

DRAFT 3-12-07

Dear MWAQC,

On January 29, 2007 COG held a Climate Change Conference hosted by George Nichols and Stuart Freudberg. Some Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (AQPAC) members did attend the conference. AQPAC members received a briefing at our February meeting on this Conference from COG staff, Joan Rohlf. Both those attending conference and those hearing the briefing were impressed that Climate Change does have an impact on air quality and greenhouse gases have an impact on climate change.

AQPAC understands that COG is considering the inclusion of Climate Change in its Energy section headed by Mr. Nichols. AQPAC believes that MWAQC and AQPAC might also want to be inclusive of Climate Change in our discussions and considerations of clean air improvements and implementations.

We believe it worthwhile to look seriously at how greenhouse gases can be included in the dialog and consider participation in efforts to lessen the impact of contributors to greenhouse gases. We also note that several government organizations in the Washington DC area are discussing the impact of greenhouse gases and options for reducing the emission of greenhouse gases.

In order to assess progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, there will be a need to share information on greenhouse gas emissions across City, County, State and regional organizations. In order to facilitate the exchange of data, we recommend that the COG adopt standards for the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions. The Environmental Protection Agency already has data standards that could be used for the reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and these standards would be required for the exchange of information with EPA if reporting to EPA were required. The website for the environmental data standards is <http://www.envdatastandards.net/>. In addition to facilitating the exchange of information, the use of environmental data standards would also assist with the use of common definitions and data collection. We should also note that other organizations could also have other reporting standards for greenhouse gases that could be useful.

Again, we commend your proactive steps to address greenhouse gases and hope that these comments on the need for data standards will be helpful. Should you have any questions on the information provided above, please feel free to call upon us.