

## GENERAL UPDATES & UPCOMING EVENTS

### **WATER RESOURCES GENERAL**

#### Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

CEEPC met on [March 26](#) and heard presentations on the Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge, American Institute of Architect's 2030 energy challenge, Seattle's 2030 commercial building district energy challenge, and Alliance to Save Energy's 2030 goals.

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#### Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC)

ACPAC launched a **Climate & Energy Leadership Award** program to recognize and encourage public agencies, non-governmental organizations and stakeholders in their efforts to achieve local and regional climate and energy goals in the [Climate and Energy Action Plan](#). COG's 22 member jurisdictions and CEEPC stakeholder NGOs (which includes DC Water) are eligible to apply. Application and FAQs are posted [here](#). Applications are due Wednesday, June 18, 2014.

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#### Climate Adaptation

COG has been serving on the Core Planning Team with representatives from NASA, National Capital Planning Commission, US General Services Agency, US Global Change Research Program, and Smithsonian to host the Building a Climate Resilient National Capital Region series of workshops and webinars. The workshops and webinars included one series in fall 2013 that focused on strategies to mitigate climate impacts to 'Built Systems', and a second series this spring that focused on 'Workforce, Community, and Natural Systems'. The geographic scope is the National Mall and surrounding areas. Several federal agencies and COG stakeholders - local governments and regional service agencies - are among the participants. Findings will be presented in a synopsis later this year. More information and materials are posted [here](#).

In addition, EPA published a guidebook called [Using Smart Growth Strategies to Create More Resilient Communities in the Washington, DC Region](#). The guidebook focuses on strategies in four sectors: Land Use, Water, Buildings, and Transportation. EPA developed the guidebook with input from COG staff and stakeholders. The guidebook is the product of an EPA Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Award that COG received in 2010.

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### **Region Forward Coalition**

The Region Forward Coalition met on April 25<sup>th</sup> and heard presentations on sustainable development and what it means in the *Region Forward* context. According to the invited speakers, [LEED for Neighborhood Design](#), [Eco-districts](#) and [2030 districts](#) contain not only energy goals, but also water conservation and stormwater goals. A handout on regional and national sustainable community practices from the meeting is available [here](#).

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### **CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM**

#### **Phase 6 Watershed Model Development - Land Use**

The Chesapeake Bay Program's Land Use Workgroup has issued a proposed set of [land uses](#) for the new version of the watershed model under development for the 2017 mid-term assessment and is seeking comment from other CBP workgroups and interested parties. The proposed urban land use classification changes are substantial. One proposed change is to categorize pervious and impervious urban land uses based on the degree of connected-ness to the storm drain conveyance system or streams. There also are proposals to create an urban tree canopy use that could overlay pervious and impervious uses and to create a stream corridor land use. All of these changes were discussed at a [Bay Program STAC workshop](#) on April 22-23. The land use classification system is scheduled to be finalized by the end of 2014.

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#### **Expert Panel Report: Erosion and Sediment Control Practices**

The Chesapeake Bay Program approved an expert panel [report](#), revising the credit for construction site erosion and sediment control BMPs. The panel found that current BMPs do not reduce the risk of nutrient loss from construction sites and recommended that the current nutrient reduction credit for such practices be eliminated. At the same time, the panel increased the sediment reduction credits for the various levels of BMP treatment. However, in approving the report, the Bay Program's Water Quality Goal Implementation Team left in place the current 25-percent credit for TN reduction and 40-percent credit for TP reduction under ESC practices for watershed model version 5.3.2. The credits may be eliminated in the new version of the model under development for the 2017 mid-term assessment. The expert panel recommended that more research be conducted.

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#### **CWP Analyzing Sources of Sediment Load in Urban Streams**

In its role as urban stream restoration and sediment coordinator for the Chesapeake Bay Program, the Center for Watershed Protection (CWP) has issued two technical memos ([memo 1](#) and [memo 2](#)). The memos outline CWP's analysis of monitoring and modeling studies on the origin of urban streams' suspended sediment loads. In particular, the Center is looking at the relative loads from upland and in-stream channel sources. The work will be used to improve sediment loading dynamics in Version 6 of the watershed model.

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## DRINKING WATER

### Drought and Water Supply

The observed precipitation at [Reagan National Airport](#) for the month of April was 6.47 inches, 3.41 inches above normal. April 2014 was also the wettest month on record at Dulles Airport (7.41"). On April 30<sup>th</sup>, daily record rainfall amounts were recorded at Dulles Airport (3.99"), BWI Airport (3.06"), and Reagan National Airport (2.7"). A few additional points are noted below:

- Streamflows measured at Point of Rocks and Little Falls are well above median levels
- Most of the groundwater monitoring wells report normal to high levels
- Precipitation levels for the Potomac River Basin were above average for the month of April
- The seasonal drought outlook produced by NOAA states that we should not experience a drought over the next three months.

Please visit [COG's water supply and drought monitoring](#) website if you need additional information.

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### Community Engagement Campaign

The region's water utilities will be promoting tap water during AWWA's Drinking Water Week, the week of May 4<sup>th</sup> with various events around the region (DC Water will be doing a taste test at DC Farmer's Markets, WSSC will be at the Bay Socks game, etc.). Water utilities will be providing reusable bottles and fresh, cold water at the [Smithsonian Garden Fest](#) on May 9<sup>th</sup>. TapIt flyers will also be distributed at Bike to Work Day pit stops that are staffed by members of COG's Community Engagement Campaign.

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## OTHER NEWS

### Resources Published

[Moving Toward Sustainability: Sustainable and Effective Practices for Creating Your Water Utility Roadmap](#) Issued April 2014, this EPA document is intended to aid utility leaders in implementing proven and effective practices over time to improve their operations and move toward sustainability.

[Water Resources Utility of the Future: a Blueprint for Action](#) developed by WERF, WEF, and NACWA. Today's clean water agencies are increasingly looking beyond the four corners of the Clean Water Act to how they can improve environmental performance, benefit their communities and improve their financial picture. The Water Resources Utility of the Future (UOTF) is defined by today's utility leaders pioneering innovative technologies and cutting-edge practices with a focus on resource recovery.

## UPCOMING LOCAL EVENTS

May 16 - [Bike to Work Day](#)

May 28 - CEEPC Meeting

July 10 - WRTC Meeting

July 18 - CBPC Meeting