

2022 Performance Oversight Pre-Hearing Questions

Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency

1. Please provide a list of the Commission’s current members, and note any existing vacancies. For each member, please provide the following:

- § The member’s name.
- § The agency or organization the member represents.
- § Who appointed the member.
- § When the member’s term expires.
- § Attendance record.

First Name	Last Name	Seat Designation	Appointee	Status	Term End	Residence	Affiliation	Total Attendance
Vaughn	Perry	Environmental Justice Member	Mayor	Active	tbc	Ward 8	Building Bridges Across the River	2/4
Sandra	Knight	Emergency Preparedness Member	Mayor	Active	tbc	Ward 6	Water Wonks LLC	4/4
Kathryn	Zyla	Energy Member	Mayor	Active	tbc	Ward 6	Energy Foundation	4/4
Anthony	Kane	Transportation Member	Mayor	Active	tbc	Ward 2	Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure	4/4
Alan	Etter	Emergency Preparedness Member	Council	Active	tbc	Ward 6	AE Consulting	3/4
Nicole	Sitaraman	Energy Member	Council	Active	tbc	na	na	1/1
Colin	McCormick	Environmental Science Member	Council	Active	tbc	Ward 1	Georgetown University	4/4
Uwe	Brandes	Natural Resources Member	Mayor	Active	5/5/2022	Ward 3	Georgetown University	4/4
Maureen	Holman	Environmental Science Member	Mayor	Active	5/25/2022	Ward 5	DC Water	4/4
Jason E.	Turner	Environmental Science Member	Mayor	Active	5/25/2022	Ward 4	Citizen	3/4
Peggy	Keller	Public health Member	Mayor	Active	5/25/2022	Ward 3	HealthBest Services, Inc.	3/4
Molly	Rauch	Public Health Member	Council	Active	11/8/2022	Ward 4	Moms Clean Air Force	4/4
Stephen	Moore	Transportation Member	Council	Active	11/8/2022	Ward 2	Southwest BID	4/4
James	Dougherty	Natural Resources Member	Council	Active	11/8/2022	Ward 6	Citizen	3/4
Chester	McPherson	Insurance Member	Council	Active	11/8/2022	Ward 5	Citizen	3/4
Chelsea	Mervenne	Environmental Justice Member	Council	Active	tbc	tbd	U.S. Department of Energy	4/4

2. Please provide a list of the Commission’s meeting dates, times, and locations for FY 2021 and FY 2022 to date.

- 9/10/2020, 3pm-5:30pm, virtual
- 12/10/2020, 3pm-5:30pm, virtual
- 1/15/2021, 9am-12:00pm, virtual
- 3/11/2021, 3pm-5:30pm, virtual
- 6/10/2021, 3pm-5:30pm, virtual
- 9/9/2021, 3pm-5:30pm, virtual
- 12/9/2021, 3pm-5:30pm, virtual
- 1/8/2021, 10am-4:00pm, virtual

3. Did the Commission receive funds in FY 2021? If so, please provide the following:

§ The amount of the funding. *None*

§ The source of the funding. *NA*

§ A list of all expenditures. *NA*

§ A description of how these funds furthered the Commission's mission.

Note: The Commission has received in-kind support from Georgetown University in the form of administrative staff support, student research interns and technical assistance.

4. Please describe the Commission's activities in FY 2021.

The Commission has performed its duties in accordance with DC Law 21-186 which has included conducting four quarterly public meetings which have each included tailored agendas with invited speakers and presentations which explore how the District of Columbia is managing its response to climate change.

5. Please describe the Commission's three biggest accomplishments in FY 2021.

- Exploring issues of environmental justice in the District of Columbia;
- Benchmarking District climate change policies and activities in the context of international best practices;
- Engaging PEPCO in the formulation of its climate action plan.

6. Please describe the Commission's goals for FY 2022 and the plan/timeline for completion.

- Complete coordination with stakeholders in preparation of the Commission's Second Report;

- Deliver the Commission's Second to the Mayor and Council;
- Disseminate the findings of the Second Report to key stakeholders.

1. Last year, the Commission provided three goals for FY 2021. Did the Commission achieve each of these goals? If not, why not? The Committee understands some goals may be delayed due to the Public Emergency. The goals from FY 2021 are listed below:

- 1) *Ensuring that the District develop sufficient administrative capacity and practices to appropriate level federal climate change programs and initiatives.*
- 2) *Further work to integrate environmental justice into decision-making and resource allocation in the District.*
- 3) *Work with DOEE on the formulation of a comprehensive strategy action plan to achieve carbon neutrality in the District by 2050.*

The Commission advanced positive progress for each of these goals. Collaboration with agency staff and stakeholders heightened the awareness and significance of each of these issues:

- Focussed and sustained attention on DC Agency capacity to coordinate and advance federal funding grants to FEMA has been especially promising as shown by the recent funding award to the H-SEMA.
- The Commission continues to explore how climate change (and the District's response to it) disproportionately impacts the most vulnerable members of our community. This is an enormous challenge that requires collective effort.
- The Commission has worked closely with DOEE on its comprehensive strategy to achieve carbon neutrality, but this remains in progress.

2. What challenges does the Commission face, if any?

The Commission remains unfunded and without dedicated staff:

- While we are deeply grateful for the work of the Council to fund a dedicated staff position in the FY2022 budget to advance the Commission's work, this position remains unfilled;
- The Commission requires technical assistance from OCTO in order to build more robust tools for public engagement.

3. Please provide a copy of all official correspondence sent by the Commission in FY 2021 and FY 2022 to date.

Please see the letter dated May 12, 2021 attached.

4. Please identify the Commission's top recommendations for addressing climate change and resilience in FY 2022.

The Commission is working on detailed and comprehensive recommendations which will be documented in our upcoming report. Over the course of recent Commission meetings the following priorities have been highlighted:

- **Air Quality** – The need to mitigate the structural imbalance of the impact of poor air quality. The combined impact of poor air quality and rising temperatures is disproportionately impacting citizens who live in eastern neighborhoods and Wards of the District. When factoring in other public health related comorbidities, the combined impact of these risks can and should be understood as an expression of environmental justice, i.e. as having a disproportionate impact on District citizens with respect to race and class.
- **Data Standards** – Additional local climate modeling is necessary on an ongoing basis to better understand the specific long-term changes in climate which are to be anticipated in the District of Columbia. Additionally, the District should immediately adopt a protocol for the coordination and sharing of climate change modeling as well as establish a stakeholder-engaged process for the alignment of climate change assumptions across agencies, utilities, professional associations and other stakeholder organizations.

5. How did the ongoing public emergency or COVID-19 pandemic impact the operations of the Commission during FY 2021 and FY 2022, to date? If so, how? How does the Commission intend to mitigate these effects, moving forward?

- All of our public meetings were conducted virtually;
- We developed our own very basic interim website;
- We invested a lot of time into proactively organizing a research forum which recruited thought leaders to engage the Commission;
- We are hoping to gain access to District resources to build out our website and public communications functions in order to facilitate a greater degree of public input into the Commission's work;
- We are eager to start meeting in person again and conduct our quarterly meetings in all Wards and neighborhoods of the District.

6. Please provide the status of efforts to hire a staff member to support the Commission.

Other than helping to advertise this exciting opportunity, DOEE has been responsible for this HR function and members of the Commission have not been invited to participate. We have been briefed by DOEE and our understanding is that the hire will happen in the coming months. We have not been part of the screening process of candidates.

7. The Commission issued its first report in 2019.

§ What work has the Commission done to engage agencies on the recommendations outlined in the report?

§ Does the Commission anticipate issuing a future report on agency compliance with the report recommendations?

The Commission has disseminated the report and conducted follow-up meetings with representatives of agencies and other stakeholder organizations. Interested parties have invited the Commission to speak to their organizations about the report and the work of the Commission.

The Commission is charged with producing a report every three years and the next report will be delivered in October 2022. This report will include a discussion of how agencies and stakeholder organizations are making progress as well as restate and refine core recommendations made in the first report. New recommendations and insights will be included as well.

The Commission is the only formal body created by the Council to monitor the long-term progress of District and stakeholder organizations in their response to the challenges of climate change. As such, monitoring ongoing progress and compliance is a core element of our mission and our ongoing responsibility.