

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC *January 2014*

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

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

- On December 19 the BEEAC was updated on the progress and preliminary results of DC's Benchmarking initiative by Marshall Duer-Balkind of DDOE, and was briefed by USGBC on the changes in LEED v4. The committee hosted a team of students who presented the results of benchmarking project for the City of Alexandria to track energy use in government buildings and design a potential commercial benchmarking program for Northern Virginia.
- On January 16, the BEEAC was updated on the federal Rooftop Solar Challenge Kickoff meeting and discussed the progress, expectations and outcomes from baselines assessments for our region. Committee members, COG staff and the DOE contractor Optony participated in an interactive discussion about joining the program, next steps and setting priorities for streamlining solar deployment within participating jurisdictions and across the region.

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

- As part of the CEEPC Action Plan survey, an alternative fuel vehicle (AFV) section will be included in this year's survey. The information will be used to help articulate a complete picture for the region in terms of potential market transformation. The results will help determine the feasibility of developing a cooperative purchase program for AFVs and infrastructure, as well as interest in a regional green fleet program.
- The next meeting of the EV Workgroup will be at an Education and Outreach Event Program for Fleet Professionals during the 2014 Washington Auto Show, Jan. 28 at the Washington Convention Center. COG will be participating in a panel discussion on AFV policy in the region.

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

- America Recycles Day was November 15. In December, COG selected two local prize winners via drawing from Loudoun County and Prince William County. Winners each receive a \$300 gift certificate to a local bicycle shop and the K-12 winner's school receives a \$500 grant for an environmental project. Additionally, in the national drawing, separate winners from Loudoun County and Prince William County also each won a park bench made of recycled materials to donate to the park of their choice.
- At the December 5 meeting, presenters discussed how to incorporate recycling into local government sustainability plans and how property managers do save money by recycling and composting.
- The committee will host a Recycling Outlook and Markets Update meeting on January 23.

Citizen Committee

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

- On December 9, ACPAC had a facilitated discussion about Renewable Energy Standards (RES) in the region and potential opportunities for citizen involvement in updating these laws. The committee received a briefing on COG's work to address air pollution from distributed diesel generators and on the 2013 revision of the Gold Book for local measures to improve air quality.
- ACPAC met on January 13 to discuss the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards pilot program, which will recognize local government efforts to achieve the climate and energy goals outlined in CEEPC's 2013-2016 Action Plan.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

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

- MWAQC-TAC met on January 7, 2014. The committee discussed the status of inventories for base year 2011 and timeline for developing these inventories, which need to be submitted to EPA by July 2014 as part of the 2008 ozone standard requirements. The committee also discussed a comment letter for TPB's Regional Transportation Priorities Plan.
- MWAQC met on December 18, 2013. The committee discussed the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan presented by John Swanson (DTP staff). The plan was recently revised with comments received from the public and a new date (January 11, 2014) for public comments has been announced.
- MWAQC also heard a presentation from the Bipartisan Policy Center on the status of EPA's greenhouse gas rules for new and existing power plants. Rules for existing power plants are expected to be published in June, 2014. Factors that might influence the greenhouse gas rules and their implementation include congressional actions, court actions, and energy market and regulatory trends.

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

- The TPB met on January 15th, 2014 and approved appointments to the TPB Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for 2014. The CAC includes 15 members: six designated by the current CAC and nine nominated by the TPB officers.
- The TPB approved the Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP) with unanimous support. Board members expressed their support and made suggestions for moving forward.
- The TPB was updated on the project submissions and schedule for the air quality conformity assessment and status of the financial analysis of the 2014 CLRP.
- The TPB received a briefing on priority regional bicycle and pedestrian projects recommended for consideration in the FY 2015-2020 TIP.
- The TPB received a briefing on how forecast growth by 2040 in the newly approved regional activity centers is likely to impact future travel demands on the region's transportation system.
- The next meeting of the TPB will be on February 19th, 2014.

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

- On January 8th, the [COG Board approved](#) Place + Opportunity: Strategies for Creating Great Communities and a Stronger Region. Along with COG staff, RFC Chair Mary Hynes (Arlington County Board) and Planning Directors Chair Rosalynn Hughey (DC Office of Planning) spoke in support of the report. The presentation also included a [project video](#) highlighting development in three Activity Centers: Downtown Manassas, NoMA, and Twinbrook.

Affiliated Partnerships

[Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | jdesimone@mwkog.org)

- Slogan Contest – Clean Air Partners held its 3rd annual slogan contest for local middle and elementary students. Students in grades 4-8 were asked to submit a creative slogan that brings to light solutions to air pollution and climate change and inspire people to take actions to improve our region’s air quality. We received over 400 contest submissions.
 - Winners:
 - Category 1 (Grades 4-6):
We can’t stop breathing it-so let's start cleaning it!
Rina Levy, Earle B. Wood Middle School, Montgomery County
 - Category 2 (Grades 7-8):
Ride a bike, take the bus, cleaner air is up to us.
Sarah Anstice, South County Middle School, Fairfax County
- Media Outreach – Vice Chair, Brian O’Malley, was interviewed by WBAL-TV (NBC, Baltimore) about holiday tips to improve air quality. Tips include using LED holiday lights, buying Energy Star rated electronics, and using programmable thermostats.
- Local Events - Clean Air Partners is planning for the 2014 community outreach. Outreach will include participating in local events through-out the Baltimore-Washington region.
- Board Meeting – The next Board meeting will be held on January 30, 2014.

[Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | nramfos@mwkog.org)

- On November 20 and 21, Nicholas Ramfos attended the Behavior, Energy Climate Change Conference (BECC) to host a panel discussion coordinated by the Transportation Demand Management Institute (TDMI) titled: “Stepping Up: Transportation Success Stories as Key to the Future of Climate Change.” The panel discussion is now posted on the TDMI web site at www.transportation2.org.
- On December 11th, COG/TPB Commuter Connections staff participated in an employee transportation fair at the Mark Center in Alexandria.

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Amanda Campbell | acampbell@mwkog.org and Brian LeCouteur | blecouteur@mwkog.org)

- No new updates.

Other Committees

Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (formerly [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#)) (Tom Savoie | tsavoie@mwkog.org)

- No new updates.

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

- COG staff attended a presentation on DC Water's vulnerability assessment and participated in the Coastal Resilience Conference on December 11-12.
- WRTC members plan to participate in CEEPC's Climate & Energy survey again this year. WRTC's next meeting is scheduled for January 31.

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

- Cherie Shultz, Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, and Christine Howard, COG, briefed the CBPC committee about future water supply planning, to ensure sufficient regional water supply, taking into account drought, climate change, and population growth.
- The committee also heard presentations from Norm Goulet, Northern Virginia Regional Commission, and Leslie Knapp, MACo, on how Virginia and Maryland are formulating plans for Trading and Offsets of water pollutants (nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment). Virginia has a Nutrient Trading Act and is expanding its trading program beyond its original focus on wastewater, to also include stormwater. Maryland is developing an Accounting for Growth Policy (it's been delayed) to specify how future growth will be required to offset its pollution in order to remain compliant with the Chesapeake Bay TMDL pollution targets ("pollution diet").