

Volume 1 Issue 2

Summer 2005



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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ENERGY

A Metropolitan Washington Region Publication

COG Holds Renewable Energy Seminar

On June 22, 2005, COG held its first Renewable Energy Seminar. The Seminar commenced with Mayor Judith Davis, City of Greenbelt and COG Board Chair, greeting the participants. Mayor Davis noted that attending the seminar signified a commitment to change and efforts towards the betterment of the environment. David Robertson, COG Executive Director, explained that renewable energy is energy from a non-fossil fuel based, non-depleting source. Additionally, COG Board members, Phil Mendelson, District of Columbia Council Member and Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council, moderated several panels. The region was well represented by participation from local businesses and government agencies. Montgomery County discussed their experience in developing Renewable Portfolio Standards and the pitfalls of double counting Renewable Energy

Credits/Certificates. Other jurisdictions that are developing renewable energy strategies include the District of Columbia, Takoma Park, and the Counties of Arlington and Fairfax. Colin Murchie, Director of Legislative Affairs at the Solar Energy Industries Association, is quoted as saying to the local elected officials attending, "You really have the power to make policies that can have a remarkable change in energy in your states, and to begin to bring the U.S. closer to where it needs to be," James Woosley, Vice President of Booz Allen Hamilton and former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, articulated that our continued reliance on foreign oil makes the U.S. more vulnerable to terrorists attacks in the future. The seminar concluded with a menu of renewable energy recommendations such as Solar PV Programs; Solar Thermal Programs; Wind Power (REC) Purchases; Solar PV/Hybrid Emergency Power Programs; and Hybrid Car Programs.

Washington, DC: A Trailblazer for AFVs

Not unlike other cities across the country, the metropolitan Washington region has a serious air quality issue. It is designated as a severe non-attainment area for ozone, with a growing concern for particulate matter. In an effort to address these ominous environmental impacts, the District of Columbia has developed an aggressive policy to acquire clean burning, alternatively fueled vehicles (AFV) in its fleet. Since 2001, the Energy Policy Act (EPACT) required 75% of the District's fleet acquisitions to be AFVs. However, EPACT does not have a fuel use requirement—a loop hole in the act. In 2004, the City Administrator's Office established a policy requiring 90% of the city's light-duty vehicles acquired must be AFV. Championed by the District's Fleet Services Administration, Department of Public Works, the policy was expanded to 100% fuel use in the city's AFVs. Of the 5,500 vehicles in the city's fleet reaching , 329 of them are AFVs. Of that 329, two-thirds are compressed natural gas (CNG) and one-third are

flexible fuel (FFVs) capable of running on gasoline or E85. Ninety percent of the city's light-duty parking enforcement division are AFVs. It is estimated that the District's fleet uses over 350,000 gasoline gallon equivalents of alternative fuel per year. The District will continue this aggressive strategy by tackling its heavy-duty fleets in the future. Additionally, the District of Columbia is an active member of COG's Alternative Fuels Partnership. The Partnership assists members in making sound fleet choices by conducting workshops on advanced transportation technology, providing a forum for information exchange, and public education and outreach.



Arlington County's Green Building Program

Arlington County is one of the most densely populated counties in the country. Estimates show that there are about 7,700 persons per square mile. Since 2000, the county's population jumped 5% to reach 198,267. With a growth in population comes an increase in services provided and energy needs. In that regard, the county developed a Green Building Program as a way to measure energy and environmental building performance in county buildings. They adopted the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) LEED (Leadership in Energy & Environment Design) certification guidelines, as well as agreed to purchase ENERGY STAR appliances and equipment. The county's Green Building Program includes a Green Incentive Program where any commercial site may apply for bonus density and density awards; a Green Building Fund for developers who do not apply for LEED

from the USGBC, must contribute to Arlington's Green Building Fund; a Green Home Choice Program for Single Families; which focuses on energy efficiency education for homeowners; and a Green Roofs and Air Quality Program that focuses on reducing ground level ozone, mitigating air pollution, and increased energy efficiency for the building.

*For more information about
Arlington's Green Building
Program, visit their website:*

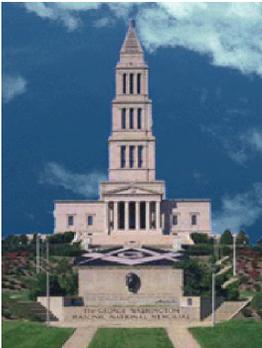
www.arlingtonva.us

Maryland Wins Energy Awards

The National Association of State Facilities Administrators Awarded (NASFA) and the National Association of State Chief Administrators (NASCA) awarded the State of Maryland its 2005 Innovative Award and 2005 Outstanding Program Award, respectively, for the state's "Reverse Energy Auction". The program has allowed the state to save up to \$5 million in energy price increases. The program is an internet based program that allowed the state to lock-in the lowest electricity costs before the caps expired in summer 2004. There were four utility providers that won an estimate of \$53 million in state business and will provide power to universities, state office buildings, prisons, and two stadiums.

For a more information on Maryland's program, visit www.maryland.gov or call Dave Humphrey at (410) 767-4652.

The City of Alexandria Incorporates Energy Measures



The City of Alexandria takes energy and environmental stewardship very seriously. The city's approach is comprehensive in nature, in that they encourage

the use of green/sustainable building technology and clean, alternative transportation measures. The city's policy includes incorporating green building technologies into new municipal buildings. One of the new high schools will be a LEEDS certified school, with silver LEED rating as a target. The Duncan Library and the

new health department building will integrate green roofs into the building system. The new health department project will result in 10,765 square feet of retrofitted roof top space which will permanently reduce the impervious surface cover and non-point source pollutant impacts. The City also co-owns a waste-to-energy plant that has state-of-the-art pollution control measures.

*For more information about
Alexandria's Energy and
Environmental Policies, visit their
website:*

<http://ci.alexandria.va.us/#>

ENERGY TRIVIA

- 1- Which country is the largest coal producer in the world? a) Germany b) China c) Spain d) Russia
- 2- Which is currently the leading renewable energy source used by electric utilities to generate electric power? a) Wind b) Biomass c) Wind d) Hydro
- 3- On average, about how much of the energy in fossil fuels is lost when converting it to electricity? a) 2/3 b) 1/2 c) 1/4 d) 1/3

ANSWER KEY:
1) b; 2) d; 3) a

For more information on local government energy programs, contact gnichols@mwcog.org or lboggs@mwcog.org

