Item #2a

**Focus Areas and Activities**

**Series 1: Built Systems** (2013)

Transportation, Wastewater, Stormwater, Energy, IT/Telecom, Buildings, Governance

**Series 2: Workforce, Communities, & Natural Systems** (2014)

Workforce Productivity, Community Vitality, Aquatic Systems, Terrestrial Systems

***Preparatory Webinars***

* Orientation - Scope, Activities, and Expectations
* Climate Science & Projected Impacts
* Characterizing Climate Risks & Vulnerabilities

***Collaborative Workshops***

* Shared Risks & Vulnerabilities
* Adapting Built Systems, Workforce, Communities & Natural Systems

**Preparing for Climate Change Requires**

**Regional Coordination**

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*Tree and power lines down in Bethesda, MD following June 29, 2012*

*Derecho storm, in which over 2.5 million customers lost power in Maryland,*

*DC, and Virginia.*

**Agencies and Organizations Identify and**

**Address Their Vulnerabilities**

Climate change is already affecting the Washington, DC area: more frequent extreme weather events, rising temperatures, and heavier downpours. Climate scientists expect these changes to continue. People, property, and natural resources will be affected, changing and potentially disrupting the way we live and work. Further, this area holds federal headquarters, historic treasures, nationally significant monuments and landscapes, and diverse communities.

Through a series of webinars and workshops 2013 and 2014, federal, regional, and local organizations shared information and brainstormed climate adaptation strategies tailored to the National Capital Region (NCR). Participants recognized that stewardship of the region’s resources requires coordinating policy, tools, and expertise with others.

***“We’ve got to build smarter, more resilient infrastructure that can protect our homes and businesses, and withstand more powerful storm.…”***

President Barack Obama, speech on climate change at Georgetown University, June 25, 2013

**Outcomes**

***Participants gained the ability to:***

* Understand what climate trends and risks to expect
* Assess organizational vulnerabilities
* Prioritize appropriate action and develop adaptation strategies
* Incorporate climate criteria into existing plans

***Participants also:***

* Learned from and asked questions of climate experts
* Learned how other organizations’ climate adaptation efforts relate to their own
* Identified needed information and available resources
* Developed partnerships for addressing shared risks

**Conclusion**

This effort increased the NCR’s capacity to prepare for climate change─one step down a path towards climate resiliency. Next, the question is: how can each agency individually and collectively turn ideas into action?

**Photo by woodleywonderworks (Wikimedia Commons)**

In 2013, the series of information-sharing and partnership-building activities began with a focus on built systems. The 2014 activities focused on workforce, communities, and natural systems and sought to assist agency climate adaptation planning and improve regional coordination. NCPC, GSA, NASA, MWCOG, the Smithsonian Institution, and USGCRP sponsored these free invitation-only webinars and workshops.

For more information, visit [mwcog.org/environment/climate/resilience.asp](http://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/resilience.asp)