

COG Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Projects and Subcommittee Updates

Advocacy Subcommittee (Julia Allman, jallman@mwkog.org)

- The COG Board Legislative Committee is currently developing its priorities and strategy for legislative advocacy in 2013. The following have been identified as key areas for COG advocacy in the coming year: Sequestration, Transportation, Energy Security and Efficiency, Storm Water Management, Workforce Development
- The CEEPC Advocacy Subcommittee will meet immediately following the Nov. 28 CEEPC meeting to develop a policy position related to Energy Security and Efficiency to recommend to the COG Board. Staff will then develop an issue brief to engage with legislators.
- Please see the Monthly Topic Summary for detailed updates on legislation in the DC Council. Of note, the Council has passed the Energy Innovation and Savings Amendment Act which, among other provisions, exempts electric vehicle charging stations from public utility regulation—bringing DC's policy in line with Maryland's and Virginia's.

Solar Collaborative Purchase (Jeff King, jking@mwkog.org)

- COG and EPA have been organizing a regional collaborative procurement for solar energy systems.
- The first round will include WMATA, Montgomery County, Greenbelt, the District of Columbia, and a local university. The Round One members are currently executing an MOU. There are final administrative issues and clarifications to be resolved among a few of the participants. There is a process underway by which the group will select a consultant to guide them through the RFP final drafting, issuance and response phases.
- Discussions are underway for a second round, with strong expressions of interest from new stakeholders.

Economy Forward (Nicole Hange, nhange@mwkog.org)

- COG released the report, "Economy Forward: COG's Call to Action for a More Competitive Metropolitan Washington" in September. The report presents key actions on issues such as workforce development and transportation funding that area officials will undertake to strengthen the region's economy and protect it from the impacts of changes in federal spending.
- A workplan is currently under development to implement the recommendations in the report, and areas of potential collaboration with CEEPC will be explored. Legislative advocacy around energy efficiency is likely to play a role in the Economy Forward initiative.
- In November, the COG Board cited this report in a letter to Congress urging a bipartisan solution that avoids the fiscal cliff without disproportionately impacting state and local governments or discretionary programs aimed at vibrant communities.
- The report can be found at: http://www.mwkog.org/store/item.asp?PUBLICATION_ID=447