

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002-4290

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING DEVELOPMENT OF COG CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, a growing number of local governments, including localities in the Metropolitan Washington region, are adopting strong policy resolutions calling for cities, communities and the federal government to take collective actions to reduce greenhouse gases to protect the local and global environment; and

WHEREAS, local actions can help encourage national leadership, by providing working models of greenhouse gas reduction initiatives that reinforce other high-priority policy objectives and stimulate private actions, by businesses and citizens; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Region has a history of supporting a clean and sustainable environment through efforts such as the Green Building Program, Energy Star, the Strategic Energy Plan, Alternative Fuels Clean Cities Partnership, Clean Air Partners, Wise Water Use Program, the Environmentally Preferable Purchasing Program, the Clean/Green Fleet Program, Commuter Connections, and others; and

WHEREAS, the failure to reduce greenhouse gases can undermine the quality of life in our region and its economic and environmental sustainability.

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

1. The Metropolitan Washington Region, building upon existing priorities and programs, commits to developing a regional climate change initiative including implementation of best practices to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases.
2. The COG Board Chair shall appoint an interdisciplinary "Climate Change Steering Committee" to advise the Board on the development of a regional climate change program; including a recommendation on any need for a long term organizational structure for the regional climate change initiative. Elements of the regional climate change program to be considered by the steering committee shall include:
 - a. Preparing a catalogue of greenhouse gas reduction activities already underway in the region.
 - b. Preparing an inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the region and the establishment of a regional greenhouse gas reduction goal or target based on an appropriate baseline.
 - c. Identification of specific activities and best practices to achieve greenhouse gas reduction and a method for measuring progress in meeting reduction targets.
 - d. Examination of local impacts of climate change on the Washington region.
 - e. Examination of the feasibility of establishing a carbon offset fund, or other appropriate carbon reduction funding mechanism, for the Washington region.
 - f. Recommendations on regional climate change policy and potential advocacy positions on federal, state and local climate change actions and proposals.
3. The Climate Change Steering Committee shall have tenure for one year from the date of its first meeting and it shall report at least bi-monthly to the COG Board on its activities and progress. It shall be further charged with development of a climate change work program and identification of resources and funding to support its mission. To ensure its initial success, the Board shall provide up to \$100,000 from the FY 2007 COG contingency fund as seed money for this initiative to cover staff support, and for match to federal, state, local, and private foundation grants.