

Arlington County C2E2 Energy Committee

Meeting Summary

Wednesday, December 8, 2021

7:30 am – 9:30 am

Agenda Items

1. Greetings and introductions **(7:30)**

- Jonathan noted that we should consider the 2022 meetings to be held in the morning and the evenings, taking into account the NAACP comments about the timing of the meetings and attempting to be more equitable to a wider array of stakeholders.
- We are still looking for an EC Chair for the coming year. The Chair must also be a C2E2 member.
 - If Tim Effio would like to be the Chair, then Claire could step in to assist with some of the Chair's usual duties. Outside of the actual EC meeting time, the Chair's role takes up about 5-10 hours each month.
 - John Bloom noted that the most important thing is to ensure good coordination between the EC and C2E2. The EC Charter can be modified, if needed, to eliminate the requirement that the EC Chair also be a C2E2 member.
- Kyle Wacyra joined the meeting as a guest and expressed interest in being part of the EC moving forward.
 - Kyle has a strong background in energy management and energy efficiency. He is a PE and has a Masters in Energy Engineering.

2. Review/approve agenda and November meeting summary **(7:35)**

- The December meeting agenda and the November meeting summary were both approved.

3. Public Comment on General Topics **(7:40)**

- None

4. Arlington County Biosolids upgrade continued discussion **(7:50) – Claire Noakes**

- The goal is to eventually draft a letter from the EC and to send that to C2E2 for consideration.
 - Getting that letter to C2E2 after the January 2022 EC meeting would enable the C2E2 to discuss at the C2E2 January 2022 meeting, though that may possibly slip to February 2022
- WPCP staff noted at the recent C2E2 meeting that County staff would provide written replies to C2E2's comments and questions
 - County staff are working on those replies and plan to have them to the C2E2 in time for the C2E2 January 2022 meeting
 - Adam will let County staff know of C2E2's interest in getting those replies in advance of the C2E2 January 2022 meeting and as soon as possible
- Claire was on a recent Joint Facilities Advisory Committee (JFAC) meeting and has some additional information:
 - Staff said this would be an environmentally beneficial project. We would be taking natural gas from the process and using that natural gas created from the WPCP's Solids Master Plan process instead of using natural gas (from Washington Gas) that was created via a fracking process.
 - Claire asked about the Option 4 concept, i.e., do not build the new project. Staff replied that Option 4 is still a proposal.

- Jonathan would like to see the WPCP’s baseline GHGe and then the GHGe emissions that would result if each of the four options were implemented.
 - John Bloom noted that the environmental benefits of each proposal were presented during the C2E2 meeting and presentation by WPCP staff.

- 5. AIRE update on whole-of-government/Chief Sustainability Officer role **(8:15) – Jonathan Morgenstein**
 - a. AIRE Staff input/response – **AIRE Staff**
 - b. EC courses of action for January — **Jonathan Morgenstein**

- The County Board (C. Dorsey) issued a statement and guidance for staff to consider when preparing the FY23 County budget:

“Climate Change & Sustainability

 - The County Board directs that the County Manager develop a recommendation to coordinate a “whole of government” approach to achieving Arlington’s Climate Change and Sustainability goals. The recommendation should include the staffing model and budget necessary to:
 - a) Integrate sustainability goals and best practices into County plans, procurement, programs and operations consistent with the CEP Roadmap (under development) which will provide near, mid, and long-term strategies to achieve climate change goals;
 - b) Coordinate and optimize inter-departmental projects and areas of work;
 - c) Monitor and escalate disagreements among departments to the County Manager and County Board for resolution, when competing County policy priorities are at issue as;
 - d) Determine the metrics, reporting and communication necessary to present a consolidated understanding of Arlington’s Climate Change and Sustainability goals;
 - e) As part of the CEP Roadmap implementation carry out a communications and engagement plan that includes APS, residents, other community stakeholders and regional partners; and
 - f) Identify innovation in sustainability practices and developments in climate science to provide current and continuing education for staff and policymakers.
 - The recommendation should be shared in time for the Board to incorporate guidance as part of the FY23 budget process.”

- Demetra noted that AIRE proposed adding information to the AIRE Performance Measures that are regularly reported. In addition, an Interdepartmental Work Group was proposed by AIRE to address sustainability issues. The group would meet quarterly.
- Demetra also noted AIRE asked for another FTE for AIRE and recommended additional staff resources outside of AIRE to address energy issues.
- February 2022 would be the time when the County Manager shares with the County Board and the public the response to the above guidance.

- 6. Follow-up on lower-carbon concrete **(8:30)—Jonathan Morgenstein**
 - a. AIRE Staff input/response – **AIRE Staff**
 - b. EC courses of action to promote low-carbon concrete—**Jonathan Morgenstein**

- Ask County staff, e.g., FD&C staff, whether low-carbon concrete has been considered for County projects. If yes, has it been used? If it has not been used, then why not?
 - County staff do mention this technology along with myriad other technologies with the private sector through the Green Building Density Incentive Program and through the County’s Facility Sustainability Policy discussions.

- In addition, in Sept. 2021, AIRE staff wrote an ArlNow article highlighting the importance of considering embodied carbon.
 - ACTION: Rich will send the low-carbon PPT to FD&C staff and to Vicky Kiechel. He will also ask DMF whether they are willing to come to a future EC meeting to discuss the EP4.
 - Rich reached out to DMF and FD&C staff and is waiting for a reply. Rich confirmed with Vicky that the Green Building Density Incentive Program and corresponding LEED checklist used by developers does include low-carbon concrete as an option for project teams.
- 7. Round Robin on CY2021 and CY 2022 (8:45) – Jonathan Morgenstein**
- a. **Each EC Member...** Thoughts on past year, hopes/concerns for next year. **(4 min each)**
- Doug S. – Two quick questions for staff:
 - 1) At the parking lot at Courthouse, is there an EV parking station in that lot?
 - A: No, since there is not electrical feed for it.
 - 2) What about EVSE at the Lubber Run Community Center?
 - A: Yes, contractors are working on installing those chargers.
 - We should be installing EV chargers in those public-facing locations to help raise awareness.
 - What about a solar panel canopy to help power the EV chargers?
 - A: Yes, staff analyzed the possibility of using EV ARC, and deemed it cost-prohibitive. Staff dropped into the meeting chat a URL for EV ARC.
 - Greg B – We have a lot of metrics to determine where the community is in relation to its goals. He is very interested in the metrics and wondering if the goals are too optimistic.
 - Other EC members noted that the metrics question is beginning to be worked on with university students.
 - John B. – Possible presentations:
 - An issue for a presentation: refrigerants. See what is possible and best practices.
 - Would like to see each EC member take up a specific project to research and have each EC member present on that research topic.
 - Residential energy performance and the County’s Green Home Choice programs.
 - Keep coordination strong between the EC and C2E2.
 - Maybe have a gathering of some sort in 2022.
 - Kevin V. –
 - As a tactic, he is in favor of EC drafting letters on every subject where EC has substantive suggestions and circulating those letters to the C2E2. Simply having oral discussions among the EC does not get traction and action. This approach would help memorialize EC suggestions and considerations. Each EC member could take up a letter for a specific topic.
 - Would like to see EC focus on embedded energy in existing infrastructure and to reuse what we have. Think about how much carbon is emitted if we tear down infrastructure.
 - Rick K. –
 - 2021 has been about the CEP, and our work to push for the Roadmap, electrification, and other matters has been very fruitful.
 - Looking forward: budgets at all levels of government, and the CEP Roadmap implementation.
 - Scott B. –
 - Finds inspiration from everyone in this group and is happy for the work we do.
 - Scott D. –
 - Agreed – thankful for everyone’s work, including staff’s work on moving things forward
 - A while back, C2E2 had a working document that listed the specific topics on which C2E2 had to have an impact.
 - Don’t lose sight that we are volunteers and being part of this Committee should be something that drives you to action.

- Stephanie G. –
 - Excited about Membership Director work.
 - Topically, very interested in EV and EVSE efforts
- Vince P. –
 - Support Demetra as she brings on new team members. Help identify people in our networks to let them know about job announcements.
 - Should we open up any EC in-person gatherings to CB members, CMO staff, etc?
 - Vince is now at a DC company focusing on EV and EVSE, so he is hoping to help out on those specific topics in 2022
- Jonathan M. –
 - Thanks again to all of the AIRE staff for their hard work.
 - Thanks to Claire for her help and he has enjoyed working with her in her role as EC Vice-Chair. Jonathan's last meeting as EC Chair will be the January 2022 meeting.
 - Thanks to Stephanie for joining and agreeing to advance membership efforts.
 - Thanks to Joan M. and John B. for their efforts in leading C2E2.
 - Echoes the need to address residential energy matters, solar canopies on buildings to help charge EVSE, and process improvement comments.
- Joan McIntyre –
 - Appreciates all the EC does in raising and identifying issues that C2E2 should consider.
- Claire N. –
 - Appreciates the collaboration amongst us all

8. Adjourn (9:30)

- Meeting adjourned at 9:31