

**Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG)
Draft Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program Pilot Concept
September 18, 2013**

Background: The CEEPC leadership and Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) members have expressed interest in COG developing an awards program to promote the 2013-2016 Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) Action Plan.

Recommendations: This document outlines ACPAC recommendations and options for a Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Pilot Program that could be developed in FY 2014. ACPAC recommends that a joint CEEPC/ACPAC task force be appointed to further develop the program details. After completion, the pilot program will be evaluated for potential continuation or modification.

Awards Program Purpose: To recognize and encourage local jurisdictions in their efforts to achieve local and regional climate and energy goals under the 2013-2016 Climate & Energy Action Plan.

Proposed Program Design

Applicants: All of COG’s 22 member jurisdictions would be eligible to apply. Member jurisdictions would apply through an easily accessible online system.

Categories

Three award categories are proposed-- small communities, medium communities, and large communities (see Figure 1). One jurisdiction from each category will be awarded.

Figure 1. Proposed Population Breakdown for Award Categories

| Jurisdiction | Population | |
|-----------------------|------------|------------|
| Town of Bladensburg | 9,328 | |
| City of Falls Church | 13,229 | |
| City of Manassas Park | 15,798 | |
| City of Takoma Park | 17,205 | Under 50K |
| City of Fairfax | 23,461 | |
| City of Greenbelt | 23,541 | |
| City of College Park | 31,208 | |
| City of Manassas | 40,605 | |
| City of Bowie | 56,129 | |
| City of Gaithersburg | 62,794 | |
| City of Rockville | 63,244 | |
| City of Frederick | 66,382 | 50K - 200K |
| City of Alexandria | 146,294 | |
| Charles County | 150,592 | |
| Frederick County | 173,200 | |
| Arlington County | 221,045 | Over 200K |

Item 3

| | |
|------------------------|-----------|
| Loudoun County | 336,898 |
| Prince William County | 430,289 |
| District of Columbia | 632,323 |
| Prince George's County | 760,932 |
| Montgomery County | 861,466 |
| Fairfax County | 1,118,602 |

Topic Areas

Option 1: Jurisdictions select any Implementation Action found in the 2013-2016 Climate & Energy Action Plan. (Final 2013-2016 Climate & Energy Action Plan attached.)

Option 2: The Task Force will identify a topic area or topic areas for the competition.

Criteria, Selection, and Recognition: Metrics from the following data sources could be used: CEEPC Survey, COG utility energy survey, existing benchmarking programs such as LEED, Energy Star, ICLEI, etc. Awards could recognize achievements, improvement, or launching of new initiatives. Awardees will be recognized at a CEEPC meeting with a press release, blog, social media and a plaque or certificate.

Examples of Judging Criteria

- Point system similar to LEED certification with set thresholds for green, silver, gold, and platinum [[Go Green Virginia](#)]
- Award recipients demonstrated exemplary leadership in holistically advancing sustainability goals in their operations and communities. [[California Sustainability Alliance Sustainability Showcase Awards](#)]
- Local governments are recognized for outstanding contributions to reduce community's environmental footprint based on the criteria: innovation, transferability, community commitment, and measured objectives [[Atlanta Regional Commission Environmental Sustainability Awards](#)]
- Judging based on description of background, achievements and results, influence, innovative practices, and partnerships [[Banksia Foundation Local Government Sustainability Awards](#)]

Proposed Implementation

A joint CEEPC/ACPAC task force (with COG support) will develop the program details. The task force will consist of no more than three (3) representatives from CEEPC member jurisdictions and no more than (3) representatives from ACPAC. The Chairs of CEEPC and ACPAC will select their respective task force representatives.

Item 3

As the citizen advisory committee that advises CEEPC on climate and energy issues, ACPAC would serve as the judges for the awards. ACPAC has equal representation on the committee from across the region. ACPAC members also have a diverse set of backgrounds including business/industry, education/scientific, environmental/health and civic organizations.

Materials: COG would work with the CEEPC/ACPAC Task Force 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.

Program Development Timeline: The development of the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards Program would begin in the fall 2013 and the first set of awards would be recognized by summer 2014.

| Month | Tasks |
|------------------|---|
| Fall 2013 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Propose awards program pilot concept to CEEPC• Create CEEPC/ACPAC task force to develop program specifics, timeline |
| Winter 2013/2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize awards program• Develop program materials (flyer, power point, webpages, etc) |
| Spring 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalize program materials• CEEPC announces launch of award program• Host webinar for potential applicants• CEEPC, ACPAC promote award program |
| Summer 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• ACPAC judges award entries• Awardees Announced/Recognized |
| Fall 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Evaluate Awards Program Pilot |

**Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee
FINAL 2013-2016 ACTION PLAN**

** Indicates a goal that is new in the 2016 Action Plan (i.e. not included in the 2012 Action Plan)*

***Status indicates the percent total that has implemented or is in progress on each action. Most results are based on the COG annual climate and energy surveys.*

REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION

Goal: To reduce the region’s greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

Implementation Actions:

| Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories and Plans | | Status** |
|---|---|-----------------|
| 1 | 100% of jurisdictions complete GHG inventories for government operations. | 77% |
| 2 | 100% of jurisdictions complete community-wide GHG inventories. | 68% |
| 3 | 100% of jurisdictions adopt GHG emission reduction plans for government operations. | 68% |
| 4 | 75% of jurisdictions adopt plans to reduce GHG emissions community-wide. | 55% |

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE

Goal: To reduce non-transportation energy consumption, which accounts for two thirds of the region’s greenhouse gas emissions, by 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

Implementation Actions:

| Energy Efficiency | | Status** |
|--------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| 5 | 100% of jurisdictions track and/or benchmark energy performance in all government buildings. | 95% |
| 6* | 75% of jurisdictions participate in a regional EPA Portfolio Manager Master Account Sharing. | TBD (5 use Portfolio Manager) |
| 7* | 75% of jurisdictions disclose energy performance of all government buildings. | 50% |
| 8* | 75% of jurisdictions prepare an energy plan for local government facilities. | 50% |
| 9* | 75% of jurisdictions perform walk-through energy audits of local government facilities. | 68% |
| 10* | 50% of jurisdictions participate in US DOE Better Buildings Challenge which includes pledging to reduce 20% energy use in building(s). | 9% |
| 11* | 50% of jurisdictions develop a policy or ordinance to increase the energy efficiency of outdoor lighting in appropriate areas such as streets, parking lots, parks and/or signage. | 41% |
| 12* | At least 6 jurisdictions implement integrated community energy planning initiatives, including active consideration of deploying combined heat and power, district energy, and/or microgrid systems. | 5 |
| 13* | 2% of households region-wide participate in Home Performance with Energy Star Program (HPwES) (home energy assessments and retrofits). | TBD (27% promoting HpwES) |

| Energy Financing | | Status** |
|---------------------------------|--|----------|
| 14* | 50% of jurisdictions develop or participate in financing programs to support sustainable building retrofit programs for energy efficiency or renewable energy in the residential and/or commercial sectors. | 45% |
| High Performance/Green Building | | Status** |
| 15 | 100% of jurisdictions adopt a green building policy. | 64% |
| 16* | 50% of jurisdictions implement an affordable housing green rehabilitation program. | 32% |
| 17* | 35% of jurisdictions offer incentives for commercial and residential buildings certified by a high efficiency building green rating system. | 32% |
| 18* | 35% of jurisdictions outline a policy to implement green or “energy-aligned” lease terms and requirements in contract agreements for leased public spaces and/or facilities. | 9% |
| Water Resources | | Status** |
| 19* | 75% of potable water and wastewater entities (i.e. local government or utilities) in the COG region implement energy efficiency measures, alternative energy and/or renewable energy generation at their facilities. | 63% |
| 20* | 50% of local governments and /or wastewater utilities implement a water reuse project. | 50% |

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Goal: To increase renewable energy production in line with state Renewable Portfolio Standards, meeting 10% of regional electricity consumption with power from renewable sources by 2016.ⁱ

Implementation Actions:

| Renewable Energy | | Status** |
|------------------|---|----------|
| 21 | 5,000 residential, commercial or government buildings to have renewable energy systems installed. | 1,623 |
| 22 | 100% of jurisdictions have a renewable energy system on local government property. | 82% |
| 23* | 75% of jurisdictions become an EPA Green Power Partner . | 41% |
| 24* | 25% of jurisdictions become an EPA Green Power Community Partner . | 14% |
| 25 | Implement two regional pilot projects promoting a renewable energy park. | 1 |

TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE

Goal: To minimize the greenhouse gas impact of our transportation system, which contributes one third of regional emissions, by reducing vehicle miles travelled and increasing the use of alternative fuel and high efficiency vehicles.

Implementation Actions:

| Transportation | | Status** |
|----------------|---|----------|
| 26 | 100% of jurisdictions have idling regulations and promote them, as reflected through review of citations and/or education/outreach. | 64% |
| 27 | 75% of jurisdictions offer a commute options program for their workers (telework, | 68% |

| | | |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|
| | flex time, alternative work schedule, car pool, van pool, guaranteed ride home, bike/pedestrian, and/or financial incentive). | |
| 28 | A regional employer-based and general public commute option program (telework, flex time, alternative work schedule, car pool, van pool, guaranteed ride home, bike/pedestrian, and/or financial incentive continues operating in all jurisdictions. | 100% |
| 29* | 75% of jurisdictions adopt and implement a bicycle/pedestrian plan. | 64% |
| 30* | 75% of jurisdictions adopt a complete streets policy . | 50% |
| 31 | 75% of jurisdictions adopt a green fleet policy. | 73% |
| 32 | 75% of jurisdictions implement alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure project(s) (e.g, natural gas, biofuel, electric, hydrogen). | 50% |
| 33* | 25% of jurisdictions participate in car sharing programs, such as Zip Car, as an alternative to expanding fleet. | 23% |
| Land Use | | Status** |
| 34 | 100% of jurisdictions with land use authority adopt land use plans that allow for and incentivize walkable, higher density, mixed use, mixed income and/or transit oriented development in activity centers. | 73% |
| 35* | 50% of jurisdictions identify, promote and incentivize the redevelopment of greyfield and/or brownfield sites. | 23% |
| 36* | 50% of jurisdictions have one or more of its facilities at a former greyfield and/or brownfield site(s). | 27% |

SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

Goal: To increase the resiliency and sustainability of the region’s infrastructure, economy, and environment.

Implementation Actions:

| | | |
|--|--|-----------------|
| Climate Resiliency – Adaptation and Energy Security | | Status** |
| 37* | 40% of jurisdictions assess their community’s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change. | 18% |
| 38* | 40% of jurisdictions develop and adopt strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change/increase the community's resiliency to climate impacts. | 18% |
| 39* | State, regional and local agencies responsible for transportation and utility infrastructure assess vulnerability of critical assets. | TBD |
| 40* | 50% of jurisdictions apply the energy assurance planning framework to assess strategies for enhancing community resiliency and energy security. | 18% |
| Green Infrastructure | | Status** |
| 41 | 75% of jurisdictions implement a plan to preserve and enhance ecologically valuable green spaces (such as forests, wetlands, stream buffers) in urban, suburban and rural areas, such as a green infrastructure plan, natural resource management plan, or green space plan. | 64% |
| 42* | 100% of jurisdictions in the region are a Tree City USA . | 73% |
| 43* | 75% of jurisdictions adopt a tree canopy/forest cover goal. | 64% |
| 44* | 75% of jurisdictions have a green roof located on government property. | 41% |
| 45* | 50% of jurisdictions adopt a green streets policy . | 32% |

| Green and Local Economies | | Status** |
|--------------------------------------|---|-----------------|
| 46 | 75% of jurisdictions to adopt green purchasing policies. | 64% |
| 47* | 75% of jurisdictions provide public land and/or support for community gardens. | 64% |
| 48* | 50% of jurisdictions allow for and encourage urban agriculture in zoning codes, where appropriate. | 36% |
| 49* | Jurisdictions adopt policies/implement tools that preserve working farmland, where appropriate. | 23% |
| Waste Reduction and Recycling | | Status** |
| 50 | Divert 50% of solid waste in the region from disposal. | @ 35% |
| 51* | Where applicable, jurisdictions provide recycling educational, technical, and logistical support to public schools to ensure that it is successful. | Ongoing |
| 52* | 100% of jurisdictions no longer collect grass and leaf waste curbside in plastic bags – will be collected loose or in paper bags. | 40% |
| 53* | Jurisdictions support establishment of sufficient public or private regional capacity for organics (grass, leaf, and food) composting. | Ongoing |

OUTREACH

Goal: To improve public understanding of climate change and promote positive change in individual and institutional behaviors to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and increase use of renewable energy.

Implementation Actions:

| Outreach | | Status** |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|
| 54 | 75% of jurisdictions promote federal, state, utility, and/or local energy efficiency and/or renewable energy incentive programs. | 55% |
| 55 | 50% of jurisdictions implement challenge or pledge programs for energy and sustainability aimed at the community and citizens. | 50% |
| 56 | 50% of jurisdictions implement green business challenges/ certifications/initiatives for businesses and employees. | 41% |
| 57 | 35% of jurisdictions encourage private commercial building owners to benchmark energy performance. | 18% |
| 58* | 50% of jurisdictions develop an employee education program on energy/sustainability policies and practices at work and home. | 45% |
| Advocacy | | Status** |
| 59* | Jurisdictions help support, where appropriate, state and federal legislation that reduces barriers to renewable energy and energy efficiency, and supports local governments in climate change mitigation and adaption efforts. | TBD |

ⁱ 10% represents the weighted average of renewable portfolio standards impacting the COG region: mandatory standards in MD and DC, and a voluntary standard in VA. The goals are weighted according to relative share of regional electricity consumption by jurisdictions in each state.