

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC July 2014

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org and Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- On June 19, BEEAC members heard a presentation on the EcoDistricts program, requirements for participation, and insight from Prince George's County on their recent participation in the EcoDistricts Incubator Executive Training Session. As part of the EcoDistricts Summit in September in Washington, DC, COG is hosting an EcoDistricts Practitioner Training after the next CEEPC meeting on September 24. Contact Maia Davis for more information: (202) 962-3227 or mdavis@mwkog.org
- BEEAC was briefed on the new DC PACE program, which helps facilitate energy efficiency and renewable energy improvements for commercial buildings by allowing loans to be repaid through the property tax bill. The Committee also discussed APA's recent Clean Power Plan, which for the first time sets federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants, and implications for the region's energy sector.
- On July 17, BEEAC had a three-part presentation on solar PV. COG staff provided an overview of solar laws, regulations, policies and programs in the region. Our Rooftop Solar Challenge partners briefed the committee on why current market conditions for PV are so advantageous, and factors that will influence future market conditions and new applications of innovative financing tools for solar.
- The Maryland Energy Administration presented on the agency's Game Changer grant program and current round winners. One of the winning technology companies, Infinite Innovation, gave a brief overview of their ConnectDER utility-grade meter collar, which makes installing solar systems easier and cheaper. The committee was also briefed on MEA's new [Resiliency Through Microgrids Task Force Report](#) and Maryland's next steps on this initiative.

[Electric Vehicle Planning Initiative](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- In May, an eight-state alliance including California, Connecticut, Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island and Vermont released the [Multi-State Zero Emission Vehicle \(ZEV\) Action Plan](#). In October 2013, the governors of these states signed an MOU agreeing to work together and develop infrastructure, coordinated policies, codes, standards and a consumer market to put 3.3 million ZEVs on the road by 2025. The recently released action plan outlines 11 key actions which will foster the growth of ZEVs in these eight markets. The ZEV MOU is open to additional collaboration by other state governments.

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

- On July 17, the committee heard presentations on three initiatives around the country to limit plastic bottle and bags. The case studies included a plastic water bottle ban in the Grand Canyon, the City of Santa Monica's ban on plastic bags and polystyrene, and Washington DC's plastic and paper bag fee.
- The committee also heard a presentation from the Smithsonian Folk Life Festival about sustainability, waste-reduction, recycling and composting measures at the festival.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee](#) (ACPAC) (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- Applications were due June 18 for COG's new Climate and Energy Leadership Awards program, which recognizes and encourages public agencies, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders to pursue initiatives to achieve local and regional climate and energy goals in the CEEPC Climate and Energy Action Plan. Sixteen applications were received. Winners in each of the four categories will be announced in the fall.
- On June 16, ACPAC Chair Andrew Kambour and COG DEP Director Steve Walz gave a briefing on EPA's recent Clean Power Plan, which for the first time sets federal limits on greenhouse gas emissions from electric power plants. ACPAC was also briefed on the Supreme Court Ruling on the Cross-State Air Pollution Rule and implications of the rule for air quality regulation in the region.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

[MWAQC](#) and [MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Sunil Kumar | skumar@mwkog.org)

- On July 17, the MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee heard an update on the 2014 Ozone Season and a briefing on the relative contribution of different sectors (mobile, point source, area) to the region's ozone problem.
- The committee was also briefed on the preliminary results from the Reasonable Further Progress Plan, and next steps for MDE's Special Project.
- At the next meeting on July 31, MWAQC will vote on approval of the 2014 Gold Book of Control Measures for Local Jurisdictions. The committee will be briefed on the CEEPC Annual Progress Report and Resource Guide, as well as the EPA's Clean Power Plan and the Supreme Court Decision on the "Tailoring Rule" for Greenhouse Gas Regulation.

[Transportation Planning Board](#) (TPB), [TPB Technical Committee](#), [TPB Travel Management Subcommittee](#) and [TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Jerry Miller | gkmiller@mwkog.org)

- On July 16, TPB approved the proclamation of Regional Car Free Day to be Monday, September 22. This day of events will encourage the community and regional decision-makers to support car free policies and initiatives to create awareness and encourage residents to use public transportation, bicycle, walk, or carpool.
- TPB was briefed on applications for Technical Assistance under the FY 2015 Transportation/Land Use Connections (TLC) Program, and approved the list of recipients recommended for funding by a technical review committee.
- The Board was briefed on the updated Participation Plan, which provides the framework for public and agency involvement in the regional transportation planning process, including the development of the CLRP and TIP.
- DTP staff provided an update on implications for the TPB of the e FHWA/FTA MAP-21 guidance on representation by transit agencies on the MPO Board, and on the proposed statewide and MPO planning rule, including related developments on performance measures. The Board also approved Fauquier County, Virginia to become a member of the TPB.
- At the Technical Committee meeting on June 27, staff gave an update on the draft FY 2015-2020 TIP. The draft 2014 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP and the Draft Conformity Assessment will be released for public comment on September 11 for TPB approval on October 15.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#), Housing Directors Advisory Committee, and [Region Forward Coalition](#) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org and Sophie Mintier | smintier@mwkog.org)

- On June 20, the Planning Directors Technical Committee heard a presentation on the Realizing Rosslyn project, planning for Rosslyn’s second generation of redevelopment. COG DTP staff also gave a presentation on the transportation impacts of the October 1 – 16, 2013 federal government shutdown, which will be discussed in more detail in a forthcoming report.
- On July 18, the Region Forward Coalition meeting focused on Prosperity. Presentations and discussion focused on housing as a platform for economic stability and how to improve or address the unequal distribution of economic challenges and opportunities for area residents.

Other Committees

Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (formerly [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#)) (George Hohmann | ghohmann@mwkog.org)

- COG DEP staff created a Green Purchasing Database, which compiles information about existing green contracts from local jurisdictions, school districts, drinking water and wastewater utilities. There are over 80 contracts in the database thus far. Most contracts are for green office products, recycling, and cleaning products. Several contracts contain a rider clause allowing other participants to use that contract. DC Water, Loudoun Water, Alexandria Renew, WSSC, UOSA, and PWCSA participate in COG’s cooperative purchasing program. For more information and to view the database, please contact Maia Davis at (202) 962-3227 or mdavis@mwkog.org

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

- The COG Board meeting on June 11 focused on regional wastewater and stormwater infrastructure. A panel including COG staff, members and stakeholders highlighted the progress made and challenges facing these industries and their infrastructure in the region.
- On June 27, ground was broken on the First Street Tunnel, which will hold up to 8 million gallons of stormwater underneath First Street NW, in the Bloomingdale and LeDroit Park neighborhoods. The tunnel will improve wastewater and stormwater management during heavy rain events and is expected to be complete in spring 2016.
- On July 10, WRTC was briefed on water security initiatives in the NCR that will improve preparedness and response capabilities related to disruptions in the region's water supply and critical water infrastructure. The committee also discussed the Regional Water Quality Management Work Program and the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement.
- COG is hosting a Green Streets workshop on July 28 from 11:30-4:30 to discuss overcoming implementation challenges and maximizing the benefits of green streets policies in the region.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (CPBC) (Heidi Bonnaffon | hbonnaffon@mwcog.org)

- CBPC held its annual Chesapeake Bay and Local Water Quality Forum with EPA and the States at COG on June 18. The forum focused on water infrastructure challenges and opportunities, Bay TMDL progress and the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement, signed on June 16, 2014. For the first time, the Agreement includes a Climate Resiliency goal.
- Also on June 18, CBPC member Cathy Drzyzgula and COG Regional Water Quality Management Chief Tanya Spano participated in a WAMU's Community Dialogue to educate WAMU staff and reporters on Chesapeake Bay and regional water quality improvement efforts, successes and upcoming challenges.