

CBPC ACADEMIC PAPER COMPETITION

SPRING 2022

Overview

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) is seeking to learn from high school, college, and graduate students on a topic of relevance to metropolitan Washington's local governments.

COG is an independent, nonprofit regional association with a membership of 300 elected officials from the District of Columbia and 23 surrounding cities and counties in Maryland and Virginia.

COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) members are interested in student perspectives of emerging best practices and policies to address real-world sustainability and water resources issues. Students are asked to develop a one-page stand-alone guidance document of actions local elected officials could implement on a topic, plus an accompanying paper that provides rationale for the recommendations, research methodology and sources (max. of 5 pages).

This will be an annual opportunity for students at regional schools and research institutions to provide pragmatic recommendations to an audience of local elected officials. The one-page guidance document should focus on actions, including policy changes, that our region's local governments could implement within 90 days, 180 days, and 365 days to address an issue. The accompanying

paper should include background context, resources for more information, and citations in APA format. Papers can synthesize already completed work and may entail a literature review.

Submissions will be scored by a panel of judges, based on these criteria: The paper provides *practical, science-based solutions* that *local governments* can implement to address a Chesapeake Bay water quality issue listed below, along with *quality references* to turn to for more information. Papers should be limited to 5 pages.

Top scoring applicants will be invited to provide a short presentation to the policy committee. Highlights will be publicized by COG's Office of Communications.

Topic Areas

For the 2021-2022 term, the topics will be focused on Chesapeake Bay water quality policies and best practices related to sustainability and resiliency within the metropolitan Washington region. Below is a list of topics that would be most relevant to COG's elected officials *as they pertain to local water quality and/or the Chesapeake Bay*.

- Diversity, equity, inclusion in water quality decision-making, outreach, and recreation
- Tree canopy and forest conservation within cities and counties of the Bay watershed—best policies and practices
- Addressing climate change impacts on stormwater systems and/or improving community resiliency to flooding
- Agricultural Best Management Practices protective of water quality
- Tackling fresh-water salinization (excessive winter salts) via outreach and monitoring

- Best practices in stream restoration: Site selection, getting community acceptance, and maintenance.

Participation & Timeline

To apply students should send an email expressing interest to:

hbonnaffon@mwkog.org by February 28.

The email should include the following:

- Student's name, contact information, school, department, teacher/professor, course.
- 2-4 sentence description of their chosen research topic.

The 2022 research competition is capped at the first twenty submissions.

Students are asked to submit completed papers to COG, via email, by April 30, 2022.

For more information

Heidi Bonnaffon
Chesapeake Bay Policy Committee Staff Lead
hbonnaffon@mwkog.org
(202) 962-3216

www.mwkog.org/chesbay

- Water reuse

The Presentations and Award will be May 20, 2022.

Award

Top papers will be selected by a panel of judges which will include members of the CBPC and academia or the broader scientific community.

Awardees will present their research findings and recommendations to the members of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) at their webinar or meeting on May 20, 2022. Highlights will be publicized via COG's Communications Office.

The top submission will receive a \$500 Award.