



Minutes
EPC MONTHLY MEETING
May 19, 2025
City Hall, City Council Workroom
[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie	P	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Benjamin Cuddy, Vice-Chair	E	
Jennifer Debias	P	
Charlie Garlow	P	
Kathie Hoekstra	P	Guests
Perrin Krisko	P	Don Burke
Philip Mobilia	E	Henry Schilling
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	
Julia Slayden	P	
Yanique Revers	PR	

P: Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Marta Schantz called the meeting to order and provided an overview of topics to be covered. Introductions were completed for all attendees.

2. Public Comment

None received.

3. Montgomery County Community Choice Aggregation (CCA)

Stan Edwards, Chief of the Division of Energy, Climate, and Compliance for the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, provided an overview of Montgomery County’s work toward implementing community choice energy. This program was pursued to achieve the aggressive climate goals identified in their Climate Action Plan (CAP), which included actions related to buildings, transportation, and electricity used by county residents and businesses. CCA addressed the electricity portion of their CAP. Presentation included an overview of the electricity grid, the electricity supply system, and the steps necessary to launch Montgomery County’s CCA.

EPC discussions included budget needed to implement the program, cost to residents/users for electricity from Dominion versus a renewable energy source used for the CCA, possibilities to aggregate with other jurisdictions, and possible next steps for the EPC. Arlington County and Loudoun County have researched CCAs for their jurisdictions.

EPC subgroup was created to continue CCA discussions. Subgroup includes Ms. Perrin Krisko, Ms. Jen Debias, and Mr. Charlie Garlow. Subgroup meetings will be public meetings with three EPC members.

Chair Schantz will contact other Environmental Policy committees in neighboring jurisdictions. Ms. Julia Slayden will contact Jim Parajon for information regarding the process for carryover of budget funds. Mr. Charlie Garlow will contact Stan Edwards to get contact information for their consultants.

4. Green Building Policy (GBP) Letter

Chair Schantz and Commissioner Jen Debias participated in the Joint Working Group Meeting with two members of the Planning Commission, Chair Melissa McMahon and Commissioner Holly Lennihan. Working Group commissioners decided to submit two separate letters that are parallel in structure and content to help with the timeline for approving and submitting a joint letter. Working group supported the GBP Updates overall focus on EUIs, electrification, and renewables; with recommendations to (1) lower the initial EUI target with a phase down approach through 2030 to provide as much prior notice to developers as possible and (2) increase the requirement for renewables from the recommended 3% to 5%. Additionally, subcommittee recommends updating the clean energy fund requirement to equal the cost of adding solar, versus putting 90% in the fund when solar is not possible on a project.

Commissioners discussed draft letter and proposed clarifications and changes to include in final letter.

Motion to adopt the letter as amended and described during the meeting by Chair Schantz: Mr. Dan Beattie; Second: Mr. Eldon Boes; Vote: Passed by majority (8 for, 1 opposed).

5. June Elections

Mr. Phil Mobilia provided information on the process for annual elections via email, prior to the meeting.

Mr. Dan Beattie was nominated for Vice-Chair. Ms. Marta Schantz was nominated for Chair. Mr. Phil Mobilia was nominated for Secretary.

Vote for officers will occur during the June EPC meeting.

6. Administrative Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 21, 2025

Vote on April 21, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. Motion: Ms. Perrin Krisko; Second: Ms. Jen Debias; Vote: Unanimous approval.

b) Approval of Retreat Minutes May 3, 2025

Vote on May 3, 2025, Annual Retreat minutes, for approval. Motion: Mr. Dan Beattie; Second: Ms. Perrin Krisko; Vote: Unanimous approval, with abstention from Ms. Kathie Hoekstra.

c) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Update from Chair Schantz:

Melissa Atwood and Chair Schantz met with the Assistant City Attorney to get more clarification on FOIA rules. Voting via email is prohibited since it would be considered a secret ballot, which is not allowed. Quorum: Commissioners in person and those attending virtually for medical reasons are counted toward quorum. Commissioners attending virtually for non-medical reasons do not get voting authority and are not counted toward quorum. Quorum is required to hold a meeting and/or to vote.

Chair Schantz will follow up with the Assistant City Attorney regarding meeting minutes from EPC meetings without quorum.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): Next meeting is tomorrow morning, May 20th. Chair Schantz will speak on the heat island effect.

Update from Ms. Julia Slayden: During the May 2nd Annual Retreat, Ms. Slayden volunteered to lead the preparation of the EPC's budget letter and legislative letter for FY26. Ms. Slayden discussed the timeline for submittal of both letters and timing to discuss each topic during EPC Regular meetings in the fall.

Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers regulation changes (Melissa Atwood): City Council adopted the ban on the use of gas-powered leaf blowers, with a 1.5 year phase-out period during their May 17th Public Hearing.

Update from Mr. Ryan Freed: Mr. Freed provided a debrief of the Eco-City Festival, including its overall success, further information learned for planning next year, partnerships with local establishments, and number of booths and attendees.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Charlie Garlow

The meeting was adjourned at 9:35p.m.

FY2025 Attendance

Member	Sept 16, 2024	Oct 21, 2024	Nov 18, 2024	Dec 16, 2024	Jan 13, 2025	Feb 10, 2025	Mar 10, 2025	Apr 21, 2025	May 3, 2025 (Retreat)	May 19, 2025	Jun 16, 2025	TOTALS
Kishla Askins	P	P	P	PR	E	PR	E					100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P	P	P	P		100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	PR	P	A	P	PR	P	P		83%
Alexander Clark	E	P	E	PR	E	A						83%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	P	P	E	P	P	E	P	P	E		100%
Jennifer Debias	E	P	PR		PR	P	E	P	P	P		100%
Charlie Garlow		P	P	PR	P	P	PR	P	P	P		100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	PR	P	PR	PR	P	PR	P	P	P		100%
Perrin Krisko							P	PR	P	P		100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P	P	P	E		100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	PR	P	PR	P	P	P	P		100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	PR	E	P	E	P	P	P		100%
Yanique Revers				PR	PR	E	P	P	A	P		
James Vandeputte	E											100%

***NOTE: Dec 16, 2024 meeting was virtual only**