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## **Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**

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### **DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL MULTI SECTOR GOALS FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) was certified in 1992 by the governors of Maryland and Virginia, and the mayor of the District of Columbia under Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to formulate, adopt and submit a regional air quality plan suitable for incorporation into applicable air quality State Implementation Plans for ozone and other criteria pollutant standards, develop air quality maintenance plans for criteria pollutants, and perform other regulatory or non-regulatory initiatives to improve regional air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, MWAQC works closely with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) regional policy committees, including the Transportation Planning Board, the Climate, Energy, Environment Policy Committee, and the Region Forward Coalition, and state air quality and transportation agencies and other relevant entities on matters of regional multi-sectorial planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington, DC-MD-VA metropolitan region faces future challenges in meeting the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and reducing greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, MWAQC is committed to achieving reductions in criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions through a broad range of control measures across multiple sectors that are cost-effective; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2008 the COG Board, through resolution R60-08, adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* that included voluntary goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 10 percent below business as usual projections by 2012 to encourage early action, by 20 percent below 2005 levels by year 2020 to encourage expansion of recommended policies and programs, and by 80 percent below 2005 levels by year 2050 to stimulate support for research into technologies and clean fuels needed to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2010 the COG Board, through Resolution R9-10, adopted the *Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report And Voluntary Regional Compact* that set out goals in nine areas and incorporated the previously adopted regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommended greenhouse gas reduction actions in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and the *Gold Book* provide significant co-benefits and enhance the future of the Region's quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Region has benefited from federal, state and local actions across sectors that, even while accommodating considerable growth, have achieved significant reductions in emissions of criteria pollutants including fine particulate matter, carbon monoxide, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and lead; and

**WHEREAS**, actions taken to address criteria pollutants in the Region have also reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and

**WHEREAS**, MWAQC recognizes achieving reductions in criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions as a priority and that COG has been reporting progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the region; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to identify additional cost-effective, coordinated actions may be taken across all sectors of the Region's economy to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions and optimize the economic wellbeing and environmental quality of our region; and

**WHEREAS**, COG now intends to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to identify implementable local, regional and state actions in sectors (Energy, Transportation, Land Use, Built Environment) and quantify benefits, costs and implementation schedules, to inform exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for the transportation sector.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BY THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE THAT IT:**

1. Affirms the Region's greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in the November 2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report and adopted by the Council of Governments Board of Directors (COG Resolution R60-08), incorporated in Region Forward through adoption of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report and Voluntary Compact (January, 2010, COG Resolution R09-10), and as guided by jurisdictional endorsements of the Greater Washington 2050 Compact.
2. Commits MWAQC staff and resources to supporting the multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to be convened by the Council of Governments, charged with developing an action plan identifying benefits, costs and implementation schedules, and identifying appropriate implementation steps at the local, regional and state levels, and exploring specific greenhouse gas emission reduction targets for the transportation and other sectors.