

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC - September 2010

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Energy Advisory Committee](#)¹ (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) met on September 16th. Topics discussed included the District of Columbia Sustainable Energy Utility, the COG energy outreach campaign: WE CAN, building codes training, utility data tracking and regional energy contracts.

[Intergovernmental Green Building Group \(IGBG\)](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The IGBG met on September 14, 2010. The focus of the meeting was energy building codes training for local government staff planning to attend the International Code Council (ICC) Final Action Hearing in Charlotte, October 25-31, 2010.

[Street Lights Working Group](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- The Street Lights working group met on September 20, 2010. Members heard about Arlington County's project to use EECBG funding to update many of its street lights to more efficient LED technology. Alan Proctor attended to present information on his petition to intervene on the MD PSC Case 9217. He discussed information about his interest in having Pepco advance efforts more expeditiously to either move to new more efficient technology and/or remove barriers to municipalities that wish to purchase street lights and install new technology. The MD PSC ordered the interested parties to form a workgroup and report back on proposed solutions in about six months.
- The group also heard updates on the Dominion LED pilot and on the energy contracts database and EECBG projects.

[Recycling Committee](#) (John Snarr | jsnarr@mwkog.org)

- September 16 meeting focused on how to stimulate commercial recycling. Attendees heard from local businesses that have successfully implemented programs and have helped others.
- America Recycles Day is November 15. COG will be offering a regional prize and local governments will hold various events.
- COG is gearing up for the Winter 2011 Go Recycle Campaign to promote recycling in the workplace.

[Energy Outreach Coordination](#) (Joan Rohlfs | jrohlf@mwkog.org)

- The ad hoc committee appointed by CEEPC at its March meeting met twice this summer. The committee agreed on a name, website address, and logo for the energy outreach program launched by COG this month. An update on this project will be presented to CEEPC members on September 22.
- The campaign includes: a website - with energy saving tips and access to a platform that allows people who sign up to monitor their energy use online in connection with their utility accounts; a reward program offered by sponsors based on how much energy participants save; and a friendly competition between individuals and communities for the most energy savings. The website is www.wecansaveenergy.org.
- Three communities have been selected to participate in the pilot phase from October 2010 to March 2011: Brookland, DC, Greenbelt, MD and the Cascades neighborhood in Loudoun County, VA.
- Next meeting of the Ad Hoc Energy Outreach Task Force: TBD.

[Energy Financing Task Force](#) (Anne Mariani | amariani@mwkog.org)

- The task force held its first meeting on July 20 to discuss opportunity for regional collaboration on financing solutions for energy efficiency and renewable energy. This group is chaired by Eric Coffman – Montgomery County.
- The next meeting will be Sept 27, 2010. The meeting will focus specifically on the residential sector, and will investigate innovative financing mechanisms such as loan loss reserve funds, clean energy bonds and other possible alternatives to PACE programs.

¹ Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Joan Rohlfis | jrohlfis@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC met on September 13. Members heard updates on the 2010 Ozone Season and the Regional Energy Outreach Campaign. ACPAC also heard updates on regional use of EECBG funds and heard about a COG database of regional contracts for energy efficiency and renewable energy related goods and services. Members discussed the implications of the Office of the Inspector General Report on the EECBG program. Staff reported on the agendas for upcoming meetings.
- The next meeting will be October 18. ACPAC would like to discuss the Air Quality Index system and how risks are communicated to citizens.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

[MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- The MWAQC TAC met on September 14.
- EPA has proposed a rulemaking (the Transport Rule) to resolve issues with the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) that was remanded by the courts to EPA for reconsideration. The rule will set state level budgets and will limit interstate trading of allowances. TAC prepared a draft comment letter for action by MWAQC in September.
- On September 16, the OTC held stakeholder meetings to discuss new proposed model rules under development. The model rules focus on stationary generators, high electricity demand days, lightering controls, nonroad idling regulations, and low solvent degreasers.
- Staff convened meetings of the Energy Managers in the region to develop a proposal for an annual data request to area utilities for data needed to help the region track progress in meeting its energy and climate goals. Based on the agreement on the specifics of the data request, COG staff worked with representatives from area utilities to formalize the request. Utilities are in the process of developing the data response for 2009 and intend to provide the reports in the first quarter of each year moving forward. Staff have also developed a new outline for the format of the progress report presentation due to CEEPC in the second quarter of 2011.
- COG has launched a new energy outreach campaign.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 12.

[Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\), TPB Technical Committee, TPB Travel Management Subcommittee and TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | rkirby@mwkog.org and [gmiller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmilller@mwkog.org))

- Current activities focus on transition to a new EPA mobile emissions model called the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulation Model (MOVES). The TPB is also working toward implementation of many climate-friendly initiatives. Staff is submitted an application for a regional bike-sharing system to compete for the US DOT TIGER II competitive grant program on August 20. The TPB has also been organizing the annual Regional Car Free Day, which will take place on September 22. Staff has also been continuing work on the CLRP Environmental Consultation process, which currently focuses advanced environmental mitigation of transportation projects, including possible efforts that would provide climate change mitigation and/or adaptation benefits. Lastly, staff is working on preliminary study of climate change adaptation approaches in the transportation sector.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org)

- Met on September 17.
- Briefing on the Final HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.
- Presentations of Local HUD-DOT Challenge Grant Proposals (District of Columbia, City of Frederick, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Arlington County, and the city of Alexandria).
- Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecast and Greater Washington 2050 – Update to the Regional Activity Centers and Clusters
- Next meeting is October 15.

[Metropolitan Development Policy Committee](#) (MDPC) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org)

- Met on September 8.
- Briefing on the COG's Final HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.
- Briefing on the Greater Washington Initiative 2010 Regional Report.

- Briefing on the Draft Federal Capital Improvements Program (FCIP) for the National Capital Region, Fiscal Year 2011-2016.
- Final Recommendations on Uniform Parking Practices and Coordination During Snow Emergencies.
- Next meeting is November 10.

Affiliated Partnerships

[Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | jdesimone@mwkog.org)

- Clean Air Partners and the Maryland Department of the Environment held The Great Maryland Lawn Mower Exchange event. The event took place on Saturday, August 14th at Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore. Maryland residents exchanged 710 gas mowers for cleaner cordless electric mowers.
- The 2010 public awareness campaign, which ended in August, generated 66 million media impressions. The campaign included radio, online and transit advertisements which ran in the Washington and Baltimore markets. The campaign focused on actions individuals can take to improve air quality.
- Clean Air Partners presented air quality information to more than 1,000 young people over the summer at various locations including summer schools, camps, and green job initiatives.

[Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | nramfos@mwkog.org)

- July 15 – Health and Humans Services (DC) – Presentation on Commuter Connections Programs Services
- July 16 – Four Season Hotel (DC) – Employee Transportation Fair
- July 16 – Co-Star Group (DC) – Relocation Event and Employee Transportation Fair
- August 5 – Northern VA BRAC Coordination Meeting – Presentation on Commuter Connections

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org and Brian Lecouteur | blecouteur@mwkog.org)

- No updates to report.

[Metropolitan Washington Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- No updates to report.

Other Committees

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Phil McGaughey | Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org)

- Members will meet on September 22 and meet Tom Savoie, the new Contracts and Purchasing Manager at COG. Discussion will include what has worked, what hasn't work and what can be improved for the future of the committee. The committee will hear about a new contracts database on the COG website that will enable collaboration on energy contracts.

[Water Resources Technical Committee](#) (WRTC) (Tanya Spano | tspano@mwkog.org)

- No updates to report.
- The next meeting will be October 4.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | kberger@mwkog.org)

- The CBPC met July 30 and will meet again on October 4 to consider COG comments on the proposed Chesapeake Bay TMDLs.