



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

Date: February 13, 2008
To: COG Board of Directors
From: David J. Robertson, Executive Director
Subject: Recommendation for COG Corporate Actions to Support the Cool Capital Challenge

*District of Columbia
Bladensburg*
Bowie
College Park
Frederick
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County*

**Adjunct member*

Recommendations

As a regional leader devoted to the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and promoting sustainable development, and based on the recommendation of the Climate Change Steering Committee (CCSC), I recommend that COG adopt a two-fold approach for joining the Cool Capital Challenge.

First, COG should encourage our members to participate in the Cool Capital Challenge, which will not only raise awareness of our regional governments' efforts to combat climate change, but also empower citizens and organizations to personally and individually pledge by April 2008 to take steps to contribute to the region's greater goal of reducing one billion pounds of green house gas emissions.

Second, it is my plan that COG, as a corporate entity, will build upon its green practices already underway, and utilize the knowledge and creativity of our staff members to take part in the Challenge over the course of 2008 and beyond.

Green Practices Currently Underway

As a one-third owner of 777 North Capitol Street, NE, COG has collaborated with building partners and building management, and has taken numerous critical steps toward water and energy efficiency and technological improvements in COG's headquarters building and commuting practices. These practices include recycling measures, lighting controls, building engineering, and commuting policies and options. They are listed in greater depth on page 4 of this memo.

Rationale for COG Commitment to Cool Capital Challenge

Joining the Cool Capital Challenge is consistent with COG's Vision of being a world class, high performance regional organization recognized for applying best practices and cutting edge technologies. In addition to reducing our carbon footprint, joining the Challenge would have the additional benefits listed below:

- Waste reduction and increased recycling.
- Storm water management.
- Educational benefits for employees and committee members.
- Cost savings.
- Demonstrates leadership in the COG region: Creating a tangible benchmark for regional governments and organizations.
- Reinforces the work of our departments and our committees in a way that is visible and practical.

My planned implementation goals for COG's Participation in the Cool Capital Challenge are outlined on page 3.

I will keep the Board abreast of our actions in the coming months, including quantification of benefits associated with the Cool Capital Challenge commitment.