

COG Climate Change Steering Committee

COG Staff Updates

February 27, 2008

Regional Catalogue/Best Practices Report

COG staff, with the assistance of participants in COG's Institute for Regional Excellence, conducted a member survey and prepared a report cataloguing climate change, energy conservation, and sustainable development best practices among COG's members and affiliated local, state and federal agencies and school systems. The report, entitled *National Capital Region: Best Practices and Policies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases* was prepared for members and others seeking tools that can support sustainable growth and development.

Hard copies of the report are being provided to members of the Climate Change Steering Committee. Copies may also be downloaded from the Committee Web Site.

For further information:

COG Staff contacts:

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George Nichols, 202/962-3355 or gnichols@mwkog.org

Documents:

"National Capital Region: Best Practices and Policies to Reduce Greenhouse Gases" can be downloaded at: www.mwkog.org/climate

Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Report

COG staff has developed a greenhouse gas inventory for the metropolitan Washington region. In 2005, CO₂ and other greenhouse gas emissions were estimated to be approximately 74 million metric tons. Emissions are anticipated to increase to approximately 100 million metric tons by 2030 without actions to reduce emissions. The largest sources of emissions are electricity generation (e.g., power plants) and transportation emissions from motor vehicles. Smaller sources include industrial gases used in refrigeration systems, methane emissions from landfills and wastewater treatment plants, and residential/commercial fuel use. The emissions inventory is being developed for inclusion in the Climate Change Steering Committee Report scheduled for April. Draft emission estimates can be found on the committee website.

For further information:

COG Staff contact:

Jeff King, 202/963-3238 or jking@mwkog.org.

Documents:

November, 2007 Draft Regional Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimate for the Washington DC-MD-VA region for Calendar Year 2005:

- <http://www.mwkog.org/uploads/committee-documents/tlZXWlw20071126113719.pdf>
- <http://www.mwkog.org/uploads/committee-documents/tVZXWls20071126113742.pdf>

COG Climate Change Web Site

COG new Climate Change Program web link is now available! The web site features the work of the Climate Change Steering Committee, including all committee meeting information; as well as the work of our local governments and state and federal programs. It also provides resource information on government, business, and individual actions to mitigate the effects of climate change. The COG climate change web site will continue to be enhanced as the COG program goals are further established and as information becomes available.

For further information:

COG staff contact:

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Web links:

www.mwkog.org/climate

Outline for Climate Change Steering Committee Report to COG Board of Directors

The Climate Change Steering Committee's report to the COG Board of Directors will be considered as a draft at the March 25, 2008 Committee meeting and is scheduled for adoption at the April 23, 2008 Committee meeting. Presentation of the report to the COG Board is scheduled for May 14, 2008.

Staff has developed a preliminary outline for an approximately 30 page report that would include various appendices containing further detailed information. The report would respond to all the elements of the Committee's charge from the COG Board of Directors April 11, 2007 Resolution R31-07.

Climate Change Steering Committee members are requested to review the outline and provide feedback to staff. The Committee's Policy Advisory Committee is asked to serve as a resource for staff in reviewing report drafts and advising on recommendations.

For further information:

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Documents:

http://www.mwkog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=217

- Climate Change Steering Committee Report to COG Board of Directors – Preliminary Outline February 25, 2008

TPB Scenario Study Task Force Greenhouse Gas Reduction Analysis

The Transportation Planning Board's (TPB) Scenario Study Task Force met on February 15, 2008 and received a presentation regarding a scenario recommended by staff for analysis entitled "What Would it Take?" The specific scenario receiving preliminary analysis involved what would it take to meet the proposed 20% CO2 emissions reduction goal by 2020. COG/TPB staff examined the emission reduction benefits of a high fuel economy standard, and recommended that higher percentages of alternatively fueled vehicles, regional vehicle miles of travel reductions, and other travel behaviors be evaluated to determine what it would take to meet the proposed 2020 CO2 emission reduction goal. The TPB Scenario Task Force concurred with staff's proposals for developing the scenario details by June 30, 2008, followed by conducting the scenario analysis.

For further information:

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Documents:

http://www.mwkog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=217

- February 15, 2008 memorandum to TPB Scenario Study Task Force
- February 20, 2008 powerpoint presentation to TPB Scenario Study Task Force

Greater Washington 2050

The first meeting of the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition was held on February 21, 2008. The Greater Washington 2050 initiative was established by the COG Board of Directors in December 2007 as a 12-18 month project. Project goals include development of a Greater Washington 2050 compact, as well as actively involving the community in the effort. Coalition members include elected official and senior policy official representatives from COG-member jurisdictions, COG policy and technical committees, the business community, as well as civic and environmental organizations. COG's Climate Change Steering Committee is well-represented, with Chair Nancy Floreen, Greenbelt Mayor J Davis, and District of Columbia Planning Director Harriet Tregoning all members of the Coalition. The initial meeting included a presentation providing the background and context for the initiative, the workplan, and a facilitated discussion of participants concerning desired outcomes and workplan content. Climate Change and sustainability were frequently noted as fundamental elements of the work and outcomes of the coalition. The Coalition will be meeting on a monthly schedule for the next several months.

For further information:

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Documents:

http://www.mwkog.org/committee/committee/documents.asp?COMMITTEE_ID=217

- February 21, 2008 powerpoint presentation to Greater Washington 2050 Coalition
- February 21, 2008 Greater Washington 2050 Press Release