

**Summary of Climate-Related Activities
of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC
May 2013**

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- BE-EAC met on March 21 and May 16. The April meeting was cancelled for members to attend the Greater Washington Board of Trade's *Green Trends* conference.
- Green building and energy professionals from Alexandria, the District, Fairfax County, Arlington County, Montgomery County, and Loudoun County have presented on their green building policies and the outcomes they have seen. Additionally, the group received presentations from Washington Gas on their local carbon offset program and the Alliance to Save Energy on their Energy 2030 plan.
- The next meeting will be June 20th, where cooperative purchasing for energy will be explored.

[Electric Vehicle Planning Initiative](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The EV workgroup met on March 28 to discuss existing barriers to EV development. Presentations were made by the District, Arlington County, Greenbelt, Montgomery County, and Prince George's County.
- The next meeting will be May 30, and will focus on cooperative/volume purchasing for EV charging equipment.

[Recycling Committee](#) (John Snarr | jsnarr@mwkog.org)

- The Recycling Committee met on March 28. The Metrics for Evaluation and Inspiration topic featured public sector speakers from Oregon, California, Maryland and Arlington County.
- COG successfully launched the Go Recycle Campaign for 2013 in April. Radio spots encouraging recycling in the work place ran for two weeks on five major radio stations. The campaign is sponsored by both private and public sector entities.
- The May 23 Recycling Committee meeting will focus on Creative Ways to Engage the Public and feature a presentation by Keep America Beautiful on an upcoming national Ad Council campaign promoting recycling.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee](#) (ACPAC) (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC met on March 18, 2013. ACPAC heard an overview presentation on the draft National Climate Assessment by Todd LaPorte, George Mason University, and provided input on comments COG staff submitted on the draft Assessment. They also heard a status report on progress toward regional climate and energy goals.
- ACPAC met on April 15, 2013 and heard a variety of air quality updates, a presentation on regional energy use trends, and provided input on priorities for the CEEPC Action Plan and how COG can assist local governments with implementation.
- The next ACPAC meeting is May 20, 2013 and the theme will be on air quality and health. They will hear from Dr. Tee Guidotti on toxic and pulmonology health effects of air pollution; Ron Kirby, COG Dept of Transportation Planning Director, on the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ); and from an ACPAC member that is a doctor at INOVA and with the Sierra Club (voluntary).

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

[MWAQC](#) and [MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Sunil Kumar | skumar@mwkog.org)

- MWAQC met on April 24, 2013. TPB staff briefed on TPB Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) responsibilities under MAP-21, a new transportation bill. The bill directs the USDOT to create a new database of projects and their impacts on reductions in congestion and emissions. The bill requires regions in nonattainment or maintenance for fine particles to spend 25% of CMAQ funds towards reducing fine particle emissions. Air quality performance measures will likely be based on the current system under the Clean Air Act of analyzing transportation conformity with State Implementation Plans. MWAQC staff briefed on the discussions in the EPA meeting with state air agencies regarding a replacement rule for the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which was recently vacated by the Court. Maia Davis (COG/DEP) discussed the Annual Progress Report for Climate & Energy Action Plan (CEEPC). MWAQC's scheduled approval of the PM 2.5 Redesignation Request and Maintenance Plan for the Washington region in this meeting was postponed to its May 22 meeting due to a lack of quorum.
- MWAQC-TAC met on April 9, 2013. In this meeting, Maia Davis (COG/DEP) discussed the Annual Progress Report for Climate & Energy Action Plan (CEEPC). MWAQC staff discuss the recent EPA proposal to approve the attainment demonstration, contingency measures, and the 2009/ 2010 mobile budgets in the 1997 ozone SIP submitted in 2007. Staff will also discuss the recent EPA proposal to implement Tier 3 vehicle exhaust emission and gasoline sulfur reduction rule. MWAQC staff briefed on the discussions in the EPA meeting with state air agencies regarding a replacement rule for the Cross State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR), which was recently vacated by the Court. MWAQC staff discussed the regional response to comments received for the PM2.5 Redesignation Request & Maintenance Plan and changes made accordingly to the plan document.

[Transportation Planning Board](#) (TPB), [TPB Technical Committee](#), [TPB Travel Management Subcommittee](#) and [TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | rkirby@mwkog.org and [gmiller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmillier@mwkog.org))

- The TPB met on May 15, 2013
- The TPB received a briefing on changes in regional commute patterns since 2007, based on analysis of more recent journey to work data collected in the American Community Surveys conducted by the US Census Bureau.
- The TPB received an update on the development of the TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan, which is being developed to identify regional strategies that offer the greatest potential contributions toward addressing regional challenges. The board received an overview of the survey that is being used to determine public attitudes about which strategies are considered the most beneficial.
- The TPB received a brief update on the next steps for considering a regional Green Streets policy for the Washington region.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) and [Region Forward Coalition](#)

(Paul Desjardin/Sophie Mintier | pdesjardin@mwkog.org / smintier@mwkog.org)

- At the April Region Forward Coalition meeting, COG staff presented a project update on the Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan (SIP), intended to provide targeted economic development, design, and equity recommendations for 95 Activity Centers based on a detailed analysis of each Center's assets and needs. Coalition members then participated in an interactive small group exercise to fill out "Complete Communities Brackets" – groups were asked to identify a "Final Four" of investments for different types of communities. The exercise helped to illustrate the process of prioritization and considering tradeoffs that the project team is undertaking as it moves into the recommendations phase of the project.
- At the Planning Directors Advisory Committee Meeting on May 17th, staff will present an initial set of investment & implementation recommendations for a select group of Activity Centers under the SIP for review and feedback. The project team will present a draft of the Strategic Investment Plan to the COG Board of Directors at its June meeting.

Affiliated Partnerships

[Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | jdesimone@mwkog.org)

- Clean Air Partners kicked-off National Air Quality Awareness Week by hosting a Twitter Party. The Party engaged local individuals, organizations, and meteorologists on air quality and health.
- The Annual Awards occurred on May 2nd at the Koshland Science Museum. The event recognized the winners of the poster, slogan, and infographics contests and science fairs. The winning posters and infographics can be found at www.cleanairpartners.net. The 1st place poster contest winners were also featured on WUSA9.
- Clean Air Partners hosted the Baltimore Green Drinks event on April 25th. The networking event provided opportunities for environmentally minded individuals to discuss air quality topics with those in their industry.

- On May 5th, Clean Air Partners sponsored the 10th annual Potomac River Run Marathon. Staff attended the event to raise awareness around the importance of air quality by handing out literature and water to the participants.
- Other events attended include: DATA Sustainability Summit, Loudoun County Earth Day Festival, Howard County Green Festival, Ft. Meade Earth Day Celebration, and Towson Town Fest.

[Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | nramfos@mwkog.org)

- Nicholas Ramfos moderated a panel discussion on Technology Enabled Ridematching programs at the Association for Commuter Transportation's TDM Symposium held at George Mason University on April 18th
- Earth Day/Transportation/Commuter Fairs Commuter Connections staff participated in events for the following organizations during the month of April: Tower Companies, Rockville; US Patent and Trademark Office, City of Alexandria; Health and Human Services (HHS), Rockville; Health and Human Services (HHS), DC; Red Cross, DC; US Geological Survey, Reston; US Department of Commerce, DC; Navy Yard, DC; Environmental Protection Agency/Federal Triangle, DC; FDA, White Oak; DEA Headquarters, DC.

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Amanda Campbell | acampbell@mwkog.org and Brian LeCouteur | blecouteur@mwkog.org)

- The Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup met on March 15 and May 10, 2013.
- The Workgroup is continuing its focus to develop a draft regional tree canopy strategy report.
- A draft strategy report is planned for July.

Other Committees

Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (formerly [Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#)) (Tom Savoie | tsavoie@mwkog.org)

- The next CPOC meeting is on May 23rd. The committee will receive a presentation on mobile device recycling as well as discussing the new Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Teams next steps. The COG Board approved in the March Meeting the merger of the CPOC and Baltimore region into the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team.

[Water Resources Technical Committee](#) and [Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Tanya Spano | tspano@mwkog.org and Karl Berger | kberger@mwkog.org)

- Water Resources Technical Committee (WRTC) and Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) met on May 3rd and May 17th, respectively.
- WRTC was briefed on the Water Environment Federations national work to support water infrastructure, including an Energy Roadmap for water utilities. WRTC also heard highlights of the responses to the CEEPC water utilities survey, and discussed joint CBPC/CEEPC July meeting topics, such as climate adaptation and energy efficiency. Staff are developing a proposal and timing for that session.