

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)**  
**Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program Concept**  
**June 28, 2013**

While reviewing the 2013-2016 Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Action Plan over the past several months, both The CEEPC and Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) members have expressed interest in COG developing an environmental awards program. This document outlines an initial concept for a Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program that could be developed in FY 2014.

The proposed Climate and Energy Leadership Awards would recognize local jurisdictions in the National Capital Region (NCR) for implementing projects and programs that work to achieve both local and regional climate and energy goals. This would include any projects or programs that address greenhouse gas emission reduction, energy efficiency, renewable energy, climate resiliency, and environmental outreach with an emphasis on implementing goals and actions in the 2013-2016 CEEPC Action Plan.

Three award categories are recommended - small communities, medium communities, and large communities. One jurisdiction per category will be awarded each year. All of COG 22 member jurisdictions would be eligible to apply to their appropriate category.

Applicants will be judged on criteria areas such as benefits and results, innovation and creativity, engagement and outreach. As the citizen advisory committee that advises CEEPC on climate and energy issues, ACPAC could serve as the judges for the awards. They have equal representation on the committee from across the region (6 members from the District of Columbia, 6 from suburban Maryland, and 6 from northern Virginia). ACPAC members also have a diverse set of backgrounds including business/industry, education/scientific, environmental/health and civic organizations.

The development of the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program could begin in the fall 2013 and the first set of awards could be recognized by summer 2014. A CEEPC Awards Committee could be established to work on the details of program development. COG would need to develop program materials and promote the program to COG members. A key element of the program will be the development of new webpages on the COG website that would include information about the program, a simple and brief online entry form, and a page(s) to highlight awardees. Awardees will also be recognized with a press release, blog, social media and at a COG event.

**Program Development Timeline:**

<b>Month</b>	<b>Tasks</b>
Fall 2013	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Propose awards program concept to CEEPC</li> <li>• Create CEEPC Awards Committee to develop program specifics, timeline</li> <li>• Feedback from ACPAC</li> </ul>
Winter 2013/2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEEPC finalizes award program</li> <li>• Staff develops draft program materials (flyer, power point, webpages, etc)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEEPC, ACPAC review program materials</li> </ul>
Spring 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CEEPC finalizes program materials</li> <li>• CEEPC announces launch of award program</li> <li>• Host webinar for potential applicants</li> <li>• CEEPC, ACPAC promote award program</li> </ul>
Summer 2014	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACPAC judges award entries</li> <li>• Awardees Announced/Recognized</li> </ul>