**Maryland Department of the Environment**

**Draft strategies for “What We Can Do” Report**

Prepared for MWCOG’s Multi-Sector GHG Working Group

February 13, 2015

1. **Provide Transparency in Transportation Planning**
   * To better understand and inform the public about how the region’s transportation plans will decrease – or increase – CO2 emissions, COG should make available to the public the CO2 data that is automatically generated whenever a MOVES run is done for the NOx and VOCs conformity analysis in the Transportation Planning Board (TPB’s) Short Range Transportation Improvement Plans (TIPs).
2. **Set GHG Benchmarks for TIP updates**
   * COG to adopt a benchmark goal to increase the rate of reduction of GHG emissions by 1 percent from the previous TIP each time a TIP is updated (i.e. annually)
   * COG to provide technical assistance to help local government transportation planners assess GHG impacts and develop reduction strategies early in the planning phase for projects under consideration for funding
   * The TPB to link project funding to progress toward meeting the benchmark
   * COG to identify and share best practices with local governments for analyzing and reducing GHG impacts in transportation project planning
3. **Advance Electric Vehicle Deployment**

* Encourage local jurisdictions to adopt grant and tax incentives for EVs and charging equipment (EVSE). Examples:
  + Maryland Energy Administration’s Smart Energy Communities Program – provides funding to jurisdictions for EV/EVSE purchases/ installations
  + MD’s EV excise tax credit
  + MD’s EVSE rebate
    - Explore other opportunities to support EVSE infrastructure build-out, e.g.:
* Use settlement funds from environmental enforcement actions (e.g. Maryland SEP funds to build fast charger network)
* Encourage partnerships between auto manufacturers (OEMs) and EVSE providers (e.g. NISSAN/NRG partnership)
* Develop HOV lane reciprocity for MD, VA and DC
* Conduct an EV Readiness Workshop for COG local government planners, building code and purchasing agencies
* Convene a Workplace Charging Summit for large employers in COG jurisdictions
* Promote Bulk Fleet Purchases
  + Adopt an overall fleet purchasing goal for COG jurisdictions
  + Develop vehicle specs and joint purchasing opportunities
    - Create a Dealer Recognition Program for regional leaders in EV sales and workforce training
    - Work with dealers and OEMs to identify, evaluate, and implement creative financing strategies to reduce EV purchase prices
    - Develop and implement a public EV education/outreach campaign
  + Develop a speakers bureau
  + Piggyback onto regional events as opportunities arise
    - Staff EV information booths
    - Work with OEMs and dealers to set up public ride and drives

1. **Advance Creative “Green” Financing**

* Develop innovative and effective methods of financing for environmental projects
* Extend outreach during project planning phase to attract green private investment at scales that impact GHG emissions
* Educate municipalities about the role of finance and economic development in reducing environmental impact
* Develop green markets and economies to meet (increasing) energy demand with zero- or low-carbon technologies
* Design public policies that help local governments and organizations overcome investment risks
* Set-up “green bank” to provide financing for “green projects” by leveraging public funds to attract private investment
* Work with regional lending institutions to offer commercial and consumer loans structured to amortize energy efficiency and clean energy investments through monthly savings over the life of the project
* Work with local jurisdictions to adopt Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) ordinances allowing energy efficiency and clean energy improvements to be financed through property tax assessments (modeled after Montgomery County’s program)
* Work with regional utilities to adopt “on bill” financing for energy efficiency improvements
* Examples of organizations currently providing support for “green financing”
  + Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Maryland
  + Maryland Smart Energy Communities Program (MSEC)
  + Coalition for Green Capital (CGC)