

Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC)

Wednesday, February 4, 2015 at 7:00pm

“Fishbowl” Conference Room

DEP, 255 Rockville Pike, Ste 120

Members present: *Christina England, Jamie Pierce, Kavita Vaidyanathan, David Kathan, Foroud Arsanjani, Bob Johnson, Reuven Walder, Sean Boyle, Linda Tsang, Fred Booth*

Guests: *Stephanie Riddick*

Staff: *Stan Edwards, Michelle Vigen*

Draft Notes

1. **Introductions, Approve Agenda, Approve Minutes**

With new members, the committee did a round of introductions

2. **County Executive Meeting Report**

On Thursday, January 29, two members of the Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC), Foroud Arsanjani and Reuven Walder, met with the County Executive (CE) as part of the Boards, Committees, Commissions Annual Meetings hosted by the CE's office.

Foroud and Reuven, the EAQAC delegation, presented a slide deck with an overview of the committee and the summaries of the Energy and Air Quality subcommittees' goals and objectives.

EmPower Maryland Programs: The delegation spoke about the need for greater utilization of EmPower programs by the County, and cited a rough estimation of approximately \$10 million in savings possible within the County and MCPS facilities. They further spoke of the need for better communication between the county, state, utilities and county consumers of energy regarding incentives. The CE suggested EAQAC reach out to David Dice, DGS to learn more about the County's energy efficiency efforts and programs. [Follow-up approved 2/4: Mr. Dice will be invited to the March EAQAC meeting and a short summary and set of questions will be forwarded to him.]

Balancing Cost vs. Benefits: The delegation offered a discussion on how to overcome cost versus environmental/air quality benefits of programs. The CE discussed personal experience regarding this and recognized the challenges in trying to achieve this as a valuable effort going forward.

Targeted Energy Pilots: The delegation discussed the plan to engage all resources in the committee to bring in experiences and lessons learned from around the nation to the County. We discussed some of the approaches in various regions of the country, and the CE agreed with our observations and opined that some western regions may have a bit of different approach due to the nature of their energy use and needs, but that it was a good idea to help the county. The delegation further explained that they will engage DGS as new concepts and recommendations were developed.

Energy Coach Concept: The delegation presented the concept of a single source portal for residents to access energy efficiency programs and the role an Energy Coach could have in helping residents navigate the process. The CE said he had thought of a related concept and requested to learn more about how it might work and examples of this model elsewhere. The delegation also made an example of the Home Energy Score as an engagement tool which he expressed interest in and liked this idea. [Follow-up approved 2/4: Reuven is drafting a letter to provide additional information and invite further conversation on the Energy Coach and other concepts.]

Radon: The delegation discussed the letter from the EAQAC regarding testing in multifamily, highlighting the issue's importance due to the county's geographic position, its health and safety impacts, and the EAQAC's plans moving forward. The CE and committee his staff all nodded their heads in affirmation. [Foroud recommends the EAQAC follow-up to bring the implementation plans to a start and report our progress plans and challenges if any to CE in the coming month.]

County/Committee Collaboration: The delegation again emphasized the need to develop better collaborative plans, such as those discussed regarding the EmPower Program

One item not mentioned: The energy tax was not specifically mentioned in conversation but is included in the presentation materials given to the CE and committee. The delegation recommends EAQAC should do some research on budget numbers and submit a follow up letter asking the CE to spend more of the energy tax on energy programs.

General Follow-up: Per the decision at the February 4th, 2015 EAQAC meeting, Bob will draft and send a short "thank you" letter to the CE, explaining that the EAQAC will be working on the various topics addressed and that several and separate updates will be provided in the coming month. Reuven will also draft a follow up letter to the CE for the committee to review and discuss.

3. Approve Minutes – December 2014 and January 2015 Minutes were approved

4. Updates from Last Meeting's Subcommittee Reports

a. Inviting Office of Consumer Protection to speak regarding response to radon letter – Stan will invite Eric Friedman to speak at April's meeting.

b. Other committee updates

The group discussed energy issues, including the Home Energy Score (Kavita had reached out to Joan with some of the questions and received a response. Joan was also willing to come to the March meeting.) and Energy Tax, including allocations to energy-related costs/programs of the County.

5. Staff and Member Announcements

a. Updated EAQAC Roster – Staff have requested 3 vacancies are posted. Michelle will send out updated roster.

- b. **Staff announcements** – Energy Summit is Feb 18th, GreenFest is March 28, Energy Manager Position is in recruitment, Commercial PACE has been introduced, New Director has begun. Michelle will send out position description, and info on the Summit and GreenFest.

6. Subcommittee Meeting Time

- a. Energy Committee to compile some questions for David Dise
- b. Thank you note to go to County Executive (Reuven or Bob?)
- c. Air Committee Notes (Attached to the end of notes)

7. Open Forum/Public Comment – Bill Griffith from MC Fleet was mentioned in Motor Week

8. Next Meeting: March 4, 2015 at 7pm

Response from Joan Glickman, DOE

From: Kavita Vaidyanathan [mailto:kavipatel77@gmail.com]

Sent: Wednesday, February 04, 2015 1:12 PM

To: Johnson, Robert D

Cc: Reuven Walder; Vigen, Michelle; Arsanjani, Foroud; boylemdoffice@comcast.net

Subject: Re: EXTERNAL: RE: Exploring Home Energy Scores with EAQAC Energy Committee?

Hi All,

I wanted to let you know that I spoke with Joan Glickman, DOE Senior Advisor and Program Manager, who handles the Home Energy Score Program. She would be happy to attend next month's meeting to discuss Home Energy Score. If March does not work she is not available until June. In the meantime, I did ask her some of the specific questions that Michelle set forth in a previous e-mail and her responses are below:

(1) Adoption rates really depend on a number of factors including outreach/promotion, ability to include the scores on the MLS, integration opportunities with existing efficiency programs (e.g., non-profits or utilities that already go out to people's homes to do audits or direct install programs)

(2) EE impacts -- I can give you a better sense if you can provide statistics regarding Montgomery County's single family home energy usage. We could provide an estimated range of savings given assumptions regarding percent of homeowners who receive a score per year, percent of those that follow through with upgrades, etc. For example, if 1000 homeowners get scores in the first year, even with a fairly conservative conversion rate (say 10%), you'd probably see between 15 and 20 percent energy savings for 100 households. Please note this is really a rough guess and would be much better

informed if we had statistics on existing programs and their conversion rates (people who follow through with an upgrade), etc.

(3) There's no direct cost to participate in the Home Energy Score program. We have free training and testing for Assessors. So, it's a matter of their time to train and take the test (say about 8 hours total); and, we require that some entity re-score 5 percent of the homes scored for quality assurance purposes. So, someone needs to pay for that (utility could provide it for example as part of their programs). The fee to the homeowner or buyer is market-based, meaning that it's up to the Assessor or local program provider to decide what to charge.

(4) Benefits to EE industry include (as a starting point)...consistent qualitative and quantitative (modeling) approach to evaluating a home, consistent messaging and easy way to communicate with homeowners/buyers, potential leads to contractors if score provided by home inspectors or other non-contractor entities, DOE's name to back-up the calculation methodology (lots of research done to date).

Items moving from Air Subcommittee to Energy Subcommittee:

I. Renewable Energy

A. Streamlining permitting for Solar PV

1. Determine if permitting is a major problem in the County, as we now have numerous examples of cities/counties that have taken this issue head on.
2. Policies regarding mandates of PV installation might fall back into the EE camp, as there is probably some energy code that deals with that more efficiently.

B. Develop solar roadmap (Michelle's project)

1. INFORMATION REQUIRED

- i. Groundswell info (Michelle)
- ii. Community power network in Rockville (Michelle)

II. Set Top Boxes

A. Investigate how to improve energy efficiency of set top boxes

Air Quality Subcommittee Notes:

Next Steps

- Stan will send the radon letter and response and Chapter 3 to all Subcommittee letters. (DONE. Thanks Stan!)
- Stan will confirm Eric Friedman's attendance at the April EAQAC meeting.
- Stan will invite representative from Greater Capital Area Association of Realtors (GCAAR) to discuss current practices regarding radon testing.
- Stan will start a list of questions that we would like OCP and GCARR to address during that April EAQAC meeting. AQ Subcommittee members will add questions.
- Once speakers are confirmed, Linda will invite Steve Gibbs, former EAQAC chair to attend since he led this radon initiative.
- Stan will look for Current County RFP/Contract Award Guidelines