

**Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC)**  
**Wednesday, December 3, 2014 at 7:00pm**  
**“Fishbowl” Conference Room**  
**DEP, 255 Rockville Pike, Ste 120**

**Members present:** Sean Boyle, Kavita Vaidyanathan, Foroud Arsanjani, Robert Johnson (chair), Linda Tsang, Reuvan Walder, Fred Booth, Ken Cantor, Venu Venu Ghanta,

**Guests:** Stephanie Riddick

**Staff:** Stan Edwards, Michelle Vigen

DRAFT Notes

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

*Agenda was approved.*

*Minutes were approved.*

**2. Subcommittee meeting time**

*The group broke up into subcommittees.*

**Energy (Commercial & Residential)**

The two mainstays of the group focus for future activities will include;

1. A sustained and pragmatic effort to reduce county carbon foot print to achieve a zero carbon emission
2. A sustained and pragmatic effort to maintain a low average price of retail supplied energy compared to the immediate neighboring states

The proposed tasks considering the two rules noted above will include;

- A review and evaluation of the current laws in place for the county and eventually the state
- Developing targeted proposals to better facilitate the uptake of incentives
- Develop proposals for innovative energy pilot projects that will achieve specific benefits for the county and its residents
- Build better public /private partnership through communication and engagement with county citizens (commercial and residential)
- Develop best of the breed proven technologies for county consideration and targeted pilots
- Develop new energy based revenue models for the county
- Propose models and plans for the development of a single portal for residents to see their use benchmarked and easily access incentives

**Air Quality (and Renewable)**

(See attachments to these notes.)

**3. Subcommittee Reports**

*Reports are tabled to the beginning of the January 7<sup>th</sup> meeting, after which we'll discuss Next Steps and convene in subcommittees again.*

**4. Subcommittee Next Steps**

**5. Staff and Member Announcements**

**a. Nomination committee update**

*Recommendations have been sent to the County Exec and then to the Council for appointment. If the four nominees are appointed there will remain one vacancy that can be advertised.*

**b. Staff and other announcements**

*Benchmarking event was a success, the subcommittees are meeting, and progress is being made on the building inventory.*

*A new director has been announced for DEP: Lisa Feldt, who comes from US EPA*

**6. Next Meeting: January 7, 2015**

**EAQAC Air Quality/Renewable Energy Subcommittee  
December 3, 2014 Meeting Notes**

***Members present:*** Fred Booth, Ken Cantor, Venu Ghanta, Linda Tsang, Stan Edwards (DEP staff)

Review of Mission Statement and Goals and Projects Document

- Mission statement was adopted last meeting but is subject to revision if requested by the members
- The “EAQAC Air Subcommittee Goals and Projects” document should be treated as a living document

Regulation Revisions

- There is still time to consider the DPS proposed adoption of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC).
- Discussion around low-VOC materials:
  - DPS generally does not want to issue regulations regarding low-VOC materials, because they are already regulated at the federal level. However, the federal regulations only set a floor, so there is some potential to build on that.
  - A potential path forward is that the IgCC requires applicant to submit concrete strength tests, so the same thing could potentially be done for VOCs.
- It was suggested that all members of the Subcommittee print out Chapter 8 of the code and highlight all the areas that apply to Indoor Air Quality (IAQ).
  - The IgCC generally needs to be purchased, but Stan previously provided a gratis copy via email.

Vehicle Fleet

- Suggested change in the Goals and Projects document in the Vehicle Fleet section to indicate that policy emphasis can be reducing GHGs, conventional pollutants, AND/ or increasing “energy security”
- Stan will send a follow-up email to DTS to get information on their fleet strategy.
- Stan will send a follow-up email to the public school system to get information on their fleet strategy.
- The subcommittee will wait for further information from Stan to inform proposed policy direction on vehicle fleet.

County Construction Contracts

- Stan will check to see if there are county requirements regarding contracts and permitting.

Vehicle and Bus Idling on School Property

- Stan will send follow-up email regarding enforcement of idling regulations

Home Fuel Use

- DEP is currently reviewing eleven years of fuel tax receipts, which includes home heating fuel.
- Subsequent to this review, the Subcommittee can determine if there are IAQ issues to examine in more detail.

Permitting for Solar PV

- There has been an extensive effort in Montgomery County to streamline the permitting process; as a result, it is unclear that solar PV permitting is an area for Subcommittee focus.

### Radon

- EAQAC sent out the Radon letter; are there any next steps?
- January is Radon Action Month
- Do realtors feel like they need more materials or information on radon to provide to prospective homeowners?

### Set Top Boxes

- Will further investigate how to reduce energy consumption from set top boxes.

### Next steps

- Subcommittee members should review IgCC and provide feedback by next meeting.
- Subcommittee members should also read Chapter 3 of the Montgomery County Code and start to become familiar with it.

## EAQAC Air Subcommittee Goals and Projects

Updated 12/4/2014

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Advise County Executive and support executive branch agencies to improve indoor and outdoor air quality in Montgomery County. Identify issues, projects, and goals for EAQAC regarding air quality issues in Montgomery County.

**SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS:** Kavita Vaidyanathan, Fred Booth, Ken Cantor, Venu Ghanta, Linda Tsang, Stan Edwards (DEP staff)

**BACKGROUND:** Regulations regarding air quality are codified in Chapter 3 of the County Code. The regulations primarily address:

- Dust from construction activities (enforcement based on complaints)
- Visible emissions/opacity standards (enforcement based on complaints)
- Agricultural burning permits
- Air pollutants crossing property lines (enforcement based on complaints)
- Indoor air quality

DEP also provides information about radon to residents. The only County laws/regulations related to radon are found in the building code, which requires new residential properties to be built “radon resistant” consistent with Appendix F of the International Residential Code.

**POTENTIAL PROJECTS:** Subcommittee members identified potential projects ideas or issue areas that require additional research.

### I. Regulation Revisions

A. Review DPS proposed adoption of the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) regarding building codes and indoor air quality.

1. EAQAC could submit comments to DPS and/or during the public comment period.

2. NEXT STEPS

i. Stan will send the IgCC sections that DPS seeks to revise

ii. Subcommittee will review

B. Review and determine if zero opacity visibility emission standards require revision.

1. NEXT STEPS

i. Stan will determine extent of violations and concerns from County

C. Review and recommend revisions or future issues areas regarding Chapter 3 regulations.

1. NEXT STEPS

i. Subcommittee will review Chapter 3 and report back recommendations for revisions.

### II. Radon Follow Up

- A. Determine what other actions to take regarding Radon

### **III. County Construction Contracts**

- A. Investigate whether the County can/does require air quality mandates/requirements (i.e. low diesel construction vehicles)
  - 1. INFORMATION REQUIRED
    - i. Current County RFP/Contract Award Guidelines (Stan)

### **IV. Vehicle Fleet**

- A. Review existing vehicle fleet policy on air emissions
  - 1. Needs to be clear whether policy emphasis is on reducing GHGs, conventional pollutants, and/or increasing "energy security"
    - i. INFORMATION REQUIRED
      - 1. Climate change report that include types and quantities of GHG emissions from County (Stan)
      - 2. Any vehicle fleet policies on air emissions (Stan)
- B. Need policies that address County purchases versus the County's existing fleet.
  - 1. New vehicles: could mandate County purchases of HEVs, PHEVs, pure EVs, NGVs, flex-fuel, etc.
  - 2. Legacy vehicles: could focus on a biodiesel mandate and/or other measures to limit PM and NOx emissions
- C. Determine how to address private vehicles driven in the County
  - 1. Private vehicles: Could consider biodiesel mandate that applies to all transportation fuels sold in the County
- D. Programs to incentivize scrappage of older vehicles
- E. Cleaning up heavy diesels owned by the County (construction equipment, locomotives, buses, etc.)

### **V. Vehicle and Bus Idling on School Property**

- A. Determine if there are opportunities to reduce school bus and vehicle idling
  - 1. Develop outreach kit
  - 2. Feature success stories/benefits from reduced bus idling
  - 3. INFORMATION REQUIRED
    - i. Current status/process on diesel retrofits
    - ii. Case Study re stop idling kit (Stan)
    - iii. State code/regulations re bus/vehicle idling on school property (Stan)
    - iv. MoCo School Board policy/information on idling
- B. Determine whether there are purchasing guidelines on new school buses used on MoCo

### **VI. Electric Vehicles**

- A. Research questions:
  - 1. Maryland ZEV program would drive the vehicle availability and purchases, but perhaps not the infrastructure?

2. This may require the County to mandate charging stations and who pays for them?

**VII. Home Fuel Use**

- A. Determine if there are issues related to home fuel use and air quality
  1. INFORMATION REQUIRED
    - i. Data on home fuel use (Stan)

**VIII. 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)

**IX. Set Top Boxes**

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

**NEXT STEPS:**

- Review information provided by DEP
- Review potential projects and prioritize
- Recommend to EAQAC projects to focus on in 2015
- Appoint project leads for 2015 projects
- Maintain Air Subcommittee Goals and Projects to include future project ideas and accomplishments