



Local governments working together for a better metropolitan region

COG Climate Change Steering Committee

September 26, 2007

12 Noon to 2:00 pm**
COG Board Room (3rd Floor)

**11:30 a.m. to Noon ---Lunch and Networking

Agenda

- District of Columbia
Bowie
College Park
Frederick County
Gaithersburg
Greenbelt
Montgomery County
Prince George's County
Rockville
Takoma Park
Alexandria
Arlington County
Fairfax
Fairfax County
Falls Church
Loudoun County
Manassas
Manassas Park
Prince William County

- 1. Call to Order
12:00 NoonNancy Floreen, Chair
Council Member, Montgomery County
2. Approval of June 26th Meeting Summary and Amendments to the Agenda
12:00 noon - 12:05 pm Chair Floreen
3. Chairs Remarks and Announcements
12:05 pm - 12:20 pm Chair Floreen

Recent Events:

- “Cool Counties” Climate Change Declaration – July 16, 2007
Car Free Day in the District of Columbia – Sept. 18, 2007
Cities for Climate Protection Maryland Network Meeting – Sept. 18, 2007
National Association of Counties Climate Protection Forum – Sept. 20, 2007
WETA NOVA show, “Dimming Sun”

Updates on Items from Prior Meetings:

- Cool Capitol Challenge
Staff Background Memo on Ethanol As Alternative Fuel
Regional Climate Change Best Practices
Climate Change Frequently Asked Questions Brochure

Upcoming Events:

- U.S. Conference of Mayors Climate Summit (Seattle), November 1-2
MWAQC Air Quality Town Meeting – November 1, 2007

- 4. Legislative Action and Updates
12:20 pm - 12:40 pm

a. Climate/Energy Policy Federal Update and Advocacy Positions

Naomi Friedman
Assistant Executive Director



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The U.S. Congress is anticipated to vote on energy legislation this fall, charged with reconciling House and Senate bills that include some different provisions. The Climate Change Steering Committee, at its last meeting, established a policy subgroup that met this summer and recommended that COG send a letter to Congress this fall, in support of the “best of the best” provisions in the House and Senate legislation supportive of COG’s energy/climate change agenda. Naomi Friedman will review the group’s policy recommendations and Steering Committee members will provide input on appropriate strategy.

Recommended action: Agree on legislative advocacy positions to advance to COG Board of Directors.

*b. Vermont Court RulingJeff King
COG Dept. of Environmental Programs*

The U.S. District Court in Vermont recently ruled that Vermont’s regulation to adopt the California Low-Emission Vehicle Standards (CAL LEV II) is not preempted by federal law. Jeff King, COG/DEP, will summarize the ruling and will discuss implications for adoption of CAL LEV II by states in the Metropolitan Washington region.

Recommended action: Receive briefing.

*c. State Updates.....District of Columbia
State of Maryland
Commonwealth of Virginia*

There are various Climate Changes initiatives occurring in Maryland and Virginia. State representatives will highlight recent activities.

Recommended action: Receive briefing.

5. GHG Workgroup – Benchmarks and Projection Years

*12:40 pm - 1:05 pm.....Joan Rohlfs
COG Dept. of Environmental Programs*

*Jeff King
COG Dept. of Environmental Programs*

The Greenhouse Gas Emission Workgroup recently met to review preliminary emission inventory projections and to develop recommendations for base year and milestone years for a reduction target. Ms. Rohlfs and Mr. King will provide an update on emission inventory development and will present the recommended base year and future milestone years.

Recommended action: Receive briefing.

- 6. Growing Cooler: The Evidence of Urban Development on Climate Change**
1:05 pm – 1:35 pm*Reid Ewing, Associate and Research Professor
University of Maryland*

A new report, written by Professor Reid Ewing in partnership with the Urban Land Institute and others, highlights the need to consider growth patterns, including urban development and vehicle miles traveled (VMT), as part of a strategy to reduce greenhouse gases. Without a reduction in the growth of vehicle miles traveled, the paper asserts, efforts to reduce transportation emissions will be thwarted. Professor Ewing will provide the report’s major findings for consideration in establishing climate change goals and programs.

Recommended action: Review document and provide guidance and feedback.

- 7. Options for Increasing Participation and Outreach in Climate Change Steering Committee**
1:35 pm to 1:55 pm*Chair Floreen*

*Stuart Freudberg, Director
COG Dept. of Environmental Programs*

Staff has identified several options for involving stakeholders in the work of the Climate Change Steering Committee, as well as enabling sharing of programs and best practices among committee members (see attached memo). The CCSC is asked to weigh in on the preferred alternatives for potentially expanding committee participation and furthering the knowledge and understanding level of the committee on the growing body of information on Climate Change.

Recommended action: Discuss options and provide guidance.

- 8. Next Steps, Next Meeting**
1:55 pm to 2:00 pm*Chair Floreen*

The Committee will review its next steps and make recommendations for items to include on future agendas.

- 9. Adjourn**
2:00 pm

Upcoming Climate Change Steering Committee Meeting Schedule
(all meetings held at the COG offices from 12 noon to 2 pm)

November 28, 2007
February 27, 2008
April 23, 2008