

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)  
Draft Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program Pilot Concept  
October 4, 2013**

**Background:** The CEEPC leadership and Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) members have expressed interest in COG developing an awards program to promote the 2013-2016 Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Action Plan.

**Recommendations:** This document outlines ACPAC recommendations and options for a Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Pilot Program that could be developed in FY 2014. ACPAC recommends that a joint CEEPC/ACPAC task force be appointed to further develop the program details. After completion, the pilot program will be evaluated for potential continuation or modification.

**Awards Program Purpose:** To recognize and encourage local jurisdictions in their efforts to achieve local and regional climate and energy goals under the 2013-2016 Climate & Energy Action Plan.

**Proposed Program Design**

**Applicants:** All of COG’s 22 member jurisdictions would be eligible to apply. Member jurisdictions would apply through an easily accessible online system.

**Categories**

Three award categories are proposed-- small communities, medium communities, and large communities (see Figure 1). One jurisdiction from each category will be awarded.

**Figure 1. Proposed Population Breakdown for Award Categories**

Jurisdiction	Population	
Town of Bladensburg	9,328	
City of Falls Church	13,229	
City of Manassas Park	15,798	
City of Takoma Park	17,205	Under 50K
City of Fairfax	23,461	
City of Greenbelt	23,541	
City of College Park	31,208	
City of Manassas	40,605	
City of Bowie	56,129	
City of Gaithersburg	62,794	
City of Rockville	63,244	
City of Frederick	66,382	50K - 200K
City of Alexandria	146,294	
Charles County	150,592	
Frederick County	173,200	
Arlington County	221,045	Over 200K

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Loudoun County	336,898
Prince William County	430,289
District of Columbia	632,323
Prince George's County	760,932
Montgomery County	861,466
Fairfax County	1,118,602

**Topic Areas**

Option 1: Jurisdictions select any Implementation Action found in the 2013-2016 Climate & Energy Action Plan. (Final 2013-2016 Climate & Energy Action Plan attached.)

Option 2: The Task Force will identify a topic area or topic areas for the competition.

**Criteria, Selection, and Recognition:** Metrics from the following data sources could be used: CEEPC Survey, COG utility energy survey, existing benchmarking programs such as LEED, Energy Star, ICLEI, etc. Awards could recognize achievements, improvement, or launching of new initiatives. Awardees will be recognized at a CEEPC meeting with a press release, blog, social media and a plaque or certificate.

*Examples of Judging Criteria*

- Point system similar to LEED certification with set thresholds for green, silver, gold, and platinum [[Go Green Virginia](#)]
- Award recipients demonstrated exemplary leadership in holistically advancing sustainability goals in their operations and communities. [[California Sustainability Alliance Sustainability Showcase Awards](#)]
- Local governments are recognized for outstanding contributions to reduce community's environmental footprint based on the criteria: innovation, transferability, community commitment, and measured objectives [[Atlanta Regional Commission Environmental Sustainability Awards](#)]
- Judging based on description of background, achievements and results, influence, innovative practices, and partnerships [[Banksia Foundation Local Government Sustainability Awards](#)]

**Proposed Implementation**

A joint CEEPC/ACPAC task force (with COG support) will develop the program details. The task force will consist of no more than three (3) representatives from CEEPC member jurisdictions and no more than (3) representatives from ACPAC. The Chairs of CEEPC and ACPAC will select their respective task force representatives.

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As the citizen advisory committee that advises CEEPC on climate and energy issues, ACPAC would serve as the judges for the awards. ACPAC has equal representation on the committee from across the region. ACPAC members also have a diverse set of backgrounds including business/industry, education/scientific, environmental/health and civic organizations.

**Materials:** COG would work with the CEEPC/ACPAC Task Force to develop program materials and promote the program to COG members. A key element of the program will be the development of new webpages on the COG website that would include information about the program, a simple and brief online entry form, and a page(s) to highlight awardees.

**Program Development Timeline:** The development of the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program would begin in the fall 2013 and the first set of awards would be recognized by summer 2014.

Month	Tasks
Sept 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awards program pilot concept proposed to and approved by CEEPC</li> </ul>
Oct 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Create CEEPC/ACPAC task force to develop program specifics, timeline</li> <li>• Task Force Call 1 – Define categories and topic areas</li> </ul>
Nov 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force Call 2 – Define criteria and selection process</li> <li>• Task Force Call 3 – Define program promotion and recognition</li> </ul>
Dec 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Task Force Call 4 – Approve final awards pilot concept</li> </ul>
Dec 2013 / Jan 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff develops application (and other program materials?)</li> <li>• Task Force Call 5 – Review program materials, staff revises based on input</li> </ul>
Feb/Mar 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff develops webpage(s), including online form</li> <li>• Staff hosts webinar on awards and process</li> <li>• CEEPC and ACPAC promote awards program, CEEPC announces award program launch at March meeting</li> </ul>
Apr/June 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applications due</li> </ul>
July/Aug 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACPAC judges applications</li> </ul>
Sept 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awardees announced/recognized at CEEPC</li> </ul>
Oct/Nov 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff evaluate awards program pilot</li> <li>• Task Force Call 6 – Review program pilot</li> </ul>