COG RESOLUTION: GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION STRATEGIES (MULTI-SECTOR WORKING GROUP)

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Director - COG Department of Transportation
Northern Virginia Transportation Authority
February 9, 2017
Background

• What
  • COG Board recommending voluntary implementation of a set of strategies to help reduce regional Greenhouse Gas emissions

• Why
  • MWAQC-CEEPC Joint Resolution and TPB Resolution asked COG to establish Greenhouse Gas Multi-Sector Working Group
    • Consensus on technically viable & cost-effective actions to reduce energy use & greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions
  • Move the region towards the regional GHG emission reduction goals from 2008 NCR Climate Change Report and Region Forward

• Regional Goals
  • Short-term – Reduce 2012 GHG emissions to 2005 baseline
  • Interim – Reduce 20% below 2005 baseline by 2020
  • Long-term – Reduce 80% below 2005 baseline by 2050
Background

- Multi-Sector Workgroup Composition
  - Chaired by COG Deputy Executive Director
  - Lead staff
    - Transportation, Environment, Community Planning Directors
  - Support by subject matter experts and technical consultants

- Oversight
  - Policy/Advisory Boards – COG Board, TPB, MWAQC, CEEPC

- Membership – Local, regional, & state professional staff
  - Transportation
  - Land use planning
  - Energy and environmental agencies
Multi-Sector Working Group Initial Findings

- Actions “on-the-books” are moving the region toward the 2050 goal
- Additional menu of strategies can move the region further toward the 2050 goal
- Actions by & among sectors
  - Energy & Built Environment
  - Land Use
  - Transportation
- Additional national, state, local strategies needed to close the gap
Policy Task Force

- Multi-Sector Working Group interim report presented to COG Board
- Policy Task Force Board Resolution
  - Prepare consensus recommendation of strategies
  - Work with officials from the COG Board, MWAQC, TPB & CEEPC
    (Policy Task Force)
- Policy Task Force members
  - District of Columbia: Mr. McDuffie, Mr. Mendelson & Ms. Nadeau
  - Maryland: Mr. Berliner, Ms. Gardner, Ms. Mach, Ms. Newton & Mr. Wojahn
  - Virginia: Ms. Bulova, Mr. Fisette, Mr. Nohe, Mr. Snyder & Mr. Way
Local, Regional & State Survey

• COG staff surveyed environmental, planning & transportation staff from local, regional, & state departments
  • Straw recommendations for review
  • Are proposed strategies consistent with local, regional or state policy?
  • Are proposed strategies implementable by the locality/agency and at the level analyzed?
  • What actions could be taken to implement the strategy?

• Conclusions
  • Many strategies are implementable either regionally or locally, but may be at a different level than analyzed.
  • Additional strategies could be implemented at the state or federal level with supporting action at local level
  • Strategies can have multiple benefits such as ozone pollution reduction, reduced congestion, energy resiliency
Consensus Recommendations

- Framework for recommendations
  - Region-wide implementation
    - Every member jurisdiction/agency can implement; super majority of jurisdictions responded to the survey; majority of respondents said they can implement the strategy
  - Local implementation
    - Some jurisdictions/agencies can implement; majority of jurisdictions responded to the survey; majority of implementable jurisdictions/agencies said they can implement the strategy
- Strategies that must be implemented by federal/state or private entities
  - Local jurisdictions/agencies can take supportive actions
## Consensus Recommendations

### Energy and Built Environment Strategies

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<th>Implemented Regionally</th>
<th>Implemented Jurisdictionally</th>
<th>Implemented State/Federally</th>
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<tr>
<td>Reduce emissions from solid waste management (Note that three responding localities</td>
<td>Increase infrastructure systems efficiency &amp; renewable energy use</td>
<td>Reduce emissions from electric generation through supporting state and federal actions</td>
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<td>said while this was consistent with local policy, they lacked any current implementation plan)</td>
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<td>Reduce energy use from new buildings (Note that some localities have limited</td>
<td>Reduce energy use from existing buildings</td>
<td>Reduce natural gas pipeline emissions</td>
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<td>implementation authority due to state control of building energy codes)</td>
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<td>Increase use of distributed renewable energy resources</td>
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<td>Reduce emissions from non-road equipment</td>
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## Consensus Recommendations

### Land Use Strategies

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<td>Increase proportion of new development in activity centers</td>
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<td>Reduce loss of tree cover due to land development</td>
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## Transportation Strategies

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<td>Increase alternate fuel vehicles in public sector fleet</td>
<td>Implement programs/projects to improve traffic operations on local roadways</td>
<td>Implement programs/projects to improve traffic operations on state and federal roadways</td>
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<td>Encourage cash subsidy for public and private sector commuters using alternates modes of travel</td>
<td>Encourage cash subsidy for state or federal employee commuters using alternates modes of travel and offer assistance through a commuter subsidy program</td>
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<td>Increase frequency and/or reduce run-time for local and regional transit services</td>
<td>Increase speed enforcement on Interstates and limited access facilities</td>
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<td>Implement or expand existing transit fare buy-down programs on local and regional transit services</td>
<td>Offer funding assistance to localities operating transit fare buy down programs.</td>
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<td>Promote zero emissions vehicles in private sector fleet</td>
<td>Implement low carbon fuel standards for roadway vehicles (with local support)</td>
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<td>Install electric power units at truck stops</td>
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Sets out basis for Multi-Sector Working Group & Policy Task Force

Notes survey findings
  - Voluntary actions can be taken at the local & regional levels
  - Other strategies could be implemented at the state & national levels

Recognizes progress made to reduce emissions from work at local, regional, state, & federal levels

Finds recommendations responsive to Resolution establishing the Policy Task Force

Encourages MWAQC, TPB, and CEEPC to review, consider and take appropriate action to implement strategies as part of local, regional, & statewide planning and programming activities

Directs COG staff to assist COG members and boards in implementation actions and provide periodic status reports
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RESOLUTION ENDORSING RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE MULTI-SECTOR WORKING GROUP ON GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSION REDUCTION STRATEGIES

WHEREAS, following requests from the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (Resolution R1-2014) and the Transportation Planning Board (Resolution TPB R10-2015), COG staff convened the Multi Sector Working Group (MSWG) to conduct an extensive examination of potential implementable greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction strategies in the Energy/Environment, Land Use and Transportation sectors; and

WHEREAS, the MSWG undertook a technical examination of potential GHG reduction strategies, including receiving input from the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, the Transportation Planning Board and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee; and

WHEREAS, the MSWG found that the region is making progress towards meeting its greenhouse gas emission reduction goals through current actions and identified additional voluntary strategies to further move towards meeting its goals; and

WHEREAS, upon presentation of the potential strategies, the COG Board directed staff to review the strategies with a Policy Task Force of elected officials representing COG’s relevant policy committees; and

WHEREAS, at the direction of the MSWG Policy Task Force, COG staff surveyed COG member jurisdictions and state and regional agencies to gauge the feasibility and level of implementation of the analyzed GHG reduction strategies; and

WHEREAS, the survey found there are regionally and locally viable GHG reduction strategies that can be voluntarily implemented, and found there are other strategies that could be implemented within the purview of federal, state or other entities.

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

The board recognizes the progress the region has made to reduce emissions through the combined work of local governments, regional entities, state and federal agencies, and private sector businesses and individuals.

The board finds the Multi Sector Working Group’s Policy Task Force recommendations fully responsive to COG Board Resolution R59-2015 and endorses the attached set of voluntary greenhouse gas emission reducing strategies in the Energy, Built Environment, Land Use, and Transportation sectors.

The board encourages COG member jurisdictions, the Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee, the National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, and the Climate, Energy and Environment Policy Committee to review, consider, and take appropriate actions to implement the greenhouse gas emission reducing strategies as part of their local, regional and state wide planning and programming activities.
The board offers thanks to the staff at the many local, regional and state environmental, planning and transportation departments for their invaluable assistance to the Multi-Sector Working Group.

The board directs COG staff to provide assistance to COG members, policy and technical boards and committees to support implementation of strategies and to provide periodic status reports to the boards and committees on the extent of implementation.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT the foregoing resolution was adopted by the COG Board of Directors on January 11, 2017.

Laura Ambrosio
COG Communications Specialist