

## Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC- May 2010

### Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

#### Technical Committees

##### [Energy Advisory Committee](#)<sup>1</sup> (George Nichols | [gnichols@mwkog.org](mailto:gnichols@mwkog.org))

- The Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) met on May 20<sup>th</sup>. Staff reviewed the results of a recent survey and analysis on energy efficiency block grants received by COG members under the Department of Energy formula allocation grant program.
- The featured topic for the meeting was Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Financing Mechanisms. A panel consisting of a representative from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia discussed their representative approaches, including key barriers to implementation. Each jurisdiction has different approach: Montgomery County focused on residential sector; District of Columbia mainly focused on commercial sector (13 business districts); fewer hurdles and less time consuming, need for financial partners to be vested, etc. 18 states have enabled PACE legislation; only an estimate of 7 active programs; most in Phase 1 of implementation; most programs are less than 2 years old; not enough experience to say which is a best practice. Local governments should continue to share experiences; underwriting energy savings and certification is an issue. An ad hoc subcommittee was created to continue to investigate financial mechanisms.
- Note: George Nichols is retiring from COG.

##### [Intergovernmental Green Building Group \(IGBG\)](#) (George Nichols | [gnichols@mwkog.org](mailto:gnichols@mwkog.org))

- The IGBG met on April 8<sup>th</sup>. Agenda items included: 1) final proposed recommendation to local governments encouraging the “30% Solution” to Strengthen Building Energy Codes as proposed by the INTERNATIONAL CODE Council; and 2) RealGreen Pre-Conference Policy and Climate Workshop proposal.

##### [Street Lights Working Group](#) (George Nichols | [gnichols@mwkog.org](mailto:gnichols@mwkog.org))

- Next scheduled meeting is June 29. Staff has continued to collect information on the stock of street lights in the region, and to disseminate best practices and product reviews to managers.

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

- May 27 meeting will focus on the recyclability of different items with speakers from local recycling processing facilities, the paper industry, the plastics industry, and packaging recyclability expert Scott Seydel of Global Green.
- Held ad hoc Organics Work Group meeting at COG on April 26. Subgroup for regulations met via phone on May 20. Other subgroups will look at education and promotion of food donation banks.
- The COG Solid Waste Managers Group met March 22 to discuss regional waste disposal issues and facilities. The group will meet every six months.

##### [Energy Outreach Coordination](#) (Joan Rohlfs | [jrohlfs@mwkog.org](mailto:jrohlfs@mwkog.org))

- Next meeting of the Ad Hoc Energy Outreach Task Force: June 16.
- The ad hoc committee appointed by CEEPC at its March meeting met three times in April and May to draft a regional energy outreach program. The Task Force came up with a concept proposal that will be presented to CEEPC members on May 26.

#### Citizen Committee

##### [Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Joan Rohlfs | [jrohlfs@mwkog.org](mailto:jrohlfs@mwkog.org))

- ACPAC met on April 19 and May 17.
- Discussed background ozone levels in Washington, DC area in light of the possible new ozone standard, which could be in the range of 60-70 ppb. Suggested MWAQC to formulate some strategies to address long-distance ozone transport. Supports use of renewable sources of energy to reduce both criteria and greenhouse gas pollutants.

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<sup>1</sup> Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

- Discussed a regional energy outreach program called “Earth Aid”. Suggested incorporating energy efficiency measures in the school curriculum.
- Received briefing on mercury emissions from power plants, an analysis conducted by the Environmental Integrity Project (EIP).
- Drafted a comment letter on the proposed changes to Virginia’s monitoring network, and the proposal for shutting down four air quality monitors in Fairfax County. The letter has been sent to Virginia DEQ.

### **Supporting Technical and Policy Committees**

#### [MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King | [jkking@mwkog.org](mailto:jkking@mwkog.org))

- The MWAQC TAC met on April 13 and May 11 .
- In April, TAC learned about a new EPA report on Climate Change Indicators in the United States. There are 24 indicators across 5 categories. Categories include greenhouse gas emissions, weather and climate, oceans, snow and ice, and society and ecosystems. Generally, most indicators suggest serious impacts from continued increased emissions of greenhouse gases are already occurring in the United States, including increased heavy precipitation, increased sea level, decline in snow pack, and changes in plant hardiness zones. For more information, see <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/indicators.html>
- In May, TAC was briefed on COG’s on-line reporting portal to collect data on progress in meeting the region’s 2012 Climate and Energy Action Plan. Initial surveys will focus on Inventories and Action Plans, Municipal Renewable Energy, and Street Lights. COG is also working with jurisdictions to develop a list of data needs for a potential data sharing agreement with regional utilities. See: <http://ncrportal.mwkog.org/sites/surveys/climate/Lists/Announcements/AllItems.aspx>
- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of Transportation’s National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) finalized a joint rule to establish a national program consisting of new standards for model year 2012 through 2016 light-duty vehicles that will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve fuel economy. EPA finalized the first-ever national greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards under the Clean Air Act, and NHTSA finalized Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) standards under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act. The new standards apply to new passenger cars, light-duty trucks, and medium-duty passenger vehicles, covering model years 2012 through 2016. The EPA GHG standards require these vehicles to meet an estimated combined average emissions level of 250 grams of carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) per mile in model year 2016, equivalent to 35.5 miles per gallon (mpg) if the automotive industry were to meet this CO<sub>2</sub> level all through fuel economy improvements.
- The next meeting is scheduled for June 8.

#### [Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\)](#), [TPB Technical Committee](#), [TPB Travel Management Subcommittee](#) and [TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | [rkirby@mwkog.org](mailto:rkirby@mwkog.org) and [gmliller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmliller@mwkog.org))

- Reviewed final draft results of the “What Would it Take?” scenario, including analysis of federal, local, long-term and short-term transportation strategies to reduce GHG emissions. Findings suggest that aggressive federal actions may be required to help the region meet its reduction goals, but that local governments can begin now to implement programs and projects to reduce emissions in the short term. Some of the most promising strategies identified to date include replacing conventional buses with CNG buses, eco-driving, shifting short trips to non-polluting modes, and measures that impact the entire fleet such as traffic signal optimization. Reviewed the revised draft technical report for GHG analysis of transportation strategies under the “What Would it Take?” scenario.

#### [Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | [kberger@mwkog.org](mailto:kberger@mwkog.org))

- CBPC met on May 21. The committee will comment on current Bay Program reauthorization legislation in Congress, that legislation could someday compel some action by local governments to take measures to improve water quality and some of those measures might have an impact on climate change through increased energy use. There are currently no attempts to track the climate change implications of proposed Bay water quality actions.

#### [Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) (Paul Desjardin | [pdesjardin@mwkog.org](mailto:pdesjardin@mwkog.org))

- PDTAC members have been involved in the HUD Sustainable Communities Task Force meetings. PDTAC met on May 21, and meets again on June 19.

[Metropolitan Development Policy Committee](#) (MDPC) (Paul Desjardin | [pdesjardin@mwkog.org](mailto:pdesjardin@mwkog.org))

- MDPC has been kept apprised of the HUD Sustainable Communities Task Force work, the outcome may be helpful for implementing Region Forward/Greater Washington 2050. MDPC met on May 12. The next meeting is July 14.

**Affiliated Partnerships**

[Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | [jdesimone@mwkog.org](mailto:jdesimone@mwkog.org))

- Clean Air Partners held its Annual Meeting on May 20, 2010, at the Maryland Science Center. Television meteorologists Justin Berk, WMAR Channel 2 in Baltimore, and Howard Bernstein, WUSA, Channel 9, presented awards to the winners of the poster contest, science fair winners, and to teachers who used the Clean Air Partners' curriculum "On the Air," in the classroom. Students were accompanied by their parents and teachers from schools in Maryland, Virginia, and the District.

[Metropolitan Washington Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership](#) (Leah Boggs | [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org))

- The mission of the Metropolitan Washington Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership is to promote the use of clean transportation vehicles and the development of supporting infrastructure in the region. As part of its ongoing effort to explore clean vehicle transportation alternatives, the Alternative Fuels Partnership has been in discussions with Coulomb Technologies to examine the potentiality of coordinating a regional electric charging infrastructure rollout program.
- The goal of the Coulomb Technologies Charge America Program is to deploy electric charging infrastructure across nine cities, including the metropolitan Washington Region. The Charge America Program is in support of the GM Volt electric vehicle rollout.
- On May 24<sup>th</sup>, COG staff met with the Fairfax County Environmental Coordinating Committee to brief them on the region's activities, thus far.

[Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | [nramfos@mwkog.org](mailto:nramfos@mwkog.org))

- Bike to Work Day was held on May 21.
- Commuter Connections conducted various activities around Earth Day, including telework exchange town hall meeting, live near your work webinars, and employee transportation fairs.

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) and Brian Lecouteur | [blecouteur@mwkog.org](mailto:blecouteur@mwkog.org))

- COG hosted a tree summit held by Casey Trees on March 25. The District has set a goal of increasing the tree cover by more than a third over the next 25 years. That means planting 216,300 new trees -- an average of 8,600 a year. In 2009, D.C.'s Urban Forestry Administration planted 3,751 trees. Casey Trees plants about 1,400 trees per year. Urban tree planting can help improve air quality, water quality, and helps to address climate change.

**Other Committees:**

- [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Phil McGaughey | [Philip\\_J\\_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org))  
Note: Carl Kalish is retiring from COG.
- [Water Resources Technical Committee](#) (WRTC) (Tanya Spano | [tspano@mwkog.org](mailto:tspano@mwkog.org))  
Next meeting is scheduled for July 8.