

MEMORANDUM:

Date: November 6, 2013
To: MWCOG Chief Administrative Officers Committee
From: Stuart Freudberg *SJAF*
Senior Director, Environment, Public Safety and Health, MWCOG
Subject: U.S. Department of Energy SunShot Initiative Rooftop Solar Challenge Award

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) has received a \$125,000 grant to work with our members to remove barriers to the deployment of solar in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland and Northern Virginia region.

Solar power is an important feature of a sustainable energy economy. Expanding local solar energy generation will help fight climate change, reduce air pollution, improve resilience and increase regional economic competitiveness.

MWCOG would like the support of all members in this initiative. Signing on to the program involves:

- Committing to work with MWCOG to establish a baseline of policies and processes that influence solar energy
- Working across the region to identify improvement goals
- Using the MWCOG grant resources to bring in assistance to help us reach our goals

MWCOG will be working with a variety of local government staff:

- Zoning and Code Officials
- Permitting and Inspection Departments
- Environmental and Energy Planners

MWCOG is working with local energy and environmental programs staff to solicit initial interest and to try to secure commitment to participate in the initiative. While a staff level kickoff is anticipated for the outset, we would like to demonstrate to the funding agency – the U.S. Department of Energy – a higher-level formal commitment over time, possibly in the form of letters of commitment, MOUs, or perhaps a regional collective agreement in the form of a Solar Signatories document. We want you to be aware that in early 2014, MWCOG may solicit such commitments, depending on staff interest during the early stages of the program.

The principal MWCOG staff is Jeff King, Principal Environmental Planner, Department of Environmental Programs at jking@mwkog.org or (202) 962-3238.