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METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

WHAT'S HAPPENING IN ENERGY

A Metropolitan Washington Region Publication

COG To Join ENERGY STAR

On November 10, 2004, the COG Board of Directors approved the resolution for COG to join ENERGY STAR. ENERGY STAR is a partnership between organizations, businesses, consumers, and government, working together to protect our environment by switching to energy-efficient products and practices. Jointly sponsored by the Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency, the main objectives of ENERGY STAR are to reduce energy use, save money, and prevent pollution. ENERGY STAR reports that last year alone, the program helped the U.S. save enough energy at peak time to power ten million homes and reduce greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to

of ten million cars. Currently there are four local governments and five school district partners within the region - Montgomery County, Fairfax County, Arlington County, the District of Columbia, and the City of Takoma Park, MD, as well as the school districts of Fairfax County, Loudoun County, the District of Columbia, and the City of Alexandria. COG will develop a program that will encourage other local governments to join ENERGY STAR and assist them in incorporating energy-efficient products and practices in their daily activities. A regional ENERGY STAR workshop is under development and is expected to be held in February 2005.



Montgomery County Wins National Green Power Award

Montgomery County received this year's Green Power Partner of the Year Award for its outstanding achievements in the green power marketplace. This is the highest honor that can be awarded from the U.S. Departments of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Energy (DOE) and the Center for Resource Solutions (CRS). The award will be presented at the National Green Power Marketing Conference to recognize the County's wind energy acquisition in May, which was the largest local government purchase in the nation. It also sets a second national precedent for the inclusion of a wind power purchase as an ozone reduction measure in a regional pollution reduction plan.

The County led six county agencies, 11 municipalities, and neighboring

Prince George's County in a wind energy purchase of 38,412 MWh per year, or five percent of the buying group's total electricity needs.

As part of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, which submitted a regional State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality improvement to EPA in spring of 2004, the County proposed using its wind energy purchase to reduce ground-level ozone pollution towards its SIP requirements. By following Montgomery County's example, other jurisdictions can use renewable energy to obtain SIP credit, document improvements to local air quality, and protect their share of federal transportation dollars. The counties goal is to double participation in the wind buying group by 2006.



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ENERGY OFFICE TO LOAN ELECTRIC HYBRID VEHICLES



The District of Columbia Energy Office is working with Flexcar to loan Honda Civic hybrid electric vehicles to four agencies within the city. This project is a result of a grant proposal, submitted jointly by the Alternative Fuels COG Partnership and the Energy Office, to the Department of Energy to deploy clean fuel vehicles. The agencies are three District

Government offices — the Department of Housing and Community Development, the Office of Property Management, and the Energy Office, and lastly, the Council of Governments. The primary goal of the project is to encourage and promote the use of environmentally friendly vehicles in the District. The vehicles will be used for normal business-related travel for each agency and will be on loan until March 2005.

For more information on the programs and agenda of the District of Columbia Energy Office, visit their website at:

www.dccenergy.org

Arlington Approves Green Residential Project



This past June, Arlington County approved the construction of the TALLEST condominium building in the region, at 25 stories and 300-feet-tall. It is one of the fewest LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certified residential buildings.

The condo, located in Rosslyn, VA, is a great example of how Arlington County is committed to preserving the environment and energy-efficiency. It will incorporate sound building design techniques and products.

The project will also provide

community enhancements that total \$4.6 million. The developer will make an affordable housing contribution of \$2.268 million and provide approximately \$2.349 million in additional streetscape, arts, utility and landscaping improvements on or near the site.

The LEED Green Building Rating System is a voluntary, consensus-based national standard for developing high-performance, sustainable buildings.

For more information, visit the U.S. Green Building Council's website at <http://www.usgbc.org>.

Montgomery County Reminds Community of Ethanol Fuel Station

Montgomery County reminds the public that there is an ethanol fuel station open to public, flexible fuel (E-85) vehicle drivers. Open to the public since Spring 2003, it is located at the Department of Public Works and Transportation Depot at 16640 Crabbs Branch Way in Rockville. The station is open for unattended use 24 hours-a-day, seven days a week for purchases with a Visa or MasterCard credit card. Although the price of ethanol will fluctuate with market conditions, currently the cost is competitive with current gasoline prices at \$2.10 per gallon.

E-85 is a mixture of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent gasoline. Ethanol is a renewable fuel made from corn, wheat, barley or any other starch-based product. According to the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition, ethanol can be used in almost four million vehicles on American roads.

For a complete list of E-85 compatible vehicles and fueling stations, visit the National Ethanol Vehicle Coalition website at www.E85Fuel.com.

For more information on the ethanol fueling station, call (240) 777-5730.

Fleet Managers Discuss Fleet Management Options

At the Metropolitan Washington Regional Alternative Fuels Partnership meeting held at COG on November 9, 2004, local government fleet managers discussed fuel economy, green vehicle ratings, and transportation efficiency options. Jim Kliesch from the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) presented purchasing guidelines for environmentally friendly and fuel efficient vehicles. According to ACEEE, the top 3 greenest vehicles for model year 2004 are the Honda Civic GX, Honda Insight, and the Toyota Prius. The top 3 meanest vehicles are the Volkswagen Toureg, Land Rover Range Rover, and the Ford Excursion. Fleet managers are to consider regional fleet policy at next Alternative Fuels Partnership meeting in February 2005.

