented an overview of the creation of the Office of Climate Action: City Council identified Environmental Justice as a guiding principle and allocated nearly \$2M which is being used to create the OCA. The purpose of the OCA is reducing community-wide GHG emissions using a three-pronged approach: A systems approach, engaging and empowering the community, and advocating and mobilizing action beyond the community. The Office will be a 7-person office, with two new positions being created (Climate Action Officer and Public Affairs and Engagement Specialist). There are six focus areas for the new office, including incentives, environmental justice, demonstration, education, capacity building & outreach, disclosure, monitoring and recognition, and policies, procedures, and advocacy. The Task Force expressed excitement and gratitude that the City is creating the OCA and dedicating funding to Climate Action efforts.
- Mr. Eger recapped the October 17 Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)/Planning Commission (PC) meeting in which Representative Beyers spoke to climate-relevant topics.
- MWCOCG is finishing the 2020 GHG Inventory, recently they had a briefing on the regional GHG emission trend to evaluate progress against their goals. As a region, we are trending below our target which is a good sign. We do not know whether the official 2020 Inventory results will be able to be included in the ECCAP.
- On November 5, City Council is having a retreat at Alexandria Renew's building where they will review strategy and budget considerations.

3) ECCAP Action/Strategy & Report Discussion

Analysis and Modeling Updates:

- Took a hard look at BAU projections – looked at the best known information on new jobs, development, etc. There is less impact over time from new development and population growth in the updated model. Household sizes, jobs & office space occupancy calibrations were taken into greater account to refine expected impacts through 2050.

- Also looked at more aggressive strategies and actions: Looked harder at what we can do in Virginia, without relying on Dominion Energy (municipal aggregation), also at the efficiency of our building stock – looked at stretch code and expanding efficiency opportunities. Another area was supporting the implementation of electrification, especially in light of the Inflation Reduction Act and the incentives included therein.

Working Draft:

- Working on how to make sure we are conveying information clearly, appreciate comments and feedback to refine the report. We are working with our City departments to refine the actions and related language in the report. Want to hear from the ECCTF tonight to better reflect the will and wisdom of the community.
- Additions: show 2005-2018 GHG trends, show per capita emissions, discuss Scope 3 & embodied emissions, discuss relationship to Science-based Target, making sure we include regional/national program best practice examples that we may be able to model our own programs on.

4) ECCAP Process & Schedule Updates

Contract with ICF has expired, staff is continuing with developing the ECCAP. Staff will be taking feedback and comments to reflect community's input in developing the ECCAP. There are discussions upcoming with several City Commissions that will be involved with and responsible for monitoring progress on actions that are outlined in the ECCAP.

The next ECCTF meeting #8 is being scheduled, likely in early December. Target for taking the ECCAP to City Council is mid-January. Mr. Eger presented the ECCAP schedule.

5) ECCTF Action Items & Next Steps

Ask that ECCTF members provide their feedback on the working draft by November 2. Also please respond with availability for the ECCTF Meeting #8 timings. Mr. Eger outlined the distinction between feedback and the public comment period and the process behind the public comment period.

6) Public Comment

David Peabody: Thanks to ECCTF & Staff for your hard work. I am a member of Build Our Future. We focus on the built environment due to its outsize impact on GHG emissions. The present draft focuses on a broad array of actions that the City may take. We urge you to resist a scattershot approach and set clear priorities in this plan: focus on the greatest emission reductions. 1) focus on amending the GBP to set EUI reduction targets and retrofit existing buildings.

Kathie Hoekstra: No key in the Executive Summary? Don't know what all the colors mean. If COG only produces their data every three years, how do you catch up to fix programs that aren't working? Also, a longer comment period would be more helpful, to get feedback earlier in the process.

7) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Meeting Chat

From Jessica Lassetter to Everyone 06:23 PM

We've opened the chat for all participants this evening. We will include this chat with the Meeting Summary. Thank you for joining.

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 06:39 PM

I suggest that everyone who is interested in how to save money with the Inflation Reduction Act, they go to Rewiring America and their IRA calculator that shows the amount of money you can save today, and next year - and the amounts saved via tax credits from the federal government and the potential for incentives from the state energy office. Here's the link:<https://www.rewiringamerica.org/app/ira-calculator>

How long will the public have to comment on the Draft plan?

From Arthur "Sash" Impastato to All Panelists 06:43 PM

The draft ECCAP is 169 pages and was only released 10/20 with the staff pushing for City Council approval this Fall. What are the plans to ensure there will be adequate time for the public and Task Force to provide meaningful feedback on this very long and complex draft Action Plan?

From Ramani to All Panelists 06:44 PM

How do you plan on approaching Scope 3 emissions? Thank you!

From Jessica Lassetter to Everyone 06:44 PM

The public may currently provide feedback on this current draft through next week; we have a form online (I will share a link) or you may email staff directly. A more 'final' version will be available for official public comment in November after it has gone through this process and also been presented and discussed among a few City Commissions, etc.. We will go over the timeline/schedule and next steps.

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BWQPYYV>

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 06:47 PM

The executive summary must highlight those actions that will "move the needle" as the Mayor suggested.

From Jessica Lassetter to Everyone 06:52 PM

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/sites/default/files/2022-10/EnergyandclimatechangeactionplanworkingdraftOct202022.pdf>

From Berline Lewis to Everyone 06:56 PM

Who is the audience of this report?

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 07:09 PM

very hard to hear from folks not sitting at the table and closer to the owl

From David Peabody to Everyone 07:48 PM

Huge challenge: How do we change the mindset of the community toward the carbon? It is simply not on the radar screen when most people make decisions on their homes, cars, travel, etc. This should be a litmus test question for the new PAES candidates.

From Sarah Glassco to All Panelists 08:02 PM

Please explain acronyms. Is ICF the consulting firm that was helping with the planning?

From Jessica Lassetter to Everyone 08:03 PM

Yes, ICF helped us with the models for the City and drafting the report

<https://www.icf.com/>

From Sarah Glassco to All Panelists 08:04 PM

Thanks

From Bill Pugh to All Panelists 08:08 PM

Until when can public provide comment on draft ECCAP?

From Jessica Lassetter to Everyone 08:09 PM

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BWQPYYV>