

WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

Regional Environmental Resources Management

Fiscal Year 2026



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

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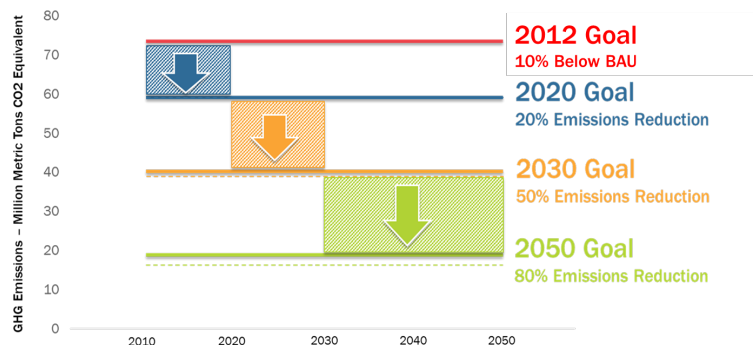
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REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

This is the Annual Work Program and Budget document for Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's (COG) Regional Environmental Resources Management Programs for Fiscal Year 2025 (FY 2026). The budget is based on the FY 2026 fees schedule approved by the COG Board in October 2024. It includes information on COG's regional environmental resources programs, committee oversight, budgets, and key deliverables. The work program is structured to meet the needs of COG's members to address critical regional environmental resources issues.

The Regional Environmental Fund (REF) was established in 1988 as a complement to the Regional Water Fund to support COG's work on regional environmental resources issues. This originally included energy planning, household hazardous waste, brownfields, indoor air quality, radon control, and recycling and solid waste. The areas of focus have evolved over the years to meet the needs of COG's members. Contributions to the REF support COG's environmental resources programs.

The Climate, Energy and Environment Committee (CEEPC) plans and implements measures to meet the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets adopted by the COG Board and integrated in COG's Region Forward Initiative. COG's regional greenhouse gas reduction targets are 10 percent reduction below business as usual by 2012; 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, 50 percent below 2005 by 2030; and 80 percent below 2005 by 2050.



For FY 2026, the Environmental Resources section includes ten program areas, reflecting the most important regional environmental resources issues as defined by the COG Board of Directors and COG's membership:

1. Climate and Energy Policy;
2. Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC),
3. Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency and Renewables;
4. Adaptation and Resiliency;
5. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC);
6. COG Board and Member Support/Environmental Resources Work Program Development;
7. COG Climate/Energy Capacity Building Projects;
8. External Projects - Vehicle Emission Reductions, Climate Plan Support, Resilience Studies;
9. Regional Solid Waste and Recycling Management; and
10. Regional Forestry and Tree Canopy Management.

The programs provide for policy development based on research, technical experts, and best practices. Pilot programs are developed to test technology and strategies and are often funded through a combination of grants and sponsorships. Oversight and direction for the Environmental Resources Work Program is provided by the CEEPC.

FUNDING SOURCES

COG's Regional Environmental Resources Programs are primarily funded by the Regional Environment Fund, with supplemental funding provided by allocations from COG member dues. Grants and other funding sources support specific projects and activities.

The information below provides background on these funding sources, notes the levels of funding that were approved for FY 2026 (see Table 1, page 5), and outlines how those funds are to be allocated (see Table 2, page 6).

Regional Environmental Fund - The REF is a voluntary, COG member fee-for-service contribution that supports COG's regional environmental resources programs. The COG Board of Directors adopted its member dues and regional fees in October 2024 and CEEPC adopts its FY 2026 corresponding Work Program and Budget in the following May 2025. The REF is allocated among participating jurisdictions using the same population adjusted budget levels used for FY 2026 COG dues. See the FY 2026 Member Dues and Regional Fees presentation from the October 2024 COG Board meeting for further information on jurisdiction population data.

Note: All COG members except the Town of Bladensburg, City of Hyattsville, City of Laurel, Charles County, City of Frederick, Frederick County, City of Manassas, and City of Manassas Park contribute to the Regional Environmental Fund.

COG Membership Fees and Funds - The 24 members of COG pay annual dues at a per capita rate approved by the COG Board of Directors. For FY 2026, the per capita rate was set at \$0.875, with individual jurisdiction's total population adjusted cost increases capped at 10% over 2024 contributions. The Board allocates membership fees to COG programs to support match needed for federal and state grants and to supplement support for programs.

FUNDING LEVELS, BUDGETS AND ALLOCATIONS

Table 1 below lists the COG member funding contributions to the Regional Environmental Fund (as approved by the COG Board). Table 2 shows all sources of funds used to support the environmental resources programs.

Table 1 - Local Government Contribution to COG's Regional Environmental Fund - FY 2026	
Jurisdiction	Regional Environmental Fund Allocations
Alexandria, City of	\$27,048
Arlington County	\$39,570
Bowie, City of	\$9,578
College Park, City of	\$5,434
District of Columbia	\$111,980
Fairfax County	\$192,744
Fairfax, City of	\$4,582
Falls Church, City of	\$2,546
Gaithersburg, City of	\$11,631
Greenbelt, City of	\$3,882
Loudoun County	\$73,794
Montgomery County	\$173,428
Prince George's County	\$159,872
Prince William County	\$82,657
Rockville, City of	\$11,392
Takoma Park, City of	\$2,784
TOTALS	\$912,924

COG Regional Environmental Resources Management Programs				
Table 2 - Program Revenue and Budget Allocations				
	Revenue Sources			
Program Area	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total Budget
I. Climate and Energy				
A. Climate and Energy Policy	\$142,000	\$110,400		\$252,400
B. Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee	\$130,000	\$114,232		\$244,232
C. Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency and Renewables	\$109,000	\$102,132		\$211,132
D. Adaptation and Resiliency	\$49,623	\$62,063		\$111,646
E. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee	\$12,769	\$36,546		\$49,315
F. Management/Member Support	\$22,500	\$31,330		\$53,830
G. Climate/Energy Projects	\$200,032	\$20,237		\$220,113
H. External Projects - Vehicle Emission Reductions, Other			\$740,048	\$740,048
TOTAL	\$665,924	\$476,900	\$740,048	\$1,882,407
II. Recycling and Solid Waste Management				
A. Recycling and Solid Waste	\$172,000 ^b		\$50,000 ^c	\$222,000
B. I-95 Waste Technical Committee			\$15,000	\$15,000
TOTAL	\$172,000		\$65,000	\$237,000
III. Regional Forestry and Tree Canopy Management				
A. Regional Forestry and Tree Canopy Management	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$150,000
GRAND TOTAL	\$912,924	\$476,900	\$880,048	\$2,269,872

Notes:

^a Includes an estimated \$500,000 pass-through for diesel retrofits carried forward from FY 2025.

^b Includes funds for a battery safety campaign from the Regional Public Safety Fund May also include FY25 carryover, not reflected here.

^c Sponsorship for GoRecycle Campaign.

ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET DETAILS

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
1. Regional Climate and Energy Policy				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$142,000	\$110,400		\$252,400
Committee Oversight: COG Board of Directors				
Program Managers: Jeff King, Maia Davis				
Staff Resources: Leah Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon, Alissa Boggs, Robert Christopher				
<p>Activity Description</p> <p>The region is addressing the need to reduce energy waste, develop cleaner sources of energy, improve air quality, improve resilience, and meet the challenge of a changing climate by developing policies and programs to mitigate emissions. Staff provides research and technical expertise, as part of the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee's (CEEPC) work program as well as technical assistance for member funded activities, to assess and/or develop measures at the local and/or regional level to reduce energy use, improve energy efficiency, promote renewable energy, support transportation electrification, and encourage mode shift and travel behavior changes to reduce single occupancy vehicle trips and per capita vehicle miles travelled (VMT).</p> <p>The Climate and Energy work program will be carried out under the oversight and direction of the CEEPC, supported by the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC), the Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC), and other groups as needed. BEEAC will serve as the technical advisory committee to CEEPC and COG staff. ACPAC will advise CEEPC and provide input on implementation of the Climate and Energy Action Plan.</p> <p>To address key, interrelated challenges and advance our region's vision for a more prosperous, accessible, livable, and sustainable future, the COG Board of Directors has set planning priorities for the next decade related to equity, transit and land use, housing, and climate change. Taken together, these priorities form Region United: Metropolitan Washington Planning Framework for 2030. COG staff will coordinate across departments and teams towards this vision. COG Department of Environmental Programs (DEP) staff will coordinate with COG's Department of Transportation Planning (DTP), Community Planning and Services, Water Resources and Emergency Management programs, and other COG staff to address multi-sector actions needed to reduce GHG emissions and enhance resilience.</p> <p>Outcomes/Major Projects</p> <p><i>Policy and Programs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and recommend state, local, and regional energy and greenhouse policies or programs. Identify and advance COG's energy and climate legislative priorities for the year. Analyze, track, and report on climate change and energy-related legislation, regulations, and programs at the federal, state, and local levels. 				

Implementation

- Complete a mid-course review of progress in meeting the 2030 climate and energy goals.
- Identify and advance strategies to meet the region's greenhouse gas reduction goals.
- Finalize 2023 local and regional greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories.
- Develop and support implementation of the 2030 regional climate and energy action plan, including continued focus on renewable energy, zero emission vehicles and other transportation-sector initiatives, zero energy buildings, critical infrastructure, and the energy-water nexus.
- State and local planning and program support and development. Expert consultant support for local climate, electric vehicle (EV), and resilience planning.
- Receive briefings on and review the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) MSA-level planning project.
- Recognize the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards recipients.
- Provide regional climate and energy training and capacity building initiatives. Support the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC): Identify and present on topics of regional interest at six meetings annually.

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
2. Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$130,000	\$114,232		\$244,232
Committee Oversight: CEEPC Program Manager: Leah Boggs, Maia Davis Staff Resources: Robert Christopher, Alissa Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon				
Activity Description Any solution to reduce energy use and emissions in the region must address the built environment, which consumes most of the energy supplied in metropolitan Washington. The Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC) will serve as the technical committee to CEEPC, provide resources and direct services to members to assist in their efforts to meet work plan goals; provide a forum for networking and sharing best practices; and serve as the Regional Emergency Support Function #12 (Energy).				
Outcomes/Major Projects <i>Policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify and recommend state, local, and regional energy policies or programs. <i>Implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC): 6-7 meetings annually (including conference calls, workshops, webinars, or tours). Review and advance policies and initiatives to CEEPC. Assist in preparation and recommendation of the Regional Environmental Fund Program annual work program and budget. Assist local governments with development and implementation of green building policies/programs. Conduct mid-course review. Periodic member surveys on implementation progress; Provide information for Action Plan progress updates. Conduct annual utility data collection and analysis. Support the Regional Emergency Support Function 12 (RESF-12): Subcommittee meetings as required. Coordinate with UASI. Participate in national or regional energy emergency exercises. Provide for local program capacity building, networking, workshops, and training. 				

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
3. Energy Infrastructure, Efficiency, and Renewables				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$109,000	\$102,132		\$211,132
Committee Oversight: CEEPC, BEEAC, EV Workgroup, RESF-12				
Program Manager: Jeff King, Maia Davis, Leah Boggs				
Staff Resources: Robert Christopher, Alissa Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon				
Activity Description COG climate and energy program staff will support activities to reduce demand for energy, develop clean, alternative energy sources, and improve energy reliability in both the government and private sectors. COG will partner with industry and other stakeholders to explore new technologies and pilot them in metropolitan Washington.				
Outcomes/Major Projects <i>Policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify, recommend, and assist in implementation of state, local, and regional energy infrastructure policies or programs, including alternative fuel vehicles, distributed energy, energy efficiency, and renewable energy. 				
<i>Implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance regional capacity to implement energy efficiency and renewable energy. Support action to meet 2030 solar goals. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Solar Workgroup. Support solar market development, community solar and cooperative purchasing. Building efficiency, PACE financing and green bank support. Support building code improvements. Explore net zero opportunities. Energy Equity and Environmental Justice. Alternate Fuel Vehicle Infrastructure. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage the Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment Workgroup (REVD). Assist local governments with electric vehicle charging station and EV planning. Manage the EV information clearinghouse and EV best practice checklist. Fleet Grants, Cooperative Procurement, Clean Cities program collaboration. Provide analysis tools for development of distributed energy systems. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility study support for CHP, geothermal, and microgrids. Support energy planning for critical infrastructure. Support capacity building for member staff. Conduct technical workshops, webinars, and meetings. 				

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
4. Adaptation and Resiliency				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$49,623	\$62,063		\$111,646
Committee Oversight: CEEPC and BEEAC Program Manager: Maia Davis Staff Resources: Leah Boggs, Heidi Bonnaffon, Robert Christopher				
Activity Description Many communities recognize the need to prepare for climate changes and address increasing temperatures, sea level rise, and extreme weather events. COG’s climate adaptation and resiliency planning program builds capacity and capability to prepare for climate change by working with regional partners to collect and share climate information and best practices and connect members with resources and trainings. This work requires coordination with COG water program, transportation, land use, health, and emergency management staff.				
Outcomes/Major Projects <i>Policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor and share climate science, impact studies, and regional resiliency efforts. • Promote economic development opportunities related to sustainability and resiliency. • Integrate adaptation considerations in infrastructure planning. <i>Implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support regional planning and coordination. • Partnerships on local and regional adaptation/resilience studies, plans, and implementation strategies, such as the Military Installation Resilience Review (MIRR), the Transportation Planning Board’s Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan, and County resilience planning. • Support State and Local Initiatives, such as Sustainable Maryland. • Provide for capacity building and technical assistance. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Networking, workshops and training. ○ Address economic impact of climate change. ○ Assist with incorporating adaptation into infrastructure development. 				

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
5. Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$12,769	\$36,546		\$49,315
Committee Oversight: CEEPC, MWAQC Program Manager: Leah Boggs Staff Resources: Heidi Bonnaffon, Robert Christopher, Sunil Kumar				
Activity Description <p>The Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) serves as a forum for the public to advise on air quality, climate, and energy issues to COG policy committees. ACPAC advises the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) on air quality planning and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) on climate and energy issues and initiatives.</p> <p>The Committee initiates discussions of relevant issues, provides input on implementation of CEEPC's Climate and Energy Action Plan, and advises MWAQC by reviewing regional air quality progress, air quality State Implementation Plans (SIPs), and identifying and supporting development of local measures to reduce emissions.</p>				
Outcomes/Major Projects <i>Policy</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess potential new energy and emission reduction initiatives in the metropolitan Washington area. Support energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives of CEEPC to achieve the regional GHG reduction goals. Provide input and guidance on implementation of regional actions to meet 2030 climate and energy goals. Review regional air quality progress and programs, SIPs, and emerging air quality issues. <i>Implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide advice on the Action Plan to achieve regional 2030 GHG reduction goal. Identify and promote local measures to reduce emissions. Review the mid-course review. Manage the Climate and Energy Leadership Awards. Support development and implementation of toolkits, such as the EJ Toolkit. Support expanded implementation of environmental justice and equity in energy and climate programs. Six ACPAC meetings. 				

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
6. COG Board and Member Support/Environmental Resources Work Program Development				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$22,500	\$31,330		\$53,830
Committee Oversight:	COG Board of Directors			
Program Manager:	Jeff King			
Staff Resources:	Maia Davis, Leah Boggs, Robert Christopher, John Snarr, Heidi Bonnaffon, Alissa Boggs			
Activity Description This task enables COG to fulfill its role as a member service organization by responding to member requests for information on regional programs and policies and serving as a clearinghouse for environmental information. It provides COG staff with the ability to respond to special requests for technical assistance or other support from the COG Board and COG members. Examples include reporting on the latest regulatory requirements under federal environmental laws or proposed funding strategies at the federal and state level. It also provides funds for staff support in developing environmental resources presentations to the COG Board and other COG committees and COG members.				
Outcomes/Major Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none">Respond to requests and provide briefings and presentations to COG Board and others (4-6 per year).Develop the FY27 and implement the FY26 Work Program and Budget.Submit grant proposals (ongoing).Complete performance appraisals.				

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
7. COG Climate/Energy Capacity Building Projects				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy	\$200,032	\$20,237		\$220,113
Committee Oversight: CEEPC and BEEAC Program Managers: Jeff King, Maia Davis, Heidi Bonnaffon Staff Resources: Leah Boggs, Robert Christopher, Alissa Boggs				
Activity Description Members and stakeholders across the region are working on a variety of local and sub-regional initiatives to address a variety of climate and energy areas of interest. To support these activities, COG handles a variety of internal support projects to respond to special requests, develop periodic analyses, reports, and other supporting resource materials.				
Outcomes/Major Projects <i>Policy and Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhanced capacity of local members and stakeholders to carry out climate and energy program and projects for their jurisdictions and the regions. Resource guides and other support materials for members and the region. <i>Implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Manage and prepare regular periodic and special climate and energy research requests. Prepare, maintain, and update resources to assist members in their climate planning and implementation programs and projects. 				

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
8. External Projects - Vehicle Emission Reductions, Climate Plan Support, Resilience Studies				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Climate and Energy			\$740,048	\$740,048
Committee Oversight: MWAQC and CEEPC Program Managers: Jeff King, Maia Davis Staff Resources: Leah Boggs, Alissa Boggs, Robert Christopher, Heidi Bonnaffon				
Activity Description Enhanced ability and capacity for members to develop plans and initiatives is supported through project planning activities supported by COG. Funding sources include the local government members, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Department of Energy, and U.S. Department of Defense, Office of Local Defense Community Cooperation (OLDCC), and others. Projects include managing local and regional climate and EV plan development and implementation support. The region is also addressing the need to reduce emissions and improve efficiency by implementing projects to convert legacy diesel and gasoline engines operating in on- and non-road fleet equipment in the region. Reduced emissions and improved efficiency are achieved through engine upgrades, engine replacement, exhaust controls, vehicle replacements, and supporting infrastructure deployment.				
Outcomes/Major Projects <i>Policy and Program</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong climate policy and program development and implementation, enhanced capacity to secure funding for projects. • Reduced energy use and emissions, and improved efficiency in on- and non-road equipment operating in the region. • Support critical stakeholders in the region on climate action planning and resilience reviews. <i>Implementation</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manage and support climate action and resilience plans and studies, including the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program climate plan, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure (CFI) grant, as well as local initiatives in Charles, Frederick, Loudoun, and Prince George's Counties and Cities of Frederick and Laurel. Support implementation grant applications. • Support local and regional infrastructure planning and deployment. • Prepare and manage grants to repower on- and non-road equipment. • Support the Greater Washington Regional Clean Cities Coalition, Virginia Clean Cities programs, including serving on the GWRCCC Board. 				

- Provide fleet analysis to support conversions.

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions

9. Regional Solid Waste/Recycling Management

PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Regional Solid Waste and Recycling	\$172,000		\$50,000*	\$222,000
I-95 Waste Technical Committee			\$15,000	\$15,000
Subtotal	\$172,000		\$65,000	\$237,000

* - includes \$50,000 funding for a campaign on battery disposal.

Committee Oversight: CEEPC, Recycling Committee, Solid Waste Managers Group
 Program Manager: John Snarr

Activity Description

COG provides a forum to address regional waste management issues and coordinates regional initiatives. The Recycling Committee hosts six sessions per year, each on a specific topic. Staff also organize meetings of the Solid Waste Managers Group, the Recycling Markets and Materials Subcommittee, and the Small Jurisdiction Recycling Subcommittee each year as needed. COG produces the I-95 Landfill Committee's quarterly meetings for facility partner governments.

Additionally, COG manages the regional Go Recycle paid media campaign to reinforce the recycling message to residents and businesses. To raise recycling awareness, COG also serves as the regional coordinator for America Recycles Day (ARD). COG also runs a Battery Management campaign to help control fires our members are experiencing. These efforts are an effective way to provide the ongoing consumer education necessary to enhance program efficiency.

Outcomes/Major Projects

- Produce regional Go Recycle promotional campaign for members and sponsors. Solicit external funding and member input to determine campaign direction and outreach techniques.
- Six Recycling Committee technical sessions (bi-monthly).
- Six Recycling Markets and Materials meetings.
- Produce Battery Management promotional campaign for members and sponsors to address solid waste management fires.
- Monthly Small Jurisdiction Recycling Subcommittee meetings.
- Staff solid Waste Managers technical sessions.
- Staff four I-95 Landfill Committee meetings.
- Create additional content for the Go Recycle Web Site to enhance its mission as a regional information resource.
- Coordinate America Recycles Day activities.
- Explore enhanced regional cooperation for solid waste management.
- Participate in regional discussions to expand organic composting infrastructure.

Work Program Areas – Detailed Descriptions				
10. Regional Forestry and Tree Canopy Management				
PROGRAM AREA	FUNDING SOURCES			
	Regional Environmental Fund	COG Member Funds	Grants or Other	Total
Regional Forestry and Tree Canopy	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$150,000
TOTAL	\$75,000		\$75,000	\$150,000
Committee Oversight: CEEPC, CBPC				
Program Manager: Jeffrey King, Heidi Bonnaffon				
Activity Description COG provides support for regional environmental programs and projects to strengthen the region's green infrastructure. open/green space, support regional forestry through the Community Forestry Network. Additionally, this Work Program Area supports regional water quality initiatives focused on climate change that work in conjunction with the green infrastructure initiatives to improve water quality in the region's rivers, streams, and lakes.				
Outcomes/Major Projects Support urban forestry: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Forestry Network • Regional Urban Forest Canopy Action Plan Development • Reforestation Project Support • Urban Forestry Grants and Projects 				