

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC)

Ozone Season Update

As of today, The Washington region observed a total of 9 exceedances for the 2015 ozone standard this year compared to 8 such days last year. There were 1 code red day (unhealthy for everybody) and 8 code orange days (unhealthy for sensitive group). The draft design value, a parameter used to evaluate the attainment status of an area, was 72 ppb. This is higher than the current ozone standard of 70 ppb and indicates that the region needs to keep working to attain the standard by August 2021.

MWAQC Strategic Planning Session

MWAQC members will have a strategic planning assessment this fall to review its mission, mandates, programs, and initiatives to ensure the committee's priorities address current air quality issues affecting the metropolitan Washington region. Results of the assessment will be used to direct future work of the committee. Members will receive a survey in November, following election day. MWAQC will meet on December 19th to discuss the results.

What We Can Do Project

MWAQC is currently working on a project called "What We Can Do". MWAQC is trying to improve the air quality in the Washington region by implementing a few emission control measures through local governments in this region. This project is focused on reducing NOx emission from different source sectors such as, on-road (cars, trucks, buses, etc.) and nonroad (lawn mowers, construction equipment, etc.) mobile sources and area (use of auxiliary power to avoid engine idling, efficient emergency generators, use of energy conservation and renewable energy sources in buildings, green infrastructure, green power purchasing, battery storage, etc.) sources. Measures like these are expected to help the region attain the current ozone standard by August 2021. They are also expected to reduce the number of unhealthy air days in the region.

Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC)

Greenhouse Gas Inventories Drivers of Change

At the Global Climate Action Summit September 13-15, ICLEI released the report [What's Driving Changes in Local GHG Emissions? Results from Contribution Analysis](#) that summarizes the major determinants of community-scale performance in reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The report is part of a project supported by a grant from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and project partners include City of Bellevue and King County, WA; City of Santa Monica, CA; City of Aspen, CO; Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission; and COG.

The grant-funded project supported the development of the [Metropolitan Washington Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Summary Fact Sheet](#) and the [GHG Contribution Analysis Tool](#) as well as training COG member local government on the tool and updating the U.S. Communities Protocol for Accounting and Reporting GHG Emissions. COG is representing its local government member interests and needs as part of the steering committee for the protocol update.

ICLEI Membership

Previously, COG supported ICLEI on a Bloomberg grant that provided COG, its local jurisdiction members and other U.S. partnering communities free access to the ClearPath Lite Tool for 3 years, 2015-2018. COG and all its members will no longer have free access to ClearPath Lite after December 31, 2018. To maintain access to ClearPath, each local jurisdiction needs a current ICLEI membership.

ICLEI members are part of the largest global network of local governments working to create more sustainable, resilient, and equitable communities. As part of ICLEI's annual membership, local governments are provided full access to ClearPath Tools (Community-Scale, Government Operations, Forecasting, and Scenario Tracks) plus (limited) technical assistance from ICLEI. For more information go to <http://icleiusa.org/membership/join-iclei/> or contact Kale Roberts (kale.roberts@iclei.org).

Mid-Atlantic PACE Alliance Forum and Toolkit

On October 8, the Mid-Atlantic PACE Alliance (MAPA) is conducting a regional forum as a preconference event to the [2018 Maryland Clean Energy Summit](#). MAPA is a collaborative effort between stakeholders in VA, MD and DC to accelerate the implementation of C-PACE programs and projects in the region.

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) is a financing tool for commercial property owners to fund energy-related property improvements with no upfront costs. C-PACE programs are enabled by local governments, who collect C-PACE repayments through annual property taxes. MAPA developed the [Regional C-PACE Toolkit](#) to provide reliable guidance, share best practices and foster growth and development of Commercial PACE programs in the metropolitan Washington region. The MAPA Regional Forum will feature case studies and explain how to advantageously finance energy improvements, water conservation measures and building renovations using a property assessed clean energy (PACE) lending strategy. Registration for the regional forum for the summit can be found [here](#). The flier for the regional forum can be found [here](#).

Northern Virginia Resilience

The Northern Virginia Resiliency Team held a webinar on Friday, September 21, and heard a presentation from the Mid-Atlantic Regional Integrated Sciences Assessment regarding the climate information portal that MARISA is developing for the mid-Atlantic. The George Mason professor Kintor discussed the Thriving Earth Exchange storm water model exercise being developed. The webinar was part of a series of resilience workshops developed by the Northern Virginia Regional Commission in coordination with COG. The initiative produced a report – [Resilient Critical Infrastructure: A Roadmap for Northern Virginia](#) – and the team is now working on implementing the recommendations in the report.

US Army Corps of Engineers Coastal Storm Risk Management Study

After Superstorm Sandy in 2012, Congress charged the US Army Corps with investigating current and future flood risks along the north Atlantic coast. This prior study, known as the North Atlantic Coast Comprehensive Study (NACCS), designated the Washington metro as one of nine areas that warranted further flood risk analysis and hurricane/coastal storm preparedness studies.

COG and several cost share partners are coordinating with the US Army Corps to develop a *Metropolitan Washington Region Coastal Storm Risk Management Study* which will investigate flood

risks in the region's tidal areas. The study will identify solutions to protect the communities and infrastructure potentially affected by current and future coastal flooding. This study will:

- 1) Utilize existing information to determine flood inundation expected under 'future' storm scenarios (ex. such as the types of recent coastal storm patterns observed in hurricane Florence and Superstorm Sandy) and every day nuisance flooding worsened by sea level rise. The study will factor in current and planned flood mitigation projects.
- 2) Develop a Bayesian network of critical infrastructure interdependencies to generate failure thresholds and cascading impacts for given flood elevations.
- 3) Generate cost-benefit analysis for a variety of flood mitigation measures, both policy, structural, and natural
- 4) Develop a comprehensive, peer-reviewed report that summarizes findings and recommends both Corps-specific projects (such as levees or a levee system) and additional actions that could be implemented by cost share partners or other agencies to enhance the region's coastal flood resilience following this study.

This summer, the northern Virginia partners gave approval for the Army Corps to conduct a re-scoping of the study. The re-configured study will focus on coastal flooding near the northern Virginia side of the Potomac and is expected to take about three to four years and cost \$3 million, with 50/50 federal cost-share.