

CBPC ACADEMIC PAPER COMPETITION

SPRING 2020

Overview

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) is seeking to partner with students on a topic of relevance to metropolitan Washington's local governments.

COG is an independent, nonprofit regional association with a membership of 300 elected officials from the District of Columbia and 23 surrounding cities and counties in Maryland and Virginia.

COG's Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) members are interested in student perspectives of emerging best practices and policies to address real-world sustainability and water resources issues. Students are asked to develop a one-page stand-alone guidance document of actions local elected officials could implement on a particular topic, plus an accompanying paper that provides rationale for the recommendations, research methodology and sources (max. of 5 pages).

This will be an annual opportunity for students at regional schools and research institutions to provide pragmatic recommendations to an audience of local elected officials. The one-page guidance document should focus on actions, including policy changes, that our region's local governments could implement within 90 days, 180 days, and 365 days to address a particular issue. The accompanying

paper should include background context, resources for more information, and citations in APA format. Papers can synthesize already completed work and may entail a literature review.

Submissions will be scored by a panel of judges, based on these criteria: The paper provides *practical, science-based solutions* that *local governments* can implement to address a Food and Ag issue listed below, along with *quality references* to turn to for more information. Papers should be limited to 5 pages.

Participating students will have an opportunity to meet elected officials and other members of the CBPC, while top scoring applicants will be invited to provide a short presentation to the policy committee. Highlights will be publicized by COG's Office of Communications.

Topic Areas

For the 2020 term, the topics will be focused on food and agricultural issues related to sustainability and resiliency within the metropolitan Washington region. Below is a list of topics that would be most relevant to COG's elected officials.

- Policies and considerations for promoting urban agriculture
- Effective policies and incentives for farm-to-school programming (i.e. healthy eating, ag and environmental education, and fostering local farm connections)
- Local government interventions for protecting farmland and supporting land access for the next generation of farmers and producers
- Oyster restoration
- Reducing food waste
- Soil health practices for public properties
- Tree and forest conservation

Participation & Timeline

To apply students should send an email expressing interest to **CBPCresearch@mwkog.org** by **February 14**.

The email should include the following:

- Student's name, contact information, school, department, teacher/professor, course.
- 1-2 sentence description of their chosen research topic.

The 2020 research competition is capped at the first forty submissions in its pilot year. In the event the cap is exceeded, students will be notified no later than Monday, February 17th.

Students are asked to submit completed papers to COG, via email, by April 17, 2020.

The Awards Luncheon will be May 15.

Award

Top papers will be selected by a panel of judges which will include members of the CBPC and academia or the broader scientific community.

Awardees will present their research findings and recommendations to the members of the Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) at their meeting and recognition luncheon on May 15, 2020, held at COG in Washington, DC. Highlights will be publicized via COG's Communications Office.

The top submission will receive a \$500 Award.

For more information

COG will host a Question & Answer Webinar on February 7, from 10:00-11:00 A.M.

Webinar:

<https://mwkog.webex.com/mwkog/j.php?MTID=m299219d619b1267612a5097f4e48278f>

Password: CBPCresearch20

Call in number: 1-855-244-8681

Access code: 645 858 042

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