

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Climate Change Steering Committee
Final Report Recommendations

Committee Discussion Draft for March 25, 2008

Committee Discussion DRAFT for 3-25-2008

Recommendations' Organizational Structure

- I. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals**
- II. COG Climate Change Program**
- III. Economic Development**
- IV. Outreach and Education**
- V. Local Governments: Leading By Example**
- VI. Energy**
- VII. Transportation**
- VIII. Land Use**
- IX. Financing**
- X. Climate Impacts/Adaptation**

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Regional Climate Change Policies and Program Recommendations	
Sector/Target	Policy/Program Recommendation
I. Regional Greenhouse Gas Emission Reduction Goals	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>2012 regional goal:</u> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10% by 2012 over "Business as Usual" projections (i.e., return to 2005 emission levels by 2012) 2) <u>2020 regional goal:</u> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 20% below 2005 levels by 2020. 3) <u>2050 regional goal:</u> Reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80% below 2005 levels by 2020. 4) <u>Goal Implementation:</u> Incorporate greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in all COG long-term planning including Greater Washington 2050 compact and plan.
II. COG Climate Change Program	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Develop Regional Climate Action Implementation Plan</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Prepare plan by September, 2009 to achieve 2012 goal. b) Prepare plan by September, 2010, to achieve 2020 goal. 2) <u>Tracking Progress:</u> Prepare periodic reports assessing regional progress in meeting goals including annual preparation of regional greenhouse gas emissions inventory. 3) <u>Technical Tools:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Identify and/or develop regional best practices for local government emission inventory calculations and progress tracking system. b) Identify and/or develop regional best practice tool for computing carbon footprint and evaluating reduction

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	<p style="text-align: center;">options.</p> <p>4) <u>COG Climate Change Program Governance Structure</u></p> <p>a) Retain Climate Change Steering Committee through September, 2008.</p> <p>b) Evaluate alternative structural alternatives for COG's Climate Change program including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of Regional Climate Action Public-Private Partnership housed at COG; OR • Incorporation into the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee; OR • Merger with the Greater Washington 2050 Coalition; OR • Incorporation into a regional COG Environmental Policy Committee; OR • Incorporation into a regional COG Climate and Energy Policy Committee; OR • Other <p>5) <u>Develop Sustainable Funding Plan for COG Climate Change Program</u></p> <p>a) Identify major foundation and/or private sector funding partners to support COG's regional climate change program</p> <p>6) <u>Advocacy</u></p> <p>a) <u>Federal Climate Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for recognition of local/regional role in federal climate legislation and allocation of funding. • Advocate for national policies that support

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	<p>achievement of regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage federal government to meet same energy conservation and green power goals as local governments in the Washington region. • Advocate for national financial incentives to promote use of renewable energy implementation. • Advocate for federal support for research on climate impacts and adaptation. • Advocate for federal support for research on mitigation. <p>b) <u>State Climate Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advocate for establishment of a 20% renewable portfolio standard in DC, MD, and VA by 2020. • Advocate for creation of state financial incentives for implementation of renewable energy and energy efficiency. • Encourage state governments to meet same energy conservation and green power goals as local governments in the Washington region. <p>c) <u>Local Energy and Climate Policy</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revise local building codes and ordinances to promote energy efficiency. • Examine potential options for removing barriers that may prevent implementation of solar panel or other small scale renewable energy installation.

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III. Economic Development	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Green business and green job promotion:</u> In collaboration with business community, support and identify programs to promote green business and green collar job development in the region 2) <u>Eco-business or green business zones:</u> Develop best-practice or model regional policies to promote local government implementation of eco-business or green business zones. 3) <u>Local Food:</u> Promote local food production options to reduce emissions from food transport.
IV. Outreach and Education	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Citizen Outreach and Education: Implement regional public education campaign:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Encourage participation in Cool Capital Challenge b) Develop "Top 10 things you can do" list that encourage individual energy efficiency activities; alternative commuting; retiring of older, less efficient vehicles, replacing old appliances, replacing incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent or LED bulbs, etc.. c) Partner with Clean Air Partners greenhouse gas emission reduction campaign and other existing regional campaigns. d) Partner with Commuter Connections on promotion alternative commuting options to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. e) Establish a regional "Climate Action Week" to coincide with September "Car Free" activities or other appropriate

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	<p>event(s).</p> <p>2) <u>Develop partnerships with private sector and other organizations</u></p> <p>a) Partner with Greater Washington Board of Trade Green Committee and Potomac Conference to assist businesses with taking action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement best practices.</p> <p>b) Identify regional environmental and community group partners.</p> <p>c) Partner with electric and gas utilities on regional energy conservation and energy efficient outreach.</p> <p>3) <u>COG member outreach:</u> Assist COG members with education and information on climate change, best practices, and related technical assistance</p> <p>4) <u>Recognition Program:</u> Create a "Regional Climate Leaders" Annual Awards program to recognize public and private sector leadership.</p> <p>5) <u>COG Climate Change Web Site</u></p> <p>a) Maintain and enhance COG Climate Change website to make it more interactive.</p>
V. Local Governments: Leading By Example	<p>1) <u>Regional Green Building Policy:</u></p> <p>a) Implement 2007 COG Regional Green Building Policy: All new government buildings meet "LEED Silver" standard.</p> <p>2) <u>Energy Use:</u></p> <p>a) Identify best practices to support reducing overall local government energy use by 15% by 2012.</p>

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Examine feasibility of setting regional percentage goal for incorporation of Energy Star Standard in new buildings. c) "Green" Power <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Evaluate feasibility and cost of setting regional green power utilization goals for local governments. ▪ Evaluate regional cooperative purchase and/or reverse auctions to facilitate green power implementation among COG membership. d) Examine options for a regional street lighting standard that would utilize energy efficient street lighting across the region. e) Promote regional energy performance contracting to reduce energy use in public buildings. f) Consider regional cooperative purchase approach to facilitate cost-effective implementation. g) Develop a long-term goal for carbon neutrality for all government buildings. 3) <u>Regional Green Fleet Policy:</u> Establish Regional Green Fleet Policy with measurable goals and timetables.
VI. Energy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) <u>Regional Green Building Policy:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Implement 2007 COG Regional Green Building Policy: All new private sector commercial buildings meet "Regional LEED Certified" standard. 2) <u>Energy Conservation and Efficiency:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In collaboration with energy utilities and other stakeholders:

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop regional energy conservation goals and timetables. • Develop regional energy conservation and efficiency plan that supports meeting regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. <p>3) <u>Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Initiative (RGGI):</u></p> <p>a) Examine feasibility for expansion of RGGI to the District of Columbia and Virginia.</p> <p>b) Collaborate with RGGI to support implementation of energy conservation and renewable energy projects in the Washington region.</p>
VII. Transportation	<p>1) <u>Regional Transportation Emission Reductions:</u> In collaboration with Transportation Planning Board and its “Scenarios Workgroup”:</p> <p>a) Evaluate “What would it take?” alternatives for meeting regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals in transportation sector.</p> <p>b) Based upon “What would it take?” analysis, develop regional policies and plans to meet regional greenhouse gas emission reduction goals for the transportation sector.</p>
VIII. Land Use	<p>1) <u>Tree canopy preservation:</u> Establish goal and develop program and plan to achieve a “no net loss” in the region’s tree canopy.</p> <p>2) <u>Location and Design of New Development:</u></p> <p>a) Research and develop specific regional goals to significantly increase percentage of new development located in regional activity centers.</p>

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	<p>b) Promote regional policies that support walkable communities.</p>
IX. Financing	<p>1) <u>Evaluate Financing mechanisms:</u> Evaluate potential options for financing of greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy projects in the region: carbon offset fund; redirecting savings from energy efficiency; establishing an energy fee/carbon tax; performance contracting; clean energy fund or utility; participation in cap-and-trade program revenues.</p>
X. Climate Impacts/Adaptation	<p>1) <u>2050 Impacts Report:</u></p> <p>a) Partner with major university to prepare report on expected changes to the region by 2050 as a result of climate change and possible adaptation strategies.</p> <p>b) Develop regional adaptation policies based on results of study for infrastructure, land-use, and emergency response planning.</p> <p>2) <u>Conduct Regional adaptation workshops:</u> Implement a regional adaptation workshop series for COG members and affiliated water & wastewater utilities covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Future water supply, demand & alternative sources ▪ Flood and wind risks: vulnerable buildings and infrastructure ▪ Public health risks and response strategies ▪ Multiple benefits of green infrastructure ▪ Development of a local energy demand management strategy