

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

**RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A REGIONAL TREE CANOPY SUBCOMMITTEE OF
THE CLIMATE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT POLICY COMMITTEE (CEEPC)**

WHEREAS, in 2008 the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Board of Directors adopted a regional greenhouse gas report and set emission reduction targets of 10% below business as usual projections by 2012, 20% below 2005 levels by 2020, and 80% below 2005 levels by 2050, and assigned the CEEPC to implement measures to achieve the target; and

WHEREAS, State and local governments and private organizations have recognized the host of environmental benefits that trees provide and that there is a vested interest and investment in the sound management and protection of forests, urban forests and other green infrastructure such as community parks, recreation areas, riparian buffers; and

WHEREAS, the Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy provides guidance to conserve, protect and enhance regional urban forest canopy and managing this resource to protect the quality, health and functionality of urban forests, consistent with COG's Region Forward vision; and

WHEREAS, a key recommendation of the Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy is to establish an ongoing committee to advise COG on related issues, trends and policies and to work towards the goals established in the Strategy; and

WHEREAS, CEEPC requests the MWCOC Board of Directors endorse the establishment of a Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee as a technical subcommittee of CEEPC; and

WHEREAS, The Subcommittee would be comprised of regional subject matter experts, appointed by the CEEPC chair as is provided in the CEEPC bylaws, representing local, state and federal interests in forestry, climate change, and water and air quality to assist CEEPC in working towards the goals identified in the Tree Canopy Management Strategy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

The Board endorses the establishment of a Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee of CEEPC, which would be charged with protecting, managing, and expanding urban forestry assets for health and quality of life; optimizing urban forest programs; developing a regional urban forest action plan and canopy goals; inspiring the community to take ownership of efforts to protect and expand urban forests; and integrating urban forestry with Region Forward.