

Minutes  
Advisory Commission on Environmental Quality (CEQ)  
November 28, 7 PM

Jefferson Building, Chesapeake Room, **105** W. Chesapeake Avenue, Towson, MD 21204

Attendance: Brian Fath, Valerie Androutsopoulos, Linda Davis, Glenn Elseroad, Lois Jacobs, Carol Newill, Andy Miller, Karen Wynn, Lynda Eisenberg, Brian Lindley, and Chris Davis.

CEQ meeting dates, membership information, and reports are available online  
Here: [www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html](http://www.baltimorecountymd.gov/Agencies/ceq/index.html)

Open Meeting

- I. Welcome and Comments/Updates – Lois Jacobs, Chair
- II. Presentation – “Baltimore County Greenhouse Gas Inventory” by Morgan Beard, Shaina Furman, Devin Moody and Briana Weinman.

Brian introduced his students by talking about a greenhouse gas inventory done by one of his graduate students about 10 years ago, which interested County Executive Jim Smith and led to some initiatives that were adopted by county government. This group of students are working on an update of the greenhouse gas inventory. They are presenting the results of their semester project.

Presentation started with an introduction to greenhouse gases and their impact on the global radiation balance, leading to global warming potential. Focus on CO<sub>2</sub>, N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub> and F gases using eCO<sub>2</sub> as a standard. N<sub>2</sub>O has eCO<sub>2</sub> of 21, CH<sub>4</sub> - 310, and F gases 1000 to 10,000. Sectors included in the 2016 inventory were energy,, transportation (jet fuel), natural gas, waste, and agriculture (data from 2012). Different methods than used by Pat Brady in 2006. We have seen an increase in emissions from 2006 to 2016. Different sectors emit different quantities of different gases. CO<sub>2</sub> – burning of fossil fuels for heating, fueling cars, electricity. N<sub>2</sub>O mainly from fertilizer and some from transportation and waste. CH<sub>4</sub> mainly from agriculture and waste. Fluorinated hydrocarbons are mainly industrial and commercial processes.

Baltimore County eCO<sub>2</sub> breakdown: transport 37%, electric 47%, natural gas 14%, waste 2%, jet fuel and agriculture ~0.

Data gathered by using square footage of residential, industrial and commercial buildings – converted to kWh and then to eCO<sub>2</sub>.

Transportation was second largest sector. Used EPA MOVES software, used by states for completing State Implementation Plans (SIPs). On-road transportation emission status in metric tons. CO<sub>2</sub> – 3.4 million; CH<sub>4</sub> - 192, NO<sub>2</sub> - 2673; total eCO<sub>2</sub> was 4.32 million metric tons which can be broken down by vehicle type. Dominated by passenger cars and passenger trucks; next by long-haul trucks.

Natural gas - Maryland's natural gas consumption was multiplied by Baltimore County population as a percent of Maryland's total to get 30.24 billion ft<sup>3</sup>, converted to 1.663 million metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub>.

Waste data from DPW, input into EPA WARM tool to get final emissions of 291,415 MT eCO<sub>2</sub>. Linear relationship to total metric tons of solid waste. Increasing over time - about 20,000 metric tons of solid waste (from 830,000 to 850,000 between 2014 and 2017). Jet fuel as subset of transportation, accounts for 8.57 metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub> – a surprisingly small number.

Agriculture – livestock, crop growth fertilizer (data not available), crop burning (not significant in Baltimore County). For livestock and crop growth, data from USDA county-level data – every 5 year census data and EPA State Inventory tool calculated eCO<sub>2</sub>. Total amounted to 14,597 metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub>. Numbers of broilers and other kinds of chickens was not disclosed. For crops the total came to 0.0201 metric tons of eCO<sub>2</sub>.

Some recommendations for reduction of greenhouse gas.

Electricity and gas: switch to more renewables (solar wind, hydro, nuclear); make new developments improve on insulation and energy-efficient appliances. Baltimore County does have a green building program. Switching from gas to electric heating would be effective once we switch to renewables for electricity.

For transportation, Transit Oriented Developments (TODs), increased availability of mass transit options, fewer overall vehicles and alternatives to conventional vehicles including fuel-flexible vehicles relying on more ethanol, electric vehicles if the energy doesn't require fossil fuels and there is a responsible recycling program for batteries.

Waste – used the 10-yr solid municipal waste plan to build on. Recommend increasing pickup of recyclables to the entire county; promoting resident drop-off centers; providing more convenient recycling bins; and preventing waste with composting bins (program from 2008-2016 could be revived).

Agriculture – promote no-till farming to reduce carbon release to atmosphere; land use change – preserve forest and make more green space available; produce renewable energy on farms.

The students have written up a report and it could potentially be publicized as a report, even on the CEQ web site.

III. Discuss and Approve minutes of October 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.  
Approved with one minor edit.

IV. Update: 10 year Solid Waste Plan  
• Final Meeting of Solid Waste Management Citizens Review Committee (SWMCRC) 10/29/18. Lois attended. Copy of 2019-2028 Plan received. Council Work Session of 11/19 was to address the 10 year plan.

Citizens review committee – we could not speak, just listen. Lois spoke with both Steve Walsh, Director of Department of Public Works, and Charlie Reighart, Bureau of Solid Waste Management. Walsh said he had never spoken to any CEQ chair other than Joan Plisko. Lois said she would be in touch with him and asked if they had received our report on the 10-yr solid waste plan and Charlie said they did receive it and it was much appreciated.

The draft plan was kept pretty much intact; Sierra Club has been pushing to get rid of the incinerator but that decision has not been made. There is no discussion in the plan of what happens with China's rejecting much of the recycling material they were previously accepting. Letter from Citizens Review Committee has been sent out. There was a work session of the council where this plan was supposed to be discussed. Recommendation in the report included option of banning problem material including single-use plastics, plastic bags.

## V. New Business

Election results and New Directions:

1. Meeting of Environmental Groups – lead is Charlie Conklin. Meeting with new County Executive to share environmental policy issues.

Charlie wants to meet with a number of environmental groups including us, and he will be calling Lois to discuss further. Carol suggests the Green Towson Alliance which produced a 3-page plan on how the county can improve its environmental performance. Linda suggests nature education organizations, Irvine Nature Center, watershed stewards, Maryland Native Plant Society, Blue Water Baltimore, Greater Baltimore Sierra Club, League of Conservation Voters, and others. It would be helpful to have all of these organizations able to provide information about their priorities, introduce themselves to the County Executive, as well as allow organizations to build coalitions and take advantage of networking opportunities. It would be efficient for him to get this exposure in a single room at a single meeting. This could be educational for us but in addition to, not instead of, having CEQ meeting with him separately.

The transition committee has a team for sustainability, transportation and infrastructure and Marsha McLaughlin has been asked to serve on that. This initiative should go through them.

2. Meeting between CEQ and County Executive..

Lois spoke with Johnny O briefly at his victory party and was suggesting a meeting to update him on what we are doing. He seemed positively disposed.

## VI. Climate change Report (NY Times) – Carol.

- Councilman Marks is interested in CEQ assessing risks to Baltimore County.
- Drowning Cities Series.

Lois discussed the issues covered in this series about risks to different cities with different physical conditions (i.e. relative elevation above sea level, subsidence rates, vulnerability of infrastructure, etc.) Every coastal jurisdiction will need to

be prepared. Glenn points out that if the last two years are an indicator of climate change there are huge impacts for places other than coastal areas including agriculture as well, and growing seasons and viability of crops, predictability of ripening etc. are being disrupted.

Councilman Marks approached Carol some years ago and it did not seem the right time to take this on. She spoke with him again last week and he is interested in a report on how the county is preparing to increase its resilience in the face of these problems.

Who is working on resilience for the county? Not much in the Planning Department beyond the Master Plan and this is not a major component of the current Master Plan but it probably will need to be incorporated in the next one.

We discussed sending a letter to the transition team inviting them to request that CEQ prepare a report, possibly in collaboration with others, with recommendations about how to promote broader attention to climate change adaptation and resilience across county agencies. This can also be informed by the work of the Maryland Climate Change Commission and the recent report of the U.S. Fourth National Climate Assessment.

- VII. Discuss as time allows:
- Transportation Air Pollution Regional Approach (Linda). Link to article. Governor Hogan working on this with DC Mayor and possibly others.
  - Solar Farms information – Carroll County (Lynda). We should take up initiatives on Polystyrene and Community Solar issues. Also plastic bags.

- VIII. Adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Next regular Meetings 7 PM:

- January 23, 2019
- February 27, 2019
- March 27, 2019
- April 24, 2019
- May 22, 2019