

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC - July 2010

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Energy Advisory Committee](#)¹ (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) met on July 15th. Topics discussed included regional opportunities for deployment of solar photovoltaics, a briefing on work to establish a data sharing agreement with area utilities, an update on efforts to identify energy-related contracts in place around the region, and test results of a technology available to greatly improve the efficiency of air conditioning systems (MaxR100).

[Intergovernmental Green Building Group \(IGBG\)](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The IGBG met on July 8. The main focus of discussion was on updating the COG Green Building Report to include areas of focus identified in COG's climate action workplan, including schools, residential buildings, and affordable housing. Members also discussed plans for local government participation in the "30% Solution" to Strengthen Building Energy Codes as proposed by the INTERNATIONAL CODE Council.

[Street Lights Working Group](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- The street lights working group met on July 19. Mayor J Davis is now the chair of the workgroup. Members heard updates from area utilities on the status of their work to make new more efficient lighting products available to customers. BGE announced that through their pilot testing, they have identified viable products that will be available in the market starting possibly as soon as 2011. Pepco has also actively been testing a variety of products for potential deployment. Members also heard a report on a lighting technology gaining more acceptance in the United States called plasma induction lighting, which may be a good alternative to LED lights in many applications.

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

- July 15 meeting focused on how to stimulate recycling in federal facilities with presentations from the National Institutes of Health, EPA, and the National Park Service on the new National Mall recycling program.
- Held tour July 7 of Wilmington, Delaware, Peninsula Composting Facility. The facility is a new food composting site.
- The Recycling Committee will hold a meeting July 29 of new government subgroup examining Construction and Demolition Debris Recycling.

[Energy Outreach Coordination](#) (Joan Rohlf's | jrohlf@mwkog.org)

- The Ad Hoc Energy Outreach Task Force met on June 16 and June 30 to select three communities (Greenbelt, Cascades neighborhood in Loudoun County, Brookland neighborhood in DC) for the pilot energy outreach program that will be launched this Fall.
- MWCOG issued an RFP for web site design and energy monitoring platform. The deadline was July 16. Two proposals were submitted. The vendor will be selected by early August.
- MWCOG will submit a proposal to EPA Climate Showcase communities grant program to fund the expansion of the program region-wide in 2011. MWCOG is seeking letters of support for this project (by July 22).

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Joan Rohlf's | jrohlf@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC met on July 19. Members heard a report on EPA's new Transport Rule, which once finalized will cap emissions of NOx and SO2 from power plants along the east coast. Staff also provided a briefing on the new SO2 NAAQS which may require new monitoring locations in the region. An update on the the work of the Ad Hoc Energy Outreach Task Force was provided.

¹ Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

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

- The MWAQC TAC met on July 13 .
- COG, DCDOE, and MDE have launched a new idle reduction campaign targeting trucks and buses. A kickoff meeting was held at COG on July 13.
- The Ozone Transport Commission (OTC) is calling on EPA to create strong national rules to address NOx and SO₂ in 6 categories, including power plants, industrial boilers, on- and non-road sources, cement kilns, locomotive and marine engines. OTC is also calling for EPA to create new rules affecting VOC sources. In addition, OTC members are committed to adopting new regional control programs, including energy efficiency/renewable energy, high electricity demand day initiatives, lightering, nonroad idling, low solvent degreasers, and solid waste incinerators.
- EPA has proposed a rulemaking (the Transport Rule) to resolve issues with the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) that was remanded by the courts to EPA for reconsideration. The proposal would require significant reductions in sulfur dioxide (SO₂) and nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions that cross state lines. By 2014, the rule and other state and EPA actions would reduce power plant SO₂ emissions by 71 percent over 2005 levels. Power plant NOx emissions would drop by 52 percent. The rule will set state level budgets and will limit interstate trading of allowances. TAC will consider a draft comment letter in September. The proposal does not consider the new lower ozone NAAQS so EPA is proposing to evaluate what state budgets would be needed for the regions to meet the new NAAQSs as part of a Transport Rule amendment.
- The next meeting is scheduled for September 14.

[Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\)](#), [TPB Technical Committee](#), [TPB Travel Management Subcommittee](#) and [TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | rkirby@mwkog.org and [gmiller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmillier@mwkog.org))

- TPB staff have completed all work on the “What Would it Take?” scenario study. Current activities focus on transition to a new EPA mobile emissions model called the Motor Vehicle Emission Simulation Model (MOVES). The TPB is also working toward implementation of many climate-friendly initiatives. Staff is currently assembling an application for a regional bike-sharing system to compete for the US DOT TIGER II competitive grant program. The TPB has also been organizing the annual Regional Car Free Day, which will take place on September 22. Staff have also been developing the FY 2011 round of TPB’s Transportation/Land Use Connections program, which will begin upon July TPB approval of eight recommended projects that focus on issues such as transit station access, bicycle and pedestrian safety, and freight movements. Staff are also coordinating on process and format of annual progress reporting on climate actions to CEEPC.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org)

- Met on July 16.
- Briefing on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.
- Briefing on Economic Trends in Metropolitan Washington 2005 to 2009 and Commercial Construction Indicators 2009 reports.
- Request for Assistance on “Urban / Rural” land area definition to support the Transportation Motor Vehicles Emissions Simulator.
- Next meeting is September 17

[Metropolitan Development Policy Committee](#) (MDPC) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org)

- Met on July 14.
- Briefing on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant.
- Briefing on Economic Trends in Metropolitan Washington 2005 to 2009 and Commercial Construction Indicators 2009 reports.
- Briefing on proposed recommendations on uniform parking practices and coordination during snow Emergencies
- Update on review of MDPC bylaws.
- Next meeting is September 8.

Affiliated Partnerships

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

- Clean Air Partners and the Maryland Department of the Environment are sponsoring The Great Maryland Lawn Mower Exchange event. Maryland residents are urged to take advantage of big savings by turning in their working gas-powered lawn mower for one of Neuton's high end cordless electric mower. Discounts are up to 65 percent of the retail price. The event will take place on Saturday, August 14th at Camden Yards Sports Complex in Baltimore, MD from 8:00am – 1:00pm.

[Metropolitan Washington Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- COG staff has been invited to attend a US Department of Energy (DOE) sponsored workshop to advance the deployment of electric plug-in vehicles and related infrastructure. DOE aims to gather information and input on lessons learned from communities launching programs to support deployment of the new generation of elective drive vehicles. The workshop will cover several key topics important to EV infrastructure: community planning, the charger installation process, permitting, financing, and partnerships. Several presentations will highlight case studies that illustrate the real challenges and opportunities communities have found. Leading automakers and utilities will also share their perspective. The meeting will be held July 22, 2010 at DOE headquarters in Washington, D.C.

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

- June 10 - Commuter Connections sponsored Montgomery County Live near Your Work Event.
- June 18 - Co-Star Group Relocation/Transportation Fair event - DC.
- June 24 - Commuter Connections Employer recognition Awards Ceremony Held.
- June 29 - Booz Allen Hamilton - Bike To Work Day Employer Challenge Lunch.

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

- On June 25, COG hosted a meeting on plant communities and climate change. Participants learned about findings from research conducted on the impact of climate change on forests, efforts to manage forests and watersheds in the face of climate change, and impacts of climate change on urban & Community Forestry.

Other Committees:

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Phil McGaughey | Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org)

- Members were briefed on COG's efforts through a consultant to develop a compilation of all energy-related contracts in the region.

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

- The last WRTC meeting was on July 8th, 2010. The meeting included information on regional fats, oils, and grease collection/utilization. On Monday, June 28th DC Water held a meeting on 'Regional Fats, Oils, and Grease Collection/Utilization.' DC Water, WSSC, and their consultants discussed a need to prevent accumulation of grease in collection systems, analyzed FOG related programs that used the material as a valuable feedstock for renewable energy, and costs and offsets of these programs. Also a new District based company - DC Biodiesel, talked about its plans to build a plant to process multiple-feedstocks including "waste" vegetable oils, yellow grease, and brown grease into high-quality biodiesel. Customers will include DC Water, as well as public and private fleets in the metropolitan Washington region. Material presented at this meeting will be posted on the WRTC's Web site.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | kberger@mwkog.org)

- The CBPC has not met since May 21. The next meeting is July 30.