

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****October 21, 2010**CONTACT: Jeanne Saddler: jsaddler@mwkog.org / 202.386.2816**COG Receives EPA Assistance to Make Region More Sustainable***Projected population increase will require smart growth, adaptation to climate change*

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced today that the metropolitan Washington region is one of eight regions nationwide that will receive technical assistance from the agency to promote sustainable growth and development issues.

The winning project, submitted by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG), was based on [Region Forward](#), a vision for making the region more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable, and on the [National Capital Region Climate Change Report](#).

The EPA will assist COG and its members to integrate climate change adaptation in local and regional planning by:

- Assessing climate change risks to the region;
- Identifying smart growth strategies that will improve the region's capacity to adapt to climate change;
- Facilitating the sharing of those strategies among local decision-makers.

As metropolitan Washington's primary forum for discussion and action on issues of regional significance, COG is well-positioned to act on these three fronts.

"Now that all 21 of COG's member governments have endorsed Region Forward, it's time to implement the plan. The challenges posed by climate change demand that we develop adaptation strategies that will ensure the sustainability of our region," said Arlington County Chairman Jay Fissette, who also serves as Chairman of COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee.

The EPA Smart Growth Assistance Program is part of larger partnership between EPA and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and Department of Transportation (DOT) to help build environmentally and economically sustainable communities.

For more information on the Smart Growth Assistance Program and the grant winners, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>.

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COG is the association of 21 local governments working together for a better metropolitan region.





Project description

Objectives

- Design policy recommendations for better consideration of the impacts of climate change local and regional planning in the Washington region
- Reach out to policymakers and stakeholders about the significance of climate change for the region, and the options available to increase regional resilience to these risks.

Timeline

- **November – December 2010:** Assessment of project climate change in the Washington region (COG)
- **January 2011:** Consultant made available by EPA
- **February to July 2011:** Consultant work with various COG committees - transportation, land use, green buildings, public health, emergency management - on vulnerability assessment and recommendations for each sector.
- **Summer 2011:** consultant prepare regional adaptation guidelines (booklet + web page)
- **Fall 2011:** workshops for officials , staff and public outreach

In addition to the expertise brought by EPA and consultants, an adaptation expert advisory panel is being set up by COG to support each of the steps above.

Deliverables

- Regional climate risk and vulnerability assessment study
- Regional adaptation guidelines and recommendations for local and regional planning
- Web site, workshops.

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