

2009-2012 Regional Climate Action Workplan			
Recommendations	Performance Measures	Responsible Parties	COMMENTS
I. Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Goals/Plans			
1. 2012: Reduce 10% below 2012 Business-as-Usual			
	<i>a) Reduce emissions of greenhouse gases in the region by 10% below projected business-as-usual levels by 2012 (i.e., return to 2005 levels).</i>	Local Governments, COG, Community (Business and Individuals)	Fairfax County has adopted (Cool Counties resolution) a reduction target and milestones which are structured differently from the regional action plan and do not define a goal for 2012. Cool Counties resolution commits to zero growth in GHG emissions by 2010 and 10 percent reduction each five years after that through 2050. Straight-line projections based on the NCR Climate Change Report's BAU rate of increase from 2005 to 2012 (10 percent) and the Cool Counties target reduction rate (10 percent every 5 years after 2010) would put Fairfax County at a level equal to the 2007 level in 2012. That level is 3 percent above the 2005 level.
	<i>b) COG prepares progress report with annual updates on meeting the 2012 goal.</i>	COG	
	<i>c) 100% of jurisdictions prepare government and community wide greenhouse gas inventories.</i>	Local Governments	Municipal inventory in progress. Community inventory will occur after stimulus money is received.
	<i>d) 100% of jurisdictions prepare plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from government operations, including adopting a reduction target.</i>	Local Governments	Cool Counties initiative. Staff expects to need consultant assistance and COG support to formulate a viable reduction plan.
	<i>e) 50% of jurisdictions prepare community-wide plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.</i>	Local Governments	Staff expects to need consultant assistance and COG support to formulate a viable reduction plan. Some emissions reduction measures may need to be adopted that require legislative authority or approval.
2. 2020: Reduce 20% below 2005			
3. 2050: Reduce 80% below 2005			
II. Energy			
Local/Regional Strategies for Government and Business			
A. Improve Energy Efficiency in Buildings			
1. Implement COG Green Building Policy			
	<i>a) 100% of jurisdictions adopt and implement COG Green Building Policy requiring all new public-sector buildings to achieve LEED Silver levels and all private-sector commercial buildings to meet a regional LEED-certified plus standard or equivalent.</i>	Local Governments, IGBG, USGBC	The COG policy does not reference a private sector "requirement," nor does it reference "all" private sector commercial buildings, so this should not be suggested here. This may seem like a nuance, but we don't think that localities in Virginia are authorized to REQUIRE a LEED standard, in that it is not required by the building code. Also, many localities are pursuing LEED certification for most (but not all) development proposals and not the specifics of the "Regional LEED certified" credits. Would this count as attaining this goal? Perhaps it should, as it's consistent with the intent. Overall, this measure should be better aligned with the COG recommendation. In addition, the LEED silver requirement can be achieved without the greatest energy saving options that would have the biggest impact on GHG levels. While the COG policy does not suggest the use of equivalent approaches, Fairfax County's policy does. As the bottom line is that we'd like to see more green buildings, the use of approaches that are equivalent to LEED should not be precluded.
	<i>b) Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG) proposes COG Green Building Policy Recommendations for schools and residential buildings.</i>	IGBG	While Fairfax County supports this goal, the implementation by early 2010 may be difficult for IGBG to achieve, especially given the resources required and complexity of the report. Also, it is the county's understanding that the IGBG has not yet begun to focus on green school issues.
2. Set energy performance goals for govt buildings, new and existing			
	<i>a) 80% of jurisdictions benchmark energy performance in all government buildings.</i>	Local Governments	Need to agree on a standard to benchmark against? EnergyStar? ICMA? Or just compared to code minimum requirements?
3. Identify best practices to reduce local govt energy use by 15% by 2012			
	<i>a) 100% of jurisdictions reduce energy use by 10% below business-as-usual by 2012.</i>	Local Governments	What baseline year are jurisdictions expected to use? Fairfax county is currently in the process of determining a viable base year. The county anticipates having good data for all county facilities and operations beginning with 2007. 10% below business as usual is a good goal; however, the 2012 target may prove challenging.
	<i>b) 100% of jurisdictions submit data to COG regarding energy efficiency program implementation.</i>	Local Governments, COG	
4. Develop incentives for retrofitting existing buildings, commercial and residential			
	<i>a) 60% of jurisdictions have programs in place to support home energy retrofits, such as financing incentives, grants, or technical assistance.</i>	Local Governments, State Energy Offices, Weatherization Programs, Maryland Clean Energy Center, COG	Pilot of 100 residential homes is using one-time EECBG stimulus monies. Technical assistance will be mostly web based links to state and federal sites. Recent state and federal programs have monies.
	<i>b) All three states standardize training and certification of auditors and contractors, facilitating reciprocity across the region.</i>	State Energy Offices, Weatherization Programs, Community Colleges, Building Performance Institute, RESNET	Good goal. The county is requiring BPI certified auditors for the one time pilot project using EECBG federal monies.
	<i>c) 35% of jurisdictions develop and implement Home Energy Loan Programs.</i>	Local Governments, COG, Maryland Clean Energy Center, State Energy Offices, Private Sector	This would require additional funding above and beyond currently available levels.
	<i>d) COG prepares a feasibility study on a regional financing option to support Home Energy Loan Program.</i>	COG	

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	<i>e) 10,000 homes retrofitted annually to achieve a 5-10 percent energy saving.</i>	Community	Not feasible or measurable. Permit is not required in Virginia for most of this type of work. No program in place to track or measure number or percent savings.
	<i>f) 500-1000 homes retrofitted annually to achieve a 10-30 percent energy saving.</i>	Community	Not feasible or measurable. Permit is not required in Virginia for replacement windows or insulation and weatherization. No program in place to track or measure number or percent savings.
	<i>g) 50% of jurisdictions have commercial building energy usage benchmarking requirements.</i>	Local Governments	No program in place. Money would be needed for staff efforts. Bench marking is not possible in all types of County buildings so disclosure may be an option to consider.
	<i>h) 250 buildings retrofitted annually to achieve a 5-10 percent energy savings.</i>	Community	No program in place to track or measure number or percent savings. No means for tracking or measuring of private building.
	<i>i) 100 buildings retrofitted annually to achieve a 10-30 percent energy savings.</i>	Community	No program in place to track or measure number or percent savings. No means for tracking or measuring of private building.
	5. Develop affordable energy efficiency programs for homeowners and businesses		
	6. Promote use of energy efficient appliances		
	<i>a) 30% of jurisdictions implement incentive programs to encourage purchase of new energy efficient appliances.</i>	State and Local Governments, Utilities	While the county supports Incentive programs, this particular initiative would require additional budget resources that are currently not available. Recent state and federal programs available.
	7. Revise state and local building codes to promote energy efficiency		The county actively participates in code change process of the energy code and other building codes.
	8. Develop green affordable housing policies/programs		
	9. Identify best practices for improving efficiency for public and private buildings		
B. Reduce Demand for Energy			
	1. Partner with electric, gas and water utilities on regional energy conservation		Through VEPGA partner with Dominion to reduce increase energy efficiency and incentivize conservation for local government electricity utilization
	2. Expand recycling programs		
	3. Reduce energy use at area water and wastewater treatment plants and landfills		The county has reduced electrical power consumption at the Noman Cole plant by 19% since 2003.
	4. Promote energy efficient streetlights across the region		Requested Dominion to develop a pilot streetlight project with higher efficiency streetlight fixtures. Dominion responded with an LED pilot streetlight program, in which Fairfax County is participating.
	<i>a) 60% of jurisdictions implement a program to replace older street lights with new more efficient technology.</i>	Local Governments, COG, Clinton Climate Foundation, Utilities, Vendors	
	5. Promote regional energy performance contracting and cooperative purchasing		
	6. Explore opportunities to remove the disincentive for utilities to invest in energy conservation		

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C. Promote Clean Energy Sources			
1. Adopt a goal of 20 percent renewable energy purchase by local governments by 2015			
	<i>a) 100% of jurisdictions purchase or consume 10 percent renewable energy by 2012.</i>	Local Governments, Power Purchase Groups, COG, Utilities, Green Power Providers	Initiated a renewable energy purchase program in Virginia for local governments. Fairfax County has participated in a wind energy purchase contracts for 5 years. County currently purchases 10% of its facilities management divisions electricity through a wind energy purchase REC program. Continuation at current levels and/or increase to 20% will require additional budget resources which are currently not available.
	<i>b) 50% of jurisdictions assist or incentivize consumer purchase of renewable energy, such as Clean Energy Rewards Program.</i>	Local Governments	Fairfax County participates in consumer education on how consumers can purchase renewable energy products.
	<i>c) 25% of consumers purchase renewable energy.</i>	Consumers, Utilities, Green Power Providers	
2. Evaluate regional cooperative purchase to meet the 20% renewable purchase goal			
3. Examine options for removing barriers to implementing renewable energy, e.g., solar panels			
	<i>a) 75% of jurisdictions prepare plans, employ incentives, and implement government projects to increase deployment of renewable energy technology.</i>	Local Governments	
	<i>b) All state and local jurisdictions remove barriers to implementing renewable energy by the private sector, e.g., solar panels.</i>	Federal, State, and Local Government	Good goal! For Fairfax County, no Building Code or Zoning Ordinance impediments. Although not specifically mentioned in the Zoning Ordinance, the Zoning Ordinance currently allows the installation of solar panels and wind turbines. If freestanding, such structures are deemed to be accessory structures and are subject to the same accessory structure location requirements as other accessory structures and are exempt from height restrictions. Wind turbines and solar panels can be located on the roof and, if such features and all other mechanical equipment and penthouses cover more than 25% of the rooftop, then the structures are counted in the building height.
4. Explore the possibility of implementing a community energy planning process in the region			
	<i>a) Northern Virginia Regional Commission completes pilot community energy planning process in Northern Virginia.</i>	NVRC, Local Government	Fairfax County has a streetlighting program and as the street lights need replacement, they are replaced with more energy efficient streetlights.
5. Develop a regional inventory of renewable energy capacity and production, including solar, geothermal, district heating/cooling, wind, and biofuels			
D. Reduce Non-CO ₂ Greenhouse Gas Emissions			
1. Best practices to reduce methane and biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities			
	<i>a) 100% of wastewater facilities identify and implement best practices to reduce methane and biosolids from wastewater treatment facilities. Evaluate the potential for reducing greenhouse gas emissions through methane recapture.</i>	Wastewater Utilities, Water Resources Technical Committee	Residuals from wastewater treatment plants are stabilized and disposed of in different ways. In the MWCOG area. These methods include lime (CaCO ₃) stabilization, digestion with methane production, thermal oxidation, and heat and drying. Feasible alternatives for maximizing methane reduction/recapture should be evaluated and presented to COG jurisdictions as alternatives. Cost/benefit analysis would help to identify best practice as economic considerations would need to be included in the evaluation of new or alternative processes.
	2. Adopt industry standard protocols to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and reductions for water and wastewater utilities		Suggest changing the word "Adopt" to "Follow" or "Comply with"
III. Transportation and Land Use			
Local and Regional Strategies for Government and Business			
A. Increase Fuel Efficiency and Use of Clean Fuel Vehicles			
1. Promote clean fuel vehicles (cars, trucks, buses)			
2. Adopt regional green fleet policy			
	<i>a) COG adopts green fleet policy that includes accelerated implementation of federal CAFE Standards/GHG emission standards for local government fleets.</i>	COG	Fairfax County is not currently participating in any regional "Green Fleet" policy effort, but would do so if one were initiated.
	<i>b) 30% of jurisdictions implement the COG green fleet policy.</i>	Local Governments	Fairfax County would support and participate in development of such a policy.

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3. Promote use of clean fuels	<i>a) 50% of jurisdictions implement alternative fuel infrastructure projects needed to support alternative fuel vehicle technology implementation (e.g., natural gas, biofuel, hydrogen, electricity).</i>	Local Governments, COG, Private Sector	No alternative fuel infrastructure projects are underway. Fairfax County has begun to explore deployment of electrical charging stations for electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids.
B. Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT)			
1. Adopt VMT reduction goals	<i>a) TPB identifies feasible regional VMT reduction goals and recommends cost-effective VMT reduction programs.</i>	TPB	Fairfax County is already pursuing numerous strategies to reduce VMT, i.e. funding transit service, promoting telework both within the County work force and to employers in the County, promoting ridersharing and encouraging better land use planning. It is anticipated that the County would continue to support similar strategies in the future.
2. Invest more in transit (service?)		local and state governments	Fairfax County is planning to expand transit service using revenues from the County's commercial and industry property tax for transportation. As economy improves, other resources may also be available.
3. Expand transit use (incentives, exclusive transit lanes)		local and state governments	Fairfax County has on-going programs to promote transit service. It is anticipated that such programs will continue in the future.
	<i>a) 100% of transit agencies examine options to promote the increased use of existing transit capacity.</i>	Transit Agencies	Fairfax County has on-going programs to promote transit service. It is anticipated that such programs will continue in the future.
4. Expand transit infrastructure		local and state governments	Fairfax County supports a variety of projects to increase transit infrastructure, including the Dulles rail project, the Columbia Pike Streetcar, park-and-ride lots, purchase of new buses, etc. The County has used and expects to continue to use general obligations bonds and commercial and industrial property tax revenues to support these investments.
5. Expand commuter options (car sharing, financial incentives)	<i>a) TPB adopts goal to expand commuter options (telework, car sharing, bicycle/pedestrian, financial incentives).</i>	local and state governments TPB, Commuter Connections	Fairfax County has on-going programs to promote ridersharing in conjunction with MWCOG. These programs are expected to continue. They are funded with state aid and County general funds. Fairfax County has on-going programs in each of the areas mentioned. These program are expected to continue in the future.
6. Promote transit-oriented development			
	<i>a) 80% of jurisdictions promote transit-oriented development/Concentrate future growth in Regional Activity Centers.</i>	Local Governments, Planning Directors, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee	Fairfax County is doing these things (Tysons Task Force); however, I don't know if the region has met the 80% goal.)
	<i>b) 50% of jurisdictions develop plans to meet the Greater Washington 2050 targets for growth (75% of commercial square feet and 50% of households) occurring in Regional Activity Centers.</i>	Local Governments, Planning Directors, Metropolitan Development Policy Committee	Fairfax County is actively supporting the concentration of new development in regional activity centers.
7. Examine parking policies to reduce VMT	<i>a) 50% of jurisdictions examine parking policies to reduce VMT.</i>	Local Governments	Consideration of reductions of parking requirements for TOD/TDM projects and ADUs/workforce housing in transit-oriented areas is on the Priority 1 Zoning Ordinance Amendment Work Program.
C. Travel Efficiency			
1. Adopt best practices for traffic engineering improvements and road management to reduce VMT and congestion	<i>a) 60% of jurisdictions adopt best practices for traffic engineering improvements and road management to reduce VMT and congestion.</i>	Local Governments, DOTs, TPB	
2. Implement the Metropolitan Area Transportation Operations Coordination Program			
3. Enforce existing idling regulations			

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4. Explore opportunities to reduce emissions from the aviation sector			
	<i>a) Explore opportunities to reduce emissions from the aviation sector.</i>	MWAA, COG, Federal, State, and Local Government	Fairfax County has no authority over operations at Washington Dulles International Airport or Davison Army Airfield. There are no other aviation facilities in Fairfax County. This is, therefore, not applicable to Fairfax County government.
5. Explore opportunities to reduce emissions from the freight sector			
	<i>a) TPB adopts goals to reduce emissions from the freight sector, including considerations of shifting freight from trucks to rail.</i>	TPB	
D. Land Use			
1. Develop plan to meet goal of increased tree canopy			
	<i>a) COG and local governments prepare regional plan to meet goal of increased tree canopy.</i>	COG, Local Governments	Fairfax County has established a tree canopy goal of 45% by 2037. The county has also established a tree conservation ordinance and Tree Action Plan to support this goal.
2. Evaluate Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design for Neighborhood Development (LEED-ND) standards for new development			
3. Carefully plan the location and design of new, infill, and redevelopment projects			
4. Integrate GHG analyses into comprehensive planning, new projects			
	<i>a) 50% of jurisdictions integrate greenhouse gas analyses into comprehensive planning for major new transportation and other new capital projects.</i>	Local Governments	Guidance is needed regarding how localities are supposed to do this and what the anticipated outcome is.
E. Regional Metropolitan Planning Process			
1. Develop regional metropolitan planning process for greenhouse gases			
	<i>a) TPB develops a regional metropolitan planning process for greenhouse gases modeled after the current process for transportation and air quality planning.</i>	TPB	County staff believe that this is the most fundamental aspect of this Action Plan. The essential vision of the Cool Counties Climate Stabilization Declaration speaks to this aspects and the primary driver of the regional planning effort. Fairfax County staff believe that without the formal institution of such a process, the regional GHG emissions reduction targets will be difficult to achieve.
2. Make greenhouse gas reduction a stated goal of regional transportation planning activities			
3. Consult with other regions around the country to broadly evaluate options for regional approaches to greenhouse gas reductions			
IV. Adaptation			
Local/Regional Strategies for Government and Business			
1. Research best practices to prepare for effect of climate change			
	<i>a) Evaluate impact of climate change on one or more sectors, including water, air, energy, and public safety.</i>	COG, Universities, Private Sector, State and Federal Government	As this is not directed toward local governments, no impacts are assumed. This effort should be of assistance to local governments in identifying the scope and magnitude of likely impacts. Please note an ongoing effort by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission to evaluate impacts of sea level rise and storm surge in Northern Virginia and to formulate, in conjunction with affected localities, recommendations regarding adaptation strategies.
2. Partner with universities and private sector to research climate change and adaptation strategies			
3. Analyze impacts and risks to region's transportation infrastructure, buildings and populations in low-lying areas			
4. Develop regional adaptation policies			
5. Conduct Adaptation Workshops			
	<i>a) COG holds general and sector-specific adaptation workshops.</i>	COG	
V. Economic Development			
1. Promote green business & green jobs			
	<i>a) 100% of jurisdictions promote green business & green jobs.</i>	Local Governments	The County's Economic Development Authority is in the early stages of developing a program to promote green businesses in the county. Also, some of the county's stimulus money will support green business and green jobs. These projects include an Energy Audit Project that will promote the green Energy Audit and corrective action businesses. Other projects support market transformation of the LED lighting industry, recommissioning, commercial energy audits and more efficient building control systems businesses.
2. Promote eco-business zones			
3. Promote cooperative green purchasing			
4. Promote local food production options			
5. Promote local vendors and suppliers			
6. Regional green jobs analysis			
	<i>a) COG expands DC Green Jobs Analysis to the Region.</i>	COG	
VI. Financing Mechanisms			
1. Evaluate financing mechanisms for energy efficiency projects (energy fee, tax, other)			
2. Establish a clean energy fund			
3. Participate in cap and trade program revenues			
4. Develop a regional carbon offset fund for preserving tree canopy			
5. Secure addtl financing for public transit			
6. Establish funding for building retrofits			
VII. Regional Outreach & Education			
1. Implement a regional public education campaign			
2. Develop partnerships with private sector and other organizations			
	<i>a) Develop partnerships and coordinate with others to develop and implement a regional public education campaign.</i>	COG, Utilities, State Energy Offices	
3. Support COG member outreach efforts			
	<i>a) 35% of jurisdictions develop energy challenge/pledge programs (community, green business, employee) and/or encourage energy leaders programs.</i>	Local Governments	

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	<i>b) 35% of jurisdictions develop green business challenges.</i>	Local Governments	
VIII. COG Climate Change Program			
	1. Establish COG Climate and Energy Policy Committee		
	2. Develop work program priorities, schedule, staffing plan, budget		
	3. Prepare Plan to reach 2012 and 2020 goals		
	4. Evaluate cost effectiveness of measures		
	5. Design outreach and education program		
	6. Track initiatives and develop advocacy positions		
	<i>a) Establish advocacy subcommittee.</i>	CEEPC, COG	
	7. Develop system for tracking progress toward GHG goals and periodically review targets		
	8. Develop a regional standardized analytical methodology for use by individual local governments in developing their greenhouse gas emission inventories		
	9. Prepare annual progress report to COG Board of Directors on implementation progress for COG's Climate Change Initiative		