

# **Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee**

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## **DRAFT RESOLUTION ON THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS' REGIONAL MULTI SECTOR GOALS FOR REDUCING GREENHOUSE GASES**

**WHEREAS**, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) was certified in 1992 by the governors of Maryland and Virginia, and the mayor of the District of Columbia under Section 174 of the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 to formulate adopt and submit to the Government of the District of Columbia, the State of Maryland and the Commonwealth of Virginia a proposed regional air quality plan for criteria pollutant control suitable for incorporation into applicable air quality State Implementation Plans (SIPs), develop air quality maintenance plans for these pollutants, and perform other regulatory or non-regulatory initiatives to improve regional air quality; and

**WHEREAS**, MWAQC works closely with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) regional policy committees, including the Transportation Planning Board, the Climate, Energy, Environment Policy Committee, and the Region Forward Coalition, and state air quality and transportation agencies and other relevant entities on matters of regional multi-sectorial planning; and

**WHEREAS**, the Washington, DC-MD-VA metropolitan region faces future challenges in meeting the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) and reducing greenhouse gases that contribute to climate change; and

**WHEREAS**, MWAQC is committed to achieving reductions in air pollutant emissions to meet air quality standards through a broad range of control measures across multiple sectors that are cost-effective; and

**WHEREAS**, in November 2008 the COG Board, through resolution R60-08, adopted the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* that included voluntary goals to reduce greenhouse gases by 10 percent below business as usual projections by 2012 to encourage early action, by 20 percent below 2005 levels by year 2020 to encourage expansion of recommended policies and programs, and by 80 percent below 2005 levels by year 2050 to stimulate support for research into technologies and clean fuels needed to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions; and

**WHEREAS**, in January 2010 the COG Board, through Resolution R9-10, adopted the *Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report And Voluntary Regional Compact* that set out goals in nine areas and incorporated the previously adopted regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals; and

**WHEREAS**, the recommended greenhouse gas reduction actions in the *National Capital Region Climate Change Report* and the *Gold Book* provide significant co-benefits and enhance the future of the Region's quality of life; and

**WHEREAS**, the Region has benefited from federal, state and local actions across sectors that, even while accommodating considerable growth, have achieved significant reductions in emissions of criteria pollutants including ozone, fine particulate matter, and carbon monoxide; and

**WHEREAS**, actions taken to address criteria pollutants in the Region have also reduced greenhouse gas emissions, and

**WHEREAS**, MWAQC recognizes achieving reductions in criteria pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions as a priority and that COG has been reporting progress in reducing greenhouse gas emissions for the region; and

**WHEREAS**, there is a need to identify additional cost-effective, coordinated actions which may be taken across all sectors of the Region's economy to further reduce criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas emissions and optimize the economic wellbeing and environmental quality of our region; and

**WHEREAS**, COG now intends to convene a multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group to identify implementable local, regional and state actions in sectors (Energy, Transportation, Land Use, Built Environment) and quantify benefits, costs and potential implementation schedules, and to consider exploration of greenhouse gas reduction goals for all sectors.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT BY THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON AIR QUALITY COMMITTEE THAT IT:**

1. Affirms the Region's greenhouse gas reduction goals set out in the November 2008 National Capital Region Climate Change Report and adopted by the Council of Governments Board of Directors (COG Resolution R60-08), incorporated in Region Forward through adoption of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition Report and Voluntary Compact (January, 2010, COG Resolution R09-10), and as guided by jurisdictional endorsements of the Greater Washington 2050 Compact.
2. Commits MWAQC staff and resources to supporting the multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group convened by the Council of Governments, which has been charged with:
  - a. identifying viable, implementable local, regional, and state actions in each of the four sectors (noted above);
  - b. quantifying benefits, costs and implementation timeframes;
  - c. jointly developing an action plan for the region; and
  - d. exploring specific greenhouse gas emission reduction goals, measures and/or targets, along with reductions in criteria pollutants as a co-benefit, for the four sectors which include Transportation, Energy, Land Use, and the Built Environment.
3. Requests that COG regularly provide updates to MWAQC on the work of the multi-sector, multi-disciplinary professional working group and submit its interim report to MWAQC by September 30, 2015.