

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC January 2013

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Energy Advisory Committee](#)¹ (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- EAC met on December 13th to discuss the Frederick County Waste to Energy Facility, Dominion's Community Solar pilot program, and the White House CEQ Green Button Initiative.
- EAC met on January 17th to discuss energy assurance planning for local governments.

[Electric Vehicle Planning Initiative](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- MWCOC is hosting an electric vehicle forum as a pre-meeting to the Washington Auto Show, titled *Electric Vehicles: Making Good Business Sense*. The event will help Washington area business owners make the business case for investing in EVs and EV charging stations. It will be held from 8:30 am to 11:45 am on Friday, February 1 at the Washington Convention Center. Registration can be made [here](#).

[Recycling Committee](#) (John Snarr | jsnarr@mwkog.org)

- The Recycling Committee will meet on January 24th. The Committee will discuss battery recycling.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC met on December 10, 2012 where they heard presentations on organic composting, the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code and viewed the film Bag It.
- ACPAC also met on January 14, 2013 where they heard presentations on predicting extreme weather events and green and complete streets. ACPAC applicants interested in membership were invited to participate.
- ACPAC Member Appointments: There are 18 slots on ACPAC, with rotating 3 year cycles so there are at least 6 vacancies each year. With an additional member not able to continue on ACPAC, this year there are 7 openings -- 2 in MD, 2 in DC, and 3 in VA. On January 16, 2013, the MWAQC Executive Committee held a call, in part, to officially appoint ACPAC members. Current members, Kyle Todd (MD) and Sarah Bunn (VA) were reappointed. New appointments include Ed Comer (MD), Blaine Collison (DC), Gretchen Goldman (DC), Ravindra Gupta (VA), and Katherine Lizotte (VA).

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

[MWAQC and MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Sunil Kumar | skumar@mwkog.org)

- MWAQC met on December 19. A number of topics were discussed one of which was a briefing on EPA's revised PM2.5 standard. EPA tightened the 1997 annual PM2.5 standard by revising it from 15 ug/m3 to 12 ug/m3. A report on the 2012 Financial Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) was presented by TPB staff. The future projections of population, households, employment, and vehicle miles traveled in the Washington region was discussed in addition to the projections for greenhouse gas and air pollutant emissions. A report on the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) was also presented. MWAQC elected its officers for 2013. Ms. Leta Mach (City of greenbelt, MD) was elected as the Chairperson. Jay Fiset (Member, Arlington County Board), Phil Mendelson (Council Member, Council of the District of

¹ Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

Columbia), and Hans Reimer (Council Member, Montgomery County Council) were elected as vice-chairs.

- MWAQC-TAC met on December 11 and January 15. In December meeting, staff discussed the comments received from EPA and states on the PM2.5 Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan (PM2.5 R/MP). TPB staff reported on the 2012 Financial Constrained Long-Range Plan (CLRP) mentioned above. Staff discussed the status of EPA's expected mobile emissions estimation model (MOVES2013). Staff discussed various types of backup generators being used in the Washington region for residential and commercial applications, emissions associated with them, and the need for additional data and research. In January meeting, staff again discussed the additional comments received from states on the PM2.5 R/MP. TPB staff briefed on draft scope of work and schedules for the upcoming 2013 CLRP. David Doniger, Natural Resource Defense Council discussed the NRDC proposal to reduce greenhouse gases from the existing utilities. Staff discussed EPA's granting of waiver to California's new vehicle emission regulation, which is more stringent than federal standard and covers pollutants causing ozone and fine particles in addition to greenhouse gases and applies to cars and light and medium-duty vehicles.

[Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\), TPB Technical Committee, TPB Travel Management Subcommittee and TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | rkirby@mwkog.org and [gmiller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmilller@mwkog.org))

- The TPB met on December 19, 2012
- The TPB approved an additional air quality conformity analysis to respond to the EPA redesignation of the Washington region under the 2008 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). This designation requires a new air quality conformation analysis of the 2012 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The TPB Received a briefing from the General Manager of WMATA, Richard Sarles, on the new strategic plan initiative called "Momentum: The Next Generation of Metro."
- The TPB approved a letter to the legislatures of DC, Maryland, and Virginia expressing support for action on transportation funding. The performance analysis of the 2012 CLRP showed that one of the most significant challenges for the region is the need for additions funds for both transit and roadways to address maintenance and rehabilitation requirements, and capacity improvements.
- The TPB received updates on the implementation of the new section 5310 enhanced mobility program and the new transportation alternatives program under MAP 21, and a briefing on the implementation of complete streets policies in the region.
- The next meeting of the TPB is on January 23, 2013.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) and [Region Forward Coalition](#)

(Paul Desjardin/John Mataya | pdesjardin@mwkog.org / jmataya@mwkog.org)

- After an extensive public comment period including input from member governments and stakeholder organizations, the COG Board of Directors adopted the updated Regional Activity Center Map at its January 9th meeting.
- *Economy Forward: COG's Call to Action for a More Competitive Metropolitan Washington* tasks the Region Forward Coalition with three of its recommendations: the Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan (currently underway), an Industry and Labor Market Analysis, and an initiative to create a new Regional Brand. At its January meeting, the Region Forward Coalition will discuss strategies to implement the industry and labor market analysis and regional brand over the next year and will present a work plan for these items to the COG Board of Directors in March.

Affiliated Partnerships

[Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | jdesimone@mwkog.org)

- Clean Air Partners was awarded the National Health Information Merit Award for our summer awareness campaign, Real People, Real Benefits. The honor highlights the radio campaign that ran for two weeks over the summer.
- The 2nd annual Slogan Contest received over 600 entries from 31 schools, a ten-fold increase from last year. The winning slogans are:
 - **Category One (grades 4-6):** "Bike it. like it. walk it. talk it. The Earth does not go green by itself."
Emma Kellenberger
Ridgely Middle School, Baltimore County
 - **Category Two (grades 7-8):** "It's the air we breathe, keep it clean."
Julia Waldon
Cooper Middle School, Fairfax County
- The 5th annual poster contest is now open for submissions. Students in grades 4-8 are invited to submit a creative poster that brings to light the solutions to air pollution and climate change and inspires people to take actions to improve our region's air quality. The deadline for submissions is March 15th..

[Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | nramfos@mwkog.org)

- November – Participated in the following commuter transportation fairs: National Academies Transportation Fair – DC, US Coast Guard Transportation Fair – DC, Four Seasons Hotel Transportation Fair – DC, Defense Health Headquarters Commuter Expo – Falls Church
- December – Participated in a commuter transportation fair at the Mark Center in Alexandria.

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Amanda Campbell | jacampbell@mwkog.org and Brian LeCouteur | blecouteur@mwkog.org)

- The Workgroup met on December 14, 2012 and developed a draft thematic areas outline for a regional tree canopy management strategy report.
- Currently, the workgroup is in the early stages of drafting report sections based on the unique considerations of the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- The next meeting will be held February 13, 2013 to continue work on the report.

Other Committees

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Tom Savoie | tsavoie@mwkog.org)

- No Updates.

[Water Resources Technical Committee](#) (WRTC) (Tanya Spano | tspano@mwkog.org)

- The WRTC met on January 10th – the committee heard a presentation by Patrick Bradley, LimnoTech, on EPA's Integrated Planning and Permitting options for meeting Clean Water Act standards.
- A Workshop on water resource Planning & Responses to Extreme Weather & Climate Events took place on Monday, December 17, 2012. Using Hurricane Sandy/Derecho as examples, emergency planners found that robust coordination among and between local governments and agencies throughout the region contributed to preparedness, although some improvements have been identified. Prioritizing water resources in power outage restoration is essential. Employee management and administrative challenges (fatigue, arrangements for food/shelter, cross-training) were among lessons shared. Another observation was that NOAA's weather event forecasting has improved, allowing better short-term planning –although there is still a need for more localized predictions. Also, long term 'adaptation' planning is not yet widespread: so there continues to be an emphasis/focus on emergency management responses.

- The next WRTC meeting will be held March 7, 2013.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | kberger@mwkog.org)

- The CBPC met on November 16th. The Committee received a briefing on water quality regulatory initiatives, and had a panel discussion on challenges and opportunities in maintaining the region's water resources infrastructure. The region's water and wastewater service providers face increasing regulatory requirements to protect water quality and the Chesapeake Bay while simultaneously performing costly maintenance and upgrades to aging systems. Despite water efficiency measures, technological upgrades, and cost-cutting achievements, rates may rise to cover maintenance budget gaps and rising debt service rates. The General Managers of DC Water and WSSC, and Arlington County staff identified integrated permitting, nutrient trading, and improved awareness among the public as potential opportunities worth exploring. A water infrastructure training session aimed at elected officials is in the planning stages.
- The next meeting will be held on January 18.