

CEEPc Monthly Updates

Events, News and Announcements related to Climate, Energy, & Environment

***Signifies regionally significant updates*

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Events

- ✓ [NVRAC Luncheon: Carbon Heat Energy Assessment Plant Evaluation Tool](#); A wastewater treatment plant carbon tool. Thursday, January 26, 2012 (11:30AM - 1:15PM)
- ✓ [Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup](#); COG Rooms 4/5; Friday, February 10, 2012 (11am-2pm)
- ✓ Climate Adaptation Guidebook Wrap-Up; COG Room 1; Wednesday, March 28 (12:30-2pm)
- ✓ Leadership Symposium: 21st Century Local Energy Innovation; COG Board Room; Monday, February 13, 2012
- ✓ First Annual ACCO/C2ES/CR/EPA [Climate Leadership Conference](#); Fort Lauderdale, FL; February 29-March 1, 2012

Climate & Energy

- **[U.S. Green Building Council releases list of top U.S. states for LEED-certified projects in 2011](#) (Jan 2012) District of Columbia tops the list in per capita LEED square footage; Virginia and Maryland make top ten.
- [Americans on Renewable Energy](#) (Jan 18) Results of a new [digest](#) of polls on energy security released by the [International Institutions and Global Governance](#) program and [worldpublicopinion.org](#).
- [Pepco spends more on lobbying than taxes](#) (Jan 18)
- **[Energy-saving homes debut in Frederick](#) (Jan 18)
- [The \(Solar\) Light at the End of the Tunnel](#) (Jan 18) Introducing solar installations on nine military bases in the Mojave and Colorado Desert could generate 7,000 megawatts of power.
- [New Gas Economy Rules Generate Wide Support](#) (Jan 17)
- [State Clean Energy Funds Provide Economic Development Punch](#) (Jan 11) Announcement of a Brookings report.

[A College Campus Offers a Glimpse of a Geothermal Future](#) (Jan 9) Profile of Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana

[Add Quakes to Rumbling Over Gas Rush](#) (Dec 11) Earthquakes and hydraulic fracturing.

[Three-quarters of Climate Change is Man-made](#) (Dec 4)

[Local Energy Efficiency Policy Calculator](#) (Nov) ACEEE has released LEEP-C, the local energy efficiency policy calculator, a downloadable analysis tool that can help compare policy choices for public and residential buildings.

[Investments in Renewable Energy Topped Fossil Fuels Last Year](#) (Nov 29) For the first time, investments in renewable energy projects surpassed those in fossil fuel power plants. [Additional reports](#) show that clean energy investments have topped \$1 trillion since 2004.

[WGES Receives Prestigious Green Power Supplier of the Year Awards](#) (Nov 16) DOE presented Washington Gas Energy Services (WGES) with the 2011 Green Power Supplier of the Year Award in the non-utility category. In 2010 customers helped offset more than 1 billion pounds of carbon dioxide.

Environment

**[WSSC proposes 7.5 percent fee increase](#) (Jan 17)

**[Sea-level rise from climate change poses major threat to DC area](#) (Jan 16)

**[Montgomery County Department of Environmental Programs launches new website Mygreenmontgomery.org](#) (Jan 12)

**[Edmonston, MD Cited As Green Infrastructure Model](#) (Dec 14)

[Hope and Hesitation as Waste-to-Energy Gets New Look](#) (Jan 17) NYC looks into the pros and cons of burning trash for energy.

[DC Affordable Housing Complex Gets Solar Panels](#) (Dec 8) A redevelopment project in Ward 8, owned by the DC Housing authority will have more than 400 solar panels and apply for LEED Platinum.

Land Use

[More walkable urban development is good. But is it good enough?](#) (Jan 18) Urban design compared in pictures from an NRDC blog.

[President Obama and the forgotten urban agenda](#) (Jan 17) "Under President Obama, key federal agencies have begun to shift away from subsidizing suburban sprawl and toward reviving cities and creating dense, walkable, transit-friendly communities."

[For development, all signs point inward](#) (Jan 14) Why smart growth is key to economic revitalization, from Washington Post columnist.

Transportation

**[Board weighs eliminating Metro stop at Dulles](#) (Jan 18)

**[Carpool lanes to expand in parts of Virginia](#) (Jan 19)

[How to Entice Car Owners to Switch to Public Transit](#) (Jan 18) One study showed multi-destination design increases ridership.

[On the Horizon, Planes Powered by Plant Fuel](#) (Jan 17)

[Congress Reconvenes With Transportation Deadlines Fast Approaching](#) (Jan 18). DC Streets Blog's brief summary of impending transportation-related Federal Legislation.

[Plans for high-speed rail are slowing down](#) (Jan 15)

[MIT Study: Rebound Effects Erode Auto Efficiency Gains](#) (Jan 6)

[Montgomery County Adds Green Ride On Buses](#) (Dec 19)

[Rome Restricts Car Use to Reduce Emissions, Improve Air Quality](#) (Dec 7) On two days Rome used an alternate license plate system to reduce emissions and levels of pollutants nitrogen dioxide and

PM10. Vehicles with anti-pollution devices, including electric and hybrid vehicles, were exempt from the ban.

[California Air Board Moves to Increase Presence of Zero-Emissions Vehicles](#) (Dec 8)

[Why So Many Critics After 17,000 EV Sales in First Year?](#) (Jan 5) An editorial analysis by Rocky Mountain Institute.

Research Articles

[Simultaneously Mitigating Near-Term Climate Change and Improving Human Health and Food Security](#) (Jan 13) Recommends black carbon and methane reductions.

[Recognizing the Benefits of Energy Efficiency](#) (Jan 12) A study by Deutsche Bank found that multifamily retrofits save money.

****[Prediction and Impact of Sea Level Rise on Properties and Infrastructure of Washington, DC](#)** (Oct 2011)
This study examines multiple sea level scenarios in DC.

[Case Studies of Greenhouse Gas Emissions Offset Projects Implemented in the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism: Learning by Doing and Implications for a Future United States Offsets Program](#) (Jan 9, 2012). Report from the Electric Power Research Institute.

State Government Update (see also State Legislation handout)

[Maryland General Assembly: 2012 Guide](#) from the Washington Post

[Virginia General Assembly: 2012 Guide](#) from the Washington Post

[District of Columbia Council 2012](#) web page

****[20-cent bag fee proposed in Virginia](#)** (Jan 19)

****[Va. groups ask assembly to take no action on uranium mining](#)** (Jan 18)

****[O'Malley wind farms face more challenges as Maryland legislature returns](#)** (Jan 8)

****[NRG Backs Out of Wind Deal](#)** (Jan 5)

Federal Update (see also Federal Legislation handout)

[DOE Announces Up To \\$3 Million to Administer Superior Energy Performance Program](#) (Jan 19)

[Obama administration rejects Keystone XL pipeline](#) (Jan 18)

[EPA issuing new Air Quality rules](#) (Jan 12) Rules cover cross-state pollution, vehicle efficiency, and power plants' mercury emissions.

[EPA GHG Reporting Program 2010 Results Available](#) (Jan 11, 2012)

[Energy Department Announces Major Recovery Act Milestone: 600,000 Homes Weatherized Three Months Ahead of Schedule](#) (Dec 15)

[Obama Admin Pushes Renewable Energy on Two Coasts](#) (Dec 20)

[NEMA Reiterates That Light Bulb Efficiency Standards Remain](#) (Dec 21)

[EPA Releases Latest Community Multiscale Air Quality Model.](#)(Dec 2011) New version offers tools for controlling air pollution and studying climate change.

[We Can't Wait: President Obama Announces Nearly \\$4 Billion Investment in Energy Upgrades to Public and Private Buildings](#) (Dec 2) Nearly \$2 billion will upgrade federal buildings using long term energy savings at no costs to tax payers over the next two years. The private sector agreed to upgrade performance in 1.6 billion square feet of buildings by a minimum of 20% by 2020.

[EPA Announces Final Study Plan to Assess Hydraulic Fracturing](#) (Nov 2011)

[Congress Kills Request for National Climate Service](#) (Nov 20) The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) requested to reorganize offices to create a National Climate Service, with no additional requests for funding. Congress denied its request in this year's budget deal

[EPA & NHTSA Submit Rulemaking for Light-Duty Vehicles](#) (Nov 16) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Authority (NHTSA) issued a joint proposal for greenhouse gas and fuel economy standards for passenger vehicles model year 2017 through 2025. Public comments will be accepted 60 days after publication in the Federal Register.

**[EPA Announces Green Power Community Challenge Winners](#) (Sept 27) Washington, DC and Brookline, MD top winners for highest total and highest percentage of green power, respectively.

[U.S. judge grants motion against FHFA in suit over PACE program](#) (Aug 2011)

International Update

[Global Warming & Climate Change](#). What came out of the International Climate Summit in Durban, South Africa (Dec 21, 2011).

[Climate Talks Consensus: All Countries Should Cut Greenhouse Gas Emissions—In Future](#) (Dec 11)

[After Durban, What Comes Next for Climate Policy?](#) (Dec 11, 2011) PBS Newshour transcript.

[UN launches International Year of Sustainable Energy for All](#) (Jan 18)

[International Airlines Will Be Charged for Carbon Emissions, EU Court Rules](#)