

Consent Agenda

Resolution R26-10
May 12, 2010

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-4239**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDING
FROM THE MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT FOR A
LAWN MOWER EXCHANGE EVENT**

WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of Environment has requested the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) in its capacity as the administrator Clean Air Partners, to administer a "Lawn Mower Exchange Program"; and

WHEREAS, Clean Air Partners, an education and outreach program administered through COG, seeks to improve the health and quality of life of residents in the Baltimore-Washington region by encouraging individuals and organizations to take voluntary actions to reduce air pollution; and

WHEREAS, the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDOE) is authorized under § 2-107 of the Code of Maryland to engage in activities that are related to identifying, monitoring, and regulating air pollution; and

WHEREAS, MDOE wishes to launch a program promoting the use of electric lawn mowers, while removing excess air pollution emissions from the use of gas powered lawn mowers as a measure to improve air quality and raise awareness of ozone, particle pollution and climate change; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), one gas powered mower releases 87 lbs. of greenhouse gas CO₂, and 54 lbs. of other pollutants into the air every year which is equivalent to 43 new cars each being driven 12,000 miles annually; and

WHEREAS, Clean Air Partners, through COG, and the Maryland Department of the Environment are proposing to hold a lawnmower exchange event to collect and replace gasoline powered lawn mowers in exchange for electric lawn mowers and which provides discounts to the owners of gas powered lawn mowers as an incentive to purchase a new electric lawn mower.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to administer the Maryland Department of Environment "Lawn Mower Exchange Program" through Clean Air Partners and to receive and expend up to \$185,000 to improve air quality and raise awareness of ozone, particle pollution and climate change. No COG matching funds are required.



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

May 12, 2010

Honorable Eleanor Holmes Norton
U.S. House of Representatives
2136 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

District of Columbia

*Bladensburg**

Bowie

College Park

Frederick

Frederick County

Gaithersburg

Greenbelt

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Rockville

Takoma Park

Alexandria

Arlington County

Fairfax

Fairfax County

Falls Church

Loudoun County

Manassas

Manassas Park

Prince William County

**Adjunct member*

Dear Delegate Norton:

I am writing on behalf of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors to request that you urge U.S. Department of Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano to reconsider the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) revisions to the Disaster Assistance Policy 9523.1 Snow Assistance Policy issued on November 2, 2009.

The revisions to this policy significantly reduce the assistance available to eligible applicants under the Public Assistance Program. The current policy does not allow for the appropriate assistance to localities affected by major snowstorms; evident in the aftermath of the 2009-2010 record snow season. The multiplicity and magnitude of these storms resulted in historic levels of snow, which greatly overwhelmed the physical and financial resources of the affected governments.

FEMA's new policy will only reimburse local governments for snow removal during the designated 48-hour period when a record or new-record snowfall impacts a state and the President issues a disaster declaration. The prior policy allowed for cost reimbursements based on a specified period of time determined by the circumstances of the event.

Events such as the December and February snowstorms in the National Capital Region serve as examples of irregular conditions that require assistance outside of the current 48-hour timeframe. These storms caused the region to experience snowfall over an extended timeframe which resulted in additional recovery time.

The COG Board asks that you join with your colleagues in Congress to request reconsideration of the revisions to FEMA's Disaster Assistance Policy. Please contact David Robertson, COG's executive director if you have questions or need additional information. Mr. Robertson may be reached at 202-962-3260 or drobotson@mwkog.org.

Sincerely,

Kwame R. Brown
Chairman, COG Board of Directors

cc: Craig Fugate, Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR
FUNDING FROM NASA ON BEHALF OF THE CLEAN AIR PARTNERS
CLIMATE CHANGE EDUCATION INITIATIVE**

WHEREAS, Clean Air Partners, an education and outreach program administered through the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, seeks to improve the health and quality of life of residents in the Baltimore-Washington region by educating students about air pollution and climate change causes; and

WHEREAS, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is requesting requests proposals in its FY 2010 Cooperative Agreements Notice for Global Climate Change Education to improve the quality of science, mathematics teaching and to enhance students and teachers' literacy about global climate change by integrating NASA's scientific findings in proposed projects; and

WHEREAS, since 2007 Clean Air Partners' Education Program Manager has introduced the curriculum to teachers, students, and organizations in the metropolitan Washington and Baltimore region and has in its 2010 curriculum for sixth-eighth graders, "On the Air: Exploring Pollution Sources and Solution," that includes a unit on climate change, and since

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE
METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:**

The Executive Director, or his designee, is authorized to receive and expend up to \$400,000 from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), through Clean Air Partners, to administer a Climate Change Education Initiative which will improve teaching of climate science in schools, expand its existing air quality and climate change curriculum, and inspire students to pursue educational and employment opportunities in the "green" industry. No COG matching funds are required.