



**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

**Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency**

**QUARTERLY MEETING AGENDA**

December 8, 2022

3:00 – 5:30 pm

Wilson Building, G-9/Media Room  
(with virtual option)

**DC-CCCR Members**

**Uwe Brandes**

**Jim Dougherty**

**Alan Etter**

**Maureen Holman**

**Anthony Kane**

**Peggy Keller**

**Sandra Knight**

**Jim Landau**

**Justin Lini**

**Colin McCormick**

**Chelsea Mervenne**

**Steve Moore**

**Jason Turner**

**Molly Rauch**

**Edward Yim**

**Kate Zyla**

**DOEE Staff**

Sarah Edwards, designated staff executive

Connor Rattey

Brittany Whited

Maribeth DeLorenzo

**Invited Speakers**

Tommy Wells

Kate Johnson

Hilari Varnadore

**Other Guests**

Joe Knackstedt

Ben Curran

Aykut Yilmaz

**1) Call to Order**

**2) Announcement of Quorum** – Quorum confirmed.

**3) Approval of Agenda and Previous Meeting Minutes** - A motion to approve the September 9, 2022 Quarterly Meeting Minutes & October 20, 2022 Special Session (Jim Dougherty, Justin Lini) was passed unanimously.

**4) Approval of Electronic Vote on the Second Report** – The previously completed electronic vote to approve the Second Report was acknowledged and added to the record.

**5) Chair's Welcoming Remarks**

a) Uwe Brandes announced that two Commission vacancies were recently filled:

- i) Jim Landau, Ward 3 resident and Head of Environmental, Social & Governance at MetLife Investment Management. Appointed by the Mayor.
- ii) Edward Yim, Ward 6 resident and State and Utility Policy Director at the American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy. Appointed by the Mayor.
- b) Brandes announced two milestones for the Commission:
  - i) The Commission’s “Second Report”, the second legislatively mandated report was transmitted to the Mayor and to the Chair of the Council on November 17. This marks a culmination of a flurry of work over the spring and summer.
  - ii) The Commission has publicly released the report on its new website: [climatecommission.dc.gov](http://climatecommission.dc.gov) The report is easily downloadable.
- c) Looking ahead, Brandes added remarks
  - i) Members of the Commission will now be using the report in a comprehensive engagement strategy, which has already been started with a briefing to Deputy Mayor Babers. All members of the Commission conducting external briefings should coordinate with Sarah Edwards for record keeping purposes.
  - ii) The Commission is starting to develop capacity and our Dedicated Staff Executive, Sarah Edwards, has worked hard to

**6) Finance Report - None**

**7) Governance Report - None**

**8) Committee Reports - None**

**9) Designated Staff Executive’s Report**

- a) Climate Commission Report was transmitted to the Mayor, Council Chair, Council staff, and stakeholders
- b) Recently Introduced Legislation:
  - i) Metro for DC Amendment Act of 2022
    - (1) Proposal would provide free metrobus passage within the District, invest in bus infrastructure, extend service hours, and subsidize bus fares for residents
  - ii) Healthy Housing and Residential Electrification Amendment Act of 2022
    - (1) Proposal would provide funding for low-income households to replace gas-powered appliances with electric appliances and add a permit fee for new gas powered appliances in new buildings or major renovations
  - iii) Comprehensive Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Access, Readiness, and Sustainability Amendment Act of 2022
    - (1) Proposal would increase public charging infrastructure and EV-ready requirements for new buildings
- c) Other updates
  - i) Updated Council on Environmental Quality Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool  
[Biden-Harris Administration Launches Version 1.0 of Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool, Key Step in Implementing President Biden's Justice40 Initiative | CEQ | The White House](#)
  - ii) Open for Comment: Draft DC Racial Equity Action Plan  
[Mayor Bowser Releases District’s First-Ever Racial Equity Action Plan | mayorb](#)
  - iii) CCCB – Electrification Proposal and Sign-On Letter

- (1) DC-CCCR to review and consider signing on

## 10) Guest Presentations: Global Climate Summits

- a) **Hilari Varnadore**, Vice President for Cities, U.S. Green Building Council
  - i) USGBC Takeaways from COP27
    - (1) COP27 hosted a series of Powerful pavilions on various topics and jurisdictional initiatives as a display of progress toward climate solutions
    - (2) Among the pavilions was the first climate justice pavilion, spotlighting the issue at the international event
    - (3) Cost of fuel due to the Ukrainian war has led European nations to “double-down” on efforts to transition away from natural gas, not shy away from renewables
- b) **Kate Johnson**, Head of U.S. Federal Affairs, C40 Cities
  - i) C40 Conference of Mayors Takeaways
    - (1) Push for *good* green jobs in climate action
    - (2) Youth are powerful voices that will hold governments accountable, and there is a dedicated alliance of city-based Youth Councils that C40 is hosting.
    - (3) Mayors are the final actors in long lines of policy and funding; and are responsible for implementation of climate action
    - (4) Energy and poverty crisis, largely caused by the Ukrainian War, is not slowing cities’ transition off fossil gas

## 11) Discussion with Director Tommy Wells

### DC Department of Energy & Environment

- i) Grateful for this opportunity to address the Commission as I step away from my 8-years as director of the agency. I am currently co-chairing the Mayor’s Transition Team, and I will continue to serve as chair of the DC Water board.
- ii) Among the District’s recent successes, highlights includes
  - (1) First in the nation to establish a Building Energy Performance Standard
    - (a) Including affordable housing with tools such as the Retrofit Accelerator
  - (2) Improving water quality in Anacostia River toward a fishable and swimmable river that benefits surrounding communities
- iii) Three main observations for the District’s continued progress on climate action
  - (1) The District needs to commit to transition off fossil gas
    - (a) The District should not invest in new or rebuilt gas infrastructure
  - (2) Land use and zoning are powerful tools
    - (a) The District should work toward walkable neighborhoods (everyday needs within a 10- or 15-minute walk)
  - (3) Renewable energy should be deployed in coordinated sub-Districts or as neighborhood overlays
    - (a) Individual properties can be expensive to convert to clean energy. Scale is important in the transition

## 12) Public Comments

- a) Joe Knackstedt (DCHD) –
  - i) The Public Service Commission’s interpretation of a submetering rule for residential properties is a barrier to deploying large solar energy on affordable housing campuses.

- (1) Properties are required to allocate energy costs to individual residents. Without submetering, property managers cannot distribute potential solar benefits in the rent formula to tenant
- (2) Thus, many properties with large roof space that would be strong candidates for solar panels are unable to install
- b) Ben Curran –
  - i) Southwest Strong (aka Southwest Preparedness Assembly) is planning for the year
    - (1) Working with DC Youth Mayor on climate issues
    - (2) Working with DOEE on a grant to improve flood resilience

### **13) Discussion**

- a) With the publication of the report, the Climate Commission has an opportunity to evaluate its activities for the year ahead.
- b) Areas for increased engagement include:
  - i) Ensuring flow of federal resources work toward climate goals
  - ii) Hazard Mitigation planning
  - iii) Assessing opportunities in land use for stormwater (flood) mitigation and renewable energy deployment
  - iv) More frequent engagement in regulatory decisions (PSC, CCCB)
  - v) Advancing green jobs
  - vi) Youth Climate Commissions
  - vii) Empowering ANC's with educational materials and support resources

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