

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC July 2012

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Energy Advisory Committee](#)¹ (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- EAC met on June 21 to discuss solar implementation in the region. The Committee received presentations on Green Up DC and Green Dashboard, two interactive web tools from the District Department of the Environment. Optony, Inc. gave a presentation on collaborative solar procurement projects in San Francisco and gave an update on the ongoing collaborative procurement project in the Washington region. Dominion Resources gave a presentation on two proposed solar incentive programs.
- On July 12, EAC held a joint meeting with IGBG.

[Electric Vehicle Planning Initiative](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The EV Planning Initiative met on June 27 to review the major findings of the Washington region EV readiness report and to discuss top recommendations. The report will be presented to CEEPC at the July 25th meeting.

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

- IGBG held a joint meeting with EAC on July 12. The panel discussion focused on linking equitable and sustainable development through green building practices. Panelists from the EPA Office of Sustainable Communities, the Planning and Black Community Division of the American Planning Association, USGBC, and the U.S. Department of Energy. The panel discussed community planning tools, programs, and strategies that can integrate equity and affordability with sustainable development.

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

- The Recycling Committee met July 19 for a Plastic Bag Update.
- Committee members received presentations on bag programs in the region, across the nation, and worldwide. Presentations on plastic bag manufacturing and recycling, and an overview of legislative efforts concerning plastic bags were also discussed.

[CEEPC Outreach Committee](#) (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- GolinHarris has been selected to develop branding, a logo and marketing strategy for a regional sustainability outreach campaign.
- The CEEPC Outreach Committee met on Thursday, June 21, 2012 where GolinHarris presented sustainable outreach strategy concept.
- GolinHarris delivered a draft marketing strategy outline in July and will deliver a draft strategy and branding/logo to COG in the first part of August 2012.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC met on June 18, 2012. ACPAC discussed climate change impacts and planning implications for transportation and land use and the Sierra Club's Beyond Coal Campaign in Virginia.
- ACPAC also met on July 16, 2012. ACPAC discussed the Arlington Passivhaus and the draft Electric Vehicle Report.
- The next ACPAC meeting will be September 10, 2012.

¹ Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

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

- MWAQC met in June. MWAQC was briefed on ALA's *State of the Air Report 2012* and discussed the proposed MDE long-range planning rule for transportation conformity. The Mobile Budget Task Force Chair Leta Mach reported that the Task Force met several times and is still working on a compromise solution for developing Motor Vehicle Emissions Budgets for the PM2.5 Maintenance Plan. The next MWAQC meeting will be in September.
- The MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee met in July. The TAC recommended approval of a comment letter on the FY 2012 CLRP and FY 2013-2018 TIP. They also recommended approval of a comment letter to the National Weather Service urging NWS to continue issuing Code Orange Alerts for air quality. The MWAQC Executive Committee approved both letters in July. The ozone season has been active with a number of Code Orange and Code Red days (3) so far. The next meeting will be in September.

[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 and gmliller@mwkog.org)

- The TPB met on July 18, 2012
- The TPB approved the 2012 CLRP, FY 2013-2018 TIP, and the recommended Transportation/Land Use Connections (TLC) technical assistance recipients under the FY 2013 TLC Program
- Work continues on the TPB Regional Transportation Priorities Plan (RTPP). The next major RTPP public outreach event is scheduled to take place in the fall, when TPB staff hopes to utilize a web-based tool to help communicate the latest iteration of the RTPP goals, challenges, and strategies.
- There is no meeting in August. The next meeting of the TPB is on September 19, 2012

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) and [Region Forward Coalition](#)

(Paul Desjardin/John Mataya | pdesjardin@mwkog.org / jmataya@mwkog.org)

- The Planning Directors Technical Committee met July 13.
- COG staff presented a map of the proposed Activity Centers. COG staff is seeking approval from the planning directors. Once approved, COG staff will advance the map to the Region Forward Coalition where they are expected to approve for public comment.
- COG staff will also be working with local planning staff and city/county council or boards to schedule briefings to their elected officials on the proposed Activity Centers update.
- COG staff will keep planning directors updated through this process and COG board action is expected in November 2012.

Affiliated Partnerships

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

- Clean Air Partners' 2012 media campaign will air the weeks of July 16th and 23rd. Radio ads will run on 4 stations in both the Washington and Baltimore markets. The campaign will also include ads on Washingtonpost.com, Baltimoresun.com and Facebook.
- Transit partners will run Clean Air Partners ads from May through September on the following systems: WMATA, City of Fairfax, Fairfax Connector, Prince George's County, and Charm City Circulator,.
- The Clean Air Partners Education Team has begun the annual summer outreach within the community. They will be visiting summer camps throughout the region and presenting the Clean Air Partners curriculum, On the Air.
- Clean Air Partners presented Clean Commute Challenge Awards to GEICO and the Havre de Grace Seafood Festival at the Maryland Green Registry Awards. The challenge raised awareness for alternative commuting options and the participants implemented plans that will reduce the number of vehicle miles traveled by 7 million miles a year.

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

- In May, Commuter Connections made a presentation at the Kaiser Permanente "Striving for Sustainability" conference in Rockville.
- May 18th was regional Bike to Work Day
- In June, Commuter Connections was present at the following events:
 - NOAA Employee Transportation Fair – Silver Spring

- Aerospace Employee Transportation fair – Chantilly
- Sibley Hospital Benefits Fair – DC
- Mark Center Employee Transportation Fair – Alexandria
- APTA Transportation Fair - DC
- NIH – Winner of Employer Challenge Lunch for Bike to Work Day – Bethesda
- Commuter Connections Employer Recognition Awards – National Press Club (DC).

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

- The Tree Canopy Workgroup met on June 22.
- COG provided an update on the progress of the Regional Tree Canopy Analysis Project under a grant from the District of Columbia's Urban Forestry Administration through the U.S. Forest Service.
- The workgroup is currently developing a strategy for developing short and long-term goals for regional tree canopy management based on the unique considerations of the Washington Metropolitan Area.
- An interim 'Primer' document is underway to provide a snapshot of regional tree canopy efforts and national 'Best Practices' in Urban Tree Canopy management.

Other Committees

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Tom Savoie | tsavoie@mwkog.org and Phil McGaughey | Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org)

- The District of Columbia is moving forward with a Reverse Auction for Natural Gas.

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

- WRTC met on July 12, 2012. COG staff provided updates on the WRTC-sponsored Climate Impacts Symposium that took place on May 21, 2012 here at COG.
- COG staff is tentatively planning to schedule a Water Sector work session on COG's draft adaptation report in October-November, 2012. Additional COG staff work over the coming months will include evaluating upland flooding issues, and refining water-related parameters identified during the Symposium that are of interest to scientists as well as engineers and planners.
- The next WRTC meeting is on September 13th. At that meeting, a speaker from the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission (WSSC) will discuss their evaluation of the 'reuse' of non-potable water (which includes both wastewater and stormwater sources), and its potential applications. This is one example of efforts by COG's local governments and utilities to evaluate and pilot projects that have the potential to reduce energy demands, decrease stormwater runoff, and perhaps cost effectively reduce some of the nutrient loads from the region..

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

- CBPC met on July 20.
- The Committee received a briefing on the impact of air quality measures on Bay water quality.
- The Committee also received an update on DC Water's Green Infrastructure Pilot program, which will see whether large-scale implementation of green infrastructure can partially offset the need for underground storage tunnels to prevent combined sewer discharges.