

2015 COG Legislative Priorities

CLIMATE, ENERGY AND AIR QUALITY PROTECTION

Supporting clean, distributed, and resilient energy systems is essential to achieving the region's climate, energy and air quality goals and will strengthen the region's economic performance.

- **Advocate for Clean Energy Finance** – Expand options and improve access to clean energy finance at the state and local levels, through measures such as Green Banks, Property Assessed Clean Energy, on-bill financing, Energy Savings Performance Contracts, and credit enhancement mechanisms. Establish or enable sustainable clean energy incentive programs, and remove barriers to third-party ownership.
- **Deploy Clean, Distributed Energy Generation Technology** – Support policies that encourage deployment of clean, distributed energy generation technologies and infrastructure. Expand net metering programs to enable virtual net metering for all customer classes, increase utilities' allowable renewable energy generating capacity, and raise system size caps where they limit the ability to use solar energy. Strengthen renewable portfolio standards and improve the effectiveness of renewable energy credit (REC) trading markets.
- **Improve Grid Resilience** – Prioritize funding for energy-sector infrastructure improvements to improve grid resilience and reliability. Support policies and funding for energy security improvements such as microgrids, district energy systems and storage technology, especially when coupled with clean energy generation. Support community-based efforts and public-private partnerships to improve climate and energy resilience at the local level.
- **Energy Innovation** – Stimulate energy-sector innovation by utilities and private companies to increase transparency and access to data. Support regulatory and policy innovations to improve energy-sector performance, support clean and distributed energy, and deploy low and zero-emission vehicles and infrastructure – such as through performance-based utility compensation or alternative financing mechanisms for infrastructure investments.
- **Air Quality** – Support policies and funding that strengthen the region's ability to meet current and potential future air quality standards for pollutants including ozone, particulate matter and carbon dioxide.