

COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION & THE ENVIRONMENT
PERFORMANCE OVERSIGHT PRE-HEARING QUESTIONS
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20004

January 6, 2025

Dear Chair Brandes:

The Committee on Transportation and the Environment will hold performance oversight hearings on agencies under its purview in February and March of 2025. The performance oversight hearing for the Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency is tentatively scheduled for **Friday, February 7, 2025**. In preparation, attached is a set of pre-hearing questions for your response. Please submit your responses no later than the close of business on **Friday, January 31, 2025**, in PDF format and *minimize the use of attachments*. If you need to discuss any of the questions, please contact Connor Fagan, Deputy Committee Director, at (771) 333-1558 or cfagan@dccouncil.gov.

Questions

1. Please provide a list of the Commission's current members and note any existing vacancies. For each member, please provide the following:
 - a. The member's name.
 - b. The agency or organization the member represents.
 - c. Who appointed the member.
 - d. When the member's term expires.
 - e. Attendance record; and
 - f. For any vacant seats, how long the seat has been vacant.

See [DC-CCCR Members & Attendance FY24/25](#).

2. Please provide a list of the Commission's meeting dates, times, and locations for FY24 and FY25, to date.

FY24 Meetings:

- December 14, 2023, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., WebEx, Quarterly Meeting
 - Speakers:
 - Kevin Bryan, Equival Partners
 - Alyssa Wooden, DOEE
 - Howard Kurtzman, Liz McLaughlin, Lise Van Susteren, Steve Peterson, and David Sacks; Joint Advocacy and Outreach Committee of the Climate Psychiatry Alliance and the Climate Psychiatry Alliance-North America
 - Karen Sistrunk, OPC

- Minnie Quartey Annan, Boys and Girls Club of Washington
 - Julie Lawson, DOEE
- February 2, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., 640 Massachusetts Ave NW, Annual Strategy Retreat
 - Speakers:
 - Councilmember Charles Allen
- March 14, 2024, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., WebEx, Quarterly Meeting
 - Speakers:
 - Al Carr, DOEE
 - Aaron Goldbeck, DDOT
 - Katy Lang, DDOT
 - Joseph Jakuta, DOEE
 - Tasin Malik, DDOT
 - Jeremy Strauss, DDOT
 - Amy Mesrobian, WMATA
 - Richard Morris, DPW
- June 13 2024, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., WebEx, Quarterly Meeting
 - Speakers:
 - Kevin Whitfield, DC Council Committee on Transportation and the Environment
 - Shelby Luzzi, Destination DC
 - Teresa Durkin, Trust for the National Mall
 - Donna Westmoreland, I.M.P. (The Anthem, Merriweather Post Pavilion, 9:30 Club, Lincoln Theatre, The Atlantis)
 - Sarah Hofman-Graham, DPW
 - Charlotte Dreizen, Plastics Industry Association
 - Nathan Harrington, Ward 8 Woods Conservancy
- September 19, 2024, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., WebEx, Quarterly Meeting
 - Speakers:
 - Sakina Khan, OP
 - Shiva Patel, DC Green Bank
 - Jeff Lesk, New Partners Community Solar
 - Rick Bolton, Compass Energy

FY25 Meetings:

- December 12, 2024, 3:00 – 5:30 p.m., WebEx, Quarterly Meeting
 - Speakers:
 - Nick Bonard, DOEE
 - Adam Baron, DC Water
 - Ali Lampson, HSEMA
 - Tony Goodman, HSEMA

- Emeka Moneme, Capitol Riverfront BID
- January 25, 2025, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m., 901 G Street NW, Public Knowledge Forum
 - See [Speakers](#).

3. Please identify any experts or agency staff who presented or held discussions during the Commission’s quarterly public meetings in FY24 and FY25, to date, including:
- a. Their name;
 - b. The agency or organization they represent; and
 - c. Date of meeting attended.

[See response to question 2.](#)

4. Did the Commission receive funds in FY24 and FY25, to date? If so, please provide the following:
- a. The amount of the funding;
 - b. The source of the funding;
 - c. A list of any expenditures; and
 - d. A description of how the expenditures furthered the Commission’s mission.

[The Commission received \\$50,000 in one-time, local funds to support the publication of the Commission on Climate Change and Resiliency’s forthcoming report. See Amendment #1 to B25-0785, the “Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024”. To date, the Commission has spent \\$1,550 to rent space at the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Library for the Public Knowledge Forum event.](#)

5. What is the current balance of the Climate Change and Resiliency Fund?
- a. What was the balance at the close of FY24?

[The Climate Change and Resilience Fund has no balance \(\\$0.00\).](#)

- b. Did the Commission receive any appropriations, private gifts, donations, or federal grants which were added to the Fund in FY24 or FY25, to date? If so, please provide the amount of funding received and its source.

[The Commission did not receive any appropriations, private gifts, donations, or federal grants in FY24 or FY25.](#)

6. Please describe the Commission’s activities in FY24 and FY25, to date, including the Commission’s three biggest accomplishments.

The Commission fulfilled its legislative mandate to conduct quarterly public meetings, which featured invited experts and agency staff to present and discuss ongoing work and best practices to mitigate and prepare for impacts of climate change. Public attendance to the meetings has been growing and the Commission's role as an independent forum for the discussion of climate change is being validated.

Three biggest accomplishments:

1. Engagement with District agencies and the public at the Knowledge Forum on January 25, 2025, which brought together approximately 200 District residents. These residents presented climate-related research and advocacy work, shared community resources, and participated in 12 panel discussions over the day-long event.
2. Exploration of key emerging issues and challenges, including: 1) nexus of climate change and mental health; 2) transportation electrification (e.g., bikeshare, e-bikes, personal electric vehicles (EV), EV infrastructure, zero-emission fleet conversion); 3) nexus of economic development, tourism, waste, and climate; 4) clean energy and local community benefits, and 5) climate adaptation to flooding.
3. Engagement with Councilmember Allen's office, DOEE, and other stakeholders, to advance the formation of a Youth Climate Council. See [proposed legislation](#).

7. Did the Commission achieve the following reported goals for FY24 and FY25, to date? If not, why not?

- a. *Continue to foster collaboration and engagement between District agencies, stakeholders, and the public to advance the Commission's recommendations.*

The Commission continues to engage with stakeholders to advance the recommendations included in its Second Report. The report serves as our central communications vehicle for engaging the public. The Commission also provided feedback on DOEE's Climate Ready DC plan, which also serves as a chapter in HSEMA's Resilient DC plan.

- b. *Coordinate with the Office of the People's Counsel to host a Youth Climate Summit in May 2024.*

The Commission conducted strategic coordination on this issue with the OPC, OSSE and DOEE to advance a youth convening. Resource constraints prevented this opportunity from coming to fruition.

- c. *Host a DC Climate Research Summit in January 2025.*

The Commission hosted this Research Summit (Knowledge Forum) on January 25, 2025. The event brought together approximately 200 District residents. These residents presented climate-related research and advocacy work, shared community resources, and participated in 12 panel discussions over the day-long event. Feedback received suggests this was a very successful event.

- d. Begin preparing the Commission's next report for anticipated publication in FY25.*

The Commission is in the formative stages of preparing its legislatively mandated Third Report. We expect this document to be transmitted to the Mayor and Council at the beginning of October 2025.

8. Please describe the Commission's goals for the remainder of FY25, including the plan and timeline for completion of each goal.

- Produce the Commission's Third Report.
- Support the Mayor and Council in passing the Youth Climate Council legislation.
- Continue to foster collaboration and engagement between District agencies, stakeholders, and the public through our quarterly public meetings.

9. What challenges, if any, did the Commission face in FY24 and FY25, to date.

The Climate Commission's primary challenges are:

- Weak reporting requirements for DC agencies in our enabling legislation.

10. Please provide a copy of all official correspondence sent by the Commission in FY24 and FY25, to date.

Correspondence listed and linked below.

- [Letter to DOEE about CEDC 2.0](#)
- [Announcement Letter about Knowledge Forum](#)
- [Letter to PSC about Knowledge Forum](#)

11. Please identify the Commission's top recommendations for addressing climate change and resilience in the District.

In previous years we have identified discrete long-term measures associated with climate mitigation and adaptation. These are well socialized in our Second Report. This year we would like to identify three procedural recommendations which will strengthen the District's position to meet its climate-related goals:

- 1) Introduce greater emphasis on analyzing the economic impacts of climate related initiatives in the District of Columbia;
- 2) Perform quantitative analysis of climate mitigation & adaptation in the context of the Comprehensive Plan Rewrite being advanced by the Office of Planning;
- 3) Seek to better align and refine public communications associated with living sustainably in the District of Columbia.

12. Please provide the status the dedicated staff member hired in FY24, please explain how this hire has assisted the Commission with carrying out its duties and activities.

DOEE hired a new staff member, Tasneem Islam, on February 26, 2024, to serve as the Designated Staff Executive ("DSE") as outlined in D.C. Law 21-185. The DSE supports the Commission by coordinating quarterly public meetings, organizes special events (such as the Knowledge Forum), and oversees and prepares all written documentation produced by the Commission, including correspondence and reports. The DSE serves as the administrative officer in charge of managing all Commission resources.