

## Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC – January 2012

### Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

#### Technical Committees

[Energy Advisory Committee](#)<sup>1</sup> (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) and [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org))

- The EAC met on January 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Members heard an update on the status of the regional collaborative solar PV procurement. COG members and other stakeholders in the region are actively working with the US EPA Green Power Partnership on a collaborative effort to procure solar PV. Over 170 sites were screened with 80 potential locations for a total energy capacity of nearly 45MW evaluated in preparation for release of a strategically bundled Request for Proposal. The next step is the review of agency-specific feasibility studies in preparation for the release of an RFP for the identified sites.
- Members heard an overview of state utility programs and priorities for renewable energy. Dominion is working on several new pilot programs, including utility scale solar deployment, and new solar tariff that would be an alternative to net metering. Dominion is also converting several old coal-fired plants to biomass. Dominion will seek to develop a market for Virginia-based RECs that will be depending on subscriber interest.
- The next EAC meeting will be held on February 16.

[Intergovernmental Green Building Group \(IGBG\)](#) (Leah Boggs | [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org))

- The next IGBG meeting will be held on March 8, 2012. GSA will present their report, *Green Building Performance: A Post Occupancy Evaluation of 22 GSA Buildings*.

[Street Lights Working Group](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org))

- No updates to report.

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

- The Recycling Committee met on January 19th to hear presentations on Electronics Recycling.
- The COG Go Recycle Campaign on local radio is scheduled for March. It will promote recycling in the workplace and be supported by private and government sponsors.
- There will be a Reuse Network meeting hosted by COG on February 6.
- COG will host a regional Organics Task Force meeting on February 23.
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[CEEPC Outreach Committee](#) (Joan Rohlfs | [jrohlfs@mwkog.org](mailto:jrohlfs@mwkog.org))

- An RFP for strategic marketing services for a sustainability outreach program was posted on January 13, 2012.
- The RFP requests the services of a marketing firm to develop program branding and logo, a marketing and outreach plan and social media.
- Proposals are due on February 6, 2012 and a selection committee will meet in February in order to have a consultant on board in March.

[Energy Financing Task Force](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org))

- Staff have been supporting efforts to better understand possible uses of Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECBs) as well as identifying any perceived obstacles to their implementation in the region.

#### Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Joan Rohlfs | [jrohlfs@mwkog.org](mailto:jrohlfs@mwkog.org))

- ACPAC met on December 12, 2011. ACPAC learned about one architect's environmental vision for the current Pepco power plant site, heard an overview on the purpose of the Regional Tree Canopy Workgroup, and meeting topic survey results.
- ACPAC new member recruitment ran through January 15, 2012. There are 8 applicants and 4 members interested in reappointment.

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<sup>1</sup> Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

- ACPAC met on January 23, 2012. ACPAC applicants interested in membership were in attendance. ACPAC provided input on the DRAFT Transportation Planning Priorities and chair and vice chair nominations were held.
- The next ACPAC meeting will be February 13. Newly appointed members will be in attendance and chair and vice chair elections will be held.

### **Supporting Technical and Policy Committees**

#### [MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org))

- MWAQC TAC met on December 6 and January 10.
- Main areas of focus included PM2.5 redesignation and maintenance plan development, which could have an impact on ability to develop new clean natural gas power generation in the region.
- Members heard a presentation on an initiative to lower the sulfur content of gasoline, which could lead to substantial reductions in emissions of NOx due to sulfur's negative impact on catalytic converters.
- Updates were provided on recent actions impacting EPA regulations governing emissions from power plants, including NOx, SO2, PM2.5, as well as air toxics such as Mercury and other acid gases. Some older coal-fired power plants may shut down rather than invest in pollution controls to meet the new standards, but there is anticipated to be limited impact on grid reliability.

#### [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](mailto:rkirby@mwkog.org) and [gmliller@mwkog.org](mailto:gmliller@mwkog.org))

- TPB met January 18.
- New officers for the year 2012 were nominated and approved.
- The TPB was briefed on the results of an analysis of the composition of the vehicle fleet in the Metropolitan Washington Region in 2011.
- TPB Voted to approve funding from the FY 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
- The TPB was briefed on project submissions and the draft scope of work for the Air Quality Conformity Assessment for the 2012 CLRP and FY 2013-18 TIP.
- The TPB was also updated on the proposed performance measures for the TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP). Over the coming months TPB staff will be arranging listening sessions with many of the stakeholders throughout the region in order to solicit their input on performance measures to be included.
- [TPB Releases Update to Region's Long-Term Transportation Plan for Review and Comment](#)
- The next TPB meeting is February 15.

#### [Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) (Paul Desjardin | [pdesjardin@mwkog.org](mailto:pdesjardin@mwkog.org))

- Meeting on January 20 .
- Update and Action on the Draft Round 8.1 Cooperative Forecasts
- Update on the Briefing to the COG Board January 11th Meeting – Region Forward Work Plan for 2012
- Discussion: Proposed “Straw Man” for Identifying Centers
- Update the Region Forward Coalition about the Progress of the Planning Directors/Complete Communities Team
- Next meeting is February 17.

#### [Region Forward Coalition](#) (Paul Desjardin/John Mataya | [pdesjardin@mwkog.org](mailto:pdesjardin@mwkog.org) / [jmataya@mwkog.org](mailto:jmataya@mwkog.org))

- The third Region Forward Coalition meeting was held on November 30th at College Park, Maryland.
- PlanMaryland and Region Forward
- Team Progress Reports
- HUD Grant Status: Moving Forward
- Next meeting is January 27 COG Building, DC from 11:00 to 1:30.

### **Affiliated Partnerships**

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

- Clean Air Partners will sponsor their 4<sup>th</sup> annual poster contest. The contest is open to students in grades 4 – 8. Deadline for submissions is March 16, 2012.

- Clean Air Partners completed its first slogan contest with local students. Two winners were selected and one slogan will be used as the theme for the poster contest.
- The Annual Celebration/Meeting will be held the evening of May 8, 2012 at the Baltimore Museum of Industry.
- The Clean Air Partners Board will hold a Visioning Meeting on January 24, 2012.

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

- November 16th – Employee Benefits Fair at the American College of OBGYN – DC
- December 1 – Nicholas Ramfos, Commuter Connections Director, moderated a panel discussion on Rewards and Incentives Applied in Transportation Behavior Change at the annual Behavior, Energy and Climate Change (BECC) conference held in Washington DC
- December 14th – COG/TPB staff held an Employer Outreach training session for local jurisdictions on LEED and how to use transportation to gain LEED certification points.

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Jeff King | [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org) and Brian LeCouteur | [blecouteur@mwkog.org](mailto:blecouteur@mwkog.org))

- December 7 -- COG convened a group of local and state foresters and stormwater professional to develop a feasibility study for increasing tree canopy in the region.
- The group discussed challenges and opportunities for moving ahead with the feasibility study.
- The next meeting is scheduled for February 10, 2012.

**Other Committees**

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Phil McGaughey | [Philip\\_J\\_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org))

- Loudon County is moving forward with taking the lead on the Natural Gas Reverse Auction that will be going out in February.

[Water Resources Technical Committee](#) (WRTC) (Tanya Spano | [tspano@mwkog.org](mailto:tspano@mwkog.org))

- The WRTC met on January 12.
- COG staff presented the latest updates regarding COG regional water sector climate change planning needs analysis and heard feedback from the committee.
- Interested members will meet in February to plan the content for a climate science workshop, planned for this spring.
- The next WRTC meeting is March 8.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | [kberger@mwkog.org](mailto:kberger@mwkog.org))

- At its meeting of 1/20/12, the committee approved the following work program item for 2012: Work with Climate, Energy and Environmental Policy Committee to integrate water quality and climate change initiatives (e.g. tree canopy preservation, bag legislation).

**Other Updates**

[Smart Growth and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Washington Region](#) (Maia Davis | [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org))

- The EPA DRAFT Climate Adaptation Guidebook was open for COG stakeholder comment from December 12, 2011 – January 6, 2012.
- EPA is reviewing all COG comments in January 2012 and a final guidebook will be available in March 2012.
- After the March 28, 2012 CEEPC meeting, EPA and the consultant, SRA, will present the final guidebook in Room 1 beginning at 12:30pm.

[Responsible Purchasing Network Regional Membership Smart](#) (Maia Davis | [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org))

- COG has established a 2012 Regional Membership to the Responsible Purchasing Network (RPN). RPN membership in 2012 is provided at no charge to COG member jurisdictions.
- An unlimited number of local jurisdiction employees are entitled access to all of RPN's online resources. If you would like access to your member benefits please contact Maia Davis.
- A Sustainable Purchasing 101 and New Member Orientation Webinar was held on January 18, 2012. The webinar is now available to view at <http://responsiblepurchasing.org/webinars/>.

Annual Climate and Energy Surveys and Progress Report (Maia Davis | [mdavis@mwkog.org](mailto:mdavis@mwkog.org))

- The Annual Climate and Energy Surveys were sent out to COG member local jurisdictions on Tuesday, January 17, 2012 and are due on February 6, 2012.
- COG is not surveying on alternative fuel vehicles or State Implementation Plan (air quality) commitments this year and has added surveys on electric vehicle permitting and sustainable purchasing.
- Last year, 20 out of 21 COG member local governments responded to the surveys. The information provided in the surveys informs the Annual Climate and Energy Progress Report for the COG Board.