

**Energy and Air Quality Advisory Committee (EAQAC)**  
**Wednesday, October 1, 2014 at 7:00pm**  
**“Fishbowl” Conference Room**  
**DEP, 255 Rockville Pike, Ste 120**

**Members present:** Sean Boyle, Ken Cantor, Fred Booth, Kavita Vaidyanathan, Foroud Arsanjane, Robert Johnson (chair), Venu Ghanta, Linda Tsang, Reuvan Walder  
**Guests:** Stephanie Riddick  
**Staff:** Stan Edwards, Michelle Vigen

## **Agenda**

### **1. DEP Staff Report –**

*Michelle Vigen offered a report on the following items:*

- **IgCC (International Green Construction Code)**  
*Dept of Permitting Services is going through the final review process for the adoption of the IgCC. They have submitted their 2<sup>nd</sup> set of amendments and hope to submit it to the county record by the end of October.*
- **Solar Efforts**  
*Michelle attended the GW Solar Symposium that focused on low to middle income solar development; GRID Alternatives, a nonprofit that focuses on workforce development and installing solar on low-income homes has opened a DC office; Takoma Park Solar Co-op has launched with Silver Spring and the help of Community Power Network (CPN); Residents in Rockville are also working with CPN to launch their own group buy project*
- **Benchmarking**  
*The initial meeting on Sept 16<sup>th</sup> of the work group was successful, 40 attendees; the work group is splitting into three subcommittees, members welcome; and MCPS and Montgomery College are planning to benchmarking; mark calendars for November 6<sup>th</sup> initial outreach event for building owners*
- **PACE**  
*Law has been drafted and is on its way to council; sure to pass; next steps will be to procure a program manager; plan for 18-month timeline to program start-up*
- **Green Banks**  
*MD Clean Energy Center is studying the development of a green bank in MD; exploratory discussions at the County*
- **Pepco-Exelon Merger**  
*Parties are intervening to comment on this merger; Community Investment Funds of ~\$42 million are on the table*

### **2. EAQAC Topics of Interest and Priority – Discussion**

- **Energy : Residential (Reuvan, Kavita)**
- **Energy: Commercial (Foroud, Sean, Bob)**
- **Air Quality (Linda, Venu, Ken, Kavita)**

### **3. Organizing to address priorities/Creation of Subcommittees**

*Discussion for items 2 and 3 were combined as they are related.*

*Bob started out with a status update on the radon letter, and a motion was made to approve and send it forward. Unanimous approval.*

*The group discussed the goals of EAQAC, including conservation and saving the county money, seeking good reliable energy service, and identifying initiatives that are applicable on-the-ground. Various ideas/items were discussed: the Clean Power Plan and its impact on the county and the county's role; commercial energy efficiency; residential energy efficiency initiatives, such as an energy coach and exploring behavior changes, opportunities to provide financial support (and how to align the goals of the county with that investment), and the piloting opportunities in the county.*

*The chair proposed breaking into groups to discuss these different areas, including also air quality, and having those committees determine their focus. A motion was made and was unanimously passed to break into subcommittees at the next meeting: 1) Air Quality (which may explore also covering Renewable Energy topics), and 2) Energy (which will split into a commercial side and a residential side).*

*There was discussion about having speakers at the meetings, e.g. committee members and also outside resources, such as ICF to talk about the residential programs offered by Pepco.*

#### **4. Other items/Announcements**

- **November 6<sup>th</sup> Benchmarking Intro Forum**
- **Membership**

*Other items covered included looking at filling the 5 vacant positions on the committee. A nomination committee was established: Sean, Foroud, and Bob – Staff will coordinate committee applicants to meet with the nominating committee, perhaps before the next EAQAC meeting.*

*DEP Staff are also willing to offer areas they are working on that could use some assistance from the EAQAC. They will offer topics and questions they are working on at the next meeting.*

*A question was asked about the Office of Sustainability positions: Their hiring process is underway – will keep the group apprised of any updates.*

#### **5. Next Meeting: November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm**

*The committee adjourned at 8:35pm.*