



COG WATER RESOURCES PROGRAM GENERAL WATER RESOURCES UPDATES (as of 9/12/18)

Updates on work supported by COG’s RWQM Work Program and other water-related activities supported by COG’s Department of Environmental Programs.

Water Quality	COG Contact
<p><u>ICPRB’s Potomac River Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan</u> The Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin released publication of its Potomac River Basin Comprehensive Water Resources Plan. The Plan addresses the issues of improving Potomac water quality and ecological health, ensuring reliable drinking water supplies, and land use management that is sustainable—a “proactive, adaptive, and comprehensive water resources plan for the future.” Link to Executive Summary: https://www.potomacriver.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Comp_Plan_Executive_Summary.pdf</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>
<p><u>DEA Drug Take Back Day is October 27, 2018</u> The next DEA Drug Take Back Day is October 27, 10:00 a.m.-2:00 pm. Residents protect our source water by not flushing unwanted medications; they can drop off unwanted medications at designated collection sites.</p> <p>COG’s Protect Your Pipes and the DEA also list year-round permanent drop boxes. To search the permanent drop off locations, visit: https://www.protectyourpipes.org/medication/</p> <p>Saturday, October 27 (10:00-2:00) is DEA Drug Take Back Day with numerous sites around the region open to collect unwanted medications. It is a great way to encourage the public to safely get rid of unwanted medications, and to not flush medications (i.e., protect their source water). Alternatively, the public can dispose of medications <i>every day</i> via permanent drop boxes. To locate drop boxes in Metropolitan Washington visit https://www.protectyourpipes.org/medications/ The DEA also has a webpage with a search function that allows the public to put in their zip code and find the nearest pharmacy that has drug drop off boxes: https://apps.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/pubdispsearch/spring/main?execution=e1s1</p>	<p>Heidi Bonnaffon (202) 962-3216 hbonnaffon@mwkog.org</p>
Wastewater	COG Contact
<p><u>BPSA/RWFFM Wastewater Flow Projection Methodology Assessment</u> COG staff met with DC Water and their consultant in August to initiate this project – which will assess the existing model and inputs and determine what updates or changes may be needed to the methodology. A scope of work for this project is being refined, and the study is estimated to be completed by February of 2019.</p>	<p>Nasser Ameen (202) 962-3394 ameen@mwkog.org</p>
<p><u>ENR/SOA & GHG Inventory Survey</u> COG staff has ironed out some of the details surrounding the ENR & GHG survey and will be sending out the spreadsheet to COG jurisdictions and WWTPs, asking</p>	<p>Nasser Ameen</p>

to fill out or correct the information. This spreadsheet was shown and displayed at the last two WRTC meetings.

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National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) 2018 Awards

The 2018 NACWA awards were issued last month, with the honorees listed on the NACWA website. We are proud to announce that **10 COG region Wastewater Treatment Plants managed by 6 operating agencies were awarded these awards for their 2017 wastewater treatment performance. There were also other local recipients of the National Environmental Achievement award.** The complete list is provided as a separate handout for this month's meeting.

You can view the honoree list here:

<https://www.nacwa.org/about-us/awards>

Stormwater

COG Contact

COG Members Shared Knowledge at MACo's Summer Conference

Staff from two COG member jurisdictions provided updates on some of their stormwater management experience at the recent summer conference of the Maryland Association of Counties. Patty Bubar, Acting Director of the Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection, discussed the county's progress in meeting the impervious surface restoration goals of its Phase I MS4 permit. Shannon Moore, Sustainability and Environmental Resources Manager for Frederick County, discussed the BMPs the county is using to meet its permit requirements and improve water quality. More conference details are available [here](#).

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COG's Stormwater Procurement Database Has Easier Login

Stormwater members, COG's Stormwater Procurement Database is a great way to share proposals and contracts. Please take a moment to upload your documents to share with regional colleagues via this secure portal:

<https://ncrportal.mwkog.org/sites/swp/SitePages/Home.aspx>

You can now access SharePoint using your COG user name and password, or use this link to get access:

<https://getaccess.ncrnet.us/auth/forms/iams/chooseLogin.jsp>

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The National Municipal Stormwater Alliance (NMSA) released its first Annual Report on the Status of the Stormwater Programs Nationally

NMSA reports the following core challenges for MS4 programs:

- Program funding, and in many cases staffing, remain top issues for MS4s across the U.S. Many MS4 communities do not have a designated funding source and face significant challenges developing one.
- MS4s are fostering awareness of and public engagement in stormwater solutions, but more work is needed to gain public and elected official support.
- MS4s face evolving regulatory requirements. Many MS4 program managers cite the need for additional program support and guidance, especially as communities implement new technologies and techniques —

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such as green infrastructure – for post-construction stormwater management.

- Many MS4 program managers characterize their water quality as static to improving. However, they cite challenges in measuring program effectiveness in receiving water quality due to a ***lack of monitoring data and the obscuring influence of other nonpoint pollution sources***. While MS4s are making progress improving the health of the nation’s waterways, ***climate change and urbanization threaten progress in some regions***.
- Additional research is needed on urban stormwater management practices to better inform decisions about their use and overall life cycle costs, including design, construction, and long-term maintenance.
- To make significant progress improving water quality, ***MS4s recognize the need for watershed-wide collaborations and source control***. Many state leaders are promoting ***integrated solutions*** for MS4s that address flooding, combined sewer overflows, and other nonpoint pollution sources, such as unregulated agriculture.

The report includes data from 14 states, including Virginia. While the COG region is fortunate to have dedicated stormwater funding, the points about the need for more monitoring and support for evolving technologies, as well as stormwater progress being obscured by illicit discharges, increased development, and climate change, reflect some of our region’s challenges. The full 2018 report can be accessed here: nationalstormwateralliance.org/nmsa-2018-state-of-stormwater-report.

Relatedly, NMSA collaborated with WEF to developed a factsheet about stormwater program needs, which can be found here:

<http://nationalstormwateralliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/SWI-WaterWeek-2018-Ask-Handout-v3-Final.pdf>

Drinking Water

Water Supply and Drought Monitoring

The trend of multiple rounds of heavy downpours continued throughout the month of August. This combined with record-breaking precipitation events in July has enabled the COG region to remain drought free during typically dry and hot summer months. Potomac streamflow, groundwater, and precipitation levels are at or above normal levels, and local reservoirs are full. There is a [below normal probability of releases](#) from the Washington metropolitan area’s back-up water supply reservoirs for the 2018 summer and fall seasons. In [Maryland \(MDE\)](#) and [Virginia \(VADEQ\)](#) all COG regions are under a normal status.

For additional information regarding regional water supply and drought conditions, please visit COG’s website at: <https://www.mwcog.org/drought>

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Climate, Energy, and Sustainability – Water Related

Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee

The next meeting of the Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee will be held as a joint meeting with the Washington Metropolitan Air Quality Committee on Wednesday, September 26th. The meeting will cover current federal actions

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affecting greenhouse gas emissions and air quality including the Clean Power Plan repeal and proposed changes to vehicle fuel economy standards (CAFE standards). In August, the chairs of the two committees voiced concerns about the Clean Power Plan repeal in a statement available at [this link](#) on the COG website.

COG Regional Greenhouse Gas Inventory and Contribution Analysis

In July 2018, COG held the first hands-on training for COG member governments and stakeholders on the ICLEI's new Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Contribution Analysis Toolkit. The Tool analyzes GHG inventory data and community information to help local jurisdictions understand how and why emissions changed between 2005 and 2015. The tool helps show how much impact local programs have on emissions compared to other drivers. The results can help inform local policies and program development. The project is supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and project partners include City of Bellevue and King County, WA; City of Santa Monica, CA; City of Aspen, CO; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; and COG. The project supported the development of the [Metropolitan Washington Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory summarized in this Fact Sheet](#). Wastewater emissions were calculated for the inventory.

Mid-Atlantic PACE Alliance C-PACE Toolkit

The Mid-Atlantic PACE Alliance (MAPA) released the regional [Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy \(C-PACE\) Toolkit](#). C-PACE is a financing mechanism for energy and water efficiency improvements, and installation of renewable energy systems for commercial, industrial, agricultural, non-profit and multifamily buildings with five or more dwelling units. The purpose of the toolkit is to share best practices, foster growth, and increase program harmonization across Virginia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia. The toolkit includes an explanation of C-PACE, how the toolkit can be used, and key benefits to communities and local economies. MAPA partner organizations include: Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals and Energy, District of Columbia Department of Energy and Environment, Maryland Clean Energy Center, Clean Energy Solutions, Inc., PACE Financial Servicing, Urban Ingenuity, Virginia Energy Efficiency Council, and COG. MAPA is supported by a grant from the U.S. DOE.

Fleets for the Future (F4F) Project

F4F is a U.S. DOE-funded effort to develop and implement procurement processes that will coordinate and consolidate bulk orders of advanced fueled vehicles, alternative fuels, and refueling and charging infrastructure for public sector fleets. As part of this effort, COG, in partnership with the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC) and four other regional councils, worked towards reducing incremental costs of alternative fuel fleet vehicles and infrastructure. COG awarded contracts to three vendors for bulk purchases of 16 types of alternative vehicles, including all electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles. COG issued an award for infrastructure in August 2018. For more details, including information on how additional COG members can participate, go to <http://www.fleetsforthefuture.org/metropolitan-washington/>.

Greenhouse Gas, Mitigation, and Resiliency Services RFP

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments issued a Request for Proposals to retain the services of an expert consultant team to assist COG's

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Department of Environmental Programs, as well as support COG member governments and other regional stakeholders in responding to the challenges of addressing emissions of greenhouse gases and climate change. Details about the Request for Proposals are posted [here](#).

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Report: What We Can Do to Improve Air Quality

MWAQC Chair Hans Riemer, working with the Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee, initiated a project to analyze measures, especially local actions, that could be implemented or expanded in the region to improve air quality and reach a goal of no unhealthy air days. Many of the actions identified, such as green infrastructure, sustainable development, energy efficiency, and renewable energy, also provide water quality benefits and other societal benefits. The list of measures and their estimated cost and benefits are summarized in a report entitled “What We Can Do to Improve Air Quality in the Washington Region”. The initial report is posted under the Agenda Items for [MWAQC’s May 23 meeting](#). A final report will be published later in 2018.

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Upcoming Meetings and Events

- Sept. 21st - CBPC 8th Annual Bay & Water Quality Forum w/EPA & States
- Sept. 26 - CEEPC/MWAQC Meeting
- Oct (TBD) - WRTC Work Session
- Nov. 9th - WRTC Meeting
- Nov 14th - CBPC Chair Annual Briefing to COG Board
- Nov. 16th - CBPC Meeting
- Jan. 11th - WRTC Meeting
- Jan. 18th - CBPC Meeting
- Feb. 8th - CBPC Briefing for New Members
- March 11th - CBPC Meeting

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