

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC November 2014

Advisory Technical, Citizen and Policy Committees

Technical Advisory Committees

[Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee](#) and Rooftop Solar Challenge Workgroup (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org and Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- On October 16, BEEAC members were briefed on the Updated 2014 Virginia Energy Plan, which sets the long-term vision for the state's energy sector, and the recently announced Solarize NOVA project sponsored by NVRC. The committee also heard a presentation on WMATA's new net-zero energy storm water treatment facility in Largo, MD, which includes solar PV, battery storage, and uses gravity-fed water transport. BEEAC organized a tour to this facility on November 13.
- On November 17, COG's Rooftop Solar Challenge team hosted workshops at COG on two efforts local governments can take to help drive the regional solar market. The workshops covered bulk purchasing programs, such as solarize and solar cooperatives, and municipal solar procurement planning. COG recently released a solicitation for consultants to assist local governments and communities in the National Capital Region (NCR) prepare for, launch and implement solarize or solar coop programs.

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

- No new updates.

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

- America Recycles Day was November 15. The goal of America Recycles Day is to build consumer demand for recycled products and to educate all Americans about the environmental and economic benefits of recycling. Local governments in the Washington area promoted ARD at several events in October and November, such as the Recycle Right Contest.

Citizen Committee

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

- On October 20, ACPAC received briefings from WMATA on their recent Metro Sustainability Plan, and from NASA on the Climate Resilient National Capital Region project which facilitated collaboration between COG and numerous federal agencies to evaluate climate risks and build resilience strategies for agencies located in the NCR. The committee also discussed the joint MWAQC-CEEPC meeting on October 2 and the challenges and opportunities for greenhouse gas emission reduction in the transportation sector.

- On November 10, the committee was briefed on the health effects of air pollution by public health doctors at George Washington University. The committee discussed Clean Air Partners work for the upcoming year and recommended that the climate and energy awards program be continued for a second year.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

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

- MWAQC and CEEPC held their first-ever joint committee meeting on October 2. At this meeting, member passed a joint resolution asking COG to jointly convene multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to explore establishing target for screening the regional transportation plan, based on reaching the COG goal of 80% reduction by 2050, and consider how to:
 - Identify viable, implementable local, regional, and state actions in each sector (mobile, point, non-road, area);
 - Quantify benefits, costs, and implementation schedules;
 - Jointly develop specific action plan for region;
 - Take appropriate steps towards implementation at the local, regional, and state levels.
- The joint committees also asked related committees to affirm support for the existing COG goal, to be acted on by appropriate COG committees by the end of 2014.
- MWAQC-TAC met on October 14. COG DEP staff gave an update on the 2014 CLRP performance report and the call for projects in the 2015 CLRP analysis. Staff also briefed the committee on the schedule for updating the annual PM2.5 and NOx mobile budgets for 2017 and 2025 in the PM2.5 Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan recently approved by EPA using MOVES2014. Staff discussed the status of 2014 VIN data, which will be used for updating the budgets. The committee was also briefed on the 2014 ozone season, and the results of current OTC modeling efforts and related ozone transport issues.
- MWAQC-TAC met on November 12. Members discussed the draft “Call for Projects” for the 2015 CLRP analysis and the committee’s comments on the document. DEP staff gave updates on the recent release of the updated MOVES2014 model, the revision of the PM2.5 Maintenance Plan and mobile budgets currently scheduled to be submitted to EPA by 2015, and the MWAQC Special Project.

[Transportation Planning Board](#) (TPB), [TPB Technical Committee](#), [TPB Travel Management Subcommittee](#) and [TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Jerry Miller | gkmiller@mwkog.org)

- Between June and October of 2014, TPB and COG staff conducted a series of ten listening sessions with approximately 90 staff members of the TPB’s member jurisdictions to discuss the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP) and COG’s Place+ Opportunity report. The listening sessions were intended to gather information on whether and how jurisdiction staffs believe we are achieving regional goals, and to expand awareness of the RTPP among the TPB’s member jurisdictions.

- TPB met on October 15 and approved the Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP), the FY 2015-2020 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), and the Air Quality Conformity Analysis for both 2014 documents. The Board was also briefed on the draft Call for Projects and schedule for the Air Quality Conformity Analysis of the 2015 CLRP and FY 2015-2020 TIP.
- The board was briefed on the findings of the 2013 Washington-Baltimore Regional Air Passenger Survey at BWI, Reagan National, and Dulles airports, including geographic patterns of airport use, mode of access to the airports, and related issues facing the regional three airport system.
- DTP staff gave an update on the Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 Regional “Street Smart” Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education Campaign.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#), Housing Directors Advisory Committee, and [Region Forward Coalition](#) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org and Sophie Mintier | smintier@mwkog.org)

- On October 16-20, the Planning Directors Technical Advisory Committee Transit, along with Montgomery County Planning Department and the University of Maryland School of Architecture and Planning Development sponsored a conference on the relationship between transit, development, and urban form in Paris and Washington, DC.
- Regional Forward met on October 28 to discuss the “Livability” pillar and how to incorporate this tenet into regional planning. The committee heard a presentation on the region’s Activity Centers, and could better support a healthier, more physically active population, and more sustainable and enjoyable lifestyles. The committee was also briefed on efforts to incorporate “health in all policies” around the region, and how performing a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for new development projects changes the planning, design, and development process.

Other Committees

Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (formerly [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#)) (George Hohmann | ghohmann@mwkog.org)

- COG has joined the Houston-Galveston Area Council (HGAC) Buy program, which will enable COG members to participate in bulk purchasing contracts undertaken by local government entities across the country. HGACBuy covers a wide variety of goods and services, including cooperative energy purchasing, clean and alternative fuels, vehicles and infrastructure.
- COG will host a Green Vendor fair in January to assist member jurisdictions in identifying and cooperatively procuring environmentally-friendly goods and services.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (CPBC) (Heidi Bonnaffon | hbonnaffon@mwkog.org)

- COG held a Water Quality Workshop on November 13 to communicate the impacts and benefits of pollution control efforts made to-date in the Potomac and local waters and identify future challenges.

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

- No new updates.