

**Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC)**  
**Wednesday, Nov 5, 2014 at 7:00pm**  
**“Fishbowl” Conference Room**  
**DEP, 255 Rockville Pike, Ste 120**

**Members present:** Sean Boyle, Kavita Vaidyanathan, Foroud Arsanjane, Robert Johnson (chair), Linda Tsang, Reuvan Walder

**Guests:** Stephanie Riddick, David Kathan

**Staff:** Stan Edwards, Michelle Vigen

DRAFT Notes

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

*Agenda was approved.*

*Minutes were approved with the addition of names to the subcommittees determined.*

**2. Subcommittees: Overview of Goal of meeting time and DEP’s work in these areas**

*The group discussed having a common framework to the work of the subcommittees, to name a clear objectives, propose some ideas, and list action items and timelines.*

**3. Subcommittee meeting time**

- a. **Energy – commercial**
- b. **Energy – residential**
- c. **Air Quality (and Renewable)**

*The group broke up into two groups: Energy and Air Quality.*

*Energy: Each of its members brought up several ideas they had for the group. In no particular order or importance:*

Commercial

- *Seek zero-carbon emissions as the ultimate goal, say 3 years from now*
- *Look at average cost of supply to retail prices, and benchmark against peer jurisdictions*
- *Review laws and clean up unnecessary pieces*
- *How to facilitate the uptake of incentives*
- *Run pilots of innovative ideas and tech*
- *Build partnership depth through better private-public communication*
- *Focus on R&D of technologies*
- *Expanding solar to businesses*
- *How to help the county make money*

Residential

- *Create a single portal through which homeowners can see their use benchmarked and easily access incentives*

- *Should target certain communities: 1) High consumers with excessive use, and 2) underserved communities*
- *Data is available: What's the potential for savings? Can we do a study to ID what demographics and geographic areas have the highest potential and what we need to remove barriers? (e.g. deep retrofit pilots)*
- *Build recognition around benchmarking and other good energy actions*
- *DEP Staff also mentioned work on building recognition on benchmarking, exploring residential energy programming options, and tax credit evaluation*

*Air Quality: See Addendum to these Meeting Notes*

**4. Subcommittee Reports**

*Subcommittees reported back to the group and decided they would need more time next meeting.*

**5. Subcommittee Next Steps**

**6. Staff and Member Announcements**

**a. Nomination committee update**

*Conducted interviews this evening, recommendations will go to the County Exec and then to the Council for appointment.*

**b. Staff and other announcements**

*Benchmarking event tomorrow; Nov 19<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Vehicle event by MEA here in Rockville*

**7. Next Meeting: December 3, 2014**

## ADDENDUM

### **EAQAC Air Subcommittee Goals and Projects**

**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 (??), 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. INFORMATION REQUIRED
    - i. DPS IgCC proposal to subcommittee (Stan)
- B. Review and determine if zero opacity visibility emission standards require revision.
  1. INFORMATION REQUIRED
    - i. Copy of Maryland DOE opacity standards (Stan)
- C. Review and recommend revisions or future issues areas regarding Chapter 3 regulations.
  1. INFORMATION REQUIRED
    - i. Chapter 3 air quality regulations (Stan)

#### **II. Vehicle Fleet**

- A. Review existing vehicle fleet policy on air emissions
  1. Needs to be clear whether policy emphasis is on reducing GHGs or conventional pollutants, 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.)

### **III. School Buses**

- A. Determine if there are opportunities to reduce school bus 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 bus idling kit (Stan)
    - iii. State code/regulations re bus idling on school property (Stan)
    - iv. MoCo School Board policy/information on bus idling
- B. Determine whether there are purchasing guidelines on new school buses used on MoCo

### **IV. 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?

### **V. 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)

### **VI. 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)

**NEXT STEPS:**

- 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