

COG Staff Updates for CEEPC

March 23, 2016

COOPERATIVE PROCUREMENT

The U.S. Department of Energy has recently awarded two projects under a funding opportunity called the Alternative Fuel and Advanced Vehicle Procurement Aggregating Initiatives. COG was a part of both teams awarded, mainly working under the National Association of Regional Councils team that is bringing together COG and four other regional councils (*Metropolitan Area Planning Council, North Central Texas COG, Pima Association of Governments, and Mid-America Regional Council*) and experts nationwide to coordinate cooperative procurements of alternative fuel vehicles and infrastructure. This effort is being coordinated by Leah Boggs at COG.

COG has a few cooperative “green” contracts that have opened up this past year. In an effort to continually keep members up-to-date and connected with these opportunities, COG has put together a [list](#), including on-line hyperlinks to additional information and contacts. One new contract is for cooperative purchase of furniture. There are dozens of vendors awarded under this contract for furniture for offices, schools and libraries. A variety of 3rd party-certified environmentally friendly products are available from 18 different vendors with discounts ranging from 20-67 percent.

CLIMATE ACTION CHAMPIONS

COG and its member local governments are designated as White House Climate Action Champions. As part of the Champions Program, the U.S. Department of Energy has been recently opened up technical assistance opportunities that only Champions can apply to as well as grant opportunities that give Champions preference. COG has been awarded a couple opportunities, including:

- \$110K of TA to evaluate microgrid potential at sites in the region. DOE’s Mid-Atlantic Combined Heat and Power Technical Assistance Partnership and Lawrence Berkeley Labs are providing expert support under this project. Work is currently underway on a microgrid potential study at St. Elizabeth’s campus and COG is working with DOE and members to identify additional sites to evaluate this year.
- \$50K of TA has been awarded to conduct a geothermal site assessment and feasibility study for the City of Falls Church Campus Redevelopment site. Experts from Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL) will lead the study as well as provide their expertise at a geothermal training for all COG members. This was one of two projects awarded nationwide under this opportunity.

SURVEYS – MSWG/ANNUAL ENVIRONMENTAL SURVEY

A policy subgroup of the Multi-Sector Greenhouse Gas Working Group asked that staff prepare a survey to send to members regarding a proposed list of consensus strategies. Both the MSWG survey as well as the annual CEEPC progress survey were sent to members in March. Results of both surveys are anticipated in April.

RENEWABLE ENERGY POTENTIAL STUDY

COG is undertaking a study on the existing CEEPC goal that 10 percent of the region’s energy be provided by renewable sources. The approach will involve examining market conditions and trends to assess what it will take for the region to meet the goal through a combined approach of on-site renewables deployment, contracted purchases of green power, and purchase of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs). BEEAC was briefed on the proposed approach and data collection efforts are currently underway. COG plans to present the results of the analysis to CEEPC in May.

ENERGY-WATER NEXUS

COG partnered with the Upper Occoquan Service Authority (UOSA) and the U.S. Army's 249th Prime Power Battalion to practice using the Army Corps' mobile electrical generators to power the Flat Branch pump station. Robust backup power capabilities are essential to ensure that facilities can maintain normal service during emergencies. During the exercise, the 249th temporarily disconnected the pump station from the regular power grid and powered the station using the 249th's backup generators around-the-clock for five days. More information is available [here](#).

EMERGENCY DEBRIS MANAGEMENT TRAINING

The COG Solid Waste Managers Group has arranged for FEMA Region III to host an NCR training for public works solid waste emergency debris managers April 27, 28 & 29. There will be training classes on the 27th and 28th to be followed by a half-day tabletop exercise on the 29th. COG will host the session at its offices. Contact John Snarr (jsnarr@mwkog.org) for details on the event.