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Jeffrey King, jking@mwkog.org; Jeannine Altavilla, jaltavilla@mwkog.org
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Federal Regulatory Updates

- ✓ **US Government Debuts Revised Fuel Economy Window Sticker, Dumps Letter Grades (May 25):** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Department of Transportation (DOT) released the version of fuel economy labels that will show the type of fuel, fuel economy, and greenhouse gas emissions of a car in all auto showrooms beginning in 2013. Previous versions of the labels sported a letter grade, which was dropped.
- ✓ **OMB Reviewing GHG and Fuel Economy Standards for Heavy-Duty Trucks (June 7):** The EPA and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) have submitted final coordinated greenhouse gas (GHG) and fuel economy standards for heavy-duty trucks and engines in model years 2014-2018 to the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The rule is expected to be promulgated by July 30, 2011.
- ✓ **U.S. Sets First Regional Energy-Saving Standards for ACs and Furnaces, Upgrades National Heat Pump Standards (June 10):** US DOE is establishing the first-ever regional standards for central air conditioners and furnaces, as well as strengthened national standards for heat pumps. Once the standards take effect, a typical new air conditioner in the South will use about 40% less energy and a typical new furnace in the North will use about 20% less energy than before national standards were established in the 1980s.
- ✓ **US EPA Delays Rollout of CO₂ Rule on Power Plants (June 13):** EPA extended the deadline from July 26 to September 30 for a draft rule to limit greenhouse gas emissions from power plants. The deadline for final standards remains May 16, 2012. The deadline for a draft rule for GHG emissions from oil refineries remains December 2011.
- ✓ **Justices Rebuff States on Utilities' Gas Emissions (June 20):** The Supreme Court unanimously rejected a lawsuit that had sought to force major electric utilities to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions without waiting for federal regulators to act. The Court told the six states, New York City and several land trusts that brought the case that the matter must be addressed by EPA rather than by the courts. This reaffirmed that the EPA has the tools to address emissions of carbon dioxide.
- ✓ **EPA Sets 2012 Renewable Fuel Standard Proposal at 15.2 Billion Gallons (June 22):** The EPA has issued the 2012 Renewable Fuel Standards, a program including biomass-based diesel, advanced biofuels and cellulosic biofuels. EPA is required to set these limits annually to meet the Congress-mandated goal of 26 billion gallons by 2022, established with the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. For 2011 the target was 13.95 billion gallons. A public hearing was held on July 12; comments will be accepted until August 11, 2011.

Federal Legislative Updates

- ✓ See CEEPC meeting materials for a complete list of federal legislative updates including the BULB Act.

Federal Budget Updates

- ✓ See CEEPC meeting materials for a complete list of federal budget updates including agriculture, energy, water, military, and environment appropriations bills.
- ✓ **Federal Transit Administration Funding Notice (due August 25):** The Federal Transit Administration (FTA) is soliciting proposals for transit climate change adaptation assessment pilots. The pilots will fund transit agencies or partnerships with transit agencies to assess the vulnerability of transit agency assets and services to climate change hazards such as heat waves and flooding. FTA contemplates making approximately four cooperative agreement awards, ranging from \$50,000 to \$175,000 each. Total funding available is \$525,000.

Eligible recipients are either 1) a public transportation provider or, 2) a university, non-profit, private, or public entity working in partnership with a public transportation provider.

State Updates

- ✓ **Maryland Adopts International Green Construction Code (June 8):** Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley signed into law legislation that adopts the International Green Construction Code (IGCC), effective March 2012. The code will be an optional requirement for new construction more than three stories high.
- ✓ **Governor McDonnell Signs Legislation to Promote Clean and Renewable Energy in Virginia (June 15):** Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell signed eight pieces of legislation that promote the clean and renewable energy industry in Virginia. Bills included distributed solar demonstration programs, a Commonwealth energy policy, expanding the net energy metering program, a voluntary solar resource development fund, a clean energy manufacturing incentive grant program, expanding the authority of the Virginia Resources Authority and a clean fuel vehicle job creation tax credit.
- ✓ **Virginia Home Efficiency Rebate Program (June 20):** Approximately \$5 million will be available for homeowners to receive 20 percent of the costs of qualifying energy conserving products and services up to \$595 and full rebates for the cost of energy audits up to \$250. Applications opened on June 20 and are available on a first-cost, first-served basis.
- ✓ **Green Literacy New Graduation Requirement in Maryland (June 21):** The Maryland State Board of Education adopted a policy to require environmental literacy for graduation from high school. Public schools will include lessons about conservation, smart growth and the environmental health into core subjects. Requirements will apply to students entering high school this fall. Schools will report to the state every five years.
- ✓ **McDonnell Not Interested in Reviving Virginia Climate Panel (June 28):** Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell will not restart a panel that explored climate-change problems in Virginia. The governor's secretary of natural resources said that it is a global issue and that Virginia could not make changes that would make much of a difference.
- ✓ **Group of 15 Governors Writes to Administration Officials About Fuel Economy Standards (June 29):** The Governors of 15 states sent a letter to EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson and U.S. Department of Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood to share their views regarding the federal agencies' joint development of fuel economy standards for 2017-2025, recognizing that overreaching regulations can place a significant cost burden on individuals, families and businesses in our states." Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell signed the letter.
- ✓ **DC Community Comes Together in the Name of Sustainability, Affordability (July 1):** Parsons The New School for Design and Stevens Institute of Technology Solar Decathlon team are building a house that will serve as the future residence for two families in the Deanwood community of Washington, DC. Habitat for Humanity is adopting some of the team's energy efficiency and sustainability principles in their other homes in the District.
- ✓ **District Council Unanimously Approves Distributed Generation Amendment Act of 2011 (July 12):** This legislation will amend the District's Renewable Energy Portfolio Act will increase the solar requirement for energy suppliers in DC to higher percentages than the original Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS), and credits will only be eligible to count towards the RPS if the solar systems are located on the District's distribution grid.
- ✓ **Maryland Offshore Wind Area Slashed (July 12):** The Department of the Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement reduced the area off Ocean City, MD where industrial wind turbines might be placed from 206 nautical miles to 94 square nautical miles, due to shipping routes. Ian Hines

of the Maryland Energy Administration said the reduction was not a surprise and that there was still plenty of space to install the desired amount of offshore wind generation.

- ✓ **Virginia Shifting to Alternative Fuel Vehicles (July 12):** Virginia Governor Bob McDonnell signed an executive order that seeks a public-private plan to move the state's vehicles to alternative fuels, due from the state Department of General Services and the Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy by May 2012.

Local Updates

- ✓ **Mount St. Mary's to Become Home to Large Solar Farm (June 9):** Mount St. Mary's University in Frederick County received approval for 220,000 solar panels on a 135-acre parcel of university land that will be completed at the end of 2012. Constellation Energy Group will develop the parcel and the state of Maryland will buy electricity from the system for 20 years. Several waivers from county development codes were approved for the project.
- ✓ **Net-zero Energy House Seen as Model for Future (June 18):** North Pointe, a Hope VI program in Frederick County, will contain 55 dwellings designed to use little if any energy. The 2,750 square foot model house is completed and only the market for \$278,000 before tax credits and incentives. The Maryland Clean Energy Commission presented the project with a check for \$70,000 during a brief ceremony.
- ✓ **Arlington County to Place Energy Labels on Buildings (June 20):** Arlington County officials plan to label government buildings with energy efficiency information this year. Officials are hoping the plan will inspire private building owners, though there will not be a requirement for such labels.
- ✓ **Alexandria Given "Most Livable City" Honorable Mention (June 28):** Alexandria was given an honorable mention in the "Most Livable Cities" 2011 awards at the United State Conference of Mayors, recognizing mayoral leadership in improving quality of life.
- ✓ **Redskins Installing Solar Panels at FedEx Field (July 12):** The Washington Redskins are installing 8,000 solar panels and 10 electric vehicle charging stations in Platinum A1 parking at FedEx Field. The panels will generate 2MW electricity and decrease annual energy use by 15 percent, while supplying all non-game day electricity.
- ✓ **BP Solar Will Close its Frederick Operation in 2012 (July 20):** BP Solar will close its Frederick operation early 2012 as it moves its headquarters to Houston, and many of its 80 employees may lose their jobs. The company had as many as 500 employees in the building with a 2007 planned \$100 million expansion cancelled and large numbers of employees laid off in 2009 and 2010.
- ✓ **Montgomery County Repeals Carbon Tax (July 20):** Council members in Montgomery County have voted to repeal the county's carbon dioxide emissions tax, which affected only one power plant. A federal appeals court rules that the tax amounted to a punitive fee, so the County could no longer legally defend the bill.
- ✓ **COG Installing LEDs in Board Room (July):** COG will be replacing lights in the Board Room with LEDs to conserve energy. Replacements will be made along with other renovations in August.

Utilities Updates

- ✓ **Pepco Holding Joins the Electric Drive Transportation Association (EDTA) (June 23):** Pepco Holdings has joined the Electric Drive Transportation Association, an organization dedicated to advancing electric vehicles. Baltimore Gas & Electric is the only other regional utility that is a member of this association.

Other National and International Updates

- ✓ **DOE, EPA Unveil New Energy Star Recognition for “Most Efficient” Products (May 2011):** A new pilot program will recognize the best-performing five percent of products in five major appliance categories annually. These products will not receive an additional label, but will be distributed through retailers and the agencies.
- ✓ **Obama Administration Takes Major Step toward Advanced Vehicles with New Fleet Management Practices and Launch of First Federal Electric Vehicle Pilot (May 24):** The General Services Administration (GSA) launched a pilot project to incorporate electric vehicles in its fleet as part of its compliance with a Presidential Memorandum directing agencies to purchase 100 percent alternative fuel vehicles by 2015 and decrease petroleum use by 30 percent by 2020.
- ✓ **Germany to Close All Its Nuclear Plants by 2022 (May 30):** Germany announced that it will close all of its nuclear plants in the next eleven years, a move against the German Chancellor’s previous party policy, which advocated for extending operating licenses for existing plants.
- ✓ **Vermont Does Away with Permitting for Small Solar (May 31):** The Vermont legislature approved a solar registration program that would allow systems under 5 kW to register in a process similar to registering a car. The state has 10 days to protest the system before installation can proceed.
- ✓ **DOE and NSTA Team Up for America’s Home Energy Education Challenge (May):** DOE and the National Science Teachers Association have teamed up for a home energy education campaign in schools. The campaign will attract 3rd-8th graders who will submit 3 months of energy use data. Those who can’t submit their personal data can create Conservation Plans and submit posters. There will be local, regional, and national winners.
- ✓ **World Bank to Help Cities Control Climate Change (June 1):** The World Bank signed an agreement with 40 cities worldwide to work on technical and financial assistance to mitigating the effects of climate change. New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and former President Bill Clinton, whose climate groups have merged, were supportive of the World Bank’s actions.
- ✓ **World’s Largest Power Plant CCS Project is Capturing Carbon (June 13):** Southern Company announced that its 25-megawatt carbon capture and storage facility is operating and capturing carbon. The plant, in Mobile, Alabama is capturing 150,000 tons of carbon dioxide annually.
- ✓ **Breaking News: Energy-efficiency Programs Work, Save Us Millions (June 15):** The American Council on Energy Efficiency Economy (ACEEE) released a [report](#) that looks at 19 state energy efficiency resource standards that have been in place for over two years. Most states are on track to meet or exceed 2010 goals.
- ✓ **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) Update (July 13):** New Hampshire’s Governor vetoed legislation that would have pulled the state out of RGGI. The legislature is not likely to have the two-thirds vote needed to override the veto. New Jersey lawmakers have challenged the Governor’s announcement that the state would withdraw from the initiative. The issue is not yet resolved. Americans for Prosperity has sued the state of New York over their participation in RGGI.
- ✓ **A New Way of Thinking as Sea Levels Rise (June 26):** EPA released a [manual](#) on sea level rise, *Rolling Easements*, that attempts to get coastal communities to think about moving development away from threatened coastal areas rather than holding back the sea. The report focuses on rolling easements as a tool to move development from these at risk areas.

- ✓ **California Delays its Carbon Trading Program for a Year (June 29):** California will delay enforcement of its carbon trading program until 2013. In March the courts ruled that the air board had not sufficiently analyzed alternatives to the trading program, as required. During the interim the board will draft an analysis of alternatives.
- ✓ **Western Governors and NOAA Sign MOU to Promote Climate Adaptation in Western States (June 30):** The Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to improve the development, coordination and dissemination of information that will help western states prepare for the impacts of climate change. WGA represents the Governors of 19 western states and three U.S.
- ✓ **Greenspace Launches as a Central Hub for Green Development in Metro Washington (July 5):** COG Executive Director David Robertson joined Greenspace NCR Executive Director Patty Rose to celebrate a new 12,000 square foot green learning and resource center to be housed at the Nationals ballpark in Southeast Washington, DC. The launch was held on June 28, beginning a collaboration to grow the region's green places, economy and communities.
- ✓ **FERC and DOE Release Demand Response Implementation Plan (July 12):** FERC and DOE published the [Implementation Proposal for the National Action Plan on Demand Response](#) that studies and develops a process to achieve the Nation's demand response potential, mandated by section 529 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007.
- ✓ **Sizing the Clean Economy: A National and Regional Green Jobs Assessment (July 14):** The Metropolitan Policy Program at Brookings Institution released their Green Jobs Assessment analyzing the clean economy, covering 2.7 million workers in the United States. The report and an interactive map are available online, as well as a [Washington Metropolitan Area summary](#).
- ✓ **SunRun Comes to Maryland (July):** SunRun has expanded its operations into Maryland, including Allegheny, BG&E, and Pepco territories. Greenspring Energy will assess homes and install the panels that SunRun will own, while customers will pay a fixed monthly cost for 20-years to SunRun for their electricity. SunRun currently operates in eight other states.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- ✓ September 23-October 2: [Solar Decathlon](#); West Potomac Park, National Mall
- ✓ October 6 (tentative): Solar PV Workshop; COG; for more information contact [Jeff King](#).