

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC March 2013

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee](#)¹ (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- EAC and IGBG have merged to become the BEEAC. The committee will address energy and green building issues at its monthly meetings. The first joint meeting will be held on March 21.
- On February 21, EAC met to discuss greenhouse gas inventory methodologies. The meeting included presentations from local jurisdictions, the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, ICLEI, and EPA.

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

- MWCOG hosted an electric vehicle forum as a pre-meeting to the Washington Auto Show, titled *Electric Vehicles: Making Good Business Sense*, on February 1. The event focused on helping Washington area business owners make the business case for investing in EVs and EV charging stations.
- The EV work group met on February 27 to discuss the Transportation Climate Initiative's new guidance documents and the Maryland EV Infrastructure Council's recommendations to the state legislature.
- The next meeting will be held on March 28.

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

- The Recycling Committee met on January 24th. The battery recycling topic featured local collectors and national associations as presenters.
- COG is recruiting sponsors for the Go Recycle Campaign for April 2013. The radio and internet campaign will promote recycling in the workplace.

Citizen Committee

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

- ACPAC met on February 11, 2013. The feature presentation was by Clean Air Partners, who gave an overview of the program and received ideas from ACPAC members. ACPAC members were invited to be judges for this year's poster contest, infographics challenge, and science fairs.
- The February meeting was the first official meeting for newly appointed members and members received an ACPAC Orientation. In addition, elections took place and Caroline Petti will serve another year as Chair and Andrew Kambour was elected Vice Chair.
- The next ACPAC meeting is March 18, 2013.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

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

- MWAQC did not meet in January 2013 and February 2013.
- MWAQC-TAC met on February 12. In this meeting, staff discussed EPA's Tier 3 rule to control SO₂ and NO_x emissions from motor vehicles. State air agency staff updated on the air quality monitors. Staff discussed the location and dates for public hearing and comments for the PM_{2.5} Redesignation Request

¹ Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

& Maintenance Plan (PM2.5 R/MP), which ended on February 25, 2013. Staff also talked about the EPA's distributed generator rule also called "RICE rule", which was finalized recently. EPA found the mobile budgets in the ozone SIP to be adequate for conformity purposes. This establishes new mobile emissions limits for the Washington region and the motor vehicles emissions in the region have to stay within these limits. Staff also talked about the "Gold Book", which is a collection of voluntary emissions control programs, which are not easily quantifiable, but surely provide benefits to the air quality. TAC suggested including many measures being implemented as part of CEEPC effort in the region to include this book as they also provide co-benefits for air quality.

[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:gmilller@mwkog.org))

- The TPB will meet on March 20th
- The TPB plans to approve an amendment to the air quality conformity analysis to respond to the EPA redesignation of the Washington region under the 2008 ozone national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS). This designation requires a new air quality conformation analysis of the 2012 Financially Constrained Long-Range Transportation Plan (CLRP) and FY 2013-2018 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- The TPB plans to approve the FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) and [Region Forward Coalition](#)
(Paul Desjardin/John Mataya | pdesjardin@mwkog.org / jmataya@mwkog.org)

- At its January meeting, the Region Forward Coalition discussed some of the labor market and workforce challenges and trends identified in Economy Forward: COG's Call to Action for a More Competitive Metropolitan Washington. As a follow-up to this meeting, COG convened a group of 15 stakeholders on February 27th to discuss key regional needs for workforce development and how COG could add value to such efforts. COG will be having additional discussions on this topic over the coming months as it begins implementation of the industry and labor market analysis, one of the main recommendation in Economy Forward.
- The Region Forward Coalition is also overseeing the development of the Activity Center Strategic Investment Plan, which was launched in September. The project team has now completed the physical and economic analysis of the 95 Activity Centers included in the Plan, and evaluating equity indicators in the centers. The result of this work will be an investment typology that groups Activity Centers according to similar physical, economic, and social characteristics, and identifies the type, timing, and scale of investments needed to address challenges and enhance strengths in these centers. The project team will be hosting a series of focus groups in March for local government planners (March 15th), for transportation stakeholders (March 22nd) and for developers (March 22nd). Feedback from these focus groups will be used to inform project recommendations and the project outreach strategy.

Affiliated Partnerships

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

- Clean Air Partners sponsored its first infographics challenge: Let's Get Graphic about Air Quality. High school teams were asked to transform statistics and abstract air quality issues, through infographics, into a compelling, informative visual experience. The winners will be announced on April 5th.
- The 5th annual poster contest closed on March 15th. Students in grades 4-8 were asked to submit a creative poster that brings to light the solutions to air pollution and climate change and inspires people to take actions to improve our region's air quality. The winners will be announced on April 12th.

- The new Clean Air Partners app is now available for download in the iTunes store, Google Play and on the Clean Air Partners website. The Clean Air Partners app allows residents living in the Metropolitan Washington-Baltimore region to get daily air quality forecasts, current air quality information, and alerts when the air is unhealthy to breathe.
- This year Clean Air Partners conferred 18 awards for best science fair project addressing air quality and climate change in Baltimore, Fairfax, Alexandria, Falls Church and Arlington, Frederick, Montgomery, Prince George's, Prince William County and Washington D.C..

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

- No updates.

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

- The Workgroup met on February 13, 2013 to continue work on the draft regional tree canopy management strategy report.
- Currently, this regional workgroup is in the early stages of drafting report sections based on the thematic areas outline developed in December.
- A final draft report is expected in July of 2013
- The next meeting will be held March 15, 2013 to continue work on the draft strategy report.

Other Committees

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Tom Savoie | tsavoie@mwkog.org)

- CPOC will be merging with the Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee to form the Mid-Atlantic Purchasing Team (MAPT).
- Montgomery County is collecting data for the new Gasoline RFQ.

[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 January 10th and January 20th, respectively. Both committees were briefing on key issues that were raised during the 'Extreme Weather/Climate Event' Workshop that COG helped co-sponsor on December 17, 2012; which focused on the COG region's planning, responses and lessons learned from the Derecho and Hurricane Sandy. In addition to sharing various case studies, some important points were raised during the workshop including:
 - Regional Coordination - There is strong coordination that already exists in the region (internal & regionally) - though some gaps were still noted during the events and after-event discussions
 - Key Vulnerabilities are protecting the electrical grid and supporting employees. Data needs to be as localized as possible, and cost impact data is important.
 - Balancing Short Versus Long-term Needs - Addressing these extreme events doesn't directly address flooding or environmental/water quality issues driven by meeting regulatory/permit requirements. There are often competing needs between meeting short-term permit requirements and keeping up with day-to-day tasks, versus planning and spending for system improvements (i.e., new pipes, purchase of costly generators) that will help systems survive more severe weather..
- The CBPC endorsed the idea of holding a joint meeting with CEEPC over the next few months to address issues that are of importance to both the CBPC and CEEPC, in particular water-energy nexus topics such as water reuse projects in the region and their energy implications. Staff are working to develop a proposal and timing for that session.

