

CEEPAC Monthly Updates – May 2013

*Events, News and Announcements related to Climate, Energy, & Environment
in the Washington Region*

Events

Please bookmark MWCOG's Regional Energy Events Calendar:

<https://ncrportal.mwcog.org/sites/surveys/climate/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>

- ✓ **May 23:** [What's Next for Energy Efficiency?](#) 8:00am-9:30am, Washington, DC
- ✓ **June 12:** [Congressional Renewable Energy & Energy Efficiency EXPO + Forum](#), 9:30am-4:30pm, Washington, DC
- ✓ **June 10-12:** [Electric Drive Transportation Assoc. Conference & Annual Meeting](#), Washington, DC
- ✓ **June 17-18:** [EIA Annual Energy Conference](#), Washington, DC
- ✓ **June 26:** [Virginia Sustainable Building Network Annual Meeting](#), Richmond, VA

Climate, Energy, and Environment News

[The New Alphabet of Renewable Energy Investing: MLPs and REITs](#) (April 24) Investors want in on renewable energy investments; however, the types of investment vehicles available today are limited. Some of these limitations can be addressed by extending the same benefits that fossil fuel and real estate developers have enjoyed for years. New legislation and a call for clarity from the Internal Revenue Service could make two investment structures, Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) and Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), the new alphabet of renewable energy investing.

[New tool helps cities assess progress toward zero waste](#) (May 1) Researchers have come up with a new tool to improve the measurement of waste management performance, according to a recent study. In the study, "The zero waste index: a performance measurement tool for waste management systems in a 'zero waste city,'" researchers found that San Francisco is closer to achieving zero waste than Stockholm and Adelaide, due to its emphasis on reusing solid waste.

[Extending current energy policies would reduce U.S. energy use, carbon dioxide emissions](#) (April 30) The Extended Policies case, released today as part of EIA's Annual Energy Outlook 2013 (AEO2013), shows that extending certain federal energy efficiency and renewable energy laws and regulations could reduce annual energy-related carbon dioxide emissions in the United States in 2040 by roughly 6% relative to a Reference case projection that generally assumes current laws and policies. Between 2013 and 2040, this reduction adds up to a cumulative emission savings approaching five billion metric tons.

[Carbon Dioxide Level Passes Long-Feared Milestone](#) (May 10) The level of the most important heat-trapping gas in the atmosphere, carbon dioxide, has passed a long-feared milestone, scientists reported on Friday, reaching a concentration not seen on the earth for millions of years. Scientific monitors reported that the gas had reached an average daily level that surpassed 400 parts per million — just an odometer moment in one sense, but also a sobering reminder that decades of efforts to bring human-produced emissions under control are faltering.

State Update

District of Columbia

[DC Sustainable Energy Utility saves energy and creates jobs](#) (May 6) Five years ago, the DC Council created the DC Sustainable Energy Utility to help the city's growing population use less energy. While it hasn't been perfect, DC SEU can help achieve Mayor Gray's goal of cutting the District's energy use in half by 2032.

[Georgetown University Purchases 113 million kWh of Green Power](#) (March 21) Georgetown University (GU) was recently added to the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Green Power Leadership Club. The University purchased 113 million kilowatt-hours (kWh) of Green-e Energy certified renewable energy certificates in 2013, which is equal to 109 percent of energy use on the Main, Medical, and East Campuses. GU was able to exceed 100 percent because it owns the environmental attributes of energy supplied by the university to MedStar Georgetown Hospital. GU is now ranked fourth on the EPA's Top 20 College & University green power partner list.

[Union Station Switches to Wind Power](#) (April 11) Union Station recently started getting all of its electricity from wind power, and will do so for the next three years, its power supplier said yesterday. The historic train depot signed a contract with Herndon, Va.-based Washington Gas Energy Services that will see it purchase renewable energy credits from a network of wind farms in order to offset its annual energy consumption.

[D.C. takes a small step toward municipal composting](#) (April 25) Since April 1, the Department of Public Works has accepted 177 tons of compostable waste at its Benning Road transfer station. But don't haul your personal leftovers there just yet: The facility is only accepting non-meat food waste from three commercial haulers who serve restaurants, hotels and grocery stores, said DPW spokeswoman Linda Grant.

Maryland

[Stakeholders Weigh In On Maryland Offshore Wind](#) (April 24) The Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act of 2013, recently signed into law by Gov. Martin O'Malley, aims to help boost the local economy and subsidize wind energy development off the state's coast. But what, exactly, does the legislation do? And how have wind industry stakeholders reacted to the new law?

[Recycling is big business in Montgomery County](#) (April 25) According to the Maryland Department of the Environment, the county has the highest recycling rate, 57.68 percent, and waste diversion rate, 62.68 percent, of all jurisdictions in the state. In fiscal 2012, which ended June 30, the sale of collected recyclables earned \$3.9 million, covering the \$3.3 million operating costs for recycling services within the Division of Solid Waste Services.

[University of Maryland Medical System, Constellation and BITHENERGY Celebrate Completion of 3.66-Megawatt Solar Generation Project](#) (April 22) The 3.66-megawatt grid-connected, solar energy project for the University of Maryland Medical System will generate an estimated 4.7 million kilowatt-hours of electricity annually. The electricity generated by the solar panels is purchased by UMMS under a 20-year power purchase agreement with BITHENERGY. As part of its purchase agreement, UMMS receives Solar Renewable Energy Credits that help satisfy Maryland's Renewable Energy Portfolio Standard requirements, and in the process serves as a role model for the adoption of clean, sustainable, renewable energy.

[ICF and SMECO launch energy-reduction effort in Maryland](#) (April 17) CF International has launched an effort for client Southern Maryland Electric Cooperative to encourage customers to reduce energy consumption 3% between this month and the end of June. The primarily digital initiative is called the "SMECO Energy Savings Challenge." It urges customers to sign in to an Energy Challenge site, connect to their account online, and link it to a Facebook account.

Virginia

[Prince William County Solid Waste Division Wins Governor's Award](#) (April 29) Prince William County government's public works solid waste division recently received the Governor's Environmental Excellence Gold Medal Award for its Sustainability Program. The awards, which were given during the 24th Annual Environment Virginia Symposium in Lexington last week, recognize the significant contributions of environmental and conservation leaders in two categories - sustainability and land conservation. Award winners were chosen based on several criteria, including environmental benefit, stakeholder involvement, public outreach, transferability and innovativeness.

[Environment Virginia, Congressman Jim Moran, and the BlueGreen Alliance Give Springtime Energy-Saving Tips and Tour Local Super-Efficient Home](#) (March 28) "Taking the small steps Environment Virginia outlined today will make your home more energy efficient and have big benefits for your utility bill and the environment," said Rep. Moran. "Improving the energy efficiency of homes and buildings makes good public policy and common sense. Consumers and businesses save money; we strengthen our resiliency against volatile and disruptive energy price shocks; and we reduce the amount of harmful toxins and greenhouse gases released into the air."

[Dominion Virginia Power funds green energy study, projects](#) (May 3) Two universities in Hampton Roads are moving forward with renewable energy projects funded by Dominion Virginia Power as part of a push to develop green sources of electricity. Christopher Newport University (CNU) was awarded a \$50,000 grant to study off-shore wind energy, and Old Dominion University (ODU) in Norfolk was awarded a \$500,000 grant over three years to study the cost-benefits of solar panels. Dominion has also chosen ODU as the first participant in its Solar Partnership Program to study how to best integrate "distributed generation" — or smaller, decentralized generation sites — into its power grid. The company plans to select three more such demonstration sites.

[Sunnier Skies for Virginia Solar](#) (April 17) Thanks to a new law making it easier for non-utilities to sell solar electricity through PPAs, backers of solar power are viewing the future with cautious optimism. “[This program] is a great opportunity for Virginia customers to be able to finally take advantage of the financing model that is driving most new solar installations nationwide,” said Ivy Main, the vice-chair of the Sierra Club’s Virginia Chapter.

Congress & Federal Update

[Waxman, Whitehouse, Blumenauer, and Schatz Release Carbon Price Discussion Draft](#) (March 12) The “discussion draft” released today contains a new and straightforward approach to putting a price on carbon pollution. The nation’s largest polluters would have to pay a fee for each ton of pollution they release. The legislation assigns responsibility for the assessment and collection of the carbon fees based upon the expertise that has already been developed by EPA and the Treasury Department. Under the discussion draft, EPA’s database of reported emissions would determine the amount of pollution subject to the fee. The Treasury Department would be responsible for the collection and handling of the fees.

[Senators to revive energy efficiency bill](#) (April 15) A pair of senators is expected reintroduce a bill Thursday that’s seen as a bipartisan vehicle for action on energy efficiency. The anticipated bill from Sens. Jeanne Shaheen (D-N.H.) and Rob Portman (R-Ohio) comes as the White House and lawmakers are expressing optimism about passing energy efficiency legislation.

[Energy Department Launches New Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative](#) (March 26) As part of the Obama Administration’s commitment to revitalizing America’s manufacturing sector, today the Energy Department launched the Clean Energy Manufacturing Initiative (CEMI), a new Department initiative focused on growing American manufacturing of clean energy products and boosting U.S. competitiveness through major improvements in manufacturing energy productivity. The initiative includes private sector partnerships, new funding from the Department, and enhanced analysis of the clean energy manufacturing supply chain that will guide the Department’s future funding decisions.

[E.P.A. Will Delay Rule Limiting Carbon Emissions at New Power Plants](#) (April 12) The Environmental Protection Agency said Friday that it would delay issuance of a new rule limiting emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases from new power plants after the electric power industry objected on legal and technical grounds.

Research Articles and Reports

[Guide to the Successful Implementation of State Combined Heat and Power Policies](#) (State & Local Energy Efficiency Action Network, March 2013)

[County Strategies for Successfully Managing and Promoting Wind Power](#) (Natl Association of Counties and Distributed Wind Energy Association, January 2013)

[Tackling Global Warming While Growing the Economy with an Improved Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative \(RGGI\)](#) (Environment America, Spring 2013)

[Utility Smart Grid Outlook in North America 2013: Technologies, Strategies & Case Studies](#) (GTM Research, April 24)