

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC May 2014

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

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

- BEEAC met on May 15. WMATA gave a presentation on the agency's new Sustainability Plan, which discussed their current sustainability work, targets, and proposed initiatives. The committee was briefed on the preliminary results of the Northern Virginia Greenhouse Gas Inventory and on the region's Energy Infrastructure, as presented to the COG Board at their May meeting. The committee also discussed the Exelon acquisition of Pepco and implications for COG members.

[Electric Vehicle Planning Initiative](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The EV Work Group met on March 28th where discussions included analytics of the results of 2013 Electric Vehicle survey, as well as a panel discussion on the complimentary components of the Eight State Zero Emission MOU, signed by Maryland, and the District's and VA's alternative fuel and clean car programs.
- The next step for the EV Work Group is follow-up with jurisdictions, schools and water/wastewater utilities that expressed in a cooperative purchase of alternative fuel vehicles via the electric vehicle survey.

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

- The Recycling Committee met May 22 to hear from a panel on how to implement recycling in retail businesses for customers.
- The committee also received a presentation on the Maryland Zero Waste Plan, which was out of comment.
- The committee will host meeting on the Effects of Product Bans on July 17.
- The Organics Task Force met on April 28 to learn more about curbside food collection programs from around the nation.
- The COG Solid Waste Managers Group will meet June 24. It is pursuing homeland security grant opportunities for emergency debris management.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee](#) (ACPAC) (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC submitted a comment letter to MWAQC on the draft Gold Book.

- ACPAC hosted an event on April 21, 2014 celebrating the homecoming of “Ella,” DC’s first clean diesel locomotive and held a regular meeting on May 19, 2014. ACPAC discussed their potential role in helping to encourage more sustainable rail initiatives in the region in both April and May.
- In May ACPAC heard presentations from the American Lung Association on the 2014 State of the Air Report and from COG on Regional Progress and Best Practices.
- Glenna Tinney, ACPAC Vice Chair and Clean Air Partner Board member, was awarded Clean Air Partner Board Rookie Member of the Year.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

[MWAQC](#) and [MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Sunil Kumar | skumar@mwkog.org)

- MWAQC met on May 21. The committee was briefed on the 2011 Base Year Ozone Emissions Inventory and gave preliminary approval of the Inventory. George Washington University Hospital gave a presentation on health effects of ground-level ozone, focusing on asthma in children.
- The committee heard a presentation on the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting and the status of EPA’s revision to the 2008 Ozone standard, which will likely be lowered to the 60-68 ppm range. The committee was also briefed on the Supreme Court Decision’s upholding EPA’s Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) which allows the agency to regulate pollution that drifts across state lines.
- MWAQC approved the Work Program and Budget for FY15.

[Transportation Planning Board](#) (TPB), [TPB Technical Committee](#), [TPB Travel Management Subcommittee](#) and [TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Jerry Miller | gkmiller@mwkog.org)

- TPB met on April 16. The Board approved the scope of work and project submissions for inclusion in the air quality conformity assessment for the 2014 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP.
- The 2010 Census extended the DC-VA-MD area to include a portion of Fauquier County, which MPO regulations require be included in the metropolitan planning area. The committee was briefed on process for joining TPB, and formally invited the County to become a member.
- TPB was briefed on how the COG Cooperative Forecasting Process develops population, household and employment forecasts for use in the regional transportation planning process.
- Staff presented an initial qualitative assessment of how the RTPP priorities compare with the transportation system represented by the CLRP as it is being updated with a new financial analysis and additional projects in 2014.
- Bike to Work Day was May 16. Events were held at seventy-nine locations in the region. BWD increases public awareness of the viability of bicycle commuting, and encourages businesses and decision makers to support bike commuting through bike-friendly policies and initiatives.
- TPB met on May 21. The Board and was briefed on the projects recommended by VDOT’s technical review committee for funding as part of the Virginia MAP-21 Transportation Alternatives Program for FY 2015. The Board also approved an amendment to the FY 2013-2018 TIP requested by VDOT to update projects and funding in the Northern Virginia section.

- TPB was briefed on the VRE System Plan and the draft update of the MARC system's Growth and Investment plan; both are frameworks for capital investments through 2040.
- TPB sent a letter to the Washington Region's Congressional Delegation in support of replenishing the Highway Trust Fund and reauthorizing MAP-21. The Highway Trust Fund will run out of money in July, and MAP-21 will expire on September 30 without Congressional action.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#), Housing Directors Advisory Committee, and [Region Forward Coalition](#) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org and Sophie Mintier | smintier@mwkog.org)

- The April 25 Region Forward meeting focused on "Sustainability". The coalition heard from a panel representing some local "best practices" in sustainability: the Southwest EcoDistrict, the Crystal City District Energy System, Twinbrook's LEED for Neighborhood Development project, and the North Point Zero Energy Community in Frederick, MD.
- A poster session presented attendees with best practices from around the country: the Seattle EcoDistrict, the Boston Innovation District and Kansas City Green Impact Zones. ICLEI's *Resilient Communities for America* program spoke about what it takes to make a resilient city.
- Roundtable discussions allowed Coalition members to discuss opportunities for applying some of these lessons and principles in our region, and how COG and Region Forward can encourage sustainability across all aspects of regional planning.

Other Committees

Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (formerly [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#)) (George Hohmann | ghohmann@mwkog.org)

- Tom Savoie, the former Contracts and Purchasing Manager left COG in March. George Hohmann has joined COG as of May 5th as our new Contracts and Purchasing Manager.
- The Chief Purchasing Officers Committee did not meet in March. The next meeting is May 29.
- There will be a reverse gasoline auction held live at the COG Board Room on Monday, June 2, 2014 at 11:00 am. In addition to unleaded fuel, E85, a high-level ethanol-gasoline blend, has been added as a fuel option for long term contract.

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

- WRTC met on May 1, and heard presentations on water utility energy-saving and sustainable activities reported in COG's annual climate and energy survey and preliminary results of the Chain Bridge monitoring project.
- The committee was also briefed on the Drinking Water infrastructure presentation to the COG Board of Directors on Regional Infrastructure at the COG Board's April 9th meeting.
- The committee reviewed the draft Work Program and Budget for FY15.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (CPBC) (Heidi Bonnaffon | hbonnaffon@mwkog.org)

- CBPC members held a panel discussion with members from American Water Works Association (AWWA), the Water Environment Federation (WEF) and the National Association of Clean Water

Agencies (NACWA), about action steps that the committee can take to quantify water infrastructure costs, and advocate for needed funding, as well as account for the value of water sector jobs in COG region's economy. A Water Infrastructure Summit is tentatively proposed for spring 2015.

- CBPC members began preparations for our annual Bay and Local Water Quality Forum with EPA and the states that will be held July 18th. Much of the July conversation will focus on local voice and participation in developing management strategies for the new Chesapeake Bay Agreement (expected to be signed by states in June). The Bay Agreement is still in revision but the final version that will be signed is expected to have a "resiliency" to climate change" goal added (please see pg. 12 of the attached for the Draft wording details).
- CBPC reviewed the draft executive summary for COG's Potomac Water Quality factsheet.