



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Wednesday, September 9, 2026
12:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
COG Office Building

AGENDA

- 11:15 A.M. COG OFFICE RE-OPENING RIBBON CUTTING**
Muriel Bowser, District of Columbia Mayor
Reuben B. Collins II, COG Board Chair
Penny Gross, Former COG Board Chair and Fairfax County Supervisor
- 12:00 P.M. FORMAL GROUP PHOTO OF 2026 COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
- 1. CALL TO ORDER**
Reuben B. Collins II, COG Board Chair
- 2. CHAIR'S REPORT**
Reuben B. Collins II, COG Board Chair
A. Congressional Delegation Reception – September 23
- 12:15 P.M. 3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**
Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
- 4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA**
Reuben B. Collins II, COG Board Chair
- 5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MAY 13, 2026**
Reuben B. Collins II, COG Board Chair
Recommended Action: Approve minutes.
- 6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS**
Reuben B. Collins II, COG Board Chair
- A. Resolution R24-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Procure Technical Consulting and Management Support for Regional Geospatial Data Programs
- B. Resolution R25-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Procure NG-CAD-X Software Managed Services
- C. Resolution R26-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Procure Information Technology (IT) and Cyber Security Services

Reasonable accommodations are provided upon request, including alternative formats of meeting materials.
Visit www.mwcog.org/accommodations or call (202) 962-3300 or (202) 962-3213 (TDD).

- D. Resolution R27-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract Repurchase a Leadsonline Power Plus Subscription
- E. Resolution R28-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Procure NCRNet Modernization
- F. Resolution R29-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Procure NCRNet Maintenance Services
- G. Resolution R30-2026 – Resolution to Ratify COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to Support Development of a Regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy
- H. Resolution R31-2026 – Resolution to Authorize COG to Procure and Enter into a Contract to be a Primary Recipient for a Department of Homeland Security Grant to Manage the Biowatch Sample Collection in the National Capital Region and the City of Philadelphia
- I. Resolution R32-2026 – Resolution to Authorize COG to Receive a Grant to Execute the “National Capital Prism Invasive Species Management and Outreach” Project

**Recommended Actions: Ratify Prior to Executive Committee Approval
Resolutions R24-2026 – R30-2026. Adopt Resolutions R31-2026 – R32-2026.**

12:30 P.M. 7. COG MID-COURSE REVIEW OF CLIMATE PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

*Cindy Dyballa, CEEPC Chair, City of Takoma Park Council Member
Maia Davis, COG Senior Environmental Planner*

The board will be briefed on the mid-course status of greenhouse gas reduction in an effort to meet the regional 2030 climate goals. The board will review the mid-course findings and consider a resolution with next steps.

Recommended Action: Adopt Resolution R33-2026.

1:05 P.M. 8. UNDERSTANDING PFAS COMPOUNDS AND THEIR REGIONAL IMPACT

*Steven Bieber, COG Water Resources Director
Dr. Kirin Furst, Virginia Tech Associate Professor
Dr. Rosa Gwinn, AECOM Fellow Global PFAS Lead*

The board will be briefed on PFAS compounds, man-made compounds used in industry and consumer products that enter the environment and water cycle, also called “forever chemicals”. The board will discuss what can be done regionally to reduce PFAS in the environment and potential legislative and regulatory actions.

Recommended Action: Receive briefing.

1:55 P.M. 9. OTHER BUSINESS

2:00 P.M. 10. ADJOURN

OFFICE RE-OPENING RECEPTION

Immediately following the adjournment of the board meeting there will be an Office Re-Opening Reception and Open House from 2:00 – 3:30P.M.

AGENDA ITEM #2

CHAIR'S REPORT



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION RECEPTION

COG cordially invites you to meet with the NCR Congressional Delegation to build relationships and discuss opportunities for regional collaboration on common priorities.



Wednesday, September 23, 2026
Networking Reception: 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.



Rayburn House Office Building Room 2044
45 Independence Ave SW
Washington, DC 20515

Register now to join the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) for a reception with the members of the National Capital Region Congressional Delegation. This is a unique opportunity for local elected leaders representing the District of Columbia, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland to connect with the members of the House of Representatives representing the National Capital Region.

Confirmed Attendees of the National Capital Region Congressional Delegation:

Congressman Don Beyer, Virginia's 8th District

Congressman Steny Hoyer, Maryland's 5th District

Congressman Glenn Ivey, Maryland's 4th District

Congresswoman April McClain Delaney, Maryland's 6th District

Congressman Jamie Raskin, Maryland's 8th District

Congressman Suhas Subramanyam, Virginia's 10th District

Congressman James Walkinshaw, Virginia's 11th District

Wednesday, September 23, 2026

REGISTER TODAY
(Invitation Only)

AGENDA ITEM #3

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Clark Mercer, COG Executive Director
SUBJECT: Executive Director's Report – September 2026
DATE: September 2, 2026

POLICY BOARD & COMMITTEE UPDATES

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In May, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) approved 12 Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) and Regional Roadway Safety projects. The board also reviewed congestion analysis tools.

In June, the TPB approved a Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) amendment that continues the I-495 Southside Express Lanes study. The TPB also approved performance targets for peak hours of delay and non-single occupancy vehicle mode share.

In July, the TPB approved \$2 million in Transportation Alternatives Set Aside Program funds for a Montgomery County shared-use path. Additionally, the board published five resilience case studies, set emission targets, and released the 2026 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Report.

Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) - The CBPC received updates in May on federal and MD/VA state legislative actions. The committee also reviewed a presentation on water responsibility and opportunities for localities to get corporate funding for water projects as well as a presentation on a Stormwater Flood Resilience Plan, including a roadmap to assess risk and implement optimal, equitable, and actionable flood mitigation solutions.

Climate Energy & Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) - At its July meeting, CEEPC received briefings on Fairfax County's clean energy successes, solar market strategies and balcony solar, and Virginia's development of a 2026 Energy Plan. CEEPC provided a comment letter on the draft plan applauding the state for rejoining the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and encouraging



COG Retreat convenes area leaders

In June, COG held its annual gathering to build stronger regional connections. The retreat featured in-depth discussions on economic development, housing, and water quality and Chesapeake Bay goals, which also included a tour of the Horn Point Laboratory.

aggressive energy efficiency, solar deployment, affordability, energy storage, grid modernization, and regional coordination.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) - Staff worked on follow-ups from a FARM Work Group meeting at the end of June, and a listening session on the Local Food Procurement Challenge with farmers and food distributors of a range of sizes. Staff is preparing for FARM's joint meeting with HSPC in September, fall Work Group meetings, and a to-be-relaunched NationalCapitalFarms.org website promoting local food and farms in the region.

Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) - The committee met in July to discuss Guaranteed Income Pilots in the region. Leaders from the Greater Washington Community Foundation, Arlington Community Foundation, and CASA shared pilot results and strategies for local government support. Members also helped shape the draft update to COG's Regional Compact to End Homelessness alongside the Homeless Services Committee.

OUTREACH & PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Cooperation – In June, COG Executive Director Clark Mercer met with a State Department delegation of global leaders to discuss regional cooperation. The session highlighted cross-jurisdictional collaboration, public engagement strategies, and the critical role of local government partnerships as America celebrates its 250th anniversary.

COG Recognized at NARC Annual Conference – COG staff presented the Transportation Planning Board's Visualize 2050 plan at the National Association of Regional Councils conference and also received a Regional Achievement Award for Talent Capital, an AI-powered workforce platform building a resilient regional economy.

Commuter Connections Employer Awards

– The COG Commuter Connections program recognized five organizations at its 29th annual Employer Awards in June. These regional leaders were honored for implementing outstanding commute programs that reduce single-occupant vehicle trips, cut greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable transportation across metropolitan Washington.

[Learn more about the awardees](#)



Collaboration in Action: Making biking a top travel option

The latest episode of Collaboration in Action explores the regional bike network, featuring the 25th Bike to Work Day hosted by COG, a tour of the Capital Bikeshare warehouse, and an upgraded trail in the City of Hyattsville.

[Watch the episode](#)

Data Center Forum - COG held its third and final forum on data centers in May, which examined land use, economic, and infrastructure impacts. Sustained regional collaboration remains essential to balance economic development with community needs.

[Learn more about the series](#)

Public Safety – The COG Emergency Preparedness Council hosted a series of informational briefings regarding America 250 and other major events this summer, including the Salute to America July 4th celebration. These briefings are provided by the Director of DC Homeland Security & Emergency Management Agency to share information and enhance the situational awareness of the region.

MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Drought Watch Announcement

– COG’s Regional Drought Watch declaration was covered by more than a dozen area news outlets, including DC News Now, FOX5, FFXnow, NBC4, WTOP and WUSA9.

[NBC4](#)

Air Quality Alerts – COG’s Air Quality Alert due to the July 4th fireworks show was covered by various outlets, including DC News Now, NBC4, FOX 5, 7News, WUSA9, WTOP, Washington Examiner, and CBS News. Later in July, COG’s Code Purple Alert due to wildfire smoke from Canada received dozens of stories on all regional outlets and some national outlets.

[WAMU](#)

Commuter Connections 29th Employer

Awards – The 29th Employer Awards ceremony at the National Press Club and an award recipient were covered by Patch.

[Patch](#)



COG Regional Fire Chiefs Promote Fireworks Safety

Fire officials from the COG Fire Chiefs Committee shared safety warnings, legal reminders, and conducted a live demonstration highlighting the dangers of illegal fireworks in late June. The conference was covered by Alexandria Brief, DC News Now, and WTOP.

[WTOP](#)

AGENDA ITEM #4

**AMENDMENTS TO
THE AGENDA**

AGENDA ITEM #5

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
Goodwill of Greater Washington
1140 3rd Street NE #350
Washington, DC 20002

MINUTES
COG Board of Directors Meeting
May 13, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS AND ALTERNATES: See attached chart for attendance.

SPEAKERS:

Julie Mussog, COG Chief Financial Officer/Chief Administrative Officer
Rosie Allen Herring, United Way Worldwide Interim President and CEO
Larysa Kautz, Melwood President and CEO
Catherine Meloy, Goodwill of Greater Washington President and CEO
Tonia Wellons, Greater Washington Community Foundation President and CEO
Christine Hong, COG Homeless Services Committee Chair

1. CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

COG Board Chair Reuben Collins called the meeting to order at 12:05 P.M. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CHAIR'S REPORT

The Chair's report included the following items:

- Introduction of new COG Board Member, City of Bowie Mayor Michael Esteve

3. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT CHAIR'S REPORT

The Executive Director's report included the following items:

- National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) – In April, the TPB endorsed a proclamation stating that May 15 will be the region's Bike to Work Day and updated the Transportation Resilience Improvement Plan (TRIP) prioritized project list.
- Food and Agriculture Regional Member (FARM) Policy Committee - FARM's April meeting featured a panel on grocery retail in the region, covering attraction, retention, affordability, pricing, and how federal policy changes could impact retailers and healthy food access.
- Public Safety – In April, COG advanced regional public safety and collaboration through several key events. COG convened local and state personnel for a joint public safety wellness meeting and partnered with federal and local agencies to discuss coordination of scam prevention messaging.
- Regional Travel Survey and presentation at University of Maryland's Center for MultiModal Mobility – In April, DTP released the 2026 Regional Travel Survey to gather critical post-pandemic transportation data using a new smartphone app.
- Foster Parents of the Year 2026 - COG honored the 2026 Foster Parents of the Year on May 2, an annual effort recognizing excellence in foster care and aiming to inspire others to become foster parents themselves.
- Greater Washington Together Update – COG Executive Director Clark Mercer joined a convening of the Greater Washington Together partnership, a regional effort uniting a growing group of government, employer, education, and nonprofit leaders across Greater Washington to strengthen economic resilience for our region.
- 34th Annual COG Wreath Laying Ceremony – The 34th COG Annual Corrections Wreath Laying Ceremony honored the vital role of corrections professionals, remembering officers nationwide and from local agencies who died in the line of duty.

4. AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

5. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM April 8, 2026

The minutes from the April 8th board meeting were approved.

6. ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

- Resolution R21-2026 – Resolution to Receive and Expend Funding from Drinking Water Utilities to Support Regional Source Water & Drinking Water Protection with the Watersuite Platform Resolution authorizing COG to receive and expend Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing grant funds
- Resolution R22-2026 – Resolution to Amend the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Pension Plan

Action: The board adopted Resolution R21-2026 and R22-2026.

7. FISCAL YEAR 2027 WORK PROGRAM AND BUDGET

The board was briefed on the proposed FY 2027 (July 1, 2026 to June 30, 2027) Work Program and Budget, which was reviewed and recommended for approval by the Budget and Finance Committee. The board adopted Resolution R23-2026.

Action: The board adopted Resolution R23-2026.

8. NONPROFIT AND PHILANTHROPY REGIONAL COLLABORATION

The board heard from nonprofit and philanthropy leaders in the region and discussed how local governments can collaborate and support their regional initiatives.

9. HOMELESSNESS IN METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON

The board was briefed on the results of the Point-in-Time count, an annual enumeration of persons experiencing homelessness, and the current state of homelessness in the region.

10. OTHER BUSINESS

11. ADJORN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:07 P.M.

**COG Board of Directors
Meeting
May 13, 2026 Attendance**

Jurisdiction	Member	Y/N	Alternate	Y/N
<i>District of Columbia</i>				
Executive	Hon. Muriel Bowser		Ms. Lindsey Parker	
	Mr. Kevin Donahue		Mr. Tomas Talamante	Y
Council	Hon. Phil Mendelson		Hon. Brianne Nadeau	Y
	Hon. Charles Allen	Y		
<i>Maryland</i>				
City of Bowie	Hon. Michael Esteve	Y	Hon. Dufour Woolfley	Y
Charles County	Hon. Reuben Collins	Y	Hon. Thomasina Coates	
City of Frederick	Hon. Michael O'Connor		Hon. Gayon Sampson	
Frederick County	Hon. Jessica Fitzwater		Ms. Victoria Venable	
City of College Park	Hon. Denise Mitchell	Y	Hon. Fazlul Kabir	
City of Gaithersburg	Hon. Robert Wu		Hon. Neil Harris	
City of Greenbelt	Hon. Emmett Jordan	Y	Hon. Kristen Weaver	
City of Laurel	Hon. Keith Sydnor	Y	Hon. Brenis Smith	
Montgomery County - Exec	Hon. Marc Elrich		Mr. Richard Madaleno Ms. Fariba Kassiri Mr. Earl Stoddard	Y
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Evan Glass		Hon. Marilyn Balcombe	
Montgomery County - Council	Hon. Kate Stewart		Hon. Natali Fani-Gonzalez	
Prince George's County - Exec	Hon. Aisha Braveboy		Ms. Maxene Bardwell Mr. Kevin Stephen	Y
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Krystal Oriadha		Hon. Tom Dernoga	
Prince George's County - Council	Hon. Wala Blegay			
City of Rockville	Hon. Monique Ashton	Y		
City of Takoma Park	Hon. Talisha Searcy		Hon. David Eubanks	
Maryland General Assembly	Hon. Brian Feldman			
<i>Virginia</i>				
City of Alexandria	Hon. Alyia Gaskins	Y	Hon. Sarah Bagley	
Arlington County	Hon. Takis Karantonis			
City of Fairfax	Hon. Catherine Read	Y	Hon. Stacey Hardy-Chandler	
Fairfax County	Hon. Rodney Lusk	Y	Hon. Daniel Storck	
Fairfax County	Hon. Jeff McKay		Hon. Andres Jimenez	
Fairfax County	Hon. James Bierman	Y	Hon. Walter Alcorn	
City of Falls Church	Hon. David Snyder	Y	Hon. Marybeth Connelly	
Loudoun County	Hon. Laura TeKrony			
Loudoun County	Hon. Phyllis Randall	Y	Hon. Koran Saines	
City of Manassas	Hon. Mark Wolfe	Y	Hon. Sonia Vasquez Luna	
City of Manassas Park	Hon. Darryl Moore			
Prince William County	Hon. Deshundra Jefferson	Y	Hon. Kenny A. Boddye	
Prince William County	Hon. Andrea Bailey	Y	Hon. Tom Gordy	
Virginia General Assembly				

Y = voting member present

P = present alternate in addition to member

Total voting present: 21

AGENDA ITEM #6

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS

ADOPTION OF CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS
September 2026

A. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROCURE TECHNICAL CONSULTING AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT FOR REGIONAL GEOSPATIAL DATA PROGRAMS

The Executive Committee approved Resolution R24-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend COG funds from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of \$400,000 annually. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract to provide professional services, specifically technical consulting and management, supporting the technology infrastructure for the NCR Geospatial Data Exchange (GDX) and Responder to Responder (R2R) programs, which are unique homeland security programs serving emergency management and first responders throughout the NCR. The contract will ensure the sustainment of existing program initiatives, lead updates of existing products, and develop new products and initiatives. The funding for this contract will be collected from local jurisdictions. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R24-2026.

B. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROCURE NG-CAD-X SOFTWARE MANAGED SERVICES

The Executive Committee approved Resolution R25-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend COG funds from the Department of Homeland Security & Public Safety in the amount of \$457,000 annually. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract to procure Next Generation Computer Aided Dispatch X (NG-CAD-X) Software managed services in a Gov Cloud hosted environment. The service will provide NG-CAD-X Computer-Aided-Dispatch to Computer-Aided-Dispatch (CAD2CAD) Interoperability Managed Services, support, maintenance, and upgrades. The funding for this contract will be collected from local jurisdictions. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R25-2026.

C. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROCURE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (IT) AND CYBER SECURITY SERVICES

The Executive Committee approved Resolution R26-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend COG funds from the Department of Homeland Security & Public Safety in the amount of \$2,478,956 annually. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract to procure services from Ashburn Consulting to support regional public safety programs, including the Computer-Aided-Dispatch to Computer-Aided-Dispatch (CAD2CAD), Identity and Access Management System (IAMS), and NCRnet. The contractor will provide technical expertise related to IT services, network engineering, and cyber security. The funding for this contract will be collected from local jurisdictions. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R26-2026.

D. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO REPURCHASE A LEADSONLINE POWER PLUS SUBSCRIPTION

The Executive Committee approved Resolution R27-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend COG funds from the Department of Homeland Security in the amount of

\$1,190,205. The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, and enter into a contract to purchase a one-year LeadsOnline Power Plus subscription to sustain the National Capital Region (NCR) and Maryland (MD) Regional Automated Property Identification (RAPID) Program. The contract will ensure the sustainment of the existing program to maintain a critical law enforcement system. The funding for this contract will be collected from local jurisdictions. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R27-2026.

E. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROCURE NCRNET MODERNIZATION

The Executive Committee approved Resolution R28-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$840,000 for the NCRnet Modernization project. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to transition NCRnet to the Public Safety Exchange (PSX), a modern, secure, and purpose-built platform for public safety networking. This effort will ensure the continuity, security, and advancement of public safety communications across the region. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R28-2026.

F. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO PROCURE NCRNET MAINTENANCE SERVICES

The Executive Committee approved Resolution R29-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$220,000 for the procurement of NCRnet maintenance services. As the Secretariat for the Urban Area Security Initiative for the National Capital Region, COG has been requested by the District of Columbia Homeland Security and Emergency Management Agency to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to procure NCRnet maintenance services to ensure the security of the existing infrastructure. Funding for this effort will be provided through a subgrant from the State Administrative Agent (SAA) for the National Capital Region. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R29-2026.

G. RESOLUTION TO RATIFY COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO SUPPORT DEVELOPMENT OF A REGIONAL COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

The Executive Committee approved R30-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to expend COG funds in the amount of \$375,000 to develop a regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to enter into a contract with McKinsey & Company for the amount of \$375,000 to provide consulting services and support development of the CEDS. COG will be riding an existing cooperative procurement agreement for consulting services available to governments and non-profit organizations. COG funds will be provided through the budget of the Department of Community and Economic Services.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Ratify Resolution R30-2026.

H. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO PROCURE AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT TO BE A PRIMARY RECIPIENT FOR A DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT TO MANAGE THE BIOWATCH SAMPLE COLLECTION IN THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AND THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R31-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend \$3,546,166.72 for The Department of Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency's CBRNE Operations 2026 BioWatch Grant Program. COG has applied for the BioWatch grant and been approved by the Department of Homeland Security to procure a contractor(s) and enter into a contract to pay monthly invoices and collect reports for the following: the provision of daily, continuous retrieval of BioWatch samples in the National Capital Region and in the city of Philadelphia, the delivery of samples to the contracted laboratory for analysis, and ensure the contractor follows a set of procedures to ensure sample integrity, maintain the Chain of Custody (COC) for each sample; maintain the equipment, keep an adequate level of inventory; and relocate collectors if necessary. No COG matching funds are required.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R31-2026.

I. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COG TO RECEIVE A GRANT TO EXECUTE THE NATIONAL CAPITAL PRISM INVASIVE SPECIES MANAGEMENT AND OUTREACH PROJECT

The board will be asked to adopt Resolution R32-2026 authorizing the Executive Director, or his designee, to receive and expend grant funds Virginia's Department of Forestry FY26 Virginia PRISM Support for Invasive Species Program in the amount of \$75,000. The funds will support invasive species management and outreach efforts on Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) parkland and Arlington County Parks (ACP). The resolution also authorizes the Executive Director, or his designee, to proceed with procurement for a contractor, or contractors, to manage invasive species on FCPA parkland. Funding for this effort will be provided through a grant from Virginia's Department of Forestry 6821 – FY27 National Capital PRISM Support for Invasive Species Program. COG will be required to provide a match of \$7,117 which is available in the budget of the Department of Environmental Protection, NatCap PRISM Program.

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Adopt Resolution R32-2026.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS: Ratify Resolutions R24-2026 – R30-2026, previously approved by the COG Executive Committee on July 28th, 2026. Approve Resolutions R31-2026 and Resolution R32-2026.

AGENDA ITEM #7

COG MID-COURSE REVIEW OF CLIMATE PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors

FROM: Cindy Dyballa, Chair, Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee
Jeff King, Climate, Energy and Air Director
Maia Davis, Senior Environmental Planner

SUBJECT: Midcourse Review of Climate Progress and Next Steps

DATE: September 2, 2026

The Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) provides leadership on climate change and energy; supports area governments as they work together to meet the regional climate goals; and advises the COG Board on climate and energy-related issues. CEEPC transmits this Midcourse Review Report and recommends the COG Board accept the report, discuss the regionwide implications of its findings, and adopt a resolution indicating next steps in meeting regional climate goals.

In 2020, the COG Board passed Resolution R45-2020 establishing 2030 regional climate goals and directing the CEEPC to report a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards regional climate goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed. CEEPC developed the [Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#) (2030 CEAP) to guide the region toward meeting the 2030 climate goals. The plan emphasizes the need for action in the areas of clean energy, clean transportation, and zero energy buildings to meet 2030 climate mitigation goals.

In 2025, COG staff began developing the mid-point evaluation, titled Midcourse Review (MCR). Today, on behalf of CEEPC, Chair Dyballa is requesting the COG Board endorse the publication of the MCR Report and discuss priority next steps. The MCR is a technical report evaluating greenhouse gas reduction trends for COG Board climate goals and priorities. The MCR indicates whether regional trends are headed in the right direction and identifies areas where CEEPC may need to course-correct to stay on track toward regional 2030 goals. At the May CEEPC meeting, CEEPC approved asking the COG Board to publish the MCR report and discuss priority next steps because of the regionwide implications of its findings.

COG BOARD CLIMATE MITIGATION GOALS

In 2008, the COG Board adopted goals to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 10 percent by 2012 (i.e. bring emissions back down to 2005 levels), 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and 80 percent below by 2050. In 2020, the COG Board passed Resolution R45-2020 endorsing an interim GHG emission reduction goal to reduce GHG emissions 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The COG Board also endorsed additional goals and priorities to guide the climate work of the region and its members. In 2022, the COG Board identified electric vehicle (EV) deployment as a regional priority via Resolution R40-2022. In 2023, the COG Board endorsed a goal of 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030 via Resolution R36-2023. In 2024, the COG Board endorsed a goal of maintaining a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across the metropolitan Washington

region via Resolution R14-2024.

PROGRESS TOWARDS COG BOARD CLIMATE MITIGATION GOALS

The MCR findings show that accelerated effort will be needed for the region to reach its 2030 goals. Member governments have taken significant action, resulting in significant progress toward meeting these targets. As of 2023, regional GHG emissions met the 2020 target of 20 percent below 2005 levels, and are 40 percent toward meeting the 2030 goal. However, emissions experienced a 6 percent uptick between 2020 and 2023 primarily due to an increase in commercial energy intensity, including increases from data centers, and from the expected bounce back in emissions from the temporary pandemic drop in emissions. Solar rooftop growth in the region has been significant with more than 93,000 systems in 2024, putting the region at 37 percent toward the 2030 goal of 250,000 rooftop solar systems. As of 2021, the region has a 50 percent tree canopy, equivalent to the regional goal of a 50 percent tree canopy. Recent trends in loss of tree canopy, however, threaten this achievement. Without expanded climate action, and deliberate changes of policy, the region is unlikely to meet its climate goals to reduce GHG emissions 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels; achieve 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030; and maintain 50 percent tree canopy region-wide.

COG BOARD RESOLUTION R33-2026

It is requested that the COG Board reaffirm and expand implementation toward regional climate change goals and priorities. The resolution calls for:

1. The COG Board recognizes the significant costs of climate change and extreme weather events to the region's economy and affordability, public safety and wellbeing, and infrastructure and sustainability.
2. The COG Board reaffirms its climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030, including a commitment to Electric Vehicle (EV) planning and deployment, 250,000 solar rooftops, and 50 percent minimum tree canopy coverage across the Metropolitan Washington region.
3. The COG Board accepts CEEPC's Midcourse Review Report on the progress made by the region towards its 2030 goal of reducing GHG gases by 50 percent below 2005 levels; and encourages COG to strengthen the connections between climate, housing and transportation goals, exploring ways to address large load growth with a focus on data centers, and continue working with COG members to support local action
4. The COG Board recognizes COG member jurisdictions and all stakeholders will need to redouble their efforts between now and 2030 to implement the strategies outlined in the 2030 CEAP and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), especially recognizing the scale back of federal government actions and support in this regard. The COG Board urges members to accelerate and expand action in the areas of clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and support the regional clean economy.

DISCUSSION POINTS FOR THE COG BOARD

COG members are encouraged to address the need to accelerate and expand action across all sectors. The region needs to ensure we are doing everything we can to advance climate action. Implementation should be advanced via targeted energy strategies for key priority areas of clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and the clean economy. These action areas were identified in the 2030 CEAP and remain priorities.

In addition, other COG goals and strategies have a climate connection. Increasing housing in Regional Activity Centers and near high-capacity transit is a strategy that supports GHG reductions as well as other COG goals. As COG undertakes an economic development strategy, that strategy may also have climate implications. The Board can consider the need to balance and integrate additional COG goals, such as increasing housing, with climate goals such as GHG emissions reduction and preserving and expanding tree canopy. Lastly, it is important to address common challenges currently impacting our communities, including energy affordability and the large load growth from data centers.

What can COG do to accelerate action, and how COG can support its members to address common challenges? Points for the COG Board discussion include:

1. Address the need to accelerate action across all sectors
 - How can we strengthen the connections between goals for climate, transportation and housing?
 - Are we doing everything we can to support clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and the clean economy?
2. Address common challenges affecting our communities
 - How can local communities support energy affordability?
 - How can local communities address large load growth, especially from data centers, to support a clean economy?

NEXT STEPS

The region has made tremendous progress to support the reduction of GHG emissions, but there is still more climate action needed to meet COG goals. This includes accelerating deployment of renewables and electric vehicles between now and 2030 and concerted preservation of tree canopy. Bold action across all sectors will need to continue and expand to meet the region's 2030 goals. CEEPC has charted a path forward for the Board and the region with the 2030 CEAP. Collaborative action will continue to deliver a cleaner future for the region.

MIDCOURSE REVIEW

Climate and Energy Progress in Metropolitan Washington

The Midcourse Review examines the region's progress towards its 2030 climate and energy goals and plans.

September 2026



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments

MIDCOURSE REVIEW

Prepared by the Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee
September 2026

ABOUT COG

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) is an independent, nonprofit association that brings area leaders together to address major regional issues in the District of Columbia, suburban Maryland, and Northern Virginia. COG's membership is comprised of 300 elected officials from local governments, the Maryland and Virginia state legislatures, and U.S. Congress.

CREDITS

Editors: Alissa Boggs, Maia Davis, Timothy Masters, Marlee Moore, Caroline Sherman
Contributing Editors: Heidi Bonnafon, Pierre Gaunard, Jeff King, Carly McGovern, Erin Morrow, John Snarr, Dusan Vuksan
Cover Photo Credits: American Institute of Architects, City of Fairfax, Compost Crew, and Solar United Neighbors

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The COG Board adopted greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction goals to reduce GHG emissions 10 percent below projected levels by 2012 (i.e. bring emissions back down to 2005 levels), 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030, and 80 percent below by 2050. The COG Board also endorsed additional goals and priorities to guide the climate work of the region and its members. In 2022, the COG Board identified electric vehicle (EV) deployment as a regional priority. In 2023, the COG Board endorsed a goal of 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030, and in 2024, the COG Board endorsed a goal of maintaining a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across the metropolitan Washington region.

The region met the 2012 and 2020 GHG emission goals, and in 2020, COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) adopted the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan (2030 CEAP) to lay out a pathway to meet the 2030 climate mitigation goals and coordinate the region on working towards the goal of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The objectives of the Midcourse Review are to assess the status of regional climate goals, key performance indicators, and implementation levels of key actions to provide direction-setting for regional action. The results of the Midcourse Review show the direction of regional trends and identify where CEEPC may need to course-correct to stay on track toward regional 2030 goals. The Midcourse Review evaluates past to current trends of goals and key performance indicators to support CEEPC decision making and next step actions.

Each section of this report aligns with the climate mitigation action areas in the 2030 CEAP. These sectors include Greenhouse Gases, Clean Electricity, Zero Energy Buildings, Zero Emission Vehicles, Mode Shift and Travel Behavior, Zero Waste, and Sequestration with equity being a priority across sectors. Each sector in the CEAP identifies measures to meet the 2030 climate mitigation goals. The approach for the Midcourse Review is three-fold: (1) develop performance indicators; (2) conduct a local government climate action implementation questionnaire; and (3) identify case studies of climate action implementation across the region. Each section of this report highlights performance indicators, questionnaire results, and case studies. The performance indicators are 1 to 2 key metrics per sector to examine closely to enable a reasonable assessment of progress.

The report findings on progress towards the adopted COG Board goals show that accelerated effort is needed to advance the region toward its 2030 goals. As of 2023, regional GHG emissions are at 20 percent below 2005 levels, meeting the 2020 goal and 40 percent toward meeting the 2030 goal. However, emissions experienced a 6 percent uptick between 2020 and 2023 due to an increase in commercial energy intensity, including increases from data centers, and from the expected bounce back in emissions from the temporary pandemic drop in emissions. Solar rooftop growth in the region has been significant with more than 93,000 systems in 2024, 37 percent toward the 2030 goal of 250,000 rooftop solar systems. As of 2021, the region has a 50 percent tree canopy, equivalent to the regional goal of a 50 percent tree canopy. Recent trends in loss of tree canopy, however, threaten this achievement. Without expanded climate action, a deliberate change of policy, and given the current trends, the region is unlikely to meet its climate goals to reduce GHG emissions 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels, achieve 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030, and maintain 50 percent tree canopy region-wide.

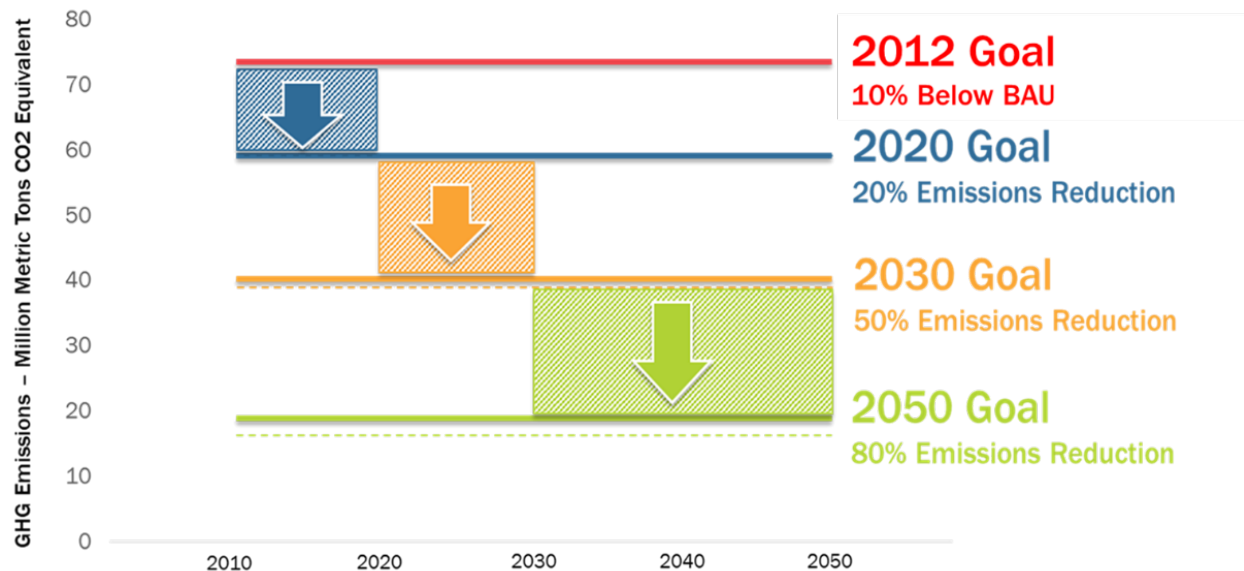
There has been tremendous progress made in the region to support the reduction of GHG emissions, and there is still so much more climate action that needs to be done. The top priorities for regional climate action need to continue to be in the areas of advancing the deployment of renewables and electric vehicles between now and 2030. Bold action across all sectors will need to continue and expand to meet the region's 2030 goals. CEEPC has charted a path forward with the 2030 CEAP. Collaborative action will continue to deliver a cleaner future for the region.

INTRODUCTION

Goals and Objectives

In 2020, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Board of Directors adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels. This was an interim goal added to the Board's previously adopted GHG emission reduction goals to reduce GHG emissions 10 percent below projected 2012 levels (i.e. bring emissions back down to 2005 levels), 20 percent below 2005 levels by 2020, and 80 percent by 2050 (Figure 1). The region met the 2012 and 2020 GHG emission goals, and in 2020, COG's Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) adopted the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan (2030 CEAP) to coordinate the region on working towards the new goal of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The CEAP lays out a pathway toward meeting the regional 2030 climate mitigation goals.ⁱ

Figure 1: Metropolitan Washington Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Goals



Area governments and stakeholders have worked together toward meeting regional GHG emission reduction goals for more than 15 years through CEEPC. CEEPC brings together representatives from local governments; state, regional and federal agencies, appointed members of the public, electric and gas utilities, environmental and business organizations, and the academic community to work together to address and minimize the impacts of climate change.ⁱⁱ

Members are continually working in partnership together to develop policies, programs, and projects in the areas of energy efficiency, renewable energy, energy infrastructure, clean vehicles, resiliency, and more. CEEPC has several subcommittees to support local implementation of climate action including the Built Environment and Energy Advisory Committee (BEEAC), the Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC), CEEPC Legislative Subcommittee, Solid Waste Managers and Recycling

Committees, Regional Tree Canopy Subcommittee (RTCS), and the Regional Electric Vehicle Deployment (REVD) Working Group.ⁱⁱⁱ

CEEPC has been widely acknowledged for its efforts. COG and its members were named White House Climate Action Champions in 2014. In 2019, the committee was recognized by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) as a U.S. Metro Scale Climate Leader. CEEPC was designated as fully compliant with GCoM's global standards of best practices for climate planning in 2021 and again in 2024.^{iv}

The COG Board adopted additional priorities and goals to guide the climate work of the region and its members. In 2022, the COG Board identified electric vehicle (EV) deployment as a regional priority. In 2023, the COG Board endorsed a goal of 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030, as recommended by CEEPC and in alignment with the 2030 CEAP. With the recommendation of RTCS, the COG Board endorsed a goal in 2024 of maintaining a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across the metropolitan Washington region.^v

In addition, from 2023 to 2025, COG developed the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) climate action plans as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Program, via a pass-through grant from the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE). The Washington-Arlington-Alexandria DC-MD-VA-WV MSA Priority Climate Action Plan (PCAP) was published and submitted to EPA in March 2024 and the MSA Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) was submitted to EPA in December 2025.^{vi}

During the development of the PCAP and CCAP plans, regional stakeholders discussed existing regional GHG emission reduction goals. COG's Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee (ACPAC) submitted a letter to COG encouraging strengthening the goals, while other stakeholders expressed concern for the region's ability to meet current goals, mainly because of significant data center expansion in the region since 2020 and with emissions increases since the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to these mixed viewpoints, COG launched the Midcourse Review to evaluate how the region is doing towards meeting the COG Board goals and began assessing what it would take to achieve a net zero emissions future as part of the development of CCAP.

The objectives of the Midcourse Review are to assess the status of regional climate goals, key performance indicators, and implementation levels of key actions to provide direction-setting for regional action. The Midcourse Review also informed measures and modeling in the CCAP. The results of the Midcourse Review show the direction of regional trends and identify where CEEPC may need to course-correct to stay on track to regional 2030 goals. The Midcourse Review evaluates past to current trends of goals and key performance indicators to support CEEPC decision making and next step actions. Please see the CEAP and CCAP for information on future projections.

The objectives of the Midcourse Review are to assess the status of regional climate goals, key performance indicators, and implementation levels of key actions to provide direction-setting for regional action.

Each section of this report aligns with the climate mitigation action areas in the 2030 CEAP. These sectors include Greenhouse Gases, Clean Electricity, Zero Energy Buildings, Zero Emission Vehicles,

Mode Shift and Travel Behavior, Zero Waste, and Sequestration. Each sector in the CEAP identifies measures to meet the 2030 climate mitigation goals. The approach for the Midcourse Review is three-fold: (1) develop performance indicators; (2) conduct a local government climate action implementation questionnaire; and (3) identify case studies of climate action implementation across the region. Each section of this report highlights performance indicators, questionnaire results, and case studies. The performance indicators are 1 to 2 key metrics per sector to examine closely to enable a reasonable assessment of progress (Table 1).

Table 2: Performance Indicators

Sector	Performance Indicator
Greenhouse Gases	Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions Contribution Analysis (drivers of GHG change)
Clean Electricity	Carbon Intensity of the Grid Grid Connected Renewables
Zero Energy Buildings	Building Energy Consumption Green Buildings
Zero Emissions Vehicles	Electric Vehicle (EV) Ownership EV Charging Stations and Ports
Mode Shift and Travel Behavior	Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) Transit Ridership
Zero Waste	Waste Diversion Rate
Sequestration	Tree Canopy Coverage

The local government climate action implementation questionnaire asked implementation questions for each of these sectors and the results summarize status of the collective priority climate actions in the region under the sub-headers Supporting Local Policies and Programs. The case studies identify best practices happening across the region and across sectors by a variety of local jurisdictions (small, medium, and large as well as urban, suburban, and rural communities). To meet GHG reduction goals, equity is a central component across all climate action sectors and is highlighted across sectors in this report.

GREENHOUSE GASES

Progress Towards 2030

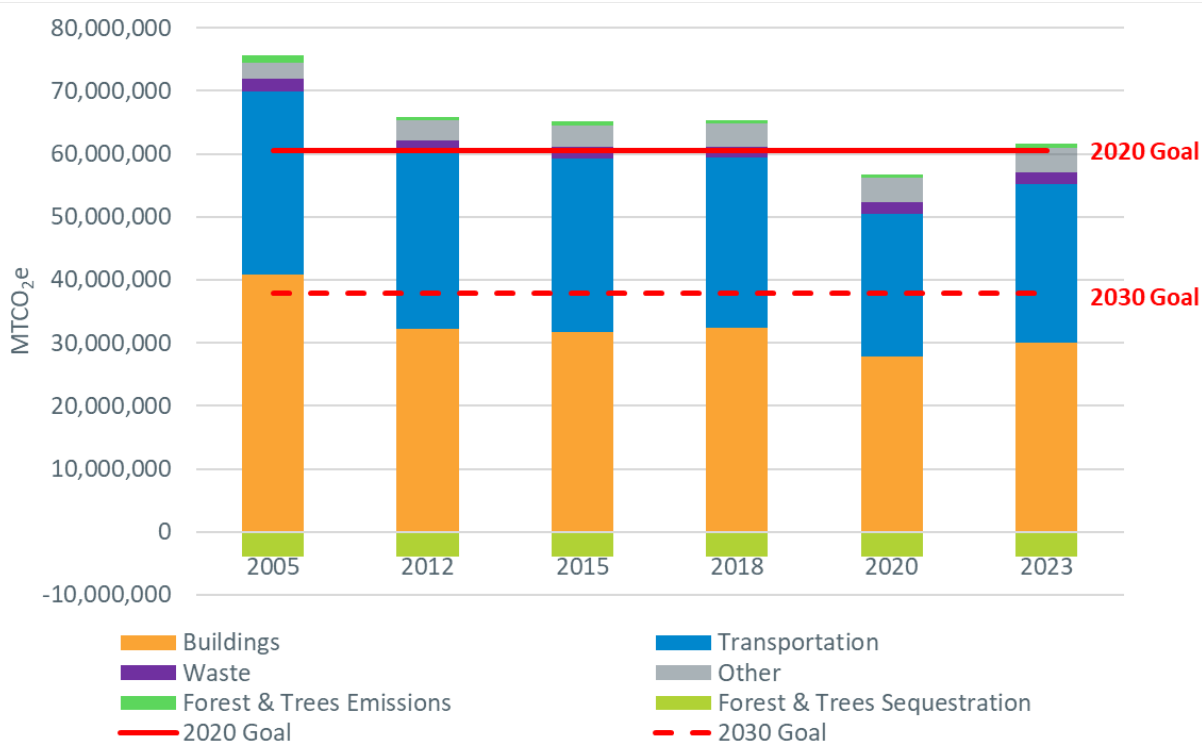
In 2020, the COG Board approved a new 2030 regional GHG emissions reduction goal of 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. The region surpassed its 2012 goal to reduce GHG emissions 10 percent below projected 2012 levels (i.e. bring emissions back down to 2005 levels). The region also met its 2020 GHG emission reduction goal of 20 percent below 2005 levels. Expedited cross-sectoral actions will be needed throughout the region to achieve the goal of 50 percent by 2030.^{vii}

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Approximately 90 percent of metropolitan Washington GHG emissions come from building energy consumption and transportation. The remainder of emissions comes waste, land use (agriculture, forests and trees), and fugitive emissions. Metropolitan Washington community-wide GHG net emissions decreased by 20 percent between 2005 and 2023, despite a 23 percent growth in population. Forests and trees sequester more than 3 million metric tons of CO₂ equivalent annually (Figure 2). Per the methodology developed in the CCAP, data centers account for approximately 11 percent of total GHG emissions as of 2023. Data centers, part of the buildings sector in Figure 2, are a high energy intensity industry with projected exponential growth in the region, which could pose a challenge in meeting regional 2030 GHG emission reduction goals.^{viii}

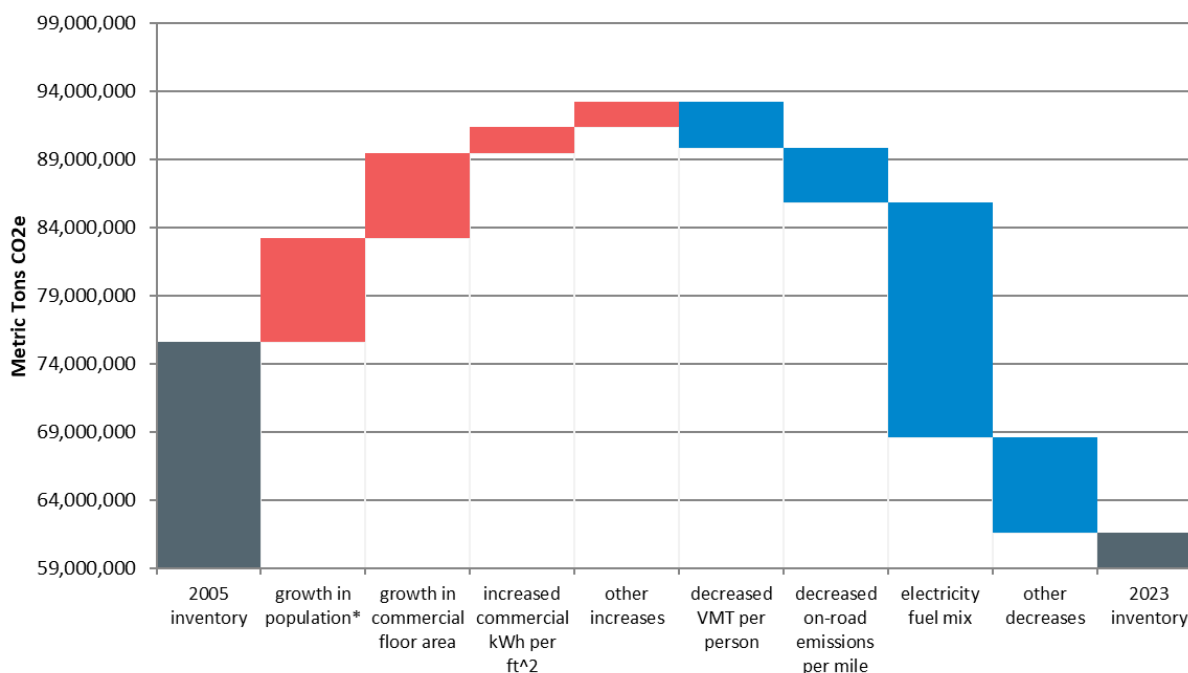
Figure 2: Metropolitan Washington Greenhouse Gas Emissions Trends, 2005 - 2023



Contribution Analysis

The metropolitan Washington GHG Contribution Analysis results show what has driven increases (red bars) and decreases (blue bars) in emissions between inventory years 2005 and 2023 (Figure 3). The graph shows the main drivers increasing emissions are growth in population and commercial space as well as increased commercial electricity energy use intensity (EUI = energy use per square foot), including from data centers. Driving down emissions between 2005 and 2023 are mainly a cleaner grid, cleaner cars, and reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) per person.^{ix}

Figure 3: Metropolitan Washington Drivers of Greenhouse Gas Change, 2005 - 2023



Note: * Includes effects of population on residential energy, VMT, and waste generation.

A contribution analysis examining GHG emissions between 2020 and 2023, confirms increased commercial electricity EUI, including from data centers, is the leading driver increasing emissions followed by pandemic related recovery indicators including an uptick in VMT per person and air travel. Between 2020 and 2023, data center square footage in the region increased from 30 million square feet to more than 54 million square feet. In addition, EUI increases are influenced by the growth of recent hyperscale data center development. The COVID-19 pandemic has had far-reaching impacts on the global economic and social system, including causing record drops GHG emissions. Pandemic impacts on GHG emissions were largely due to the temporary reduction in economic and travel activity. The impacts have been projected to remain a one-time dip in emissions. Globally, the pandemic impacted GHG emissions by 4-5 percent in 2020 and similar estimated impacts have been made for the state of Maryland and the metropolitan Washington region.^x

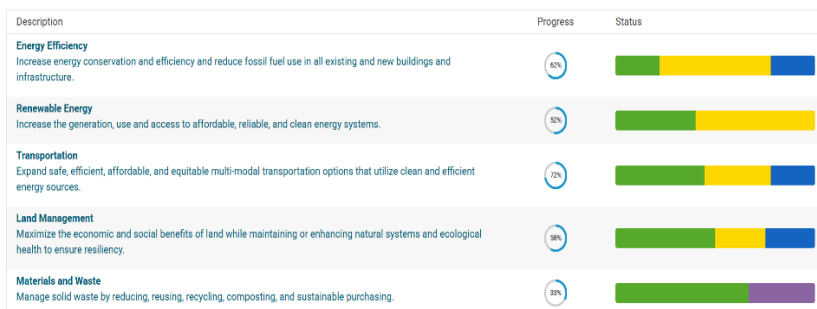
SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

Developing and implementing climate goals, equity-focused plans, and tracking progress lays the foundation for efforts to reduce GHG emissions 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030. More than 66 percent of COG member jurisdictions have established community-wide GHG reduction goals and

more than 57 percent have community plans to help meet their goals. Another 33 percent of local jurisdictions are currently developing a community-wide GHG reduction plan. More than 80 percent developed their plans with a focus on disadvantaged communities. Local jurisdictions are tracking their progress by leveraging the COG-developed GHG inventories, tracking local climate investments and savings, climate progress reports, and progress dashboards.^{xi}

City of Rockville

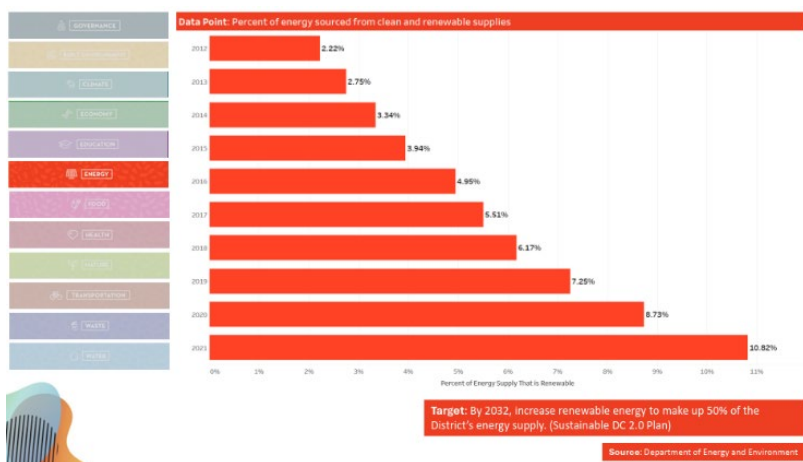
Developed as a part of their Climate Action Plan, the City of Rockville has a Climate Action Dashboard based off its Annual Report on the City's website. The dashboard displays its GHG reduction goals and the progress the City is making with achieving 50 percent reduction from 2005 levels by 2030. Residents can also see the City's progress by topic area as well as individual actions. Having an interactive dashboard where residents may learn the status of specific sectors such as energy efficiency and transportation can increase community engagement in achieving progress towards climate goals.^{xii}



City of Rockville Climate Action Dashboard
(Source: [Climate Action Plan](#))

District of Columbia

The District Department of Energy's (DOEE) Sustainable DC Data Dashboard includes data points related to the 13 topics areas in the Sustainable DC 2.0 Plan. It provides insight into the District's progress toward its sustainability, clean energy, and climate goals. The annual reporting structure offers residents an up-to-date look at how the city is advancing initiatives in climate resilience, nature, transportation, waste, clean energy, and more. The District also maintains a greenhouse gas inventory to report on annual city-wide emissions and track progress toward reaching carbon neutrality by 2045. In 2023, the District saw a 42 percent decrease in citywide emissions compared to the 2006 baseline inventory. Tracking progress allows for more transparency for what the city has done thus far to accomplish its goals.^{xiii}



District of Columbia GHG Inventory Energy Dashboard
(Source: [SDC 2.0 Dashboard](#))

CLEAN ELECTRICITY

Progress Towards 2030

With 35 percent of gross GHG emissions in the region associated with electricity consumption,^{xiv} state Renewable Portfolio Standards (RPS) programs that accelerate the deployment of renewable energy on the region's grid are crucial for reducing GHG emissions. By 2030, states and utilities need to continue adding renewable generation capacity to achieve the renewable energy levels in the overall grid mix in line with the state RPS programs.

Washington, D.C.'s RPS requires 100 percent renewable electricity by 2032, including 9 percent from local solar. As of 2024, solar deployment is ahead of schedule with over 308 MW installed, but interconnection delays limit growth and drive-up compliance costs.^{xv} The District's Public Service Commission (PSC) has granted an investigation of the implementation of interconnection standards, but infrastructure constraints remain. The District is broadly on track but needs grid upgrades to sustain progress and reduce ratepayer impacts.

Maryland's RPS requires 50 percent renewable electricity by 2030, with 14.5 percent from solar. While RPS targets are met via Renewable Energy Credits (RECs), suppliers are increasingly choosing Alternative Compliance Payments (ACPs) over purchasing and retiring RECs, contributing to a sharp decline in REC retirements. In 2024, retirements fell below 2014 levels as ACPs were often cheaper than RECs. In-state deployment has increased from 19 percent of RECs originating in-state in 2022 to 45 percent in 2024.^{xvi} Solar and offshore wind have faced delays from siting, permitting, and interconnection bottlenecks.^{xvii} Recent reforms implemented by the Maryland Public Service Commission and the Maryland Energy Administration offer procurement flexibility and geothermal incentives respectively, but Maryland needs faster deployment and grid investment to meet 2030 goals meaningfully.

Virginia's RPS targets 100 percent carbon-free electricity by 2045 (for Dominion Energy). Dominion meets interim goals through owned renewable energy generation and renewable Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs).^{xviii} A key project, the Coastal Virginia Offshore Wind began generating power in 2026, but otherwise PPA reliance raises transparency concerns. Dominion's 2024 Integrated Resource Plan (IRP) shows plans for solar, storage, and banked PPAs, but interconnection backlogs and limited in-state mandates threaten long-term progress. Virginia risks compliance without real decarbonization.

PJM's interconnection queue faces significant delays due to a substantial backlog of renewable energy projects awaiting approval.^{xix} Lengthy review processes, costly network upgrades, and a first-come, first-served model have slowed project timelines across the region. Although recent queue reform efforts are underway, these delays directly hinder states' ability to bring new clean energy online, making it harder to meet RPS targets.^{xx} Even when policy mandates and market incentives are in place, interconnection barriers prevent timely deployment, turning planned solar and wind into stranded projects and stalling progress toward the region's clean energy goals.

In addition to state RPS programs, local communities need to support the deployment of local solar. In recognition of this need, the COG Board adopted regional solar energy goals for 2030 in line with

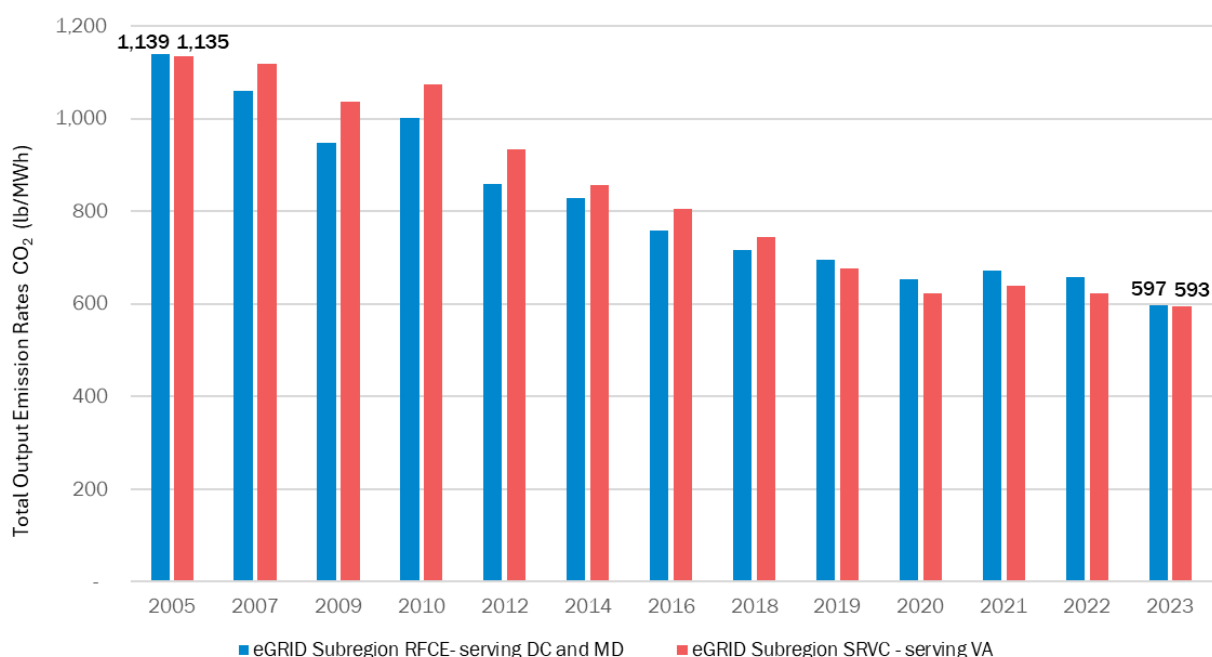
the regional 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan (2030 CEAP). The COG Board endorsed the goal of deploying 250,000 solar rooftops in the region by 2030, urged COG members to install solar at government facilities, urged COG members to procure 100 percent of electricity for government operations, encouraged deploying solar programs in support of low-income residents, and more.^{xxi}

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Carbon Intensity of The Grid

Two key factors impact GHG emissions from electricity – how clean the electric grid is and the region’s total building energy consumption. The U.S. EPA provides comprehensive data on electric power generated across the United States through the Emissions and Generation Resource Integrated Database (eGRID). EPA eGRID subregions serving the COG region include Reliability First Corporation-East (RFCE) serving DC and MD and SERC Reliability Corporation Virginia/Carolina (SRVC) serving Virginia. Figure 4 below shows how clean the grid in these subregions is getting over the years. Both RFCE and SRVC subregions reduced from more than 1,100 CO₂e in 2005 to below 600 CO₂e in 2023. This is the result of coal plants shutting down, fuel switching to natural gas, and - to a smaller extent - increasing renewables powering the grid.^{xxii}

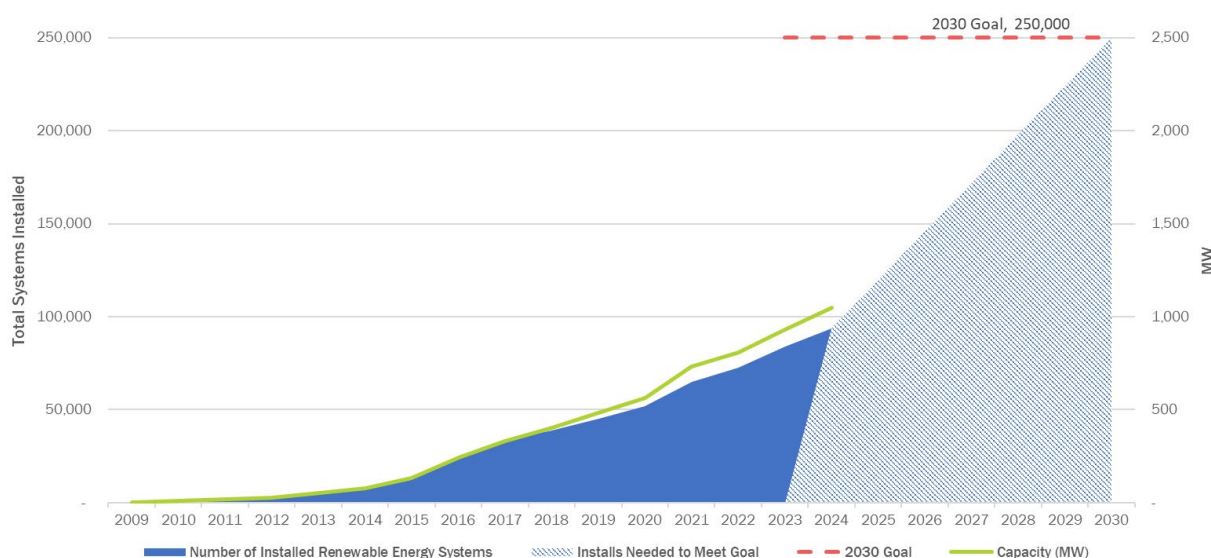
Figure 4: Carbon Intensity of the Grid Trends, 2005 – 2023



Grid Connected Renewables

CEEPC’s 2020 Regional Climate and Energy Action Plan (2020 CEAP) prioritized increasing renewables and worked toward the desired outcome of achieving the deployment of 30,000 grid-connected renewable energy systems. The region well surpassed this desired outcome. Distributed renewable energy deployment has grown at a tremendous rate from less than 500 systems in 2009 to more than 90,000 systems in 2024 operating with more than 1 gigawatt of capacity (Figure 5). Concerted effort is needed to meet the regional goal of 250,000 systems by 2030.^{xxiii}

Figure 5: Metropolitan Washington Grid Connected Renewables Trends, 2009 - 2024



SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

COG member jurisdictions are deploying clean electricity solutions in government operations, including deploying 28,544.60 kW of solar capacity, 9 district energy/microgrid systems, 3 combined heat and power (CHP) systems, 33 geothermal systems, and 9 Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs). In addition, 79 percent of local jurisdictions have solar requirements or incentives available to the community. The majority of COG member local jurisdictions provide or promote solar opportunities community-wide through solar co-ops, community solar, and financing solutions in disadvantaged communities.^{xxiv}

Solar Co-Ops

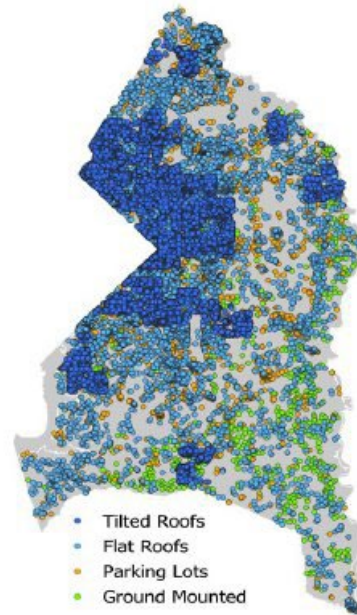
Solar co-ops enable residents, communities, and businesses to find affordable and well-vetted contractors to implement solar installation projects at a discounted rate. Two programs serving the metropolitan Washington region include Solarize NOVA and Solar United Neighbors (SUN). Solarize NOVA is a Local Energy Alliance Program that uses community-based outreach programs to reduce the cost and complexity of solar-installation projects in communities. Solar United Neighbors (SUN) is a nonprofit that helps people go solar and fight for their energy rights. SUN offers a free-to-join Go Solar program called Capital Area Switch Together which helps residents save money on their installation by going solar with neighbors. In 2025, the Capital Area Switch Together program helped reduce the cost of residential solar by 22 percent, a \$6,580 discount on the average system installed. Together Solarize NOVA and SUN programs have installed 4,865 solar systems with 40 MW of capacity in the region.^{xxv}



Solar United Neighbors Participant
(Source: [Solar United Neighbors](#))

Prince George's County

Prince George's County developed a Clean and Renewable Energy Report and Siting Analysis to expand solar (and other clean electricity technologies) deployment in the County. This analysis simplifies future solar planning and expansion by identifying over 97,000 potential solar projects with over 7,000 MW_{AC} of total capacity. The report and analysis help the County progress towards expanding energy self-sufficiency while also enabling the County to support residents, businesses, and communities in their planning processes.



All Suitable Locations for Solar Installations in the County
(Source: Prince George's County State of Clean and Renewable Energy Report)

ZERO ENERGY BUILDINGS

Progress Towards 2030

Building energy consumption is the leading contributor to metropolitan Washington's GHG emissions, accounting for 49 percent of the total gross GHG emissions as of 2023.^{xxvi} In order for the building sector to support the 50 percent below 2005 levels by 2030 GHG emissions reduction goal, COG member jurisdictions will need to expand net zero energy building construction between now and 2030 through building codes, policies, and incentives. Continued coordination is encouraged to build capacity as well as develop and advocate for local policy options for high energy intensity industries.^{xxvii}

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Building Energy Consumption

Sustained reduction in energy consumption is an important component of meeting the region's GHG emission reduction goals. Weather as well as population and commercial growth impact energy consumption trends. Total electricity consumption has increased from 61.2 million MWh in 2005 to 85.95 million MWh in 2024, with residential consumption increasing only 5 percent and commercial increasing 59 percent (Figure 6). High energy intensive industries, such as data centers, contribute to the overall growth commercial electricity consumption. Total natural gas consumption decreased from 1.59 billion Therms in 2005 to 1.47 billion Therms in 2024, with residential consumption decreasing more than 11 percent and commercial decreasing 2 percent (Figure 7).^{xxviii}

Figure 6: Metropolitan Washington Electricity Trends, 2005 - 2024

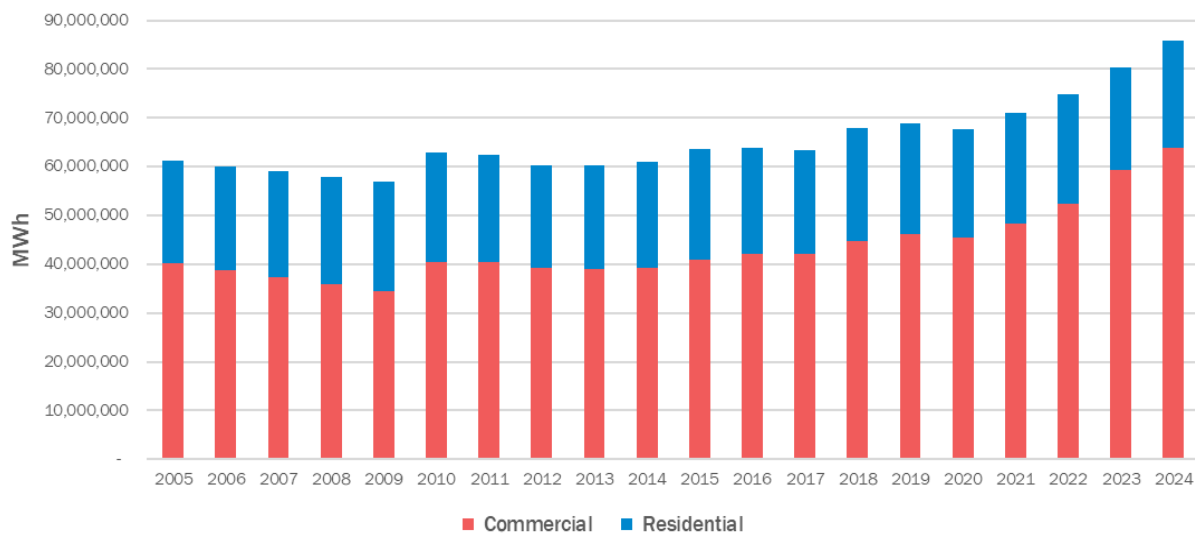
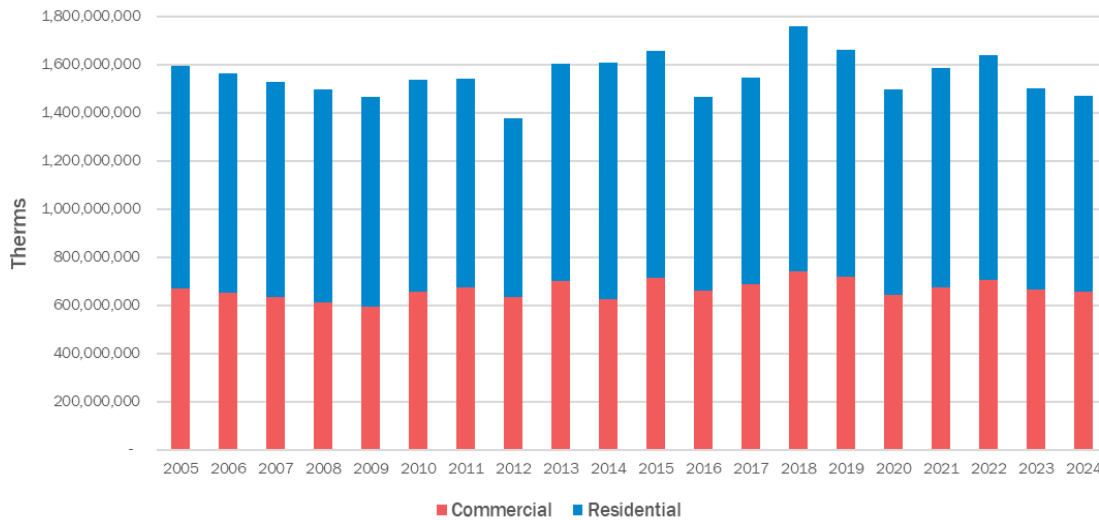


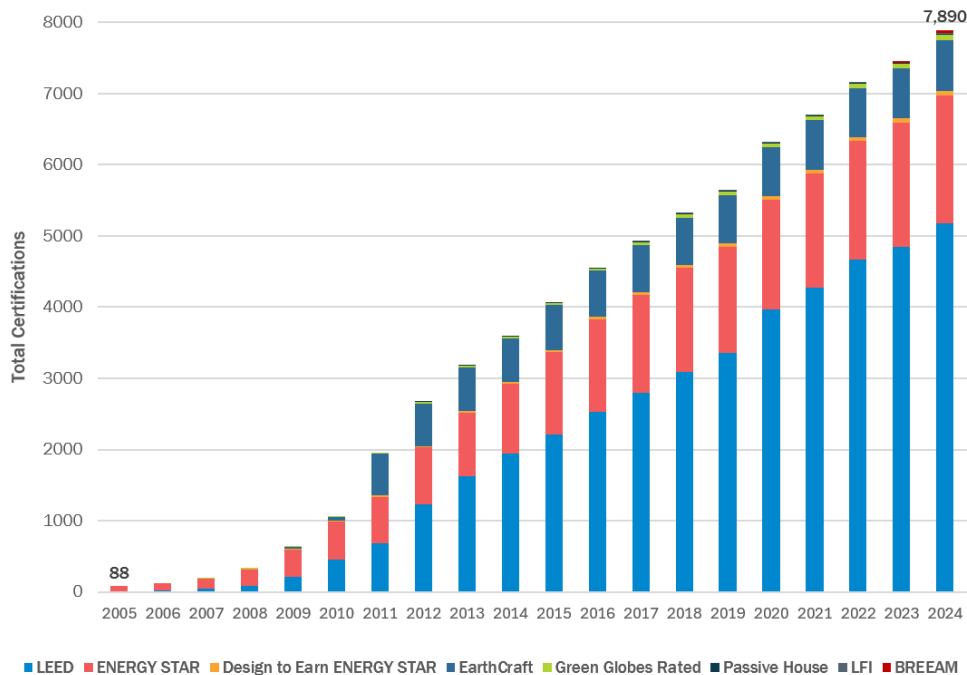
Figure 7: Metropolitan Washington Natural Gas Trends, 2005 - 2024



Green Buildings

GHG emission reduction is supported by development that prioritizes energy efficiency and renewable energy. Buildings with a higher level of environmental performance are verified through programs such as LEED, ENERGY STAR, EarthCraft, Green Globes, Passive House, Living Futures Institute (LFI), and BREEAM. In 2005, there were 88 third-party certified projects, including 14 LEED certifications and 74 ENERGY STAR rated buildings. As of the end of 2024, there are 7,890 certified projects, including 5,175 LEED certified projects, 1,800 ENERGY STAR rated buildings, 57 projects recognized with Design to Earn ENERGY STAR, 715 EarthCraft certifications, 77 Green Globes rated, 20 Passive Houses, 4 LFI projects, and 42 BREEAM certifications (Figure 8).^{xxix}

Figure 8: Metropolitan Washington Green Building Certification Trends, 2005 - 2024



SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

There are a variety of initiatives underway across the region to advance net zero energy buildings. Thirty-five percent of COG member jurisdictions provide education and training on new and advanced green construction standards, 15 percent have a policy for all new local public facilities to be net zero energy, 10 percent have net zero energy codes or incentives for private development, and 10 percent include net zero energy goals or strategies in master, comprehensive, or small area plans. Jurisdictions will need to continue to expand and advance net zero energy building initiatives.^{xxx}

COG member jurisdictions are also implementing initiatives that support more energy efficient buildings. Benchmarking programs are popular with 65 percent of jurisdictions energy benchmarking local government facilities, 20 percent require benchmarking for commercial buildings, and another 25 percent are developing benchmarking programs, including building energy performance standards (BEPS). Local jurisdictions are implementing deep energy retrofit initiatives for residential and commercial sectors including 65 percent of jurisdictions provide or promote innovative energy financing solutions (e.g. green bank, PACE, loan loss reserves, etc.), 65 percent provide or promote state and utility incentives and technical assistance for energy efficiency retrofits and upgrades, 60 percent implement deep energy improvements in affordable housing and in disadvantaged communities, and 60 percent have energy efficiency education campaigns.^{xxxi}

City of Alexandria

Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Minnie Howard Campus is designed to achieve LEED Gold certification and net-zero energy in line with Alexandria's Green Building Policy. Optimized building design and materials conserve energy and lower environmental impact. The building features solar panel installation on the roof and other areas as well as low flow water fixtures. The building is designed to save at least 25 percent more energy annually than a similar school designed to code-minimum levels allowing energy costs and the HVAC system's size to be reduced. Highly efficient water fixtures help reduce water use by 35-40 percent compared to a conventional building.^{xxxii}



Alexandria City High School (ACHS) Minnie Howard Campus Building (Source: [Learning by Design](#))

Arlington County

Arlington's Alice West Fleet Elementary school is a net-zero energy and LEED Gold-certified building. The school uses renewable energy, 20 percent of the land is vegetated by 85 different native species of plants and trees, and 90 percent of construction waste was diverted from landfills. The outdoor classrooms, terraces, and gardens connect students to nature and support hands-on learning. This includes a "Power Pole" that showcases real-time energy use and solar production, turning the school into a living lab for students to study. Additionally, the natural light and operable windows features, supplemented with LED lighting, create a vibrant, energy-smart learning environment for students.^{xxxiii}



Alice West Fleet Elementary School (Source: [The American Institute of Architects](#))

ZERO EMISSION VEHICLES

Progress Towards 2030

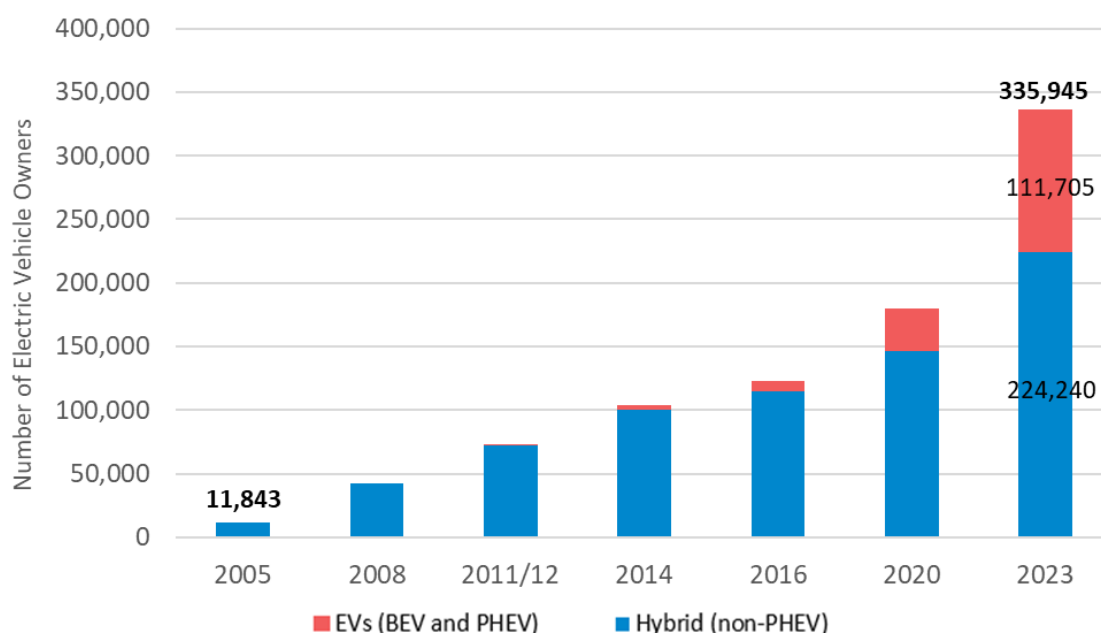
Thirty-three percent of total GHG emissions in metropolitan Washington come from on-road mobile transportation. Passenger cars and passenger trucks account for approximately 72 percent of on-road GHG emissions as of 2023. Advancing electric vehicle (EV) ownership in the region is one of the most impactful strategies to meet the 2030 regional GHG emission reduction goal. Based on the Regional Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Implementation (REVII) strategy that examined a range of vehicle electrification scenarios, in 2030, EV ownership in the region is estimated to range between 464,000 to 945,000 battery electric vehicles (BEVs) and plug-in hybrid electric (PHEV). These EV drivers will need an estimated 13,000 to 29,000 publicly available Level II EV charging ports and 485 to 1,000 publicly available DC fast charging ports. Recent GHG strategy modeling shows the region will need to achieve closer to the higher end of the projected range of EV adoption to meet the 2030 regional GHG emission reduction goals. Continued exponential expansion of EVs in the regional market and development of a robust network of EV chargers will be important to meet the 2030 GHG emission reduction goals.^{xxxiv}

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

EV Ownership

Improving fuel economy will help reduce GHG emissions from passenger cars and trucks. The region experienced recent significant growth in BEV and PHEV ownership from 33,175 in 2020 to 111,705 in 2023. The total electric and hybrid vehicle ownership in 2023 is 335,945 vehicles, which accounts for 8.6 percent of all light duty vehicles (Figure 9).^{xxxv}

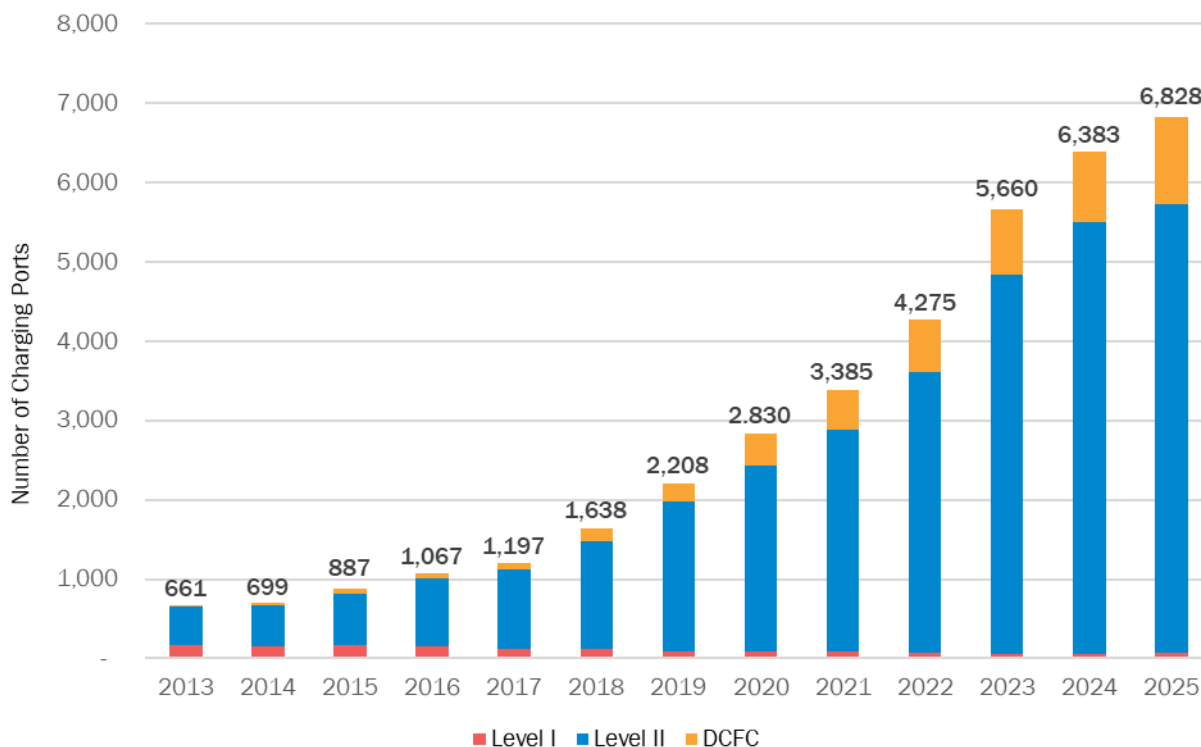
Figure 9: Metropolitan Washington Electric Vehicle Ownership Trends, 2005 - 2023



EV Charging Ports

Owners of BEVs and PHEVs need to be supported with a robust network of EV charging stations, particularly in areas with limited at-home charging, including multi-family developments, and disadvantaged communities. Total EV charging ports in metropolitan Washington have increased from 661 in 2013 to more than 6,800 ports in 2025 (Figure 10).¹ This aggressive expansion of EV charging ports needs to continue to support the region's GHG emission reduction goals.^{xxxvi}

Figure 10: Metropolitan Washington Electric Vehicle Charging Station Trends, 2013 - 2025



SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

COG member jurisdictions are accelerating EV and EV charger deployment in government operations. Eighty percent of jurisdictions have evaluated their fleet for opportunities to electrify, 70 percent have developed an EV charger deployment strategy for its fleet, and 20 percent are piloting new EV charger technologies. Local jurisdictions report that 19 percent of all fleet vehicles are electric vehicles, including battery electric vehicles (BEVs), plug-in hybrid electric vehicles (PHEVs), and hybrid electric vehicles (HEVs). Additionally, there are a variety of ways local jurisdictions are supporting EV and EV charger deployment community-wide including developing EV plans for community deployment, promoting incentives to buy EVs and deploy EV chargers, EV-friendly zoning and building codes, encouraging employers to deploy EV chargers, supporting multi-family EV charger deployment, and EV events and education.^{xxxvii}

¹ EV charging ports in Figure 10 include public and private ports, while the REVII Strategy and Visualize 2050 only include public ports. They each source the U.S. DOE Alternative Fuels Data Center, which includes multi-family and non-residential ports, but does not include single-family home charging ports.

Fairfax County

Charge Up Fairfax is a program that supports homeowners associations (HOAs) and other community organizations in installing EV chargers. The program provides free technical assessments and reimbursement grants to cover some expenses. Communities can also leverage Charge Up Fairfax and Dominion's Level 2 Program to reduce installation and maintenance costs of charging stations. Thus far, 17 communities participated in the program and five communities have successfully completed their charging station installations. The program incentivizes residents of the neighborhood to consider buying an EV, simplifies regulatory processes, and supports coordination efforts between stakeholders.^{xxxviii}



Charge Up Fairfax Logo
(Source: [Fairfax County](#))

Bladensburg

From 2023 to 2024, EV charging stations were installed at multiple city buildings including, Bladensburg Town Hall, Bladensburg Community Center, and Bladensburg Branch Library. This created greater opportunities for those traveling within the area to access charging in a safe location 24/7. Bladensburg has also received additional funding from the State of Maryland through Community Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment Grant Program to further expand the town's EV program. The installation of EV chargers encourages the use of electric cars among residents and improves air quality in the area.^{xxxix}



EV charging stations at Bladensburg Community Center
(Source: [Town of Bladensburg](#))

MODE SHIFT AND TRAVEL BEHAVIOR

Progress Towards 2030

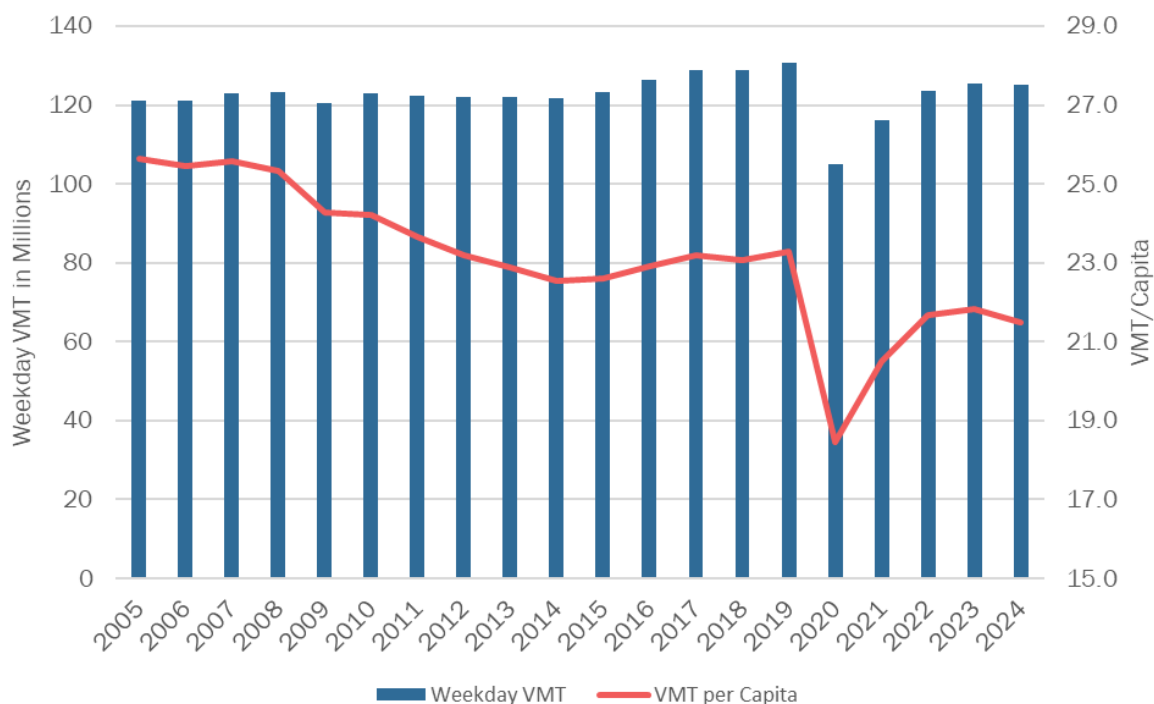
Reducing vehicle miles of travel (VMT) by encouraging residents to shift away from single-occupant vehicle (SOV) travel supports GHG reduction; however, reducing overall VMT in a growing region is challenging. Policies, programs, and investments that support transit, carpooling, flexible work schedules, teleworking, and growth in regional activity centers and high-capacity transit areas can encourage residents to shift their mode of travel or possibly eliminate a trip, thus reducing resident VMT per capita. Reducing VMT per capita is a goal in COG's Region Forward vision plan adopted in 2010, and data shows that the region saw a 16 percent decrease in VMT per capita between 2005 and 2024.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Vehicle Miles Travelled and VMT per Capita

While population grew 23 percent between 2005 to 2024, total VMT increased by only 3 percent and VMT per capita decreased 16 percent (Figure 11). The dip in 2020 was a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Between now and 2050 the region is expected to add 1.2 million people, 550,000 new households, and 800,000 new jobs, but resident VMT per capita is forecast to decrease by 5 percent. The reductions in VMT per capita both in the past and forecast for the future indicate that land use policies as well as investments in public transportation, pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure, and commuter policies and services are providing residents with alternatives to SOV travel.^{xi}

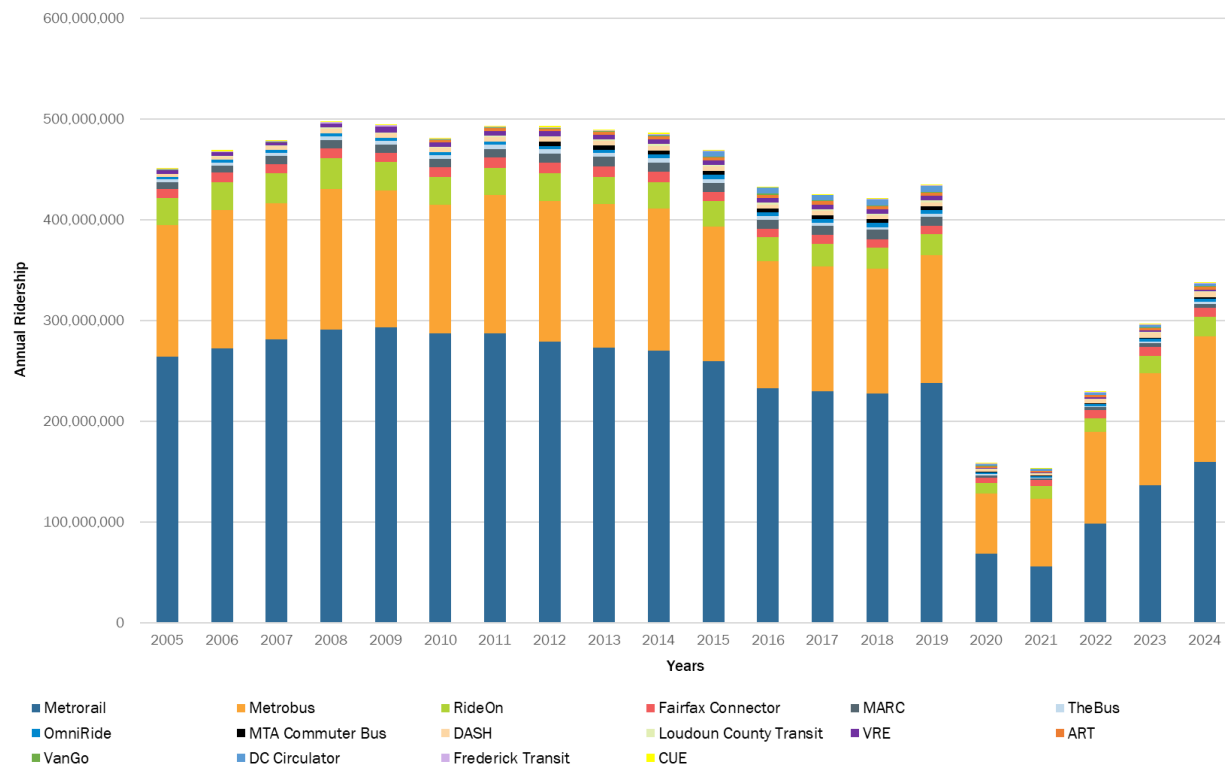
Figure 11: Metropolitan Washington Vehicle Miles Travelled and VMT per Capita Trends, 2005 - 2023



Transit Ridership

Public transportation supports VMT and VMT per capita reduction by serving as an alternative to SOV travel. Public transportation can also reduce congestion and offset GHG emissions. More than a dozen agencies across the region provide public transportation options including rail, bus, microtransit, and paratransit services (Figure 12). The COVID-19 pandemic caused wide-spread disruption in transit ridership. While riders continue to return to public transportation, habits and routines continue to change. Many agencies have adjusted services to address shifts in demand and improve on-time performance and service frequency.^{xli}

Figure 12: Metropolitan Washington Transit Ridership Trends, 2005 - 2024



SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

COG member jurisdictions support mode shift and travel behavior strategies through their plans and policies. Eighty percent of jurisdictions have local land use policies or plans promoting design that support walking and biking within activity centers and near high-capacity transit (i.e. Metrorail, commuter rail, light rail, and bus rapid transit). Eighty percent of jurisdictions also have complete streets policies or roadway design improvements that make walking and biking safer (i.e. adding bike pathways on the road, expanding sidewalks, improving crosswalks, etc.). Seventy percent of jurisdictions have local land use policies or plans that promote the development of additional housing units within activity centers and near high-capacity transit.^{xlii}

Jurisdictions are working to improve “first and last mile” connections to transit trips by improving biking and walking access to high capacity transit, providing secure bike storage at high capacity

transit stations, providing micromobility options (i.e. expanding shared bikes, e-bikes, and scooters), microtransit services (i.e. typically on-demand services that use app-enabled trip requests and payment to complement fixed-route transit service), and providing or promoting shuttles from transit to employment centers. Thirty-five percent of jurisdictions are working to enhance “first and last mile” connectivity options in disadvantaged communities.^{xliii}

COG member jurisdictions also support mode shift and travel behavior strategies through encouragement and incentives. Eighty-five percent provide teleworking opportunities for its employees and 55 percent provide transit benefits to employees, as well. Community-wide, local jurisdictions are promoting transit benefits for private sector employees, carpool and vanpool opportunities, incentives for ride sharing, ride matching, teleworking for private sector employers, and more.^{xliv}

Montgomery County

Ride On Flex, established in 2019, is an on-demand bus service with zones in the areas of White Oak and Sandy Spring. As with Ride On’s fixed route services, Flex is zero fare, which allows increased accessibility for people of all socioeconomic backgrounds. Montgomery County was awarded technical assistance from TPB’s Transportation Land-Use Connections (TLC) Program to develop a performance assessment for the use of Flex. Previous studies provided foundational guidance for providing Flex service into the White Oak and Sandy Spring by identifying unmet mobility needs and opportunities to improve service connectivity. A second TLC project conducted a Flex Expansion Study to provide a performance assessment to inform future planning efforts to develop on-demand transit services. The study engaged a variety of stakeholders to increase the equitability and efficiency of the routes for the community. COG’s Equity Emphasis Areas and Montgomery Planning’s Equity Focus Areas were used to analyze and determine which zones would benefit the most from the Flex bus from an equity perspective.^{xlv}



Flex Transit Information
(Source: [MCDOT](#))

Falls Church

Falls Church implemented the South Washington Street multimodal improvement project to improve walkability and access to transit. The project included the construction of a transit plaza, new crosswalks, streetscape improvements, signal upgrades, stormwater infrastructure, and storytelling history panels. The project has provided pedestrian safety and access, increased access to transit, improved stormwater retention, and interpretative signage sharing the City’s history. The project improved multimodal connections to the City’s downtown area, North Washington Street, and the East Falls Church Metrorail station.^{xlvi}



South Washington Street Intermodal Transit Plaza
(Source: [City of Falls Church](#))

ZERO WASTE

Progress Towards 2030

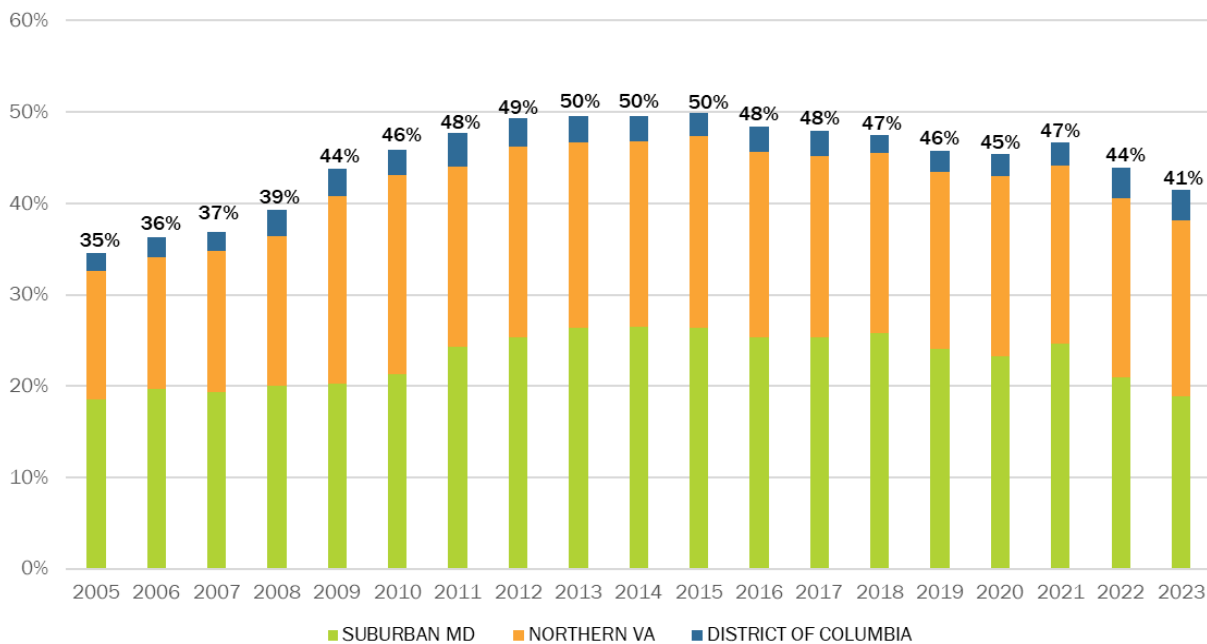
Zero Waste is a visionary goal that calls for society to use fewer resources as well as increase resource recovery, recycling, and composting. Zero waste strategies reduce emissions, save energy, and extend landfill capacity. Recent GHG strategy modeling assumed regional achievement of diverting 80 to 90 percent of all materials (including composting and recycling) from landfills and waste to energy (WTE) facilities. Expanding regional composting capacity, organics collection, and enforcement can support the region in meeting regional GHG emission reduction goals; however, the waste diversion rate is also impacted by the economy as well as industry and business trends.^{xlvii}

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Waste Diversion

The regional waste diversion rate, one indicator to track progress towards zero waste, increased from approximately 35 percent in 2005 up to a high of 50 percent landing at 41 percent in 2023 (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Metropolitan Washington Recycling Rate Trends, 2005 - 2023



There are several potential reasons for an overall decrease in regional waste diversion rates over the last several years. Waste generation, in general, tends to follow economic growth, which had been down post pandemic. There can be lower the generation of certain recyclable materials from sectors like business during economic downturns. Also, business has historically generated a lot of recyclable paper. If economic activity is down and commercial office space is less occupied, a

decrease in recyclable paper generated and collected can be expected. There are also the general industry trends of going more digital (not using paper in the office, not subscribing to paper news at home, etc.), the continued lightweighting of recyclable shipping/packaging materials—whether by making them thinner or by switching from heavier glass and steel to plastic.^{xlvi}

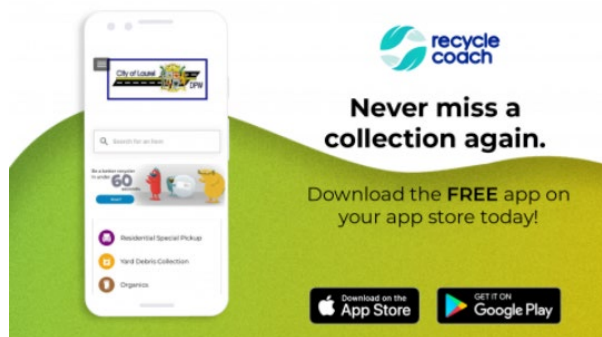
SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

In order to move toward zero waste, first and foremost jurisdictions need to have foundational strategies in place to reduce solid waste. Ninety-five percent of COG member jurisdictions conduct waste education campaigns to promote behavioral changes that encourage waste reduction and diversion at the source. Additional waste reduction strategies include 75 percent of jurisdictions provide free recycling bins to residents, 60 percent have recycling requirements for businesses, 60 percent have recycling infrastructure in the community and at events, 45 percent have single-use plastic and polystyrene bans, 35 percent are investing in new waste collection systems that increase waste reduction and increase recycling, and 30 percent have a zero waste plan, policy or initiative.^{xlix}

To further move communities toward zero waste jurisdictions are enhancing organics collection and composting and supporting building a market for circularity. Examples of popular organics and composting initiatives include 70 percent of jurisdictions have food composting drop off sites, 55 percent offer residential curbside organics collection, and 40 percent have residential composting incentives. Examples of circularity initiatives in the region include repair and restoration services such as fix-it fairs, exchange and sharing opportunities such as tool sharing, and incentivizing second-hand products and upcycling.ⁱ

City of Laurel

Laurel has an app, Recycle Coach, that provides information about the City's trash and recycling program. Residents can access the schedule and events, learn about the accepted materials, set reminders to never miss the weekly collection day, receive instant updates, and can export calendar events to their own calendar application. The app lowers the barrier to entry when gaining knowledge and understanding about recycling (i.e. how to and what is allowed to be recycled). In addition, it keeps residents properly informed on any trash and recycling updates.ⁱⁱ



Recycle Coach Marketing Screenshot (Source: [City of Laurel](#))

Compost Crew

The Cities of Frederick, Greenbelt, Manassas, and Town of Garrett Park are all under contract with Compost Crew, a locally owned business based in Rockville, MD, to provide weekly curbside food scrap collection services for households in their communities. The Cities are providing an easily assessable option for their communities to compost the food scraps, reducing waste going to landfills and converting the food scraps into a rich soil amendment. The Cities' contracts offer the neighborhoods lower or free rates for their curbside composting pickup which allows for an equitable and low effort way for members of various communities in metropolitan Washington to compost and lower their waste. ⁱⁱⁱ



Compost Crew (Source: [Compost Crew About Us](#))

SEQUESTRATION

Progress Towards 2030

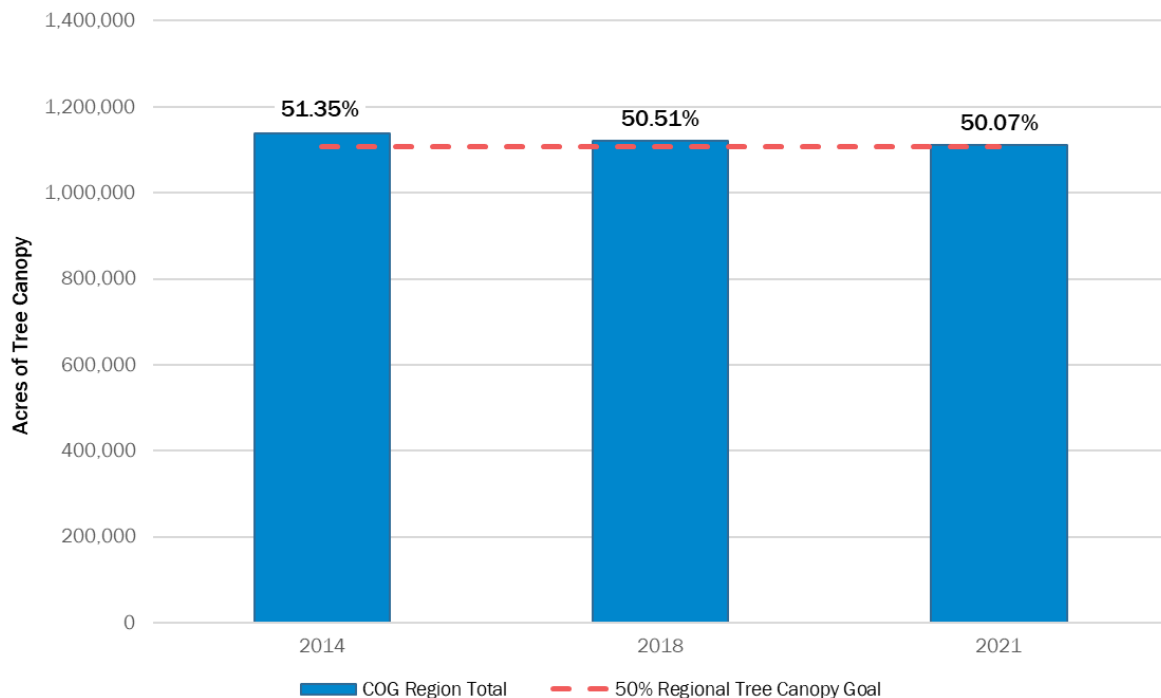
In 2024, the COG Board adopted a new regional tree canopy goal. The Board endorsed a goal of maintaining a minimum tree canopy coverage of 50 percent across metropolitan Washington to help ensure the region meets its climate goal of 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions below 2005 levels by 2030. As of 2021, the region had a 50 percent tree canopy; however, to maintain this goal, the region needs to have a “no net loss of tree canopy.”^{liii}

PERFORMANCE INDICATOR

Tree Canopy Coverage

As of 2021, COG is maintaining a 50 percent regional tree canopy. However, the COG region experienced a net loss of more than 28,000 acres of tree canopy between 2014 and 2021. To put this into perspective, approximately 21,500 football fields of tree canopy loss occurred in the region over the course of 7 years. That is an average of 4,050 acres of net loss per year during that timeframe. If the region experienced another 4,050 acres of tree canopy loss in 2022, that would already have put the region under the 50 percent tree canopy goal (Figure 15).^{liv}

Figure 15: Metropolitan Washington Tree Canopy Trends, 2014 - 2021



SUPPORTING LOCAL POLICIES AND PROGRAMS

COG member jurisdictions are enhancing their capacity to retain carbon stored in existing trees and forests through tree conservation policies and practices. A few examples include 60 percent of local jurisdictions have adopted a jurisdiction wide tree canopy goal, 60 percent have local ordinances to increase tree conservation during land development processes, and 40 percent have tree and forest conservation outcomes in their comprehensive land use policies and plans.^{lv}

COG member jurisdictions are also strategically protecting, maintaining, and planting trees on both publicly owned land and private land. On public land, 85 percent of jurisdictions are protecting, maintaining, and planting trees to improve water quality and flood control, 65 percent are planting trees to reduce heat island in low-income disadvantaged communities, and 60 percent are supporting community initiatives. On private lands, 55 percent of jurisdictions offer tree planting and protection incentives, 35 percent have tree mitigation bank or fund(s), and 35 percent have partnerships with community organizations in low-income disadvantaged communities.^{lvi}

City of Bowie

Plant One Tree On Us is a program for Bowie residents to pick out a tree with on-site consultation with a contractor to help with species selection, decide where they want to plant it on their property, and have it planted by the government's contractors. In terms of outcomes, the program has resulted in 442 trees being planted in the city. Plant One Tree On Us is continuing to grow with 169 residents that signed up within three weeks of kicking off the spring program in February 2026. Residents are able to contribute to the city's goal of 45 percent tree canopy coverage, while also learning about native trees to the area and how to properly maintain their new tree with the city's support.^{lvii}



Green Bowie Logo (Source: City of Bowie)

City of Fairfax

The SPROUT Initiative engages members of the community to plant, take care of, and learn about trees that make up their urban forest. In 2025, the program delivered 365 trees to residents and 320 trees were planted on public land. This culminated in 550 volunteer hours in non-native invasive removal and tree planting, with an additional 320 workforce development hours in the City Jobs Program. The initiative lowers the barrier to access information on the removal of invasive species and the planting and maintenance of native trees. It has also increased participation in the development of the Urban Forest Master Plan, which was adopted in January 2026 with a focus on community-focused goals and priorities.^{lviii}



A tree planting event with Providence ES Students (Source: City of Fairfax)

LOOKING AHEAD

The report findings on progress towards the adopted COG Board goals show that accelerated effort is needed to advance the region toward its 2030 goals. As of 2023, regional GHG emissions are at 20 percent below 2005 levels, meeting the 2020 goal and 40 percent toward meeting the 2030 goal. However, emissions experienced a 6 percent uptick between 2020 and 2023 due to an increase in commercial energy intensity, including increases from data centers, and from the expected bounce back in emissions from the temporary pandemic drop in emissions. Solar rooftop growth in the region has been significant with more than 93,000 systems in 2024, 37 percent toward the 2030 goal of 250,000 rooftop solar systems. As of 2021, the region has a 50 percent tree canopy, equivalent to the regional goal of a 50 percent tree canopy. Recent trends in loss of tree canopy, however, threaten this achievement. Without expanded climate action, a deliberate change of policy, and given the current trends, the region is unlikely to meet its climate goals to reduce GHG emissions 50 percent by 2030 below 2005 levels, achieve 250,000 solar rooftops by 2030, and maintain 50 percent tree canopy region-wide.

There has been tremendous progress made in the region to support the reduction of GHG emissions, and there is still so much more climate action that needs to be done. The top priorities for regional climate action need to continue to be in the areas of advancing the deployment of renewables and electric vehicles between now and 2030. Bold action across all sectors will need to continue and expand to meet the region's 2030 goals. CEEPC has charted a path forward with the 2030 CEAP. Collaborative action will continue to deliver a cleaner future for the region.

**METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
777 NORTH CAPITOL STREET, NE
WASHINGTON, DC 20002**

RESOLUTION REAFFIRMING AND ENHANCING IMPLEMENTATION OF REGIONAL CLIMATE GOALS

WHEREAS, metropolitan Washington is already experiencing the serious and costly impacts of a changing climate on the region's residents, businesses, and public infrastructure. Extreme weather events, in particular extreme heat, directly impact affordability and accessibility in the region, including, significantly increasing energy costs for cooling and heating buildings and homes, requiring local governments to plan, implement, and fund an increased number of public safety responses for extreme temperature events, slowing passenger and freight rail transit on WMATA, CSX, VRE, MARC, and Amtrak during extreme heat, increasing the frequency of intense rainfall and localized flooding that poses a risk to public health and increases infrastructure costs, increasing injuries and fatalities, especially among more vulnerable populations in the region due to extreme heat or cold, contributing to sustained drought conditions and its impact on water supplies and local agriculture and food systems; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R60-08 adopted the National Capital Region Climate Change Report and its recommendations in 2008, including goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below business as usual by 2012, 20 percent below the region's 2005 baseline by 2020, and 80 percent below the 2005 baseline by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R18-09 established the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) in 2009 to collaboratively work toward the report's goals; and

WHEREAS, COG and its members were recognized by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) in 2019 as a U.S. Metro-Scale Climate Leader and CEEPC became a GCoM Signatory committing to follow global best practices in climate planning; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors in Resolution R45-2020 endorsed an interim 2030 climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas reduction below 2005, as recommended by the CEEPC and directing CEEPC to conduct a mid-point evaluation of the progress towards these goals and make recommendations for any new actions needed; and

WHEREAS, the CEEPC adopted the Metropolitan Washington 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan (2030 CEAP) in 2020 to aid COG members' actions towards meeting the 2030 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction goal; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors endorsed resolutions including Resolution R40-2022 recognizing Electric Vehicle (EV) planning and deployment, Resolution R36-2023 endorsing a goal of 250,000 solar rooftops deployed in the region by 2030, and Resolution R14-2024 endorsing a regional goal of maintaining a minimum regional tree canopy coverage of 50 percent, strategies all aimed at reducing GHG emissions; and

WHEREAS, the region has within the past several years seen a significant increase in the construction and operation of data centers that consume an inordinate amount of electricity and

COG's 2025 Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) addresses data center challenges and solutions; and

WHEREAS, the Midcourse Review Report tracks progress towards these regional climate goals and shows that while local governments have implemented climate action and a lot of progress has been made, accelerated effort is needed to attain the region's 2030 goals. Without expanded climate action and a shift in some trends, the region is unlikely to meet its climate goals.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS THAT:

1. The COG Board recognizes the significant costs of climate change and extreme weather events to the region's economy and affordability, public safety and wellbeing, and infrastructure and sustainability.
2. The COG Board reaffirms its climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030, including a commitment to Electric Vehicle (EV) planning and deployment, 250,000 solar rooftops, and 50 percent minimum tree canopy coverage across the Metropolitan Washington region.
3. The COG Board accepts CEEPC's Midcourse Review Report on the progress made by the region towards its 2030 goal of reducing GHG gases by 50 percent below 2005 levels; and encourages COG to strengthen the connections between climate, housing and transportation goals, exploring ways to address large load growth with a focus on data centers, and continue working with COG members to support local action
4. The COG Board recognizes COG member jurisdictions and all stakeholders will need to redouble their efforts between now and 2030 to implement the strategies outlined in the 2030 CEAP and the Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP), especially recognizing the scale back of federal government actions and support in this regard. The COG Board urges members to accelerate and expand action in the areas of clean energy, clean transportation, zero energy buildings, and support the regional clean economy.

AGENDA ITEM #8

UNDERSTANDING PFAS COMPOUNDS AND THEIR REGIONAL IMPACT

PFAS: What to know about “forever chemicals”

What are PFAS?

PFAS are man-made compounds used in industry and consumer products worldwide that enter the environment and water cycle, named “forever chemicals” because they break down slowly over time.

They can be found in...

- Home products: Furniture, tents, degreasers & more
- Personal care: Cosmetics, shampoos, and sunscreens
- Food: Packaging, cookware, food processing equipment
- Drinking water: Contamination is usually localized and associated with an industrial facility or firefighting foams.



...and more.

Understanding the risks

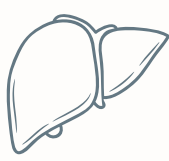
Scientific research shows that exposure to PFAS over time can have negative impacts on human health, including:



Increase in cholesterol levels



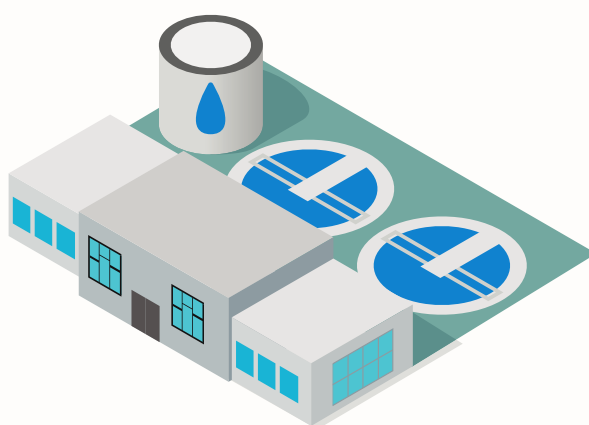
Kidney & testicular cancer



Changes in liver enzymes



Low birth weight & pregnancy complications



What you can do to reduce PFAS in the environment

Choose alternative products to avoid PFAS:

- Cook with stainless steel, cast-iron, glass or ceramics rather than nonstick pots and pans.
- Read ingredient lists and choose products without PTFE or perfluoro- or polyfluor-.
- Look for coats, hats, and boots labeled water resistant. They’re less likely to have PFAS.
- Make popcorn on the stove or in an air popper instead of microwave bags. Steer clear of food in grease-resistant wrappers or containers.
- Avoid carpets, curtains and upholstery treated to be stain or water resistant, decline stain treatment.



Metropolitan Washington
Council of Governments



MEMORANDUM

TO: COG Board of Directors
FROM: Steven Bieber, COG Water Resources Director
SUBJECT: PFAS and the Water Sector - What Local Elected Officials and Utility Leaders Need to Know
DATE: September 2, 2026

PFAS are a group of chemicals made of perfluorinated and polyfluorinated alkyl substances. There are over 6,000 chemicals in the group. These chemicals have fluorine and carbon atoms bonded strongly together and are often used in products made to resist heat, grease, stains and friction. PFAS in the environment persistent - they're known as *forever chemicals*. PFAS can be found in soil, air and water, and are present in homes and workplaces.

COG works closely with area water utilities to track and mitigate the impact of pollutants, including PFAS, in our water supply. COG is also supporting members to determine the local impacts of the April 10, 2024 EPA ruling of a first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard for PFAS, which includes a nearly \$1 billion commitment through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law to help states and territories implement PFAS testing and treatment at public water systems and to help owners of private wells address PFAS contamination.

BOTTOM LINE FOR LOCAL LEADERS

- PFAS is broader than drinking water. It affects source water, wastewater, biosolids, solid waste, contaminated sites, public health, and utility finance.
- Utilities are generally passive receivers. They protect public health but do not manufacture PFAS. Utilities should keep planning despite regulatory uncertainty. Proposed federal changes create uncertainty, but utilities still need monitoring, alternatives analysis, financing, legal review, and communication.
- Treatment is only part of the solution. Removal can create residuals that must be safely, legally, and affordably managed.

PFAS IN PLAIN LANGUAGE

What are PFAS?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, are a large class of synthetic chemicals used since the 1940s to make products resist heat, water, oil, and stains. Common uses have included firefighting foam, nonstick coatings, water-resistant fabrics, food packaging, and industrial processes. Many

PFAS persist in the environment and can move through water, soil, food, consumer products, and waste streams.¹

Why are PFAS a problem?

PFAS do not break down or go away in the environment. One or more PFAS is found in the blood of most Americans, at low levels. Exposure to humans can occur by eating, inhaling, or even touching the product.

Why is PFAS a water-sector issue?

PFAS can enter surface water, groundwater, wastewater, drinking-water sources, landfills, and biosolids through industrial releases, firefighting foam, contaminated sites, household products, commercial uses, and wastewater or leachate pathways. Water and wastewater utilities do not manufacture PFAS; instead, they are passive receivers responsible for protecting public health after PFAS has entered the water cycle. Conventional treatment was not designed to remove or destroy PFAS, and specialized treatment can concentrate PFAS in residuals such as spent carbon, resin, membrane concentrate, sludge, or biosolids.²

Key point for local leaders: PFAS is a lifecycle issue, not a single treatment problem. Removing PFAS from one part of the water cycle can shift it to another waste stream, so decisions about drinking water, wastewater, biosolids, solid waste, source-water protection, and contaminated-site cleanup should be considered together.

That lifecycle context matters because drinking-water compliance decisions can affect treatment costs, residuals management, liability exposure, and public communication.

REGULATION AND UTILITY COMPLIANCE

Federal drinking-water requirements³

In April 2024, EPA issued the first national primary drinking-water regulation for PFAS. The rule includes enforceable Maximum Contaminant Levels for PFOA and PFOS at 4.0 parts per trillion, along with standards for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and certain PFAS mixtures. One part per trillion is extremely small—often illustrated as roughly comparable to one drop of water in many Olympic-size swimming pools—but compliance depends on approved monitoring results, not on whether the number sounds large or small.

As of September 1, 2026, EPA had proposed extending the PFOA and PFOS compliance deadline from April 26, 2029, to April 26, 2031 for systems that submit requests. EPA had also proposed

¹ See Sources 1–2.

² See Sources 5 and 11.

³ See Source 3.

rescinding federal standards for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and the Hazard Index mixture. These proposals do not change existing requirements until finalized, and state requirements may differ or be more stringent.⁴

Governance implication: Regulatory uncertainty is a reason to plan carefully, not a reason to wait. Utilities should evaluate more than one compliance scenario while avoiding premature investments that could unnecessarily burden ratepayers. Compliance planning includes monitoring, source evaluation, public notices, operational changes, treatment selection, permitting, procurement, financing, staffing, residuals management, and long-term rate planning. EPA identifies granular activated carbon, anion exchange, reverse osmosis, and nanofiltration as best available technologies, but treatment choices remain system-specific. Utilities should compare lifecycle costs, treatment performance, residuals, staffing, supply-chain risks, and rate impacts before committing to a compliance strategy.

COSTS AND FUNDING

How much will compliance cost?

EPA's 2024 national analysis estimated about \$1.5 billion in annual costs for monitoring, customer communications, alternative sources, treatment, and state oversight. Local budgets, however, depend on affected sources, treatment approach, residuals management, land, staffing, pipelines, power, permitting, debt service, and long-term asset replacement.

National estimates should not be treated as local budgets.

GAO reported that water-system stakeholders questioned whether EPA's analysis fully captured utility costs. Separate water-sector estimates from AWWA placed national drinking-water compliance costs at roughly \$2.7 billion to \$3.5 billion annually, while NACWA, WEF, and NEBRA biosolids analyses found that PFAS-related policies increased average biosolids management costs by about 37 percent across surveyed facilities.⁵ Governing bodies should request system-specific lifecycle estimates and consider affordability impacts, funding eligibility, settlements, cost recovery, and tradeoffs with other utility priorities, including aging infrastructure, reliability, cybersecurity, lead service line replacement, and climate resilience.

WASTEWATER, BIOSOLIDS, AND GOVERNANCE

Wastewater and biosolids considerations

Wastewater utilities receive PFAS through residential, commercial, and industrial discharges. Potential sources include industrial operations, firefighting foam, commercial laundries, car washes, and household products. Because wastewater facilities generally receive rather than produce PFAS,

⁴ See Sources 3–4.

⁵ See Sources 13–14.

controlling significant upstream sources may be more effective and less costly than attempting to remove PFAS after it reaches the treatment plant.⁶

On July 1, 2026, EPA released draft guidance addressing potential PFOA and PFOS risks associated with sewage sludge and biosolids. The draft provides voluntary recommendations and, as of September 1, 2026, is guidance, not a binding requirement. EPA also recommends monitoring, identifying likely industrial discharges, and applying requirements on industrial dischargers before wastewater reaches the treatment plant where appropriate to reduce downstream contamination.

Changes in biosolids, landfill, or residuals-management practices can carry substantial operational and financial consequences. Restrictions on one management option can increase demand and cost for other options, including incineration, landfilling, storage, or specialized treatment. Regional coordination may be necessary because water, wastewater, and solid-waste systems are operationally interdependent.

SUMMARY

For local leaders, PFAS is both a public health issue and a long-term governance challenge. Utilities need time, funding, legal clarity, and regional coordination to manage compliance, protect ratepayers, reduce upstream sources, and communicate clearly with the public. The practical goal is not simply to meet one regulatory deadline, but to make defensible decisions that protect public health while managing costs, liability, and residuals across the full water cycle.

⁶ See Sources 2 and 9.

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AGENDA ITEM #9

OTHER BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM #10

ADJOURN