

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee
PROPOSED 2013-2016 WORKPLAN GOALS

Overview

Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) is in the process of developing a list of short-term goals and actions that will assist the region in achieving the long-term *Region Forward* targets and goals in the *2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report*.

Region Forward is a commitment by COG and its member governments, who together seek to create a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable National Capital Region. *Region Forward* targets have been established to help the region address challenges and move towards long-term goals for the region in the areas of prosperity, sustainability, accessibility, and livability. *Region Forward* draws its sustainability targets; including targets related to greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction, green building, reducing vehicle miles traveled (VMT), increasing alternative transportation trips, development in activity centers, and affordable housing in activity centers; from the *2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report*.

The *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* examined potential climate change impacts on our region, evaluated mitigation strategies focused on building energy conservation, transportation system management, land use, use of renewable energy, adaptation, and outreach and education. The report was adopted by the COG Board of Directors in November 2008, proposes significant short-term, medium term and long-term greenhouse gas reduction goals for the region. The report's regional greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals include ten percent below business as usual by 2012, 20 percent below the 2005 levels by 2020, and 80 percent below 2005 levels by 2050.

The Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) was created in 2009 by the COG Board of Directors to provide leadership on climate change, energy, green building, alternative fuels, solid waste and recycling issues and to help support area governments as they work together to meet the goals outlined in the *2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report*. In January 2010, CEEPC adopted a 2010-2012 Workplan to help move the region toward meeting the greenhouse gas emission reduction goals established in the 2008 Report. The 2010-2012 Workplan contained a series of goals and targets for local governments and the region across a range of sustainability categories: regional greenhouse gas reduction goals/plans, energy, transportation and land use, adaptation, and outreach and education. This workplan provided more specific elaboration on the 2008 Board-adopted report, with a particular focus on COG's members. Since the CEEPC workplan was adopted, the committee and staff have developed numerous initiatives to help the region work toward meeting the goals and targets. Examples include the following:

- CEEPC sub-committees advance workplan initiatives and provide opportunities to share best available practices and expertise. CEEPC sub-committees include the Energy Advisory Committee, Intergovernmental Green Building Group, Legislative Advocacy Committee, Street

Lights Workgroup, Energy Financing Sub-committee, Tree Canopy Workgroup, Recycling Committee, CEEPC Outreach Committee and the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee.

- COG has hosted 25 special events (trainings, forums, workshops, tours, etc) on topics such as greenhouse gas inventories, green building, community energy planning, energy performance benchmarking, sustainable energy utilities, energy finance, street light technologies, green purchasing, green affordable housing and green jobs, renewable energy, climate impacts and adaptation, and electric vehicles.
- COG staff conducts annual local government, school system and utility surveys to track and analyze progress towards CEEPC workplan goals.
- COG, its members, and other stakeholders in the region are actively working with the US EPA Green Power Partnership on a collaborative effort to procure solar photovoltaic.
- Established the Electric Vehicle Planning Task Force work with stakeholders to develop the Regional Electric Vehicle-Readiness Strategy.
- COG staff developed the *What Would It Take* (WWIT) Report finalized in May 2010 to specifically examine what it would take in the transportation sector to meet the CO2 targets in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report*.
- The Legislative Advocacy Committee has actively promoted issues including off-shore wind development, community net metering, on-bill financing, power purchase agreements, and property assessed clean energy. The Committee successfully advocated for a law exempting electric vehicles from public utility regulation in Maryland.
- COG sought out and received \$96,000 from the Energy Foundation to fund 62 people from nine local governments in the region to attend the 2010 International Code Council (ICC) Final Action Hearing in Charlotte, NC to support the adoption of the 30 percent more stringent building codes.
- COG sought out and received technical assistance in developing a climate adaptation guidebook from the U.S. EPA Smart Growth Technical Assistance Program.
- COG applied for and received scholarship from the Institute for Sustainable Communities for regional teams to attend the Sustainable Leadership Academy in Baltimore, MD in June 2012 and the Climate Leadership Academy on Adaptation and Resilience in Oct. 2012 in Portland, OR.

Two progress reports have been prepared for 2010 and 2011; a third report will be prepared in early 2013 for 2012. Copies of the 2010 and 2011 reports are available on COG's website under [Climate Change Publications](#). The progress reports demonstrate that COG's members and the region are moving in the right direction; substantial progress in attaining major goals and targets has been made. In some areas only short-term goals were established and/or progress was less than expected and further effort is needed. In addition, with the next major greenhouse gas emission reduction goal set for 2020, to support further regional progress a new work program phase is needed.

Proposed 2013-2016 Workplan Goals

On the next several pages this document lays out where the region stands on the 2010-2012 workplan and proposes revised or new goals and targets for 2013-2016. In parallel with establishing the new goals and targets, CEEPC will consider initiatives needed to assist COG members and the region with meeting the new goals and targets.

Several steps were taken in order to prepare the proposed 2013-2016 Workplan goals below. First, COG staff evaluated the progress of the goals in the 2010-2012 Workplan and identified unmet 2010-2012 Workplan goals. COG staff then researched local and regional climate, energy and sustainability plans and programs from across the region and country. A matrix of goals and actions from these plans/programs was created and cross referenced with the 2010-2012 CEEPC Workplan goals. In particular, the matrix includes goals that the 2010-2012 CEEPC Workplan does not address. This analysis helped identify what jurisdictions are working toward in the National Capital Region and across the country as well as generated new ideas for categories and goals for the 2013-2016 Workplan. Next, staff developed a 1-2 page list of possible goals for each category and worked with relevant COG staff and committees to identify the top goals for each category. The top goals are outlined in the following table and are identified as one of the following:

- Existing: The goal exists in the 2010-2012 Workplan and is proposed for the 2013–2016 Workplan.
- Revised: The goal exists in the 2010-2012 Workplan and a revision is proposed for the 2013–2016 Workplan.
- New: The goal does not exist in the 2010–2012 Workplan and is proposed as a new goal for the 2013–2016 Workplan.

Status	Proposed 2013 – 2016 CEEPC Workplan Goals	Progress ⁱ
Greenhouse Gas Inventories and Plans		
Existing	100% of jurisdictions complete GHG inventories for government operations.	62%
	100% of jurisdictions complete community-wide GHG inventories.	48%
	100% of jurisdictions adopt GHG emission reduction plans for government operations.	29%
	50% of jurisdictions adopt plans to reduce GHG emissions community-wide.	19%
Energy Efficiency		
Existing	80% of jurisdictions track and disclose energy performance in all government buildings.	33% track 24% disclose
New	50% of jurisdictions track and benchmark energy performance through participation in a regional Portfolio Manager Master Account.	None (under development)
	x% of jurisdictions perform energy and water audits of local government facilities.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions participate in US DOE Better Buildings Challenge which includes pledging to reduce 20% energy use in building(s).	1 jurisdiction ⁱⁱ
	x% of jurisdictions develop a policy or ordinance to increase the energy efficiency of and reduce light pollution from outdoor lighting in appropriate areas around the jurisdiction, including streets, parking lots, and parks.	Unknown

Status	Proposed 2013 – 2016 CEEPC Workplan Goals	Progress
Energy Efficiency (continued)		
New	x% of jurisdictions develop an energy assurance plan.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions join the voluntary EPA CHP Partnership to explore Combined Heat and Power options for metro area communities.	1 jurisdiction ⁱⁱⁱ
Renewable Energy		
Existing	5,000 residential, commercial or government buildings to have renewable energy systems installed.	1,077 grid-connected systems ^{iv}
Revised	75% of jurisdictions deploy have renewable energy technology on local government property.	43%
	Implement one two regional pilot project promoting a renewable energy park.	1 in progress
New	50% of jurisdictions become an EPA Green Power Partner.	32% ^v
	25% of jurisdictions become an EPA Green Power Community Partner.	9% ^{vi}
Green Building		
Existing	100% of jurisdictions adopt a green building policy.	58%
New	35% of jurisdictions implement affordable housing green rehabilitation program.	19%
	100% of jurisdictions achieve LEED-EB certification for 5% of their total existing building stock.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions offer incentives for commercial and residential buildings certified by a green rating system (e.g. LEED, ENERGY STAR, EarthCraft, EPA WaterSense, EPA Indoor airPLUS, etc) such as expediting development review process, offering reduced/waivers of development fees.	14% (LEED)
	x% of jurisdictions incorporate green leasing (such as energy terms and language) agreements for public facilities.	Unknown
Land Use		
New	80% of jurisdictions adopt land use plans that allow for and incentivizes walkable, higher density, mixed use, and/or mixed income development in activity centers (i.e. near transit and job centers).	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions identify, promote and incentivize the redevelopment of greyfield and/or brownfield sites.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions have one or more of its facility(ies) at a former greyfield and/or brownfield site(s).	Unknown
Transportation		
Existing	100% of jurisdictions have idling regulations and enforce them, as reflected through review of citations and education/outreach.	33%
Revised	80% of jurisdictions implement commuter option programs (telework, car sharing, bicycle/pedestrian, financial incentives). x% of jurisdictions offer a commuter options program (telework, flex time, alternative work schedule, car pool, van pool, guaranteed ride home, bike/pedestrian, and/or financial incentive) for their employees.	Unknown
	50-75% of jurisdictions implement alternative fuel infrastructure projects needed to support alternative fuel vehicle technology implementation (e.g. natural gas, biofuel, electric, hydrogen).	48%

Status	Proposed 2013 – 2016 CEEPC Workplan Goals	Progress
Transportation (continued)		
Revised	50% 75% of jurisdictions implement alternative fuel infrastructure projects needed to support alternative fuel vehicle technology implementation (e.g. natural gas, biofuel, electric, hydrogen).	48%
	50% 75% of jurisdictions adopt a green fleet policy.	43%
	60-70% of jurisdictions implement parking policies that reduce VMT. x% of jurisdictions reduce parking minimums and/or adopt parking maximums in activity centers (i.e. transit accessible and walkable communities).	Unknown
New	x% of jurisdictions adopt a complete streets policy.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions adopt and implement a bicycle/pedestrian plan - and/or - x% of jurisdictions invest in bicycle and pedestrian facilities that increase access to existing Metrorail stations.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions adopt transportation demand management plans in activity center(s).	Unknown
	x% of jurisdiction's fleets implement car sharing programs.	Unknown
Green Infrastructure		
Revised	75% of jurisdictions develop and implement plans to increase tree canopy. 75% of jurisdictions adopt a green infrastructure plans.	55% ^{vii}
New	35% of jurisdictions adopt a tree canopy/forest cover goal.	23% ^{viii}
	x% of jurisdictions in the region are a Tree City USA.	73% ^{ix}
	x% of jurisdictions adopt a green streets initiative.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions have a green roof located on government property.	Unknown
Green and Local Economies		
Existing	60% of local governments to adopt green purchasing policies.	38%
New	x% of jurisdictions establish local and/or green purchasing preference statement and distribute to all local government vendors.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions develop and implement a Buying Local Campaign.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions establish and/or support local farmers market(s).	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions allow for and encourage urban agriculture in zoning codes, where appropriate.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions adopt tools that preserve open space, farmland and forests. (ex. Montgomery County Agricultural Reserve and Transfer of Development Rights)	Unknown
Climate Adaptation		
New	x% of jurisdictions assess their community's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.	Unknown
	x% of jurisdictions develop strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change/increase the community's resiliency to climate impacts.	Unknown
	State, regional and local transportation and transit agencies assess vulnerability of critical assets.	Unknown

Status	Proposed 2013 – 2016 CEEPC Workplan Goals	Progress
Water Resources		
New	x% of local governments offer residential and developer incentives for stormwater management.	Unknown
Waste Reduction and Recycling		
Revised	Increase diversion rate (percent of waste diverted from landfills/incinerators) from 30% to 40%. Divert 50% of solid waste in the region from disposal by 2016.	Unknown
New	Jurisdictions provide sufficient educational, technical, and logistical support to public schools to ensure that recycling is successful by 2014.	Unknown
	Jurisdictions no longer collect grass and leaf waste curbside in plastic bags by 2016 – will be collected loose or in paper bags.	Unknown
	Jurisdictions support establishment by 2014 of sufficient public or private regional capacity for organics (grass, leaf, and food) composting.	Unknown
Outreach		
Existing	50% of jurisdictions promote federal/state/utility incentives and/or provide local incentives for consumer purchase of renewable energy.	19%
Revised	35% 50% of jurisdictions implement energy/sustainability challenge/pledge programs (community, citizens).	38%
	35% 50% of jurisdictions implement green business challenges or certifications (businesses, employees).	19%
	30% 50% of jurisdictions promote federal/state/utility incentives and/or provide local incentive programs to encourage purchase of new energy efficient appliances.	33%
New	35% of jurisdictions develop an employee education program on policies/practices relating to the environment and energy conservation and to increase their own sustainable behavior at work and home.	Unknown

ⁱ Source for progress is from COG's Annual Climate and Energy Local Government Surveys from the 1st Quarter of 2012.

ⁱⁱ [US DOE Better Buildings Challenge Partners](#)

ⁱⁱⁱ [EPA CHP Partners](#)

^{iv} COG Annual Utility Survey

^v [EPA Green Power Partners](#)

^{vi} [EPA Green Power Communities](#)

^{vii} [Regional Tree Canopy Data Inventory](#)

^{viii} [Regional Tree Canopy Data Inventory](#)

^{ix} [Tree City USA Communities](#)