

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC- September 2009

Energy Advisory Committee (George Nichols | gnichols@mwkog.org)

- The EAC met on September 17, 2009. Topics covered included an update on training and certification of energy technicians, including efforts to harmonize weatherization and Home Performance with Energy Star Programs. The EAC also reviewed the draft CEEPC work program and will be considering possible suggestions moving forward.
- A technology vendor presented information on an additive for air conditioning systems (MAX R) that has been proven to increase efficiency and reduce energy consumption associated with all types of air conditioning systems. The technology involves an additive that reduces oil fouling in the refrigeration system. Extensive testing shows that the technology can reduce energy demand by more than 20 percent. A pilot test is being tested in Loudoun County.
- Future agenda topics may include an assessment of the potential for geoexchange technologies to reduce energy demand for space cooling/heating in buildings.
- The next EAC meeting is scheduled on October 15th. The next meeting is expected to be a joint meeting with IGBG to discuss the Climate Change Strategy work program related to energy and green buildings.

Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG) (George Nichols | gnichols@mwkog.org)

- The IGBG met on September 10, 2009. The Group began a dialogue on Climate Change Interface with Energy and Green Building. Dr. Chris Pyke, Director of Research, USGBC presented information on LEED and efforts to equate green buildings and GHG emissions. Buildings provide a point of control on a wide variety of emissions. Energy is key, but solid waste, water, land cover change, materials, construction and transport also play a role in GHG emissions. Design and operation of a building provides an opportunity to intervene on all those sources of emissions after initial construction. All buildings are unique. But a typical office building would generate about 4,600 metric tons of CO₂ or 9 tons/ person. In the same building but with energy efficiency components and near transit, carbon emissions could be reduced to 1,100 metric tons of carbon or 2 tons/person. However, even a super efficient building located in an area without transit and with lots of landscaping, would generate about 4,200 metric tons of 8 tons/person. Transit is critical to the GHG emission potential for a building over its lifetime.
- A joint meeting of the IGBG and Energy Advisory Committee will be scheduled for October 15th to further explore green building and energy strategic interface for GHG reductions.

MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- EPA proposed phase 2 of a Renewable Fuels Standard (RFS-2). RFS-2 increases the mandate for renewable fuel from 10 to 36 billion gallons by 2022. TAC members agreed on a draft comment letter expressing concern about the air quality impact of increased use of biofuels. The public comment period ends September 25.
- An interagency task force has been formed to address the transition to EPA's new model to estimate emissions from motor vehicles. COG DEP and DTP staff are coordinating to identify issues with any of the new model inputs that may be required. EPA will require use of the new model for SIP development purposes and it will also be used to estimate emissions of greenhouse gases.
- The next meeting is scheduled for October 13.

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

- Reviewed COG Plastic Bag Report on bag programs around the country on September 17.
- Held meeting Green Business Certification September 17. Examined programs created by the City of Annapolis, Montgomery County, and the Sustainable Business Network of Washington.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 3.

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

- The WRTC is the lead technical committee to COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) on wastewater, stormwater, and water quality issues. The WRTC recognized the need to address various climate-related issues from that technical perspective, and endorsed funding in COG's FY 2011 Regional Water Program to support various workshop.
- On July 23rd, COG co-hosted a Climate Adaptation Workshop with Northrup Gumman that looked at adaptive strategies for energy, water, and air quality sectors, given climate change projections. The workshop identified the need for research into the effects of climate change in the region, used several case studies (electric power

industry, water supply, Chesapeake Bay, air quality) to help guide decisions, and discussed the use of regional scale models to predict future impacts from climate change specifically in the Mid-Atlantic region.

- One Friday, November 13th, COG will be hosting a workshop on "Climate Change/Sustainability: Greenhouse Gas Emissions & Inventories - Issues, Impacts & Options for Wastewater Plants." This workshop is being done in collaboration with the Water Environment Federation, the Water Environment Research Foundation and COG's wastewater utilities to address the issue of Greenhouse Gas Emissions inventory and quantification methods. The workshop will address electrical use as well as process emissions and other potential sources at wastewater plants. Objectives for this workshop are to share information about local and national activities, understand and assess the various methodologies used to quantify this sector's contributions to Greenhouse Gases, and make sure that local efforts are adequately represented and credited in reaching the COG region's reduction goals.
- Additional workshops related to stormwater and water quality will be considered if additional funds/grants become available.
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 12.

Clean Air Partners (Jen Desimone | jdesimone@mwkog.org)

- The *Clean Air Pledge* was launched in May 2009 and will continue through Earth Day 2010. Our goal is to reduce 13 million pounds of greenhouse gas emission through voluntary residential energy conservation efforts. To date, we have received pledges from 39 individuals who have committed to reductions of 671,845 pounds of greenhouse gases – this represents 5% of our goal. To take the pledge, go to the Clean Air Partners web site (www.cleanairpartners.net).
- The next meeting is scheduled for November 12.

Tree Canopy Workgroup (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org and Brian Lecouteur | blecouteur@mwkog.org)

- A new white paper on regional baseline and cost data will be released in October.
- A new Beta web tool for canopy tracking developed in cooperation with US Forest Service is ready for testing. The calculator can be downloaded: <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/units/urban/pubs/tools/>
- Regional experts are meeting with EPA air division staff in North Carolina on Sept 29 to discuss issues to be addressed for new federal planning guidelines for canopy measures.
- New forestry laws were adopted in Virginia and Maryland and a new Canopy Goal was adopted in the District.
- There are currently no meetings scheduled.

Air Quality Public Advisory Committee (Joan Rohlfs | jrohlfs@mwkog.org)

- AQPAC met on September 14. Staff provided members with an overview of activities supporting CEEPC, including the draft 2009-2012 climate action workplan.
- The next meeting of AQPAC is scheduled for October 19.

Street Lights Working Group (George Nichols | gnichols@mwkog.org)

- Several pilot programs are being implemented in the region to test new street light technologies.
- The next meeting of the working group is scheduled for September 29.
- A street lights vendors forum is scheduled for October 20. See: www.mwkog.org/environment/streetlights

Alternative Fuels/Clean Cities Partnerships (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership is developing a Green Fleets Working Group. The working group will develop a regional green fleet program. The working group will consist of local government fleet members of the Alternative Fuels Partnership.
- Next meeting is scheduled for November 10.

Energy Outreach Coordination (Joan Rohlfs | jrohlfs@mwkog.org)

- COG, state and local energy offices, and area utilities have agreed to continue to collaborate and share information on development of energy efficiency public outreach campaigns.
- The next coordination meeting is scheduled for October 9.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) (Ron Kirby | rkirby@mwkog.org)

- TPB staff presented work on the What Would It Take Scenario, including updated mobile GHG emissions forecasts that incorporate new CAFE standards and analysis of some GHG reduction strategies to the TPB Technical Committee on June 26 and the TPB on July 15.
- Additional updates were presented to the TPB Technical Committee on September 4th regarding the final mobile GHG emissions baseline based on the 2009 CLRP, which includes 2008 vehicle registration data and CAFE (35.5 mpg by 2016) standards. The updated analysis also included projections of alternative fuel-related emissions.
- Next meeting October 21.

Commuter Connections Subcommittee (Nick Ramfos | nramfos@mwkog.org)

- Commuter Connections sponsored Car Free Day Metro DC on September 22.
- Next meeting November 17.

Others:

- Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (Karl Berger | kberger@mwkog.org)
Next meeting November 20
- Chief Purchasing Officers Committee (Carl Kalish | ckalish@mwkog.org)
Next meeting October 8
- TPB Technical Committee (Gerald Miller | gmiller@mwkog.org)
Next meeting October 2