

Summary of Climate-Related Activities of COG Committees Supporting CEEPC - March 2011

Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee Technical and Citizen Committees

Technical Committees

[Energy Advisory Committee](#)¹ (Jeff King and Leah Boggs | jking@mwkog.org and lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The EAC Committee February meeting was cancelled. Members were invited to attend the ICLEI GHG Inventory Training held at COG on Feb. 17th.
- The Energy Advisory Committee (EAC) met on March 17th. The main focal points of the meeting were to discuss the Maryland Home Energy Loan Program (HELP) and Montgomery County's commercial and multi-family building study which includes benchmarking, disclosure and retro-commissioning. The County intends to evaluate these policies as part of a package that can achieve a 25% reduction in energy consumption within 10 years.
- The EAC also received a briefing from Climate Actions Associates, LLC on a sustainable information system called Horizons. Horizons is a publishing platform for communities, utilities, and MPOs to share community aggregate sustainability data. This information system standardizes energy consumption and transportation data across different utilities and MPOs. The Horizons Regional GHG module will be able to automate GHG inventories to all communities and save them money and time.
- The next EAC meeting will be on April 21st.

[Intergovernmental Green Building Group \(IGBG\)](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The IGBG Committee February meeting was cancelled. Members were invited to attend the ICLEI GHG Inventory Training held at COG on Feb. 17th.
- IGBG met on March 10th. Outcomes of the meeting include a date for the Green Building and Climate Change Interface Workshop which will be held on May 5, 2011 at COG and final remarks on the Green Building Trends: 2003-2009 Report. The Green Building Trends report was a joint effort between the Departments of Community Planning & Services and Environmental Programs,
- The next IGBG meeting will be held on April 14th. Staff is looking into holding the meeting USGBC's LEED for Neighborhood Development – *Neighborhoods Go Green!* Exhibit.

[Street Lights Working Group](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- The Street Lights working group will meet Monday, March 28.
- Agenda topics will include: an update on Pepco's LED streetlight offerings, an update on Arlington County's Smart Streetlights, report from INOVA Hospital Lighting Replacement Project, report on the District of Columbia's Alley Street Light Replacement Project, report on Smart Lights from Sensus, update on state legislative initiatives.

[Recycling Committee](#) (John Snarr | jsnarr@mwkog.org)

- The committee met March 17 for a program on green solid waste disposal technologies. Presentations covered waste-to-energy plants, bioreactor landfills, and reviews of two environmental impact measurement tools: the U.S. EPA WARM model and the Landfill Disposal Index.
- The committee reviewed the 2011 COG Go Recycle Campaign to promote recycling in the workplace. Spots ran on television and radio January 17 - February 7. Sponsors contributed \$65,000 to the media buy, which is estimated to have generated more than 16 million impressions.
- The regional Organics Task Force, partially supported by COG, will meet March 31 at COG to help stimulate food waste composting activities in the metropolitan area.

[Energy Outreach Coordination](#) (Joan Rohlfs | jrohlfs@mwkog.org)

- The ad hoc committee appointed by CEEPC to oversee the WE CAN home energy challenge held a call on March 18. Topics included: results of the pilot program; how to evaluate success of the program; preparation for a regional expansion in 2012; Frederick County's newly released Green Homes Challenge.
- The next meeting of the Ad Hoc Energy Outreach Taskforce: TBD.

¹ Click on committee name to access the committee webpage and documents.

[Energy Financing Task Force](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- The next meeting of the Energy Financing Subcommittee will focus on a review of accomplishments to date and work plans for this calendar year. A meeting on financing of public building retrofits is planned.

Citizen Committee

[Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee \(ACPAC\)](#) (Joan Rohlfis | jrohlfis@mwkog.org)

- ACPAC met on February 28 and March 14, 2011.
- In February, new members were welcomed, chair and vice chair elections were held and new member terms were selected. Members gave input on future agenda items and potential regional resources for sustainable procurement.
- In March, several topics suggested by ACPAC in February were discussed including CO₂ and mercury emissions from power plants, green building in the region and the WE CAN outreach campaign. ACPAC was asked to provide input on the next steps for the WE CAN campaign and future agenda items.
- The next ACPAC meeting will be April 18, 2011.

Supporting Technical and Policy Committees

[MWAQC Technical Advisory Committee](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org)

- With support of the air agencies, COG has issued an RFP for expert consulting services to support the Integrated Energy Solutions Task Force. The statement of work includes support for identification of current local policies and programs with recommendations for potential changes to facilitate new clean energy. It also includes a task to develop information on the costs and benefits of available clean energy resources as well as the business case for select approaches. Proposals are due by March 28.

[Transportation Planning Board \(TPB\), TPB Technical Committee, TPB Travel Management Subcommittee and TPB Scenario Study Task Force](#) (Ron Kirby and Gerald Miller | rkirby@mwkog.org and gmiller@mwkog.org)

- TPB staff is updating the green house gas emissions inventory and strategy analysis from the “What Would it Take?” Scenario based on the MOVES model.
- The TPB task force formed to develop a scope and process for a regional transportation priorities plan (RTPP) met on February 16. At the meeting, TPB staff presented a baseline performance analysis of the CLRP to illustrate some of the challenges facing the region, including: increasing the walkability of regional activity centers, continuing to meet federal air quality conformity requirements, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The RTPP will articulate funded and unfunded transportation priorities built upon regional policies, including reduction in single-occupant driving and promoting smart growth development. The task force will next meet on April 20.

[Planning Directors Technical Committee](#) (Paul Desjardin | pdesjardin@mwkog.org)

- Conference call on March 18.
- Transportation/Land-Use Connection program (TLC) FY 2012 Technical Assistance Project Solicitation
- Briefing and Discussion of Proposed Region Forward Work Program, Coalition Membership and Bylaws
- Discussion of Virginia H 1071 Which Requires Local Governments to Use State (VEC) and U.S. Census Bureau Forecasts for Comprehensive Planning
- Round 8.0 Cooperative Forecast and Greater Washington 2050 – Update to the Regional Activity Centers and Clusters
- Next meeting is April 15

[Metropolitan Development Policy Committee](#) (MDPC) (Paul Desjardin/John Mataya | pdesjardin@mwkog.org / jmataya@mwkog.org)

- The Region Forward Implementation Coalition has replaced the Metropolitan Development Policy Committee as of January 2011.
- COG staff is now involved with selecting and meeting with the Coalition leadership and developing the membership roster.
- The first meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of April or the beginning of May.

Affiliated Partnerships

[Clean Air Partners](#) (Jen Desimone | jdesimone@mwkog.org)

- Clean Air Partners' Annual Meeting and Awards Event will be held on Wednesday, May 18th from 5:00-8:00 pm at [Nationals Park](#). This year's theme is "The Air We Share: Working Together for Cleaner Air." Registration available at www.cleanairpartners.net.
- Clean Air Partners held its first social media contest through Facebook. The contest awarded 2 individuals that teleworked during National Telework Week. Additional contests will be held over the next few months to promote AirAlerts, Earth Hour, Earth Day, and National Air Quality Week.
- Clean Air Partners will participate in the Howard County GreenFest on Saturday, April 2nd from 10:00am – 4:00pm at Howard Community College.
- The Clean Air Partners Executive Committee met on March 17, 2011. Presentations were given on COG's community engagement program, new air quality tools, and a "green machine" promotion.
- The next meeting is scheduled for April 21, 2011.

[Commuter Connections Subcommittee](#) (Nick Ramfos | nramfos@mwkog.org)

- November 10 – Moderated a panel discussion during the GOVGreen Conference and Expo at the DC Convention Center.
- November 12 – presented telework information to members of the Bethesda-Chevy Chase Chamber of Commerce
- December 7 – presented telework information to the Telework Exchange Visionary Committee
- December 16 – Participated in the BRAC Career Fair – Gateway Crystal City Marriott
- February 9 – Naval District Region Transportation Vision meeting
- February 10 – Department of Homeland security Transportation Information Session – Reagan Center

[Tree Canopy Workgroup](#) (Jeff King | jking@mwkog.org and Brian Lecouteur | blecouteur@mwkog.org)

- COG staff and regional forest canopy experts plan to reconvene a task force to develop a regional tree canopy management plan, including efforts to include urban heat island reduction initiatives in the next round of Air Quality State Implementation Plans (SIPs). A kickoff meeting will be planned for the spring.

Other Committees

[Chief Purchasing Officers Committee](#) (Phil McGaughey | Philip_J_McGaughey@mcpsmd.org)

- The Chief Purchasing Officers Committee met on February 23.
- The committee is looking at cooperative purchase of bio-diesel fuel and hybrid or electric cars.

[Water Resources Technical Committee](#) (WRTC) (Tanya Spano | tspano@mwkog.org)

- At the March 10th meeting, WRTC members supported co-sponsoring a workshop to be held this fall that would be sponsored by the CBPC's Scientific and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC). Workshop would address sustainable wastewater treatment options, the water/energy nexus, water reuse and other process and program options - with a focus on real-world applications.

[Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee](#) (Karl Berger | kberger@mwkog.org)

- At its March 18 meeting, the committee endorsed the idea of collaborating with the CEEPC on cross-cutting issues that involve climate change, energy and water quality aspects. Specifically, the CBPC's Executive Committee will suggest the possibility of a joint meeting or a joint tour with the CEEPC.

Other Updates

[Alternative Fuels](#) (Leah Boggs | lboggs@mwkog.org)

- The Electric Vehicle (EV) Forum was postponed to April 29, 2011.
- The purpose of the forum is to begin the conversation on a regional level on how to transition to EV
- The forum will include the role of area utilities in EV infrastructure development, national and regional perspectives by the US Department of Energy and other industry experts, and a vehicle showcase of electric vehicle technology.
- The workshop will be held in the COG Board Room, 10:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Smart Growth and Adaptation to Climate Change in the Washington Region (Maia Davis | mdavis@mwkog.org)

- COG provided an introduction to climate adaptation planning and project overview on the regional climate adaptation project to several COG committees including the Energy Advisory Committee, Intergovernmental Green Building Group, Housing Directors, Planning Directors, Emergency Managers, Health Officials and the Water Resources Technical Committee.
- COG and NOAA hosted the Roadmap to Adapting to Coastal Risks Training on March 3, 2011. The training provided an introduction on how to do a climate risk and vulnerability assessment and resources needed to conduct the assessment. Attendees also learned about regional projects on climate and coastal planning from the Maryland Department of Natural Resources, Northern Virginia Regional Commission and the National Capital Planning Commission. There were 48 attendees representing a variety of local jurisdictions, organizations and sectors.
- NOAA led a follow-up half day session on March 4 with COG and EPA to discuss how to apply what was learned from the March 3 Training to the regional climate adaptation project currently underway. COG is working on collecting and analyzing data and resources for the regional risk and vulnerability assessment.
- COG and EPA will begin working with a contractor for this project in the spring.
- COG is working with a graduate class at GMU to identify current adaptation strategies underway in the region.