



Climate Change Steering Committee

Climate Change Report and Recommendations

Presentation to COG Board of Directors
Hon. Nancy Floreen, Chair
Climate Change Steering Committee
November 12, 2008





COG Board Action April 11, 2007



- **R31-07 creates COG Climate Change Steering Committee to:**
 - ❖ **Prepare regional inventory of greenhouse gases**
 - ❖ **Identify best practices and policies**
 - ❖ **Examine climate change impacts**
 - ❖ **Recommend regional greenhouse gas reduction goal(s)**
 - ❖ **Recommend committee structure for climate change initiative**
 - ❖ **Propose advocacy positions**
 - ❖ **Prepare recommendations report to COG Board**



Climate Change Steering Committee

Officers:

Chair: Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council

Vice-Chair: Hon. Gerry Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Vice-Chair: Hon. Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia

District of Columbia - Members

Rick Rybeck, District Dept. of Transportation

George Hawkins, District Dept. of the Environment

Harriet Tregoning, District Office of Planning

Maryland - Members

Tad Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Management,
Maryland Dept. of the Environment

Hon. Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council

Hon. Judith Davis, Mayor, Greenbelt

Hon. Camille Exum, Prince George's County Council

Virginia - Members

Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County Clerk of the Circuit
Court

Mercury Payton, Manassas Park City Manager

Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County Board of
Supervisors

Hon. Redella Pepper, Alexandria City Council

Hon. David Snyder, Falls Church City Council

Other Regional/State Organizations - Members

John Catoe, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area
Transit Authority

Robert Grow, Director, Government Relations, Greater
Washington Board of Trade

Nikki Rovner, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources,
Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates to Members:

Zach Dobelbower (alternate to Ms. Tregoning)

Mark Rawlings (alternate to Mr. Rybeck)

Jack Werner (alternate to Mr. Hawkins)

Elizabeth Entwisle (alternate to Mr. Aburn)

Hon. John Foust (alternate to Mr. Connolly)

Nat Bottigheimer (alternate to Mr. Catoe)

COG Staff:

Department of Environmental Programs:

Stuart Freudberg, Director

Joan Rohlf, Jeffrey King, George Nichols, Leah Boggs,

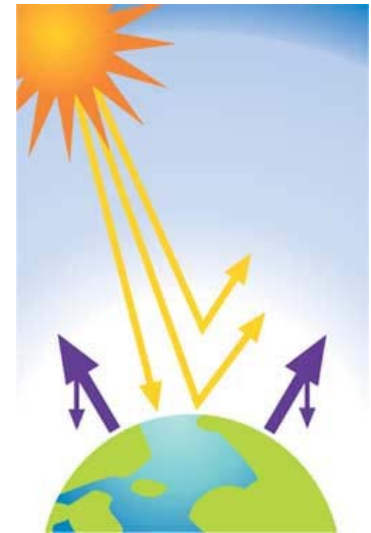
Ted Graham, Tanya Spano, Sunil Kumar, Tanisha Williams

Department of Transportation Programs:

Ron Kirby, Monica Bansal, Eulalie Lucas, Daivamani Sivasailam

Major Accomplishments

- ❖ Greenhouse gas emissions inventory 2005-2050
- ❖ Best Practices Report
- ❖ Emission reduction goals for 2012, 2020, 2050
- ❖ Federal/state advocacy
- ❖ Draft Report July 9, 2008
- ❖ Listening July 9 – Sept. 30
- ❖ Final Report November 12, 2008



July 9th Report Review Process

- Comment Period: July 9 through September 30
- Report Presented to Nearly all Member Jurisdictions, all COG Policy Committees
- 214 Comments from 33 commenters:
 - Government, Non-profits, Businesses, Individuals
- All Comments and Responses Posted on COG Website
- CCSC Met to Consider Major Comment on 10/22 and complete final draft report to Board



What did we hear?

- COG members are leaders
- Early action is critical
- Evaluate costs and benefits of recommendations
- Make emission reduction targets more aggressive
- Emission reduction targets should be consistent across states and jurisdictions
- Note risk of catastrophic climate change and cost of inaction
- Remove barriers to implementation of local renewable energy (e.g., solar)
- Provide incentives for utilities to invest in energy conservation and renewable energy technology
- Some Climate change skepticism remains



Report Revisions

- Enhancements – additional data on potential regional climate impacts
- Streamlined recommendations –
 - Focus on government and business actions
 - Separate state/federal advocacy proposals
 - Simplified greenhouse gas reduction process within regional transportation plan
- Added recommendations
 - Utility energy efficiency and demand reduction
 - Community energy focus
 - Address aviation and freight
 - Incentives to accelerate fuel efficient vehicles
 - Increase regional tree canopy



Climate Change Report

I. Getting Smart on Climate Change

*Climate Change, Potential Impacts on Region;
Current & Projected Regional Greenhouse Gas
Emission Inventory;*

Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets

II. Taking Action

Energy Consumption;

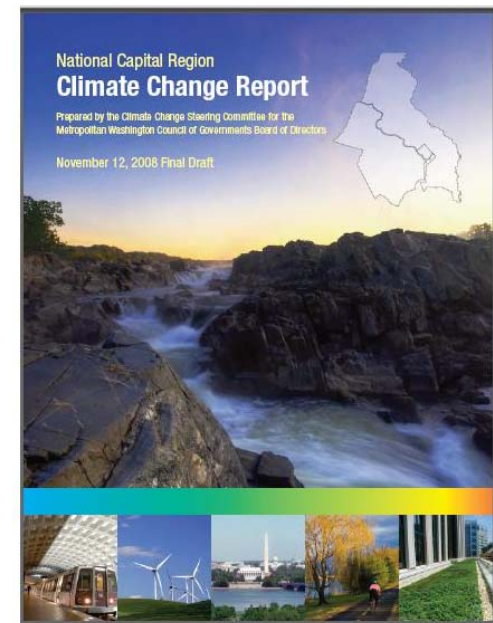
Transportation and Land Use;

*Economic Development; Preparing for Impacts,
Financing; Outreach and Education.*

III. Moving Forward

COG Climate Change Program

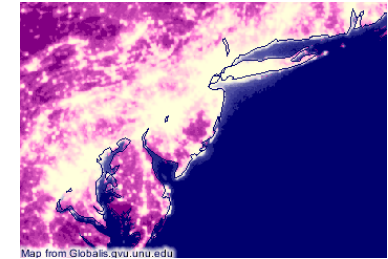
IV. Reference Information



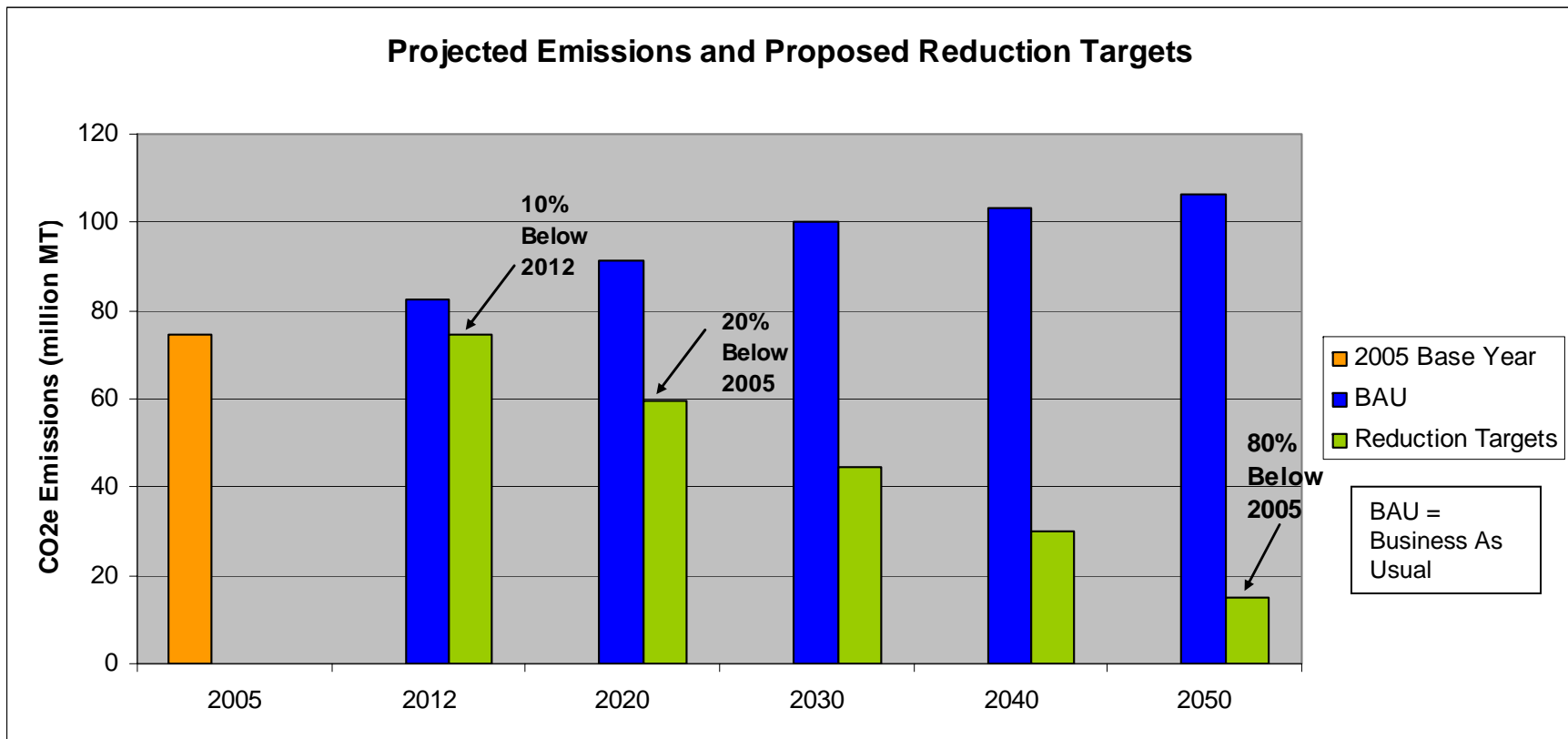
Proposed Regional Reduction Goals



2012: 10% Below Business as Usual
2020: 20% Below 2005
2050: 80% Below 2005

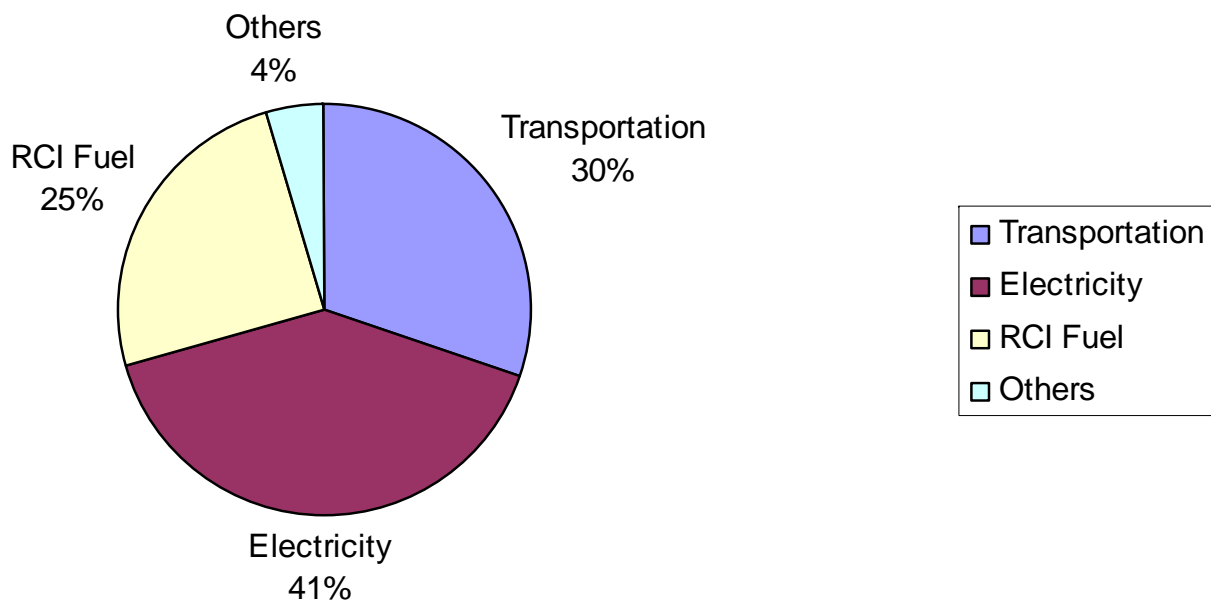


Map from Globalis.gvu.unu.edu



Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Figure 9. CO₂ Emissions by Sector for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Region



Total - 74 million metric tonnes in 2005

RCI Fuel = Residential, commercial, industrial fuel use.

Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Major Energy Recommendations



Improve Energy Efficiency/Reduce Energy Demand

- **Implement COG Green Building Policy**
- **Implement Best Practices to reduce local government energy use by 15% by 2015**
- **Promote energy efficient building codes**
- **Promote energy performance contracting/cooperative purchasing**
- **Explore energy audit and retrofit program.**
- **Promote energy efficient street lighting.**
- **Collaborate with utilities on regional energy conservation program.**
- **Advocate for rate structure that rewards conservation investment.**

Develop Clean Energy Alternatives

- **Remove barriers to renewable energy implementation.**
- **Local Governments Purchase 20% Renewable Energy by 2015.**



Major Transportation Recommendations



Increase Fuel Efficiency and Clean Fuel Vehicles

- **Adopt Regional Green Fleet Policy**
- **Implement incentives for high mileage and alternative fueled vehicles**
- **Support California Low Emission Vehicle Standards**
- **Plan for alternative fuel infrastructure (natural gas, hybrid-electric, hydrogen)**
- **Explore state/regional alternative fuels standard.**

Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

- **Collaborate with TPB on:**
 - **“What Would it Take?” Analysis**
 - **Regional planning process for reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Invest/expand transit use and infrastructure**
- **Expand commuter options**



Additional Recommendations

Financing and Economic Development

- Evaluate financing mechanisms for energy efficiency projects
- Develop Regional Carbon Offset Fund for preserving tree canopy
- Promote green businesses and green jobs
- Promote cooperative regional green purchasing.

Outreach and Education

- Implement regional public education campaign
- Develop partnerships with private sector and other organizations.

Adaptation

- Partner with universities to research climate change and adaptation strategies
- Develop regional adaptation policies

No-Cost or Low Cost Actions Individuals Can Take Now

- Recycle
- Set thermostat up in summer, down in winter
- Drive 10 fewer miles per week
- Wash clothes in cold water

- Carpool to work
- Telecommute
- Install programmable thermostat
- Replace light bulbs with CFLs
- Replace HVAC filter every 30 days
- Use push mower



Next Steps

- **Adopt Resolution R-60-08**
 - Resolution Adopting and Promoting Implementation of the National Capital Region Climate Change Report
- **2009 Tasks**
 - Convene Policy Workgroup to Develop Recommendation for Legislative Session
 - Prepare Work Program and Budget
 - Develop Plans to Meet 2012 and 2020 Goals

