

CBPC ACADEMIC PAPER COMPETITION

FALL 2020-SPRING 2021

Overview

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) is seeking to learn from high school, college, and graduate students on a topic of relevance to metropolitan Washington's local governments.

COG is an independent, nonprofit regional association with a membership of 300 elected officials from the District of Columbia and 23 surrounding cities and counties in Maryland and Virginia. Additional background information on COG is here [[LINK to COG Backgrounder](#)].

COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) members are interested in student perspectives of emerging best practices and policies to address real-world sustainability and water resources issues. Students are asked to develop a one-page stand-alone guidance document of actions local elected officials could implement on a particular topic, plus an accompanying paper that provides rationale for the recommendations, research methodology and sources (max. of 5 pages).

This will be an annual opportunity for students at regional schools and research institutions to provide pragmatic recommendations to an audience of local elected officials. The one-page guidance document should focus on actions, including policy changes, that our region's local governments could implement within 90 days, 180 days, and 365 days to address a particular issue. The accompanying

paper should include background context, resources for more information, and citations in APA format. Papers can synthesize already completed work and may entail a literature review.

Submissions will be scored by a panel of judges, based on these criteria: The paper provides *practical, science-based solutions* that *local governments* can implement to address a Chesapeake Bay water quality issue listed below, along with *quality references* to turn to for more information. Papers should be limited to 5 pages.

Top scoring applicants will be invited to provide a short presentation to the policy committee. Highlights will be publicized by COG's Office of Communications.

Topic Areas

For the 2020-2021 term, the topics will be focused on Chesapeake Bay water quality issues related to sustainability and resiliency within the metropolitan Washington region. Below is a list of topics that would be most relevant to COG's elected officials.

- Diversity, equity, inclusion in water quality decision-making, outreach, and recreation
- Tree canopy and forest conservation
- Mitigating and adapting to climate change, including flood resiliency.
- Agricultural Best Management Practices protective of water quality
- Tackling fresh-water salinization (winter salts)
- Stream restoration projects
- Water reuse

Participation & Timeline

To apply students should send an email expressing interest to:

hbonnaffon@mwkog.org by February 15.

The email should include the following:

- Student's name, contact information, school, department, teacher/professor, course.
- 2-4 sentence description of their chosen research topic.

The 2021 research competition is capped at the first twenty submissions.

Students are asked to submit completed papers to COG, via email, by April 1, 2021.

For more information

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www.mwkog.org/chesbay

The Presentations and Award will be May 21, 2021.

Award

Top papers will be selected by a panel of judges which will include members of the CBPC and academia or the broader scientific community.

Awardees will present their research findings and recommendations to the members of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) at their webinar or meeting on May 21, 2021. Highlights will be publicized via COG's Communications Office.

The top submission will receive a \$500 Award.