

## Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC - November 2010

### Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

#### Technical Committees

##### [Energy Advisory Committee](#)<sup>1</sup> (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) and [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org))

- The Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) met on October 21. The main focus of the meeting was a discussion of a new project at Howard University involving installation of a microgrid system. Representatives from Howard University and Pareto Energy briefed the committee on the technical aspects of the project. Recommendations were made for COG to form a task force to develop support materials to assist jurisdictions procure new clean energy systems such as combined heat/power and microgrids. John Morrill from Arlington County provided an overview of the community energy planning process in Arlington, which will be discussed at the upcoming CEEPC meeting on November 17.

##### [Intergovernmental Green Building Group \(IGBG\)](#) (Leah Boggs | [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org))

- The IGBG Committee met on September 14<sup>th</sup>. The meeting was primarily training in preparation for attending the International Code Council (ICC) Final Action Hearings in Charlotte, Oct. 25-31.
- Through a \$96,000 grant from The Energy Foundation, COG was able to provide travel funds for 62 people across 10 jurisdictions to the Final Action Hearings.
- The IGBG Committee held a meeting on November 4<sup>th</sup>. The main topical areas of discussion were Eco-City Alexandria, COG's Green Affordable Housing Database and a green building inventory report.

##### [Street Lights Working Group](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org))

- The next meeting of the Street Lights working group will be in January. Pepco is nearing completion of its pilot project and anticipates a report with recommendations in the next several months. BGE announced that it has opened a "showroom" of lights in Baltimore. Municipalities can tour the 14 installed lights at the location and select 4 types to install for 60 days. After 60 days they can choose the one they like best and BGE will swap out to the selected one for the entire street or area. Until there are official tariff rates, BGE will move the appropriate charge to the approximate wattage level of a light already on the rate sheet.

##### [Recycling Committee](#) (John Snarr | [jsnarr@mwkog.org](mailto:jsnarr@mwkog.org))

- COG is gearing up for the Winter 2011 Go Recycle Campaign to promote recycling in the workplace.
- The Organics Task Force, which COG co-chairs with the Alice Ferguson Foundation and the Institute for Local Self-Reliance, met on November 15 to discuss how to expand the organics composting infrastructure in the region.

##### [Energy Outreach Coordination](#) (Joan Rohlfs | [jrohlfs@mwkog.org](mailto:jrohlfs@mwkog.org))

- The ad hoc committee appointed by CEEPC to oversee the WE CAN home energy challenge met on October 16. Topics discussed included: an update on the number of participants and outreach activities undertaken in each community, the WE CAN outreach plan, a presentation of the website developed for COG by Earth Aid, competition rules and sponsors for final prizes.
- The new version of the WE CAN website is online at [www.wecansaveenergy.org](http://www.wecansaveenergy.org)
- Next meeting of the Ad Hoc Energy Outreach Task Force: TBD.

##### [Energy Financing Task Force](#) (Anne Mariani | [amariani@mwkog.org](mailto:amariani@mwkog.org))

- The task force held a meeting on Sept 27, 2010 and discussed innovative financing mechanisms for the residential sector such as loan loss reserve funds, clean energy bonds and other possible alternatives to PACE programs.
- The task force met again on November 10 and focused on the commercial sector. The new Power Saver program recently announced by HUD was also discussed. This pilot program will offer homeowners loans up to \$25,000 backed by FHA to perform energy-efficient improvements (<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUS253556965820101112>). The program notice is open to public comment until late December. COG task force will draft a comment letter.

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<sup>1</sup> Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

## **Citizen Committee**

### [Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Joan Rohlfis | [jrohlfis@mwkog.org](mailto:jrohlfis@mwkog.org))

- ACPAC met on October 18 and November 15.
- In October, Dr. Jerome Paulson, an Associate Professor of Pediatrics & Public Health at George Washington University, presented on acute and chronic long-term adverse effects of air pollution on children and measures local governments can take to mitigate risks. Harriet West, Managing Director of Clean Air Partners (CAP), presented on the background of CAP, Air Alerts and outreach campaign. ACPAC also provided input on the WE CAN outreach campaign.
- In November, Dave Krask with the Maryland Department of Environment presented on NAAQS Monitoring in Maryland and Andrew Austin with COG staff presented on the 2010 National Capital Region Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan.
- ACPAC has been briefed on ACPAC recruitment currently underway.
- The next ACPAC meeting will be December 13, 2010

## **Supporting Technical and Policy Committees**

### [MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org))

- The MWAQC TAC met on October 12 and November 9.
- MWAQC commented on EPA's proposed updates to Fuel Efficiency and Environmental Performance labels for automobiles. MWAQC supports the educational value of the proposed labels, urges EPA to make sure the labels provide consistent and useful comparison across different vehicle types, irrespective of fuel types, and asks that EPA provide additional information on environmental performance for emissions of conventional criteria pollutants, not just greenhouse gases.
- TAC was also briefed on EPA's proposed fuel efficiency and greenhouse gas emission rates for heavy duty trucks.

### [Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\), TPB Technical Committee, TPB Travel Management Subcommittee and TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | [rkirby@mwkog.org](mailto:rkirby@mwkog.org) and [gmiller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmilller@mwkog.org))

- Current activities include a continued focus on the transition to a new EPA mobile emissions model called the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulation Model (MOVES).
- The TPB is also working toward implementation of many climate-friendly initiatives. Staff submitted an application for a regional bike-sharing system for Kaiser Permanente Healthy Eating Active Living grant on October 8.
- Staff has also been continuing work on the CLRP Environmental Consultation process, which currently focuses advanced environmental mitigation of transportation projects, including possible efforts that would provide climate change mitigation and/or adaptation benefits. Staff is continuing work on a preliminary study of climate change adaptation in the transportation sector in the Washington region.
- TPB formed a new task force, which is developing a scope and process for a regional transportation priorities plan. The RTPP will articulate funded and unfunded transportation priorities built upon regional policies, including reduction in single-occupant driving and promoting smart growth development.

### [Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) (Paul Desjardin | [pdesjardin@mwkog.org](mailto:pdesjardin@mwkog.org))

- Met on October 22.
- Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecast and Greater Washington 2050 - Update to the Regional Activity Centers and Clusters.
- Presentation on the TPB Scenario Study: CLRP Aspiration Scenario.
- Briefing on COG's Green Buildings Report
- Next meeting is November 19.

### [Metropolitan Development Policy Committee](#) (MDPC) (Paul Desjardin | [pdesjardin@mwkog.org](mailto:pdesjardin@mwkog.org))

- Met on November 10.
- Briefing and Roundtable Discussion on the Final Phase of BRAC Implementation.
- Briefing and Discussion of a Proposed Region Forward Implementation Work Program for 2011.
- Presentation on Recent Foreclosure and Housing Counseling Trends in the Washington Region.
- Next meeting is January 12.

## **Affiliated Partnerships**

### [Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | [jdesimone@mwkog.org](mailto:jdesimone@mwkog.org))

- No updates to report.

### [Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | [nramfos@mwkog.org](mailto:nramfos@mwkog.org))

- September 22nd - coordinated regional Car Free Day event
- September 28 - participated in commuter transportation fair held at the Hilton Alexandria Mark Center

### [Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) and Brian Lecouteur | [blecouteur@mwkog.org](mailto:blecouteur@mwkog.org))

- No updates to report.

### [Metropolitan Washington Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership](#) (Leah Boggs | [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org))

- Effective November 1, 2010, the U. S. Department of Energy National Clean Cities program office transferred the Clean Cities Coalition previously housed by COG into a stand-alone 501(c)(3) entity to be renamed the "Washington Regional Clean Cities Coalition." COG has agreed to assist with a smooth transition and to coordinate with the new organization, including providing representation on the Executive Board.
- COG will continue to work independently in the alternative fuels area.

## **Other Committees**

### [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Phil McGaughey | [Philip\\_J\\_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org))

- Members met on October 27. The committee was briefed on the new publicly accessible energy contracts database developed this summer. They will be updated on any additions to the database at future meetings. Members also discussed cooperative purchasing agreements that will expire soon, as well as some ways that the committee can examine purchasing operations in the region. The District introduced their plans to create an Institute for Procurement and Public Contracting to identify training needs and best practices.

### [Water Resources Technical Committee](#) (WRTC) (Tanya Spano | [tspano@mwkog.org](mailto:tspano@mwkog.org))

- WRTC met on October 4<sup>th</sup> and November 12<sup>th</sup> to be briefed on the Draft Chesapeake Bay Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) that EPA has issued, and the accompanying state/District Draft Phase I Watershed Implementation Plans (WIPs). The EPA TMDL does quantify Total Nitrogen reductions that are expected due to the implementation of existing Clean Air Act regulations and state programs; and does indicate that EPA will consider the potential implications of Climate Change on the Bay TMDL during its 2017 evaluation/assessment period. Formal COG comments were developed by COG staff, with WRTC input, on behalf of the Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee. COG staff will continue to evaluate what EPA's assumptions are regarding Climate Change impacts on the Bay TMDL, brief the WRTC regarding these matters; and the WRTC will make recommendations to the CBPC and other COG policy committees as appropriate.
- The next WRTC meeting will be January 13, 2011

### [Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | [kberger@mwkog.org](mailto:kberger@mwkog.org))

- On behalf of the COG Board, the CBPC submitted comments Nov. 8, 2010, on the proposed Chesapeake Bay TMDLs and associated watershed implementation plans in Maryland and Virginia. Comment #10 asks that EPA make its water quality requirements under the TMDL process consistent with other environmental objectives, such as Clean Air Act regulations and regional efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- The next CBPC meeting is Nov. 19, 2010.