

# CEEPC Monthly Updates

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## Federal Regulatory Updates

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- ✓ **Fannie Regulator Digs In On Clean-Energy Opposition (August 27):** The FHFA solidified their position on residential PACE programs in a letter to Congress, stating that they will continue to warn FHFA-regulated institutions against PACE. The FHFA rejected the idea of a pilot program. The options to move forward on residential PACE programming are a court battle, legislation, or intervention by the Obama administration.
- ✓ **EPA, DOT Propose New Fuel Economy Labels/Agencies Seek Public Comment on the Most Dramatic Overhaul in the Label's 30-year History (August 30):** The EPA and DOT have proposed changes to the fuel economy labels consumers see on cars in showrooms. For the first time they will include data about carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions. One design also grades cars, with all-electric vehicles receiving an "A+." They are seeking public comments on two design options. The sixty (60) day comment period from the time it is posted in the Federal Register. <http://www.good.is/post/cars-to-get-excruciatingly-clear-new-fuel-efficiency-labels>
- ✓ **EPA Publishes Proposals to Set GHG Rules (September 2):** The EPA's plan for state compliance with the federal Greenhouse Gas Tailoring Rule was published in the *Federal Register*, opening the public comment period. The GHG tailoring rule requires projects that will increase GHG emissions significantly to obtain an air permit, beginning 2 January 2011. EPA will hold a public hearing on the proposed FIP on 14 September in Washington, DC. Written comments will be accepted through 14 October.
- ✓ **US Reiterates Commitment to 2020 Climate Goal (September 3):** US climate envoy said that Washington is not backing down from its commitment to cutting emissions 17 percent from 2005 levels by 2020. The US will rely on regulation by the EPA and future legislation to reach these goals.
- ✓ **Input Sought on Forthcoming National Climate Assessment (September 7):** The U.S. Global Change Research Program (USGCRP) is seeking comment on its outline of the next National Climate Assessment (NCA), due to be released in June 2013. The assessment is focused both on supporting the Nation's activities in adaptation and mitigation and also on evaluating the current state of scientific knowledge relative to climate impacts and trends. A primary goal of this NCA is "to establish permanent assessment capacity both inside and outside the Federal government." Comments are due by October 8, 2010.
- ✓ **White House Releases Federal Agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans (September 10):** The White House announced the release of the Federal Agency Strategic Sustainability Performance Plans, part of a requirement for federal agencies to set a 2020 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction target. This marks the first time federal agencies have developed and submitted Sustainability Plans.

## Federal Legislative Updates

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- ✓ **Livable Communities Act Endorsed by U.S. Senate Banking Committee (August 5):** The Senate Banking Committee approved the *Livable Communities Act* bill which would create the Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities. The office would oversee two grant programs: one program would make \$2.2 billion available for communities and the second program would provide \$500 million to support comprehensive regional planning. The full Senate will likely debate the *Livable Communities Act* in the fall.
- ✓ **Reid: Next Climate Bill Should Be 'Piecemeal' (September 7):** Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid remains hopeful that a narrow energy bill will go through the Senate this year. It will include provisions to increase natural gas deployment and rebates for home energy efficiency retrofits in a program called Homestar. He

reiterated that a renewable electricity standard could still be included.

### Federal Budget Updates

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- ✓ **Secretary Chu Announces Two Million Smart Grid Meters Installed Nationwide (August 31):** At an event in Ohio Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu announced that over two million smart meters have been installed nationwide. The Electric Power Research Institute estimates that smart grid technology could save 4% of Americans' annual electricity use by 2030, or \$20.4 billion in annual savings for businesses and consumers.

### State Government Updates

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- ✓ **Pepco, BGE Get Go-Ahead to Install 'Smart Meters' (August 23):** The Maryland Public Service Commission has approved utility companies Pepco and BGE's requests to deploy smart meters throughout the Washington area. The utilities will be using a \$200 million Department of Energy grant.
- ✓ **Maryland Gets Another \$3.8 million For Energy Efficiency Program (August 24):** Maryland will receive another \$3.8 million in federal DOE funds to make homes more energy efficient. The state will use the money from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act for its Weatherization Assistance Program.
- ✓ **California Energy Commission Licenses First Solar Thermal Power Plant in Twenty Years (August 25):** The Beacon Solar Energy Project, a 250-MW facility has been granted a presiding member's proposed decision (PMPD) by the state energy commission in a unanimous vote. It will be located on 2,012 acres of land in Kern County. It is the first solar thermal power project approved in twenty years.
- ✓ **US Western State Have Cape-and-Trade Emissions Plan (August 27):** The Western Climate Initiative has signed up a total of 11 U.S. states and Canadian provinces that collectively pledged to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 15 percent below 2005 levels by 2020 including: California and New Mexico in the United States and British Columbia, Ontario and Quebec in Canada.
- ✓ **VA One of Four States Getting Money to Retrofit Homes (September 10):** Virginia has received \$2.8 million from the DOE to help improve energy efficiency in residential homes as part of the State Energy Program. Virginia has received money along with Alabama, Massachusetts, and Washington in an effort to retrofit over 12,000 homes by 2013.
- ✓ **Pepco Ready to Deploy 'Smart Meters' in D.C.; Pricing Still Up in the Air (September 12):** Pepco has installed 750 smart meters in throughout the District. However, the DC Public Service Commission has not decided whether or not Pepco will be allowed to implement a dynamic pricing program to accompany the meters.
- ✓ **Pepco Rehearing Request- Maryland Public Service Commission Rate Case 9217- Pepco (September update):** Pepco's rate case with the Maryland Public Service Commission, number 9217, to increase rates began at the end of 2009. The final order from the PSC was issued August 6, 2010. Pepco submitted an application for rehearing and responses to the application for rehearing due on October 4, 2010.

### Local Government Updates

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- ✓ **EPA Releases Top 50 Green Power Purchasers (August 2):** The EPA released its most recent list of the top 50 green power purchasers in the nation, updated quarterly. Both the District of Columbia and Montgomery County were on the list, ranked fourteenth and twenty-fifth, respectively.

## Regional Agencies Updates

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- ✓ **Regional Council for Bioenergy Development Launch (September 10):** The January 2010 Chesapeake Bay Commission report on Chesapeake Biofuels Policies recommended the creation of a regional council on bioenergy development. Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture, is presenting the launch of this council at the Chesapeake Bay Commission meeting September 9-10 in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.
- ✓ **Regional Solar Congress (September):** A group of twelve solar coops that have formed in DC met in early September to discuss the coordination and next steps in the region. The groups will likely meet again this fall and open the discussion to include a wider community of government and industry officials.
- ✓ **COG Submits Application for HUD Regional Planning Grant:** COG has submitted an application for the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant. The grant is available for regional planning efforts that integrate housing, land use, economic and workforce development, transportation, and infrastructure investments.
- ✓ **COG Receives Smart Growth Implementation Program Award from EPA:** COG received a Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Award from the EPA. The award funds a collaborative effort between COG, the EPA, and EPA-hired consultants to examine climate change risks in the region, and using smart growth techniques to adapt planning to mitigate the effects of these risks.

## Upcoming Workshops and Events

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- ✓ **September 24-26:** ICLEI Local Action Summit, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill; Training sessions to be held at COG on September 23. Contact Jeff King, [jking@mwkog.org](mailto:jking@mwkog.org), for more information.
- ✓ **September 27:** Energy financing task force meeting, 1:30-3:00pm COG rooms 4 & 5. Contact Anne Mariani, [amariani@mwkog.org](mailto:amariani@mwkog.org), for more information.
- ✓ **September 29:** Portfolio Manager training session. The training session will be lead by Kudret Ütebay, a bilingual Senior Associate at Cadmus. Contact Leah Boggs, [lboggs@mwkog.org](mailto:lboggs@mwkog.org), for more information.
- ✓ **October 4:** Maryland Clean Energy Summit, Hilton Inner Harbor, Baltimore, MD
- ✓ **October 12-14:** Virginia: Energy Capital of the East Coast — The Governor's Conference on Energy, Greater Richmond Convention Center, Richmond, VA