

CEEPC Monthly Updates

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Federal Regulatory Updates

- ✓ **EPA, NHTSA Delay Full 54.5 MPG Rules for 2025 until November (September 29):** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) delayed releasing the proposal for model year 2017 to 2025 efficiency standards until the end of November.
- ✓ **National Action Plan for Climate Adaptation (October 2011):** The Interagency Climate Change Adaptation Task Force released their plan with six recommendations and 24 actions. The task force also released a [report](#) that includes information on efforts taken within federal agencies and to assist local governments.

Federal Budget Updates

- ✓ **DOE Highlights Clean Energy Jobs, Announces New Energy Efficiency Milestone (September 21):** The Department of Energy (DOE) announced that the weatherization program under the Recovery Act has now made more than 500,000 low-income homes more energy-efficient.

State Government Updates

- ✓ **Virginia Eastern Shore Snags Wind-Power Center (October 13):** Poseidon Atlantic will be a testing and certification center in Northampton County for wind turbines up to 750 feet tall, creating up to 25 jobs over the next two years. State and private partners are cooperating on the project.
- ✓ **Maryland Launches Waste-to-Energy Initiative (October 14):** As part of the Clean Bay Power project Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley launched a program that would generate power from animal waste, while helping the Chesapeake Bay. Energy suppliers must be able to start generating up to 10MW by the end of 2015.
- ✓ **Northeast, Mid-Atlantic States Form Regional Network to Promote Electric Vehicles (October 19):** Ten states including Maryland and the District created the Northeast Electric Vehicle Network to help plan and install charging stations and attract private investment.

Local Government Updates

- ✓ ****Montgomery County Residential Energy Efficiency Rebate Program Launches (August):** Montgomery County launched their energy efficiency rebate program, which provides up to \$3,000 towards energy efficiency improvements. At the end of October over 200 homes had been approved.
- ✓ **EPA Announces Winners of Green Power Community Challenge (September 27):** Washington DC and Brookeville, MD in Montgomery County are the first winners of EPA's Green Power Community Challenge. Washington used the most green power. Brookeville met the greatest portion of its needs with green power.
- ✓ **DC Government Building Goes Green (September 30):** The City spent \$7.5 million in stimulus funds to upgrade the HVAC system at One Judiciary Place, which will save 20% in energy costs. Mayor Gray also said that the project created more than 100 jobs.
- ✓ **DC Fire Stations to Install Green Roofs (October 6):** Several District fire stations are installing green roofs to prevent pollution through a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation grant from its Chesapeake Stewardship Fund.

- ✓ **Bag Tax Hits Montgomery County in 2012 (October 10):** Montgomery County businesses will begin collecting a four cents per bag tax on each paper and plastic bag given to consumers on January 1, 2012. The tax is modeled after the five cents tax in the District.
- ✓ **Taxicab Moratorium Partially Lifted for Green Cabs (October 19):** The DC Taxicab Commission will start accepting license applications from companies that provide green cabs, with at least ten percent of the fleet handicapped-accessible.
- ✓ ****WERF Recognizes DC Water's Biosolids Project with Award for Excellence (October 19):** WERF, the Water Environment Research Foundation, recognized the DC Water Biosolids program at Blue Plains, which will cut greenhouse gas emissions when it begins operating in 2014, as one of the greenest projects in the world.
- ✓ ****District Holds Energy Investors Forum (October 20):** The District Department of the Environment was joined by the Carbon War Room to host an energy investors forum where financial services group presented their products to assist commercial and public buildings finance energy efficiency savings updates.
- ✓ ****2011 Green Business Challenge Winners Announced (October 28):** In its second annual Green Business Challenge, Loudoun County had 63 businesses submit their sustainability scorecards. Winners included: Raytheon, Southland Industries, Express Lube & Car Wash, and Catoctin Creek Distilling Company.
- ✓ ****Arlington County Holds District Energy Event (November 14):** Arlington County held an event to learn from district energy system experts from St. Paul, MN and North Vancouver (BC) , as well as from a building operator whose building is hooked up to a District Energy system.

Utilities Updates

- ✓ **Dominion Virginia Power Electric Vehicle Charging Pilot Program Begins (October 3):** Dominion's pilot electric vehicle (EV) charging program will allow 750 participants in each of two rate options: EV only and whole house, setting lower rates for overnight charging. The pilot ends November 30, 2014.
- ✓ **Dominion's Green Power and Lighting Programs Reduce Emissions (October 18):** Dominion announced approximate program participation: 13,000 residential customers purchase green power; 7.8 million CFL bulbs have been purchased since 2007; and 25 percent of Virginia customers participate in paperless billing.
- ✓ **Pepco Launches Online Information Campaign to Educate Customers About Smart Meters (November 1):** Pepco is kicking off "Get Ready to Take Control" for customers in DC and Maryland to learn more about smart meters and their benefits, as well as energy savings tips.

Other National and International Updates

- ✓ **European Union (EU) Airline Cap and Trade**
 - ✓ **Court Adviser Says EU Airline Carbon Cap Would Be Legal (October 6):** The European Court of Justice said that plans to include any airline landing or taking off on EU territory in an emissions trading scheme are legal and in agreement with the Open Skies Agreement. The scheme is due to begin in January 2012.
 - ✓ **House Writes a Bill to Excuse US Carriers (October 25):** The European Union Emissions Trading Scheme Prohibition Act of 2011 passed by a voice vote in the House, telling American airline carriers that it is illegal for them to participate in the EU's cap and trade system. The bill has been received in the Senate.
- ✓ **Solar Plant Generates Power Day and Night (October 10):** A project in Spain is producing solar power continuously for 24 hours a day. Gemasolar is a 19.9 MW concentrated solar plant that uses molten salt to collect heat and generate high pressure steam, for up to 15 hours without sun.

- ✓ **Surprise! Europe's Climate Policy Is Working (October 10):** According to figures released as part of the European Commission's annual progress towards Kyoto targets, greenhouse gas emissions for 2010 were 15.5 percent below 1990 levels, putting the continent ahead of schedule to meet a 20 percent reduction by 2020.
- ✓ **Facebook, NRDC, and Opower Partner to Develop a New Social Energy Application (October 17):** Facebook, the Natural Resources Defense Council and Opower announced a partnership to use social networking to allow homes to benchmark and compare their home energy use and become more energy efficient.
- ✓ **Texas Sets Wind Power Record As Coastal Wind Grows (October 18):** On October 7 wind generation in Texas accounted for 15.2 percent of the power demand, a new record. Wind farms produced 7,400 MW of electricity. Texas expects to add additional wind capacity and transmission to accommodate this growth.
- ✓ **ACEEE Releases 2011 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard (October 21):** ACEEE released their 2011 State Energy Efficiency Scorecard which looks at policies and programs that encourage efficient use of energy. Maryland ranks tenth in the nation, with the District ranking 22nd, and Virginia 34th.
- ✓ **California Board Finalizes Cap and Trade (October 21):** The California Air Resources Board (CARB) gave its final approval to the state's cap-and-trade system. Emissions for the biggest emitters will be limited in 2012, with enforcement beginning in 2013, making California the nation's first state to adopt cap and trade regulations.
- ✓ **Tony Fadell Feathers His 'Nest' with Thermostat for the Digital Age (October 25):** A former Apple executive has created a \$250 sleek circular thermostat that is easy to set and can automatically adjust to a homeowner's schedule. The Nest thermostat goes on sale in mid-November.
- ✓ **Sea-level Rise May Swamp Washington, DC (October 31):** An article published in *Risk Analysis* led by a civil engineer from the University of Maryland analyzes effects of sea level rise in the District, including the number of properties and residents effected.
- ✓ **'Green' Boulder Votes for Municipal Utility (November 3):** A ballot item allowing the city to develop a municipal utility and issue bonds to fund it passed. The city will replace Xcel Energy over the next several years through a tax of up to \$15 a household per year. City officials will stop the effort if costs grow too high.
- ✓ **World Emissions of Carbon Dioxide Soar Higher Than Experts' Worst Case Scenario for Climate (November 3):** DOE calculated that the global output of carbon dioxide jumped by the biggest amount on record in 2010, an increase of six percent from 2009. Extra pollution from the US and China account for half of the increase.
- ✓ **Australian Senate Passes Carbon Tax on 500 Largest Polluters (November 7):** Australia's Senate passed legislation that will have the 500 largest polluters pay \$24 (US) for every metric ton of carbon gases they produce. The tax is the main tool to achieve the government's goal of 5% below 2000 levels by 2020.
- ✓ **US Climate Study Group Gets Big Oil Funds (November 9):** The Pew Center on Global Climate Change will now be the Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES), funded by Shell, General Electric, Bank of America and others. The change has been developing since the Pew Charitable Trusts became a public charity in 2004.
- ✓ **Georgetown Law Releases Adaptation Clearinghouse (November):** The Georgetown Law Center has just launched a Climate Adaptation Clearinghouse featuring over 1,000 resources. Each resource has a summary of contents and new resources will continue to be researched and added to the clearinghouse.

Upcoming Workshops and Events

- ✓ **December 7:** Tree Canopy Meeting; COG Rooms 4/5 11am-2pm; jking@mwkog.org
- ✓ **December 8:** EPA Green Power Communities Event; COG Board Room 2pm-4pm; jking@mwkog.org
- ✓ **December 12:** DC Electric Vehicle Workshop; COG Training Center ; emil.king@dc.gov
- ✓ **December 14:** Opportunities for District Energy in Virginia; Urban Land Institute; swalz@novaregion.org