

Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC)
Wednesday, January 7, 2015 at 7:00pm
“Fishbowl” Conference Room
DEP, 255 Rockville Pike, Ste 120

Members present: *Kavita Vaidyanathan, Robert Johnson (chair), Linda Tsang, Reuven Walder, Ken Cantor, Venu Ghanta*

Guests: *Chris Weatherly (adviser)*

Staff: *Stan Edwards, Michelle Vigen*

Draft Notes

1. Introductions, Approve Agenda, Approve Minutes

Agenda was approved; Minutes were tabled to the February meeting so the energy committee notes could be properly reviewed

Ken Cantor announced that this will be his last meeting. The committee thanked him for his generous contribution, his expertise and insights, to the committee over the years.

2. Subcommittee Reports

Air Quality committee reported their interest in working on several initiatives: IgCC (reviewing Chapter 8); County fleet (Seeking info, Chris said he could get MCPS new energy manager to come speak); Idling in front of schools; Home Fuel Use (Are there any Fuel 4 and 6 reported in the county? Michelle replied that the fuel energy tax evaluation doesn't seem to show any 4 and 6.); Solar PV (Michelle reported that Montgomery County is doing well on the Rooftop Solar Challenge compared with other jurisdictions); Radon letter received a response from OPC (Stan to invite OPC to meeting in March or April); Set Top boxes consume a significant portion of energy – 1.5-2% of national electric demand, is a problem with software and/or hardware, national standards being studied, QHECs provide smart strips, Nov 2013 notes reflect notes from Sam Raskin, DOE.

The Energy committee noted two main goals – to reduce county carbon footprint to zero emissions and the maintain affordable retail energy in the county. Several initiatives included reviewing laws for process efficiency opportunities, promoting utility incentives, building private public partnerships via piloting and better communication, and others outlined in last meeting's notes. Regarding residential: developing a single source portal for residents to access EE opportunities, providing a way for residents to benchmark and compare energy use, having support available (e.g. an energy coach) to help navigate incentives, targeting high consumers (single family homes) and underserved communities, evaluating current EmPOWER program offerings, piloting a deep retrofit of a home, providing recognition and competition programs (such as Home energy Score), and looking at residential outreach via K-12 schools.

3. Subcommittee Next Steps

4. Subcommittee meeting time

Subcommittees met to continue their work.

5. Staff and Member Announcements

- a. Nomination committee update – *Nominations are likely to go to Council soon, will update the EAQAC when they do; Will confirm Elizabeth Santori's interest or resignation*
- b. Staff announcements – *Stan provided an update on the Radon letter response from OPC and also mentioned resident concerns about wood fire burning that are pertinent to the Air Quality committee's interests; Michelle announced the Feb 18 Montgomery County Energy Summit, the hiring freeze that has impacted the Energy Program Manager position, PACE financing legislation to go to Council soon, and that she is seeking stores (Reuven and Sean offered to help offer or recruit stores)*

6. Open Forum/Public Comment

None

7. Next Meeting: February 4, 2015