



COG Staff Updates for CEEPC
March 22, 2017

SOLSMART ADVISOR - REGIONAL APPLICATION

COG supported NVRC in a regional application for a SolSmart Advisor. If selected, the region will benefit from specialized support to participating jurisdictions in their efforts to meet the program goals of the SolSmart program, focusing on reducing the soft cost of solar installations and streamlining processes. More information can be found here:

<http://www.gosparc.org/program-information/>

FLEETS FOR THE FUTURE: COOPERATIVE PURCHASE OF ALTERNATIVE FUEL VEHICLES

COG and the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (MAPT) is partnering with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) on a US Department of Energy award winning project called [Fleets for the Future \(F4F\)](#) to develop and implement five regional and one national scale procurement for alternative fuel vehicles and refueling/charging infrastructure. The purpose of the effort is to reduce the incremental cost of commercially available alternative, clean fuel vehicles and supporting infrastructure in regional markets and nationwide.

Eligible public and non-profit fleets in the Mid-Atlantic region include local, state, and municipal governments, school districts and universities, and public electric and water/wastewater utilities. Eligible vehicle types are light-, medium-, and heavy-duty vehicles. Fuel types include plug-in electric vehicles, compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, and ethanol (E85). Eligible infrastructure includes Level 2 and DC fast charging (DCFC), compressed natural gas, propane (LPG), and E85. This is a two-year funded project expected to provide participating governments and stakeholders long lasting cost-saving benefits. For more information, contact Leah Boggs at lboggs@mwkog.org go to <http://www.fleetsforthefuture.org/>.

VOLKSWAGEN SETTLEMENT

Under a Consent Decree addressing vehicle emissions control violations, Volkswagen has agreed to a multi-billion-dollar settlement that will be used in the following ways: creation of a fund to install electric vehicle charging stations across the US through a new subsidiary named Electrify America, implementation of a vehicle buyback program, and a creation of a State NOx mitigation fund. COG submitted a proposal to support efforts under the fund to install electric vehicle charging stations and conduct education and outreach on electric vehicles in the region. The State NOx mitigation fund will primarily target emission reductions from vehicle fleets, including heavy duty vehicles, as well as some limited focus on infrastructure funding. Electrify America is awaiting approval of their investment plan from the US EPA and California Air Resources Board for approval before initiating projects.

NORTHERN VIRGINIA CLIMATE RESILIENCY TEAM

NVRC was awarded a one-year grant from the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program to create a "Northern Virginia Resiliency Roadmap". The purposes of this initiative is to help communities of Northern Virginia, in collaboration with COG and the region:

1. Identify and assess the effects of climate change on the natural and built environment of the Northern Virginia coastal zone;
2. Identify appropriate policy frameworks to respond to climate change planning and adaptation;
3. Determine how to integrate climate change considerations into local plans and policies;
4. Identify methods and techniques to manage associated risks; and,

NVRC, working with COG, is developing a response for the region through an interdisciplinary collaborative workgroup (“NOVA Climate Resiliency Team”) comprised of technical and policy experts from across the region to guide development of a climate resiliency roadmap. Presentations from the November and February meetings are available here <https://www.novaregion.org/index.aspx?nid=1354>.

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS COASTAL STORM RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments is serving as the non-federal sponsor for an Army Corps of Engineers Coast Storm Risk Management Study which will investigate flood risks in the vicinity of the region’s tidal areas, and identify potential solutions to protect the vulnerable infrastructure assets upon which the region relies. The effort would build on existing studies.

COG is working with the Corps to develop a draft outline of the project scope and budget and working with potential partners to identify cost-share funding for the study. The \$3 million study requires 50% cost-share (\$1.5 million) over the next three years. The study will provide a comprehensive coastal flood risk assessment that will provide more detailed analysis than previous efforts. For more information, please contact Tanya Spano (tspano@mwkog.org 202-962-3776 or Amanda Campbell (acampbell@mwkog.org 202-962-3324).

COG RECYCLING & SOLID WASTE PROGRAM

The COG Recycling Committee is planning a Go Recycle regional promotional campaign for late April. The effort will employ paid social media advertising, digital advertising, digital radio, and broadcast radio. It will include targeted content for each sponsor. The COG Solid Waste Managers Committee will host a FEMA-led emergency debris contracting class on April 28 at COG.

DC WATER LEVERAGES THEIR AAA and BB1 BOND RATINGS TO ISSUE \$300 MILLION IN BONDS

On February 1, DC Water announced that due to its strong credit rating, it will be issuing \$300 Million in tax-exempt, fixed rate bonds. A portion of the proceeds from the bonds will be used to finance the DC Clean Rivers Project, and the remaining proceeds will assist DC Water with critical capital investment projects at a low cost. For more information:

<https://www.dwater.com/whats-going-on/news/dc-water-leverages-stellar-aaa-credit-rating-and-gb1-green-bond-rating-300>

ALEXANDRIA RENEW AWARDS: ENVISION AND UTILITY OF THE FUTURE TODAY

The Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure awarded AlexRenew’s Nutrient Management Facility the Envision® Sustainable Infrastructure Platinum Award for its environmental, social, and economic outcomes. This is the first Envision Platinum Award in Virginia and the D.C. metro area and also the first for a U.S. water resource recovery facility. In addition, a partnership of water sector organizations recognized AlexRenew as a Utility of the Future Today. One of 61 wastewater facilities across the world to receive this first-of-its-kind honor, AlexRenew was acknowledged for sustainability, organizational culture, community engagement, and success at recovering resources from wastewater. <https://alexrenew.com/alexrenew-spotlight-2016-year-review>

C-LEAP – ICLEI GHG EMISSION INVENTORY & ANALYZING THE DRIVERS OF CHANGE

COG is participating with five other cities in a DOE-funded grant, led by the City of Bellevue, to update the Metropolitan Washington region’s GHG emission inventory. The project will create and disseminate a framework for performing a “contribution analysis” of community-scale GHG emission trends over time. The contribution analysis will identify how various factors have contributed to emissions changes between two GHG inventories. COG is in the process of updating its 2015 regional GHG emission inventory, and will use the 2012 as the baseline inventory. The 2015 inventory will be completed by the end of April, and the contribution analysis will be completed by the end of November. For more information about the project, contact Maia Davis (mdavis@mwkog.org) or Michael Truax (mtruax@mwkog.org).