

STORMWATER

Maryland Finalizes Phase I Stormwater Permits

As of Dec. 31, 2014, the Maryland Department of the Environment had issued final municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) permits to all of its Phase I entities in Maryland, including Frederick and Charles counties. (Prince George's County received its new MS4 permit in January 2014.) These new permits all follow the next generation template established by the Montgomery County MS4 permit of February 2010 in requiring restoration of 20-percent of previously developed impervious land that has little or no stormwater quality controls. MDE also plans to issue soon a new general permit for Phase II entities, which include a number of COG's municipal members.

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CLIMATE

GWU's Seminar "Rotterdam - Washington: adaptation, Resilience, Mitigation" - January 16th (3 - 5 pm).

The Deputy Mayor and Director of Urban Planning from Rotterdam and COG's DEP Director Steve Walz will be talking about how the Dutch city of Rotterdam and Washington, DC are responding to the challenges of climate change to cope with flooding, sea-level rise and other threats, while reducing green-house gas emissions.

The Municipality of Rotterdam has been working on these issues with the support of Dutch national climate programs and within the framework of European climate policies.

Please RSVP (click on the link below) if you would like to participate:

<http://cps.gwu.edu/seminar-adaptation-resilience-mitigation>

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Multi-Sector Workgroup

In late 2014, the Transportation Planning Board and the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee passed resolutions to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional workgroup to examine implementable local, regional, and state greenhouse gas reduction actions in four sectors - Energy, Transportation, Land Use, and Built Environment. The workgroup will quantify benefits, costs, and potential implementation timeframes for greenhouse gas reduction actions and consider exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for all sectors. An interim report is due September 30, 2015. Here are the draft MWAQC [resolution and TPB resolution](#).

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Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

ACPAC is in the midst of a two part series on climate change communications. At the December 15, 2014 ACPAC meeting the George Mason Center for Climate Communication quizzed the group on public opinions on climate change sharing results of national research as well as research conducted in Maryland and Virginia. The January 12, 2015 ACPAC meeting will feature a mini-training lead by the Frameworks Institute on how to frame the climate conversation to gain support for policy action on climate change.

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OTHER NEWS AND EVENTS

COG Board's Infrastructure Report

The COG Board's focused on the health of the region's infrastructure in 2014. This included transportation, energy, water, emergency communications, and public buildings. The assessment of water infrastructure included wastewater, drinking water and stormwater. The full report may be accessed [here](#).

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Green Purchasing Vendors' Fair and Symposium

COG and the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team are hosting a **Green Purchasing Vendors' Fair and Symposium** on *January 29, 2015, 9am to 3pm* (Training Center). In addition to the vendor fair, the event will showcase a series of presentations on green procurement administration and the benefits of environmentally friendly products. Who should attend: elected officials, procurement directors, buyers, purchasing agents, contract specialists, energy managers, environmental managers, sustainability committees, public works providers, and schools & universities. Professional credit available. See [flyer](#) and [web event](#) for details.

The Security & Sustainability Forum is hosting a webinar [on Green Infrastructure and Flood Resiliency](#) - Land Use Management as an Adaptation Strategy in the Built Environment *January 29, Noon-2pm*.

The US Army Corps of Engineers is slated to present the [North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study](#) to the US Congress January 28th and publish it publicly the following day. The \$19.5M study, launched in the wake of Hurricane Sandy, spanned the East Coast from Virginia to Maine, analyzing coastal vulnerabilities and management strategies for reducing risks to people, property, ecosystems, and infrastructure. The study analyzed policy challenges, the performance of nature-based infrastructure, community vulnerability, sea level rise and sediment management.

Water Sector Energy Efficiency Workshop

COG and the American Water Works Association are hosting a discussion of water and wastewater utility energy efficiency programs around the region and potential technologies of the future. The workshop will highlight successes and challenges including the need to meet expanded energy efficiency regulations under the EPA's Clean Power Plan. *January 28th, 1-4pm* (Training Center). Register at [this link](#).

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Upcoming COG Meetings & Events (see above for event details)

January 16 - GWU Seminar

January 28 - Climate, Energy, & Environment Policy Committee Meeting (10am - Noon)

January 28 - Water Sector Energy Efficiency Workshop

January 29 - Green Purchasing Vendors' Fair and Symposium

January 29 - Green Infrastructure and Flood Resiliency

February 24 - WRTC Meeting