



Challenge

The metropolitan Washington region has traditionally been heavily reliant on fossil-fuel based energy sources, including coal, oil, and natural gas. Residents, businesses, and governments are also subject to the impacts of variability of energy costs, the concerns over energy reliability and security, and the direct impact on health and the environment from combustion of fossil fuels. Reducing energy use through conservation and efficiency, and diversifying our portfolio of energy sources including deployment of new energy technologies will help improve our energy reliability and security and reduce the environmental impacts associated with our energy use. Significant capital is available for investments in new energy projects. Uncertainty resulting from inconsistent government policies can create barriers to releasing the full investment potential of the new expanding energy markets.

Regional Commitment:

By 2020, reduce regional greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 2005 levels. By 2050, reduce emissions by 80% below 2005 levels.

Region Forward Sustainability Target

COG members have:

- Established the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC), advisor to the COG Board, to implement the recommendations of the 2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report.
- Adopted a 2012 Climate and Energy Action Workplan that establishes specific short-term recommendations for the region, local governments, and utilities to work towards regional energy sustainability goals. Short term goals include 10,000 solar roofs, 10% purchase of green power, and reduction in government energy consumption.
- Worked with leaders and area utilities to promote clean and efficient energy solutions such as retrofitting old buildings and constructing new green buildings; monitoring and disclosing building energy performance; installing solar cells and smart grid technology; replacing inefficient street lighting; and purchasing electric vehicles and installing supporting charging infrastructure.
- Collaborated with the federal Green Power Partnership to promote solar energy solutions and increase the percentage of green power purchased by communities. Area governments and institutions are also pursuing a large cooperative procurement effort for deployment of solar cells, currently encompassing more than 100 sites and nearly 40 megawatts (MW) capacity and \$160 million direct investment in the region if installed.

One Region Moving Forward



What We Need From You

Federal

- Support continued progress to fulfill Executive Order 13514: Federal Leadership In Environmental, Energy, And Economic Performance
 - Fund the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) program
- Encourage military bases to take a leadership role in deployment of new energy solutions and extend benefits to the surrounding community
 - Continue to provide incentives for deployment of new clean energy technologies
 - Remove barriers to innovative energy project financing

State

- Support policy, incentives, and funding mechanisms to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy projects
- Support utility programs that advance energy efficiency, renewable energy, and smart grid development
 - Support deployment of new energy technologies on critical infrastructure
 - Support planning initiatives for deployment of electric vehicles
- Ensure state purchasing/procurement guidelines support energy efficient products

For more information about COG, this Energy Policy Brief, or any other of COG's Policy Priorities, please contact Nicole Hange, COG's Government Relations Coordinator at 202.962.3231 or nhange@mwkog.org

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