

Highlights of Changes to Regional Climate and Energy Action Workplan

Occurring between November 2009 and January 2010. (Prepared by COG Staff January 26, 2010)

Organizational Changes

Developed enhanced organizational structure (see attached). Substantially revised and streamlined the November 2008 COG Climate Change Report Recommendation Hierarchy.

Reorganized adaptation section. Better link between research to workshops and final regional plan.

Reorganized outreach and education section and added pilot before full-scale regional program.

Editorial Changes

Deleted rows that were duplicative. Examples:

- COG Climate Change Program and finance items at end of matrix were deleted and worked into relevant sections.
- Energy efficiency reporting now rolled into the annual progress reporting process.

Revised the language for the carbon cut measure, and now includes energy efficiency, renewables, and tree canopy.

Revised the wording of the following performance measures:

- provide technical support for greenhouse gas inventory development,
- prepare a matrix of financing options,
- local governments deploy renewable energy.

Substantive Changes

Added:

- Improved planning section, measures included for inventories, climate action planning, progress reporting, evaluation of cost effectiveness of key actions. (rows 1-30)
- Additional performance measure to identify workplan priorities for each calendar year. (row 5)
- Local government role/target in the annual progress reporting process. (row 22)
- Commercial building benchmarking requirement. (row 51)
- Annual survey of renewable energy capacity. (row 85)
- Prepare report on opportunities to remove barriers for utilities to invest in energy efficiency. (row 60)
- Revised transportation elements to integrate the TPB Climate Change Work Program. (rows 101 to 112)

- New adaptation workshops that link to the research effort. Modified timeline for research effort. Added reference to public health to the adaptation measure. (152-156)

Increased percentage of jurisdictions implementing the following:

- green purchasing policies, (row 74-75)
- green fleet policy. (rows 118-120)

Expedited the target date for completion of the following measures:

- plan to reduce emissions from government operations, (row 13)
- implementation of green fleet policy, (rows 118-120)
- consumer purchase of a portion of their electricity from renewables (rows 81-82)

Delayed the target date for completion of the following measures:

- standardize training and certification of contractors, (row 57)
- development of methodology and implementation of considerations of greenhouse gas impacts of land use and project plans. (rows 144-145)

Removed:

- "Implementation" of the best practices in wastewater. Measure now focuses only on identifying strategies based on cost benefit analysis.
- Expanding local vendors and suppliers.
- References to planning for meeting the 2050 goal.
- References to Loudoun County energy strategy.

Outstanding Recommendations

Outstanding Recommendations Referred to Supporting Committees

Row Reference	Commenter	Comment	Staff Recommended Response
Energy Section (rows 1-98)	Washington Gas	Development of methods to assess comparative fuel advantages based on life cycle analysis.	Refer to IGBG/EAC for recommended action.
N/A	AQPAC	Adding a performance measure on reducing emissions of high-Global Warming Potential (GWP) gases.	Include high GWP gases in inventories. Refer to Recycling Committee for recommended action.
85-90	AQPAC	The workplan should include tracking of renewable capacity/production, not just installations.	Refer to Energy Advisory Committee for recommended action.
Transportation and Land Use Section (rows 99-151)	AQPAC, WMATA	Several possible new research/coordination/implementation efforts related to transit and multimodal options.	Refer to TPB, DOT's and Transit Agencies for recommended action.

Other Outstanding Recommendations/Comments

Row Reference	Commenter	Comment	Staff Recommended Response
36	IGBG/EAC	Split the Green Building Policy Performance Measure into government and private, with different target percentages for the private sector.	Staff recommend splitting the performance measures as suggested and including a lower % adopting for private sector requirements.
97, 124, 125, 142, 143, 144, 145	Allison Bishins	Increase the percentage of jurisdictions implementing and/or expedite the timeline the following: reducing VMT/capita, parking policies to reduce VMT, diversion rate for recycling, directing development to activity centers, incorporate GHG into comprehensive planning,	Staff recommend retaining current work plan timing and adoption % at this time.
85-90	Allison Bishins	Including performance measures for passive solar installations.	Staff recommend that passive solar should be referred to in the existing measures on renewable energy.
112	Fairfax County Staff	Need for a rigorous regional transportation planning process that will result in actions to reduce emissions.	TPB Planning process now included in the CEEPC workplan.
Various	WMATA	Expanding responsible parties list to include WMATA (e.g., preparing inventories).	Staff recommend partnering with WMATA as appropriate.
Section I (rows 1-30)	AQPAC	Exploring partnerships with the federal government	Staff recommend incorporating into the planning section.
Various	Allison Bishins	Certain percent of jurisdictions exceed Greater Washington 2050 targets.	Staff recommend no change. Reassess as 2050 process proceeds.

Several comments refer to issues related to implementation that were beyond the scope of this initial workplan. Some of the issues raised include: how will the region track building retrofits, lack of jurisdictional authority to implement a recommendation, need for guidance and technical support, assessing needs and aligning interests for alternative fueling infrastructure strategy, harmonizing greenhouse gas inventories, reinforcing Renewable Portfolio Standards, and fast tracking zoning and permitting procedures. These will be assessed as projects are initiated to carry out work program activities.

**2010-2012 Regional Climate and Energy Action Workplan Outline as of January 26,
2010**

I. Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals/Plans

Regional Plan to Meet 2012 Goal

Inventories

Local Climate and Energy Plans

Tracking and Reporting

Regional Plan to Meet 2020 Goal

II. Energy

A. Energy Efficiency

Green Building Policy

Municipal Energy Conservation

Building Benchmarking

Energy Challenge Programs

Financing and Supporting Energy Efficiency Investments

Building Retrofits

Green Purchasing Policies

B. Renewable Energy

Renewable Energy Purchases

Renewable Energy System Installations

Financing and Supporting Renewable Energy

C. Other Sectors

Increase Recycling

Wastewater Methane

III. Transportation and Land Use

A. TPB Work Program Activities

Prepare Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories

Evaluate Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Measures

Identify Emission Reduction Strategies

Conduct Metropolitan Planning Process

B. Local and Regional Strategies

Green Fleet Policy

VMT/Capita Reduction Programs

Promote Use of Transit and Multimodal Options

Increase Tree Canopy

Land Use and Comprehensive Planning

Reduce Idling

IV. Adaptation

Partnerships, Research, Workshops, Plan

V. Outreach & Education

Regional Climate and Energy Public Education Campaign