

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

District Department of the Environment



Green Building Advisory Council

Meeting Date: 1/9/2013

Meeting Location: DDOE, 1200 1st Street NW

Attendees: Bill Updike (DDOE), Chris VanArsdale (W.C. Smith), Patty Rose (Greenspace NCR), Ethan Landis (Landis Construction), Rabbiah Sabbakhan (DCRA), Denise Everson (DCHA), Beatrix Fields (DHCD), Matt Orlins (Office of CM Cheh), Sandy Wiggins (BALLE, Consilience), Anica Landreneau (HOK), Marshall Duer-Balkind (DDOE), MaryLynn Wilhere (DDOE), Brendan Shane (DDOE), Sean Cahill (PGP), Cliff Majersik (IMT), Laine Cidlowski (OP), Veronique Marier (DDOE), Brandon Mitchell (DMPED), Maribeth DeLorenzo (DHCD)

Main Points/Discussion:

Introductions & Sustainable DC Update

- ❖ Brendan provided an update on Sustainable DC and a summary of the overall plan that included a discussion of monitoring and reporting results for implementation of the plan (metrics, use of existing and new data sources, and analysis and reporting).
- ❖ Laine discussed how the SDC plan has 1-year, 5-year, 10-year and 20-year horizons for actions and implementation.
- ❖ ICLEI's STAR Communities program was discussed as a model (ACTION: Send out STAR Communities link to GBAC). It was discussed to look at ACEEE metrics and analysis in addition to STAR.
- ❖ Brandon discussed the integration of Sustainable DC with the large projects that the Deputy Mayor's office is managing.
- ❖ Laine discussed that it would likely take a year to operationalize the Sustainable DC initiative.

Discussion of the Role of GBAC

- ❖ We held a discussion about the appropriate role of the GBAC, focused around balancing between the Council's regulatory role and its service as an advocate for innovation. It seemed clear that the GBAC was interested in maintaining the responsibilities as laid out in the Green Building Act, but of also helping to advise the District government on innovations and on green building efforts as they relate to Sustainable DC and the next evolution of green building policy in the city.

- ❖ Some areas where the GBAC might have a role were discussed, including:
 - Promotion/Implementation of the Green Construction Code
 - Advocating for deeper sustainable building practices
 - Identifying/advising on green building opportunities in RFPs for major city developments
 - Performing a review of Sustainable DC implementation plan recommendations and advising on policy decisions and prioritization of activities in SDC plan
 - Pursuit of innovation beyond LEED, and demonstrations of such
 - Providing outreach to the private development sector
 - Advising on the use of the Green Building Fund (and the grant that will be created)
 - Advising on the impediments to advancements (permits, policies, etc.)
 - Liaison with/pressure utilities, PSC, on energy and water related issues (Sean mentioned the work that Mayor Bloomberg did on the BOA buildings to get the utilities to move. Will be particularly important on CHP projects.). Question came up about whether to invite the utilities to participate in GBAC—currently only DC Water is invited.
 - Participating in Green PDRM process
 - Advising on the creation of incentive program (Zero-energy, Living Building Challenge, Low-income green retrofits, etc.)
- ❖ Some possible activities for GBAC were discussed, including:
 - Review the Sustainable DC implementation plan when it is released, and provide guidance on the action items in the plan, including a prioritization on the actions.
 - Host interagency conversation and coordination for larger projects (unlikely that GBAC members other than key permitting related government departments will have time to participate in day-to-day activities, but could be called upon when a particular challenge is confronted)
 - Facilitate a discussion around a review of permitting efficiency, which might include a Green PDRM process for projects (again, most GBAC members would likely not have the time to participate in Green PDRMs, but could advise on their structure and efficacy)
 - Advise on fixing of existing regulations, or offering new regulations as needed either out of Sustainable DC or otherwise. Broker the conversation regarding any change to the Green Building Act given the presence of the new green construction code. Continue to advise on the use of the Green Building Fund.
 - Serve as liaison with local utilities and the PSC
 - Advise on green building innovation, including policies to support zero-energy and water building construction, Living Building Challenge certification, etc., green building program for single family/low-rise residential.

Update on Outstanding Action Items From December Meeting:

- ❖ DDOE/DCRA to finalize details of distribution of Green Building Fund (FY13 & FY14)—The letter of intent for FY14 between DDOE & DCRA has been signed by both agency directors and is being worked out in the budget process for FY14. The MOU between DDOE & DCRA is with the legal department at DDOE and should be sent to DCRA within the next two weeks.
- ❖ DGS/DDOE to finalize and release the 2010/2011 public building benchmarking report—[This report](#) (embedded link) was released last week with the announcement of the final publication of the benchmarking regulations.
- ❖ DDOE to get info regarding swearing in for GBAC appointments—GBAC members were appointed for a two-year term on January 10, 2013.
- ❖ DDOE to draft yearly GBAC calendar—Still need to work on this item when we have more clarity about the roles and actions of GBAC following our February 6 meeting.
- ❖ DDOE to follow up with DHCD/Dance Place regarding GBA inquiry—DDOE will be sending out a letter on behalf of the GBAC stating that because the public funding on the Dance Place project does not currently amount to 15% of their total funding, they will not need to comply with the GBA. The letter is currently with the legal department at DDOE for review.

New/Continued Action Items:

- ❖ Finalize MOU between DCRA & DDOE for Green Building Fund for FY13.
- ❖ Send STAR Communities info to GBAC.
- ❖ Draft GBAC calendar/action plan once plan is agreed upon by the Council.
- ❖ Do strawman proposal regarding change to Green Building Act.
- ❖ Analyze Sustainable DC action items and draft prioritization list to recommend to city.
- ❖ Broker conversation related to integrating Sustainable DC, Green Building Act, and the new Green Construction Codes
- ❖ Decide about inviting PSC, Pepco and Washington Gas to participate in GBAC.
- ❖ Review the Green Building Report outline from previous report and advise on next outline.

Date for next meeting: February 6, 2013

Location for next meeting: DDOE, 1200 1st Street NW, 5th Floor

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