

MANAGING THE REGION'S TREES AND FORESTS

Dan Sze
Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee Chair

COG Board Meeting
February 13, 2019

Tree Canopy Management Strategy

Purpose

Communicate goals and recommendations that local governments can use to conserve, manage, and expand their tree canopy and maximize the environmental health and quality of life in metropolitan Washington

Through collaborative stewardship, build commitment to develop and implement a regional tree canopy management plan

Key Recommendations

- *Encourage COG member jurisdictions to conserve and expand urban forests*
- ***Establish an on-going forest policy committee***
- *Align regional urban forestry initiatives and metrics with the Region Forward vision*

Subcommittee Goals

- Protect, Manage, and Expand Urban Forestry Assets for Health and Quality of Life
- Optimize Urban Forest Programs
- Develop A Regional Urban Forest Action Plan and Canopy Goals
- Inspire the Community to Take Ownership of Efforts to Protect and Expand Urban Forests
- Integrate Urban Forestry with Region Forward

Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup (RTCW) Timeline

- 2007 NAAQS 8-hour Ozone State Implementation Plan recommended an ad-hoc committee to address *Urban Heat Island Mitigation/Tree Planting/Canopy Conservation and Management*
- The Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup recommended to CEEPC and CBPC - *Utilize the full potential of urban forests to mitigate climate change and to address regulatory concerns*
- Ongoing local actions for tree/forest protection, tree canopy assessments, local tree canopy goals & plans
- May 2018, *Regional Tree Canopy Management Strategy* released

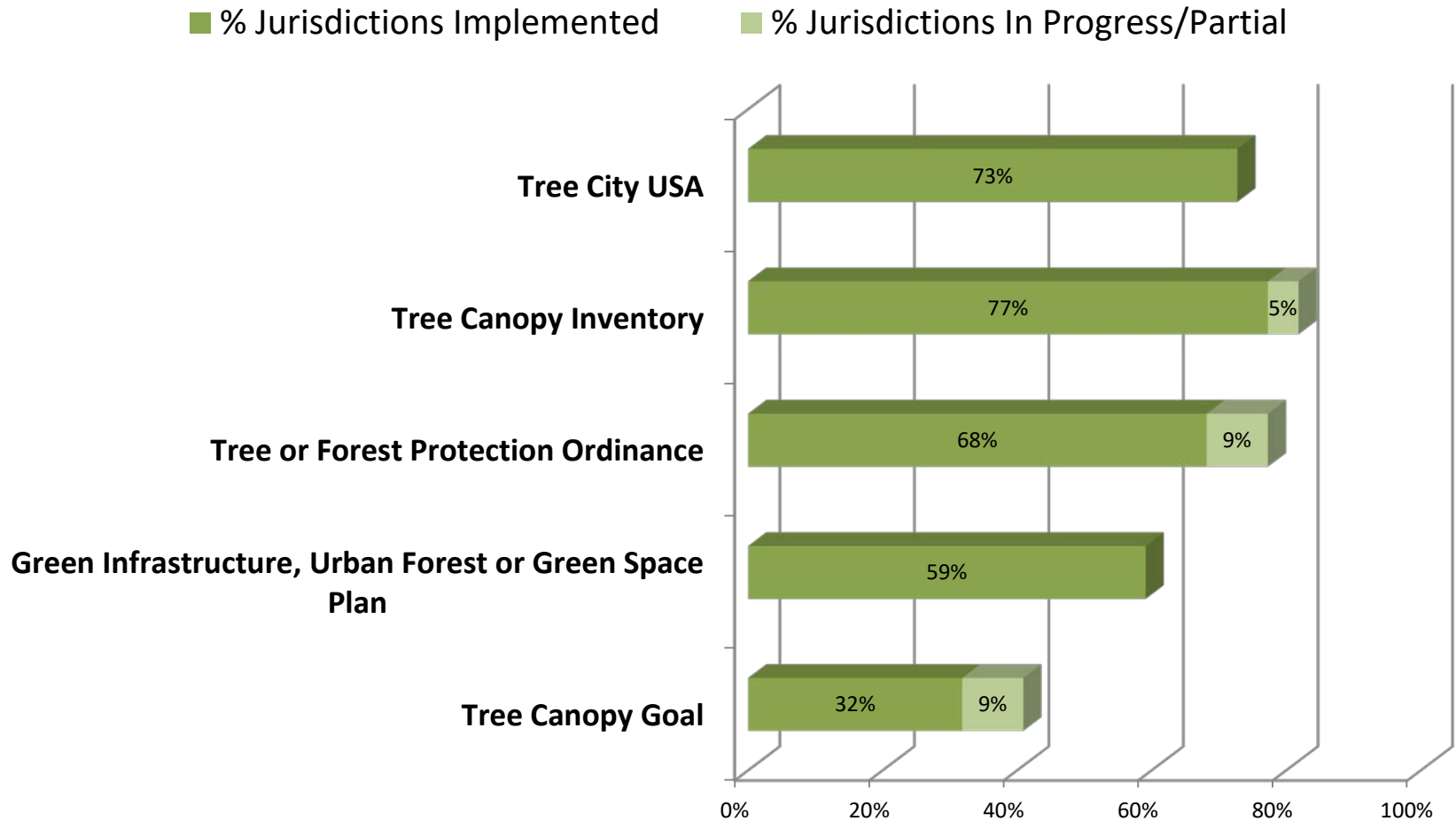
RTCW Regional Representatives

Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup Representation

- Arlington County
- Charles County
- Center for Chesapeake Communities
- District of Columbia
- Fairfax County
- Maryland Dept. of Natural Resources
- Montgomery County
- MNCPPC, Prince Georges County & Montgomery County
- Takoma Park
- USDA Forest Service
- Virginia Department of Forestry



COG Member Policy/Programs, 2018



Resolution R7-2019

- CEEPC recommends adoption of Resolution R7-2019
- Establishes a Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee under CEEPC
- Spearhead efforts to protect, manage, and expand urban forestry
- 2-year period ending December 2020 (potential to continue)

Steve Walz

COG Department of Environmental Programs Director
(202) 962-3205
swalz@mwkog.org

Brian LeCouteur

COG Urban Forester/Agricultural Programs Manager
(202) 962-3393
blecouteur@mwkog.org

mwkog.org

777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20002