



DRAFT Minutes of the MWG meeting 2.20.24

Members Present:

Alisha Mulkey, Ava Richardson, Ben Hobbs, Elizabeth Bunn, Elliott Campbell, Gail Myers (proxy for Steve Darcy); Garrett Fitzgerald, Gerald Jackson, Jamal Lewis, Jana Davis, Kim Coble, co-chair; Louis Campion, Mark Stewart (staff facilitator); Mark Szybist, Michael Powell, co-chair; Mike Remsberg, Nathan Hultman, Nicola Tran, Robert Wright, Sandy Hertz, Sonya Harbaugh, Stephen Dodge, Susan Casey (staff); Tom Ballentine

Agenda:

- Review of investment needs and funding options from the climate plan
- Input from MWG members
- Legislative update, Kim Coble

Opening Remarks:

- The meeting was called to order by Mark Stewart, facilitator, at 10 a.m.
- Mark provided updates on MDE's climate team staffing and building decarbonization initiatives, including the new collective heat pump goal set by a coalition of 9 states.
- Co-chair Kim Coble noted that there are more than 3,300 bills before the General Assembly this session, with around half related to climate.

Review of Climate Plan Investments:

- The climate plan estimates \$16-18 billion is needed in total investment this decade to meet Maryland's 2030 emissions reduction goal. This includes both public and private funding sources leveraging each other.
- The plan calls for an additional \$1 billion per year in state funding to help drive private investment and target priority projects. This funding need is based on analysis of investment gaps, comparisons to other leading states, and typical public-private investment leverage ratios.
- Priority investment areas highlighted in the plan include:
 - Home energy efficiency and electrification
 - Commercial, institutional, and multifamily building upgrades

- Electric vehicle rebates and charging infrastructure
- Industry, infrastructure, and nature-based solutions
- Workforce development
- Consumer education and outreach

MWG Member Discussion:

- Key points raised:
 - Investments should consider resilience and avoid exacerbating environmental justice issues
 - Electric grid upgrades are needed to enable building electrification
 - Incentives should prepare homes for smart, demand-responsive operations
 - A framework is needed to evaluate/prioritize spending based on emissions, costs, community impacts, and timeline
 - Maximize use of current federal incentives before they potentially expire
 - Analyze potential new state funding mechanisms (cap & invest, fees, etc.)
 - Comprehensively address vehicle miles traveled (VMT), not just vehicle electrification

Legislative Update:

Kim Coble summarized status of bills related to the funding options and other policies highlighted in the climate plan (and/or the MCCC Annual Report recommendations):

Funding:

- \$90 M allocated by Governor - will be heard in Senate Budget and Tax and House Appropriations: Date: TBD
- Transport Fee - HB 1008 - 3/1 E&T
- Cap and Invest - HB 1272 - 3/7 ECM
- RENEW Act - SB 958 - EEE / HB 1438 - 3/7 ECM

Declaring Climate Education Week April 1-7th annually. (*MCCC's Annual Report Recommendation*)

- HB993 (Dana Stein) Hearing 3/14, Health and Govt Opps

Climate Crisis and EJ Act

- HB 516 - Hearing 2/29, Economic Matters

EmPOWER Reform

- HB 864 - Hearing 2/29, Economic Matters

Manufacturing Exemption

- HB 990 - Hearing 3/1, Environment and Transportation

EV Purchase Incentives

- HB 689 - Hearing 2/15, Environment and Transportation

EV Ready Multi-Family Buildings

- HB 889 - Hearing 2/23, Environment and Transportation / SB 695 - hearing 3/1 Education, Energy, and Environment

Next Steps:

- Develop draft prioritization framework to facilitate further discussion
- Conduct analysis/modeling of potential new funding mechanisms

Public Comments:

- Jeff Silva, Montgomery County resident: Insurance premium funds should not support fossil fuel companies contributing to climate damage/insurance claims.
- Donald Goldberg, executive director and founder of Climate Law and Policy Project who informed the members that a Cap & Invest primer is available from [the CLPP](#).
- Wandra Ashley Williams, Maryland Regional Director at Climate XChange: Supports Climate Crisis and Environmental Justice Act (carbon fee bill) to fund the climate plan.

Next Meeting:

- March 20, 2024, 2-3 p.m. via Google Meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 noon.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan E. Casey