**12/12 COMMUNITY MEETING NOTES**

**Energy, Climate, and Built Environment**

**Discussion session:**

1. This section should also include creating a bird friendly environment
2. Housing should be measuring by accessibility
   a. There are a lot of people being kicked out of homes or dealing with gentrification in Wards 7 and 8
   b. Will affordable housing be available for people who have lost their jobs in those wards?
3. You should continue to consider energy efficiency measures and incentives for renters, because this is huge for energy savings
4. Consider how pop-ups impact solar energy for residences
5. Measure accessibility to housing by income as well as geography
6. I hope you can articulate a communications plan for equity to ensure this communicated to stakeholders
7. The working groups are so interconnected. Burning fossil fuels also impacts our nature, transit, and health
   a. We need zero GHG emissions and total electrification of the transit sector
   b. All these goals need more ambition

**Poster/table session:**

- How can the District increase its population, and also decrease emissions? Both are goals, but they are contradictory. Increasing the DC population is also problematic since so many people already lack affordable housing options. SDC 2 should acknowledge population growth as a driver of climate change, and revise its sustainability goals to focus on improving residents’ quality of life rather than growing the population. In particular, by eliminating population growth as a goal and by raising awareness of the benefits of smaller families, DC has the opportunity to protect both the environment and its most vulnerable populations.
- The information on the website, notes from meetings, is really difficult to interpret and read. Perhaps you could put the themes from the PowerPoints up on the website so that people can get a quick snapshot of the kinds of discussions and priorities from the working groups without having to spend a lot of time interpreting the spreadsheets.
- Is there a personal pledge for emissions in addition to the citywide pledges?
  o Can individuals do their own analysis of emissions profiles so they can figure out how they can contribute? This can be a learning component
- Power and water in DC is mined from West Virginia, which is often from coal fired plants
  o Plan needs to address that intersection between water and energy, and between the states.
- More easily available and understandable information about sourcing power in the District. What is “clean choice” and how are Pepco and utilities involved in increasing share of renewable energy?
- Carbon tax!
- Work with Pepco to get our electricity from non-carbon sources
- We need to support B22-0234, a bill to phase out gas burning leaf blowers in DC by the end of 2021.
- Discourage the belief that an office space must be gutted before showing to potential new tenants, these spaces could be rented short term to start-ups. There is great visualization software available so that potential tenants can visualize the spaces configured for their use.
- Aggregated city-sponsored building management programs
- Tesla superchargers at metro stations and national stadium
- Property tax applied to privately created building values discourage improvements to and maintenance of existing buildings
- Regional integration – invite MD/VA to weigh in on the updates
- Regulatory review!
- Stronger energy efficiency building code requirements
- LEED requirements in building code
- Carbon tax must be implemented – charge fees discouraging fossil fuels and use funds to fund clean programs

**Waste**

**Discussion session:**

1. There isn’t much diversity among the panelists – need more volunteers to bring people of different backgrounds into the process
2. Need to incentivize zero waste through rules and penalties
   a. The room is in favor of a carbon tax
   b. We must be so bold and have a carbon tax with revenue going back into other green projects
3. We need to transition from long burning materials to other types of materials
   a. Is there a problem in DC with people failing to recycle batteries?
   b. Can battery recycling be included in targets to incentivize it?
4. The food service industry has so much waste
   a. Can you mandate food service composting, etc?
      i. This should be aggressively enforced
   b. There is no accountability
5. Low income communities should have access to composting

**Poster/table session:**

- Eliminate vanity renovations – especially when funded by office landlords
- Work with DC water to bring food waste to digesters – they can get energy from the waste
- $.05 can, bottle return will encourage waste diversion
- Encourage imperfect food program to come to DC
- Support Zero Waste – eg groceries with reusable cartons and packaging
- Eliminate regulations that create/require waste
  o DoH rules regulating new plastic cups @ beer gardens
• Add composting bins to all school gardens
• Develop distribution system for ft. Totten compost
• Link all of the city’s composting efforts together
• Organize more community river cleanups
• Support composting at rental properties
• Cloth diapering – local org that works with pregnant women
  o Local hospitals
• Post-waste sorting, like Seattle
  o Complex to get people to do the right thing (use less, compost) but we can support
    recycling industries if we know 100% will end up in right place
• Economic incentives to recycle – like the 5 cents for a plastic bottle
• Plastic bag/ bottle ban
• Regional integration – invite MD/VA
• Regulatory review
• Ban food waste – other cities have led the way
• Do annual/semi-annual hazardous waste and electronic household pick up (leave/xmas trees)/
  requiring scheduling or pickup to designated locations discourages uptake.
• How can we get all schools to recycle and compost, since this is a legal requirement?

Equity and People

Discussion session:

1. All the groups should be much more aggressive in their goals and targets
2. Dc should focus on waste management as a really specific and important topic
   a. There needs to be one person in Dc government responsible for all of waste
      management
3. Is there work being done to make sure that access to all the other working group topics is
   explored as well, not just to green space and foods?
4. Was there, in any group, equity of access to waterways exploration?
5. The definition of equity is way down on the list of themes for this topic – it needs to be at the
   top
6. How will you teach children about sustainability?
7. It’s a good idea to have equity training for future projects, but there should also be monitoring
   of equity progress in existing projects
8. Environmental justice should be its own topic, should be a top priority

Table/Poster session:

• Need numbers publicized and targeted goals to address this
• Enviro justice – advocating for constituents and specific groups that are disproportionately
  effected by climate change issues
• Where is affordability addressed?
• Reduce taxes on privately created building values
• More jobs, more housing affordability, more conservation
- Increase taxes on publicly created land value, recycles publicly created value – more sustainable infrastructure, less land speculation, lower land prices
- How could we get more bathrooms/showers for people without homes?

**Health and Food**

**Discussion session:**

1. There are already a bunch of groups working on food justice issues, especially in wards 5, 7 and 8. DOEE should work with already existing infrastructure and groups to reach out to those wards.
   a. It may be helpful to break down the food sector into its different pillars (farmers markets, gardens, grocery stores)
   b. You should find key stakeholders in the community that don’t usually work in these brackets and figure out how to introduce them to sustainability in DC
2. Education seems like a threat in all the themes in the plan
   a. I challenge you to make a reading list for people to learn about the issues addressed in the plan, maybe each subgroup can make a list
3. Access to exercise location in DC is lacking
   a. Parks/waterways/rec center access should be included in the plan for health and wellness
4. How will you get info to people besides with brochures and pieces of paper?
   a. Workers should be in schools to educate people where they are
   b. There should be better ways for people to learn and get involved
5. Request a deeper look at school and summer lunch quality
   a. Plan should ban food waste going to landfills in dc and redistribute food instead

**Table/Poster session:**

- Create one-step shop directory for services and NGOs addressing food deserts
- Zoning to allow/encourage/mandate roof farms
- Consider a goal to have a rec center within a 10 min walk of everyone. Provide more free classes
- What does access to land for agriculture look like and is this for low income communities?

**Jobs, Economy, and Education**

**Discussion session:**

1. Wards 7 and 8 need jobs and workforce development, training in green jobs
   a. Will these wards have first right to training and unemployment benefits?
2. The unemployment goal should be aggressive, DC should be a leader
   a. Apprenticeship training is critical in highschool
   b. DC public bank is left out of the first SDC plan, but now we have the funding to do it
3. Most of the resources should be included to this theme
   a. People tune out when hearing about climate change, but this theme really hits home
4. Developing STEM data on sustainable energy for education purposes could be a great application for K-12
5. DC has one of the highest rates of incarceration and re-entry in the country
   a. There should be a goal for jobs and education for those re-entering
6. It’s important not to deter volunteering by emphasizing job training and income
   a. People may not want to volunteer if they are worried about taking someone’s job
7. Add “living wage” to the plan somewhere
8. Expand green jobs to cover more types of jobs, not just gardens and litter

Table/Poster session:

- Baseball stadium – lots of jobs in concrete industry, buildings and roads – no industrial base
- Work with PG County
- Underutilized water front – barges and containers
- St. Louis – recycling solar panels – can we do that here? Job opportunity
- Batteries/tires/solar cells
- Students are not ready to enter the job market, for people 18-25 and returning citizens, need soft skills and green industry jobs
  o Workforce candidate pool
- Skills need to start earlier, 8th grade
- Clearing house to match people with opportunities
- Book of coupons/director for green businesses
- Financial incentives, info needed in hands of property managers
  o Education/ seminars
  o LEDS/solar/rebates
  o Bulk purchases
  o Financial options
- National green infrastructure certification program, connect DC residents to projects of DC water and DOEE
- We need to have more creative economy in one plan
- Green business and branding recognition
- Collaborate with existing orgs to develop stem corridor and train people in STEM
- Education needs to be a subset of each group, to develop educational materials, especially for high school and tech training
- Is UDC involved?
- Prize/challenges for bike to Work day
- Curbside composting to encourage small business composting
- Look at emerging company specializing in green industry workforce development
- Could we look at creating more jobs in addressing our very littered areas? Pay the unemployed to keep areas litter free?
- Incentive structure for businesses - innovation structure for industries of the future in niches that haven’t been filled
- Need to develop a clearinghouse to identify resources
- Property reform – economic incentives to encourage redevelopment and put people to work
  o A job is the best affordable housing program
- Change land tax and structure – less tax on buildings, more tax on land values
- Communications to residents, especially in poorer neighborhoods, ensuring broad knowledge
Nature and Water

Discussion session:

1. We need lead free water in DC, we aren’t being proactive enough
   a. Need to provide filters at no cost, especially for public housing and people who cannot afford them
2. We should consider a lights out program for migratory birds
3. The plan needs the world “habitat” in it
4. We need to include water quality metrics
5. There are a lot of cross-cutting goals with healthy in this plan
6. DOEE needs to leverage its machine for getting people out to get people to clean up the environment
7. I’d like to see a wellness component in nature, advocating for areas that are quiet and smoke free so people can enjoy natural spaces
8. Plan should include access to nature for the differently abled
9. Hospitals are a huge culprit of pollution, and should be held accountable
10. DOEE should try to incorporate wastewater treatment facilities and plans into science education in schools – it’s a great opportunity to get kids involved in sustainability and understand where they’re clean water comes from
11. Nature goals should be expanded to consider corridors for both people and wildlife between existing parks
   a. There is a great opportunity for education around water and nature

Table/Poster session:

- Link water targets and built environment efficiency goals
- Require 90% native planting for DC planted plants/trees
- Facilitate/support short term use of DC owned/federal/private underutilized land for garden and park space. Other cities us portable raise beds so that spaces can be used while they are waiting for their next use
- Backyard incentives – rain barrels, how to provide havens for animals, etc, training and help
- Could we adopt practices of places that are litter free?
- Include regulatory review into process explicitly to help avoid negative incentives
- Need to integrate reps from VA and MD countries near DC to working groups – must ensure we communicate together!

Transportation

Discussion session:

1. DC has only 600 electric vehicles registered in DC
   a. How can people in wards 7 and 8 get access to EVs? They need to be able to register the cars and do the wiring necessary to charge the cars, or have somewhere else available to charge them.
   b. What is DOEE doing to engage with this community?
2. I challenge DOEE to think of youth – they use public transit multiple times a day, how can it be more accessible to them?
3. Employers subsidize metro commutes – subsidies for bike commuting should increase
4. What about tourist buses, clogging lanes and idling? Can you do something about that?
5. WMATA is crazy, policies seems anti climate, environmental, and economic justice
   a. The Move DC proposal for congestion charging in business district is great – that revenue should go towards public transit.

Poster/table session:

- Ensure regulatory review (congestion tax) – owning cars v. owning bikes
- Vision Zero
- Connected trails
- When trails fail in city, they fail badly – create trails in safe areas
- Exit fair going into effect but don’t have yet
- New metro cars are really hard to get bikes in – San Francisco did really well with this
- Metro – fewer stop would be nice, too many are inefficient - rework routes
  o This would also really help with traffic
- WMATA plan is really vague and missing points
  o Great to see they have a plan but we need to fill in the missing data
- Carbon tax is really relevant to transportation too
- Clarify the role of partnerships in the plan
- EU now requires EV charging in all home construction – DC should too
  o And in multifamily buildings, and commercial places like grocery stores
- City should start trying the figure out how to get EV charging
- Strengthen regional input – talk to COG now
- Work with MPD – it’s a problem with Uber drivers, etc. parking in bike lanes and not signaling
- Expansion of capital bike share and bike racks
- Metro-created land values should be returned to metro and recycled to keep fares affordable
  o This is also equitable because landowners would pay in proportion to the metro benefits they receive
- Follow best practices in developing electric vehicle infrastructure
  o Require all new homes/buildings to install EV chargers
- More integration with region – invite MD/VA to meetings, they need to be involved
- Better enforcement of traffic laws, especially parking in bike lanes and idling
- Need to proactively engage with Uber and Lyft and bikeshare/delivery systems
- Carbon tax to penalize polluters and fund clean transport
- Connected trails system
- Incentives for telework/flexwork/working spaces
- Electrification of transportation – personal and mass transit
- Vision zero
- Bulk purchases of EVs for all
- Improved enforcement of traffic laws to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety. Speed cameras are inadequate
- Network of electric charging stations, especially for cabs
• Look at the places where connections break down – it’s all about network – does not always require a lot of capital cost

What’s missing from the DC sustainability plan?

• Innovation seems to be given a back seat
• How are all of the existing programs being paid for? When budgets for DC and Fed are used up, is philanthropy enough?
• Economic incentives/ disincentives can encourage sustainability and resilience or waste. More attention to the role of taxes and fees to promote prosperity, sustainability, and equity
• How are the citywide survey results being considered in working group goals?
• Working with successful orgs?
• Leverage local expertise to address and act on these issues. DC is such a brain trust, it needs to be tapped to solved local problems and implement the best solutions.
• How we fund this: as the most sustainable city in the US, we must set the economic solution example. Implement fees/tax for polluters that funds clean programs.
• What happened to the VWS? Supposed to go to green transportation?
• What about green roofs?
• What is prioritized?
• No talk around improving air quality?