

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 North Capitol Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20002

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG INITIATIVES TO SUPPORT THE DIGITAL TELEVISION
TRANSITION OF 2009

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2009, the major television broadcast stations will cease to use traditional analog signals and switch to digital signals; and

WHEREAS, older television sets that rely on over-the-air signals will no longer work unless consumers take steps to upgrade their equipment; and

WHEREAS, this changeover has many implications ranging from the disposal of old televisions to upgrade assistance for the most affected populations, like the elderly, the poor, and immigrants; and

WHEREAS, a Digital Television Transition Coalition, including the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), National Cable & Telecommunications Association (NCTA), Leadership Conference on Civil Rights (LCCR), and AARP, has been created with the goal of educating the largest possible audience of consumers about the DTV transition, which offers monthly updates to members, and which has a speakers bureau that provides information to community groups; and

WHEREAS, COG'S Recycling Committee recently convened a workshop on the transition to digital television and shared best practices for handling the anticipated surge in disposal of analog televisions; and

WHEREAS, the COG Recycling Committee has actively provided public education on recycling options through its *GoRecycle.org* Web site and its *1-877-GoRecycle* phone line; and

WHEREAS, the federal government recently received \$20 billion dollars for the sale of the old analog television bandwidth to private companies when the original forecast of the profit was \$10 billion dollars.

**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:

1. Join the Digital Television Transition Coalition to allow greater access to resources and information to assist in educating the region on the 2009 transition;
2. Explore the possibility of federal legislation to direct some of the proceeds from the sale of the analog television bandwidth towards the cost of recycling televisions borne by local governments;
3. Explore the potential for public-private partnerships as a mechanism for implementing digital television recycling programs in the region;
4. Continue updates to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments *GoRecycle.org* Web site and *1-877-GoRecycle* phone line to educate consumers about recycling and to direct them to information resources.

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Nicole Hange, Board Clerk