

# CEEPC Monthly Updates – July 2013

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*Events, News and Announcements related to Climate, Energy, & Environment  
in the Washington Region*

## Events

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Please bookmark MWCOG's Regional Energy Events Calendar:

<https://ncrportal.mwcog.org/sites/surveys/climate/Lists/Calendar/calendar.aspx>

- ✓ **July 25:** [Maryland Climate Change Summit](#), 9:30am-3:00pm, Linthicum Heights, MD
- ✓ **August 6:** [Water and Energy Nexus in Disasters Workshop](#), Lorton, VA
- ✓ **September 9-11:** [RETECH Renewable Energy and Technology Conference](#), Washington, DC

## Climate, Energy, and Environment News

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**[Obama Outlines Ambitious Plan to Cut Greenhouse Gases](#)** (June 25) President Obama announced sweeping measures to reduce greenhouse gas pollution and prepare the nation for a future of rising temperatures. Mr. Obama said he would use his executive powers to require reductions in the amount of carbon dioxide emitted by the nation's power plants. The carbon cuts at power plants are the centerpiece of a three-pronged climate-change plan that will also involve new federal funds to advance renewable energy technology, as well as spending to fortify cities and states against the ravages of storms and droughts aggravated by a changing climate.

**[States Seek Flexibility in Obama Climate Plan](#)** (July 12) State regulators who will play an outsized role in carrying out key provisions of the President's Climate Action Plan are waiting to hear nitty-gritty details about the regulations before passing judgment. Those stakeholders have issues with electrical transmission, grid reliability and funding that present major hurdles for Obama, who skirted the gridlocked Congress by using executive action. For states ahead of the curve in the shift toward cleaner fuels, flexibility means allowing them to use tools they've already developed to meet aggressive emissions targets. To many coal-dependent states, flexibility means something else: achievable targets that can minimize costs and keep the lights on. The president directed regulators to craft standards "to provide flexibility to different states with different needs, and build on the leadership that many states, and cities, and companies have already shown."

**[PACE programs to Finance Clean Energy Catch On](#)** (June 21) Known as Property Assessed Clean Energy financing, the approach allows owners to borrow the money for conservation or clean energy upgrades and pay it back over the long haul, often 20 years, through a property tax surcharge. Since June 2011, the number of projects completed with the financing has more than doubled, to at least 168 worth \$33 million, from 75 worth \$10 million, according to PACENow, a nonprofit advocacy group that tracks the programs. The group says that 30 states and the District of Columbia have passed laws allowing the program, and estimates that the number of projects could easily double by the end of next year

[L.A. launches nation's largest solar rooftop program](#) (June 27) L.A.'s Department of Water and Power is rolling out the country's biggest urban rooftop program, which will pay residents for solar energy they produce in excess of their own needs. The goal of the effort, the brainchild of the Los Angeles Business Council, is to generate 150 megawatts of solar electricity, or enough to power about 30,000 homes.

[Sea Level Rise Study Shows Each Degree Of Warming Could Bring 2.3 Meter Shift](#) (July 13) Sea levels could rise by 2.3 metres for each degree Celsius that global temperatures increase and they will remain high for centuries to come, according to a new study by the Potsdam Institute for Climate Impact Research. The study was the first to examine evidence from climate history and combine it with computer simulations of contributing factors to long-term sea-level increases: thermal expansion of oceans, the melting of mountain glaciers and the melting of the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets.

## State Update

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### District of Columbia

[DC Council Unanimously Approves Shared Solar Program](#) (July 10) The Community Renewables Energy Act will allow thousands of DC renters, businesses, and others to go solar for the first time. The program is designed to enable energy customers who can't put solar on their own property to subscribe to a shared solar project located somewhere else in their community – and get credit on their utility bill for their portion of the clean power produced. With 60% of DC's households renting their homes, this program will open the door to clean energy for a huge new demographic. The bill must pass a second and final vote when the Council returns from summer recess in September.

[District boutique's new solar panels shed light on the value of renewable energy tax credits](#) (May 31) Danielson and her husband, who have long been committed to sustainability and "green" energy, just finished installing more than two dozen solar panels on the roof of Forecast, her 35-year-old women's clothing and home goods store near Capitol Hill. The new solar system will supply about 70 percent of the energy needed to run the boutique, trimming the power bill by an estimated \$5,000 a year. The remaining savings will come from federal and local tax credits, which will reduce the company's tax bill this year by roughly \$13,000 and \$10,000, respectively.

### Maryland

[Bowie to let the sun shine in with solar panels](#) (July 10) In an effort to further reduce costs, Bowie officials backed a proposal to install more solar panels in the city. At its July 1 meeting, the City Council instructed city staff to look at installing solar panels to the roof of the Bowie Senior Center while the city moves forward with an already scheduled \$273,000 overhaul of the facility's roof. Bowie has been experimenting with solar power since 2008 at the city's park and maintenance facility. An initial eight-kilowatt system installed at the facility was expanded in 2012 to be about 15 kilowatts and city records estimate the system costs about \$54,000.

[Rising seas, sinking land put Maryland's waterfront communities at risk](#) (June 28) In his state-of-the-state address this year, Gov. Martin O'Malley warned that Maryland is one of the most vulnerable states in the country to rising sea levels. Lawmakers say they want to protect Maryland's waterside. But the coastline is 7,700 miles long, according to updated measurements by the Maryland Geological

Survey. That's twice previous estimates, because of improved aerial imagery and more complete accounting of coastal inlets.

## Virginia

[Alexandria Renew CEO Makes Case for Integrated Water Management](#) (June 25) Speaking at the “One Water Management Meeting” in Washington, D.C., Alexandria Renew Enterprises Chief Executive Karen L. Pallansch made a compelling case for integrated water management, citing that “water supply and water demand are heading in the opposite direction.” Alexandria Renew Enterprises is the former Alexandria Sanitation Authority. Integrated water management takes a holistic approach to the water cycle and to foster water sustainability. It brings all interested parties to the table – from the wastewater and drinking water industries, to energy, agriculture, manufacturing and transportation – to see how we can best preserve and protect this precious natural resource.

[Community Housing Partners recognized as national energy innovator](#) (July 16) Community Housing Partners, a Virginia-based community development corporation that serves the needs of low-wealth and low-income families in the southeast, has won a State & Local Energy Report Residential Efficiency Award in Weatherization. The award recognizes the work of CHP’s Energy Solutions Research and Training Center which has trained over 30,000 participants across 30 states in state-of-the-art residential energy conservation techniques, home performance testing, and heating and cooling equipment diagnostics, repair and replacement.

## Congress & Federal Update

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[Federal Agencies Release Energy and Sustainability Performance Updates](#) (May 31) As part of the Obama Administration’s initiative to reduce energy use, pollution and waste and save money in Federal operations, Federal agencies today released annual updates that show significant progress toward energy and sustainability goals. Under Executive Order 13514, President Obama directed Federal agencies to reduce their carbon pollution, increase renewable energy use, and meet energy and water efficiency goals. These annual performance scorecards benchmark agencies’ progress and help them to target the best opportunities to improve their energy efficiency and reduce costs and waste in their operations moving forward.

[Obama Readying Emissions Limits on Power Plants](#) (June 19) President Obama is preparing regulations limiting carbon dioxide emissions from existing power plants, senior officials said Wednesday. The move would be the most consequential climate policy step he could take and one likely to provoke legal challenges from Republicans and some industries.

[New Energy Department Rule Boosts Efficiency on Federal Buildings](#) (July 9) The Energy Department on July 9 published a new rule requiring new federal buildings to meet higher energy efficiency standards. The rule applies to buildings for which design begins on or after one year after publication in the Federal Register. It updates the baseline federal commercial standards to the 2010 version of the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1, which the Energy Department determined would save 18.2% more energy in commercial buildings than the 2007 version of Standard 90.1.

[Land Order Facilitates Solar Energy Development on Public Lands](#) (July 5) As part of President Obama's comprehensive plan to reduce carbon pollution while promoting American-made clean energy sources, the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) today announced the withdrawal of lands identified for solar energy development in the West from new mining claims. The BLM published a Federal Register notice today announcing the approval of a Public Land Order that withdraws 303,900 acres of land within 17 Solar Energy Zones in six western states from the location of mining claims that could impede development of solar energy sites.

## **Research Articles and Reports**

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[U.S. Energy Sector Vulnerabilities to Climate Change and Extreme Weather](#) (U.S. Department of Energy Office of Policy and International Affairs, July 2013)

[Energy Efficiency in Water and Wastewater Facilities: A Guide to Developing and Implementing GHG Reduction Programs](#) (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, June 2013)