

## GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

### **WATER RESOURCES GENERAL**

#### Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

- At their September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, CEEPC heard a presentation on the recently published [Climate and Energy Draft 2012 Progress Report](#), the summary of progress on adopted measures in the 2012 Climate & Energy Action Plan. Water sector-related highlights include Alexandria ReNew's green fleet, and rainwater capture and stormwater treatment projects associated with green buildings in Bowie and Loudoun County, and City of Alexandria's resiliency initiatives which include stream flow monitoring, restoration, and tree canopy goals.
- CEEPC members heard a presentation on the [Prince George's County's Complete and Green Streets](#) and the proposed regional Green Streets Policy (see [Green Streets](#) below for more information)

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#### Community Engagement Campaign Updates

- The Community Engagement Campaign (CEC) has released two free smart phone apps for finding businesses within 50 miles of DC that provide free TapIt water bottle refills. The Apps are called "TapIt MetroDC" and are available in the iPhone App store and Android Play stores now. For more information and to download the Apps please visit the webpage: [www.mwkog.org/TapIt](http://www.mwkog.org/TapIt).
- As part of the CEC's Do Not Flush Campaign, COG and many member jurisdictions got the word out via a COG press release and via social media outlets about the DEA Drug Take Back Event held on October 26, 2013.
- The CEC will be running its fall Fats, Oils, Grease *Can It, Cool It, Trash It* 15-second TV ads on Channels 7 and 8, the weeks of **November 11, November 18, and December 16.**

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#### Green Streets

In 2012, the Anacostia Watershed Restoration Partnership recommended that the Transportation Planning Board adopt a regional Green Streets policy, parallel to its adopted regional Complete Streets policy. COG staff developed a [green streets policy inventory](#) to gauge the current status of policies in the region. Green streets documents were shared with CBPC and WRTC members earlier this year. The draft regional [Green Streets policy](#) and [policy template](#) will be presented at the Transportation Planning Board's meeting in November or December. Updates on the Green Streets policy were shared with WRTC and CBPC at their September meetings. Comments on the green streets policy and associated materials are welcome - email comments to [Amanda Campbell](mailto:Amanda.Campbell@mwkog.org).

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## WASTEWATER

### Blue Plains Tour

On September 23, COG staff toured the Blue Plains Advanced Treatment facility, joining staff from the Chesapeake Research Consortium's Career Development Program. Staff observed the stages of wastewater treatment that lead to the discharge of nearly drinkable water to the Potomac River. Staff learned about the new combined heat and power plant under construction which will provide 20% of the plant's power. The new Class A Biosolids production facility will reduce volume by 50% and increase the value of the plant's biosolids. Staff also toured the plant's in-house research lab which is investigating new and innovative ways to employ anaerobic processes.

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## CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM UPDATE

### Analysis of New Urban Nutrient Management Practice

COG staff plans to analyze the nutrient loading impact of the Bay Program's revised urban nutrient management practice once the data is available through the MST/CAST/Vast family of tools. As a result of the recommendations from an expert panel report recently approved by the Bay Program, the number of acres covered under this practice will change, as will the nutrient reduction efficiencies afforded by the practice.

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## WATER QUALITY DATA

### Regional Water Quality Monitoring Subcommittee

In cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey and state agencies, COG will host a workshop on **December 2<sup>nd</sup>** to review water quality monitoring efforts in the region that are designed to measure the impact of runoff from urban (that includes wastewater and stormwater inputs) watersheds. The workshop will:

- Educate participants on the status of the Bay Program's tidal and non-tidal monitoring networks, particularly in the Potomac watershed
- Explore plans for revising and refocusing the Bay Program's monitoring efforts
- Identify the status, process, and schedule as well as tradeoffs between non-tidal and tidal monitoring
- Discuss ways in which local governments can collaborate to improve the usefulness of monitoring data

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## DRINKING WATER

The Drinking Water Source Protection Partnership held a workshop on Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup> for drinking water utilities to discuss the third Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR3). The workshop was designed by Potomac River drinking water utilities specifically for other local water systems to provide information on how to effectively communicate UCMR3 monitoring results. The 1996 Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) amendments require that once every five years EPA issue a new list of no more than 30 unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems. The first Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 1) was published on September 17, 1999, the second (UCMR 2) was published on January 4, 2007 and the third (UCMR 3) was published on May 2, 2012. This monitoring provides a basis for future regulatory actions to protect public health. It provides scientifically valid data on the occurrence of these contaminants in drinking water. This data set is one of the primary sources of occurrence and exposure information that EPA uses to develop regulatory decisions for emerging contaminants.

Drinking water utilities are searching for the most effective way to communicate these monitoring results to a variety of audiences - customers, the general public, elected officials, the media, and environmental advocates. Most of the workshop attendees agreed that the best approach is to present the information in a positive and honest way that reinforces the fact that drinking water utilities are being proactive by working with EPA to fulfill the UCMR3 monitoring requirements.

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## STORMWATER

### Information Events Planned

Based on input from WRTC and Anacostia Committee members, COG staff plans to hold several events to share information on stormwater topics. Heading the list will be a workshop on new stream restoration requirements and techniques in the wake of the Bay Program's approval of Expert Panel recommendations for this BMP, planned for late winter. A second workshop will be held on engaging the private sector in local government stormwater management work. In addition, COG staff hopes to organize peer exchange sessions on experience implementing Green Streets projects and new cost/benefit data on ESD implementation as part of upcoming committee meetings.

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### UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

- November 15<sup>th</sup> - CBPC Meeting (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- November 20<sup>th</sup> - CEEPC Meeting (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- December 2<sup>nd</sup> - The Future of Water Quality Monitoring in Urban Watersheds - COG Workshop (Room 4/5, 10am-1:30pm)
- January (date/time TBD) - WRTC Meeting
- Friday, January 17<sup>th</sup> - CBPC Meeting (Board Room, 10 am - 12:00 pm)
- February/March 2014 (date/time TBD) - COG Stream Restoration Workshop: Meeting New CBP Protocol
- March 2014 (date/time TBD) - "Water Resources Infrastructure" Event