

*Overview of the
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments*

Regional Climate Change Initiative



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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) Climate Change Initiative

- Created by COG Board of Directors on April 11, 2007, COG's 50th Anniversary
- Establishes Interdisciplinary COG Climate Change Steering Committee



INITIATIVE ELEMENTS

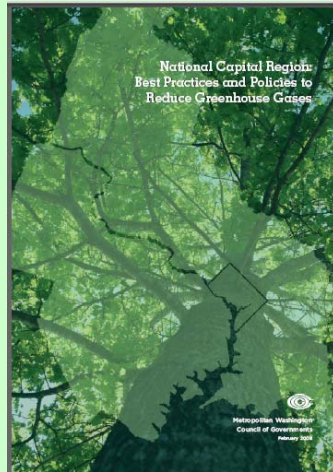
- Best Practices guide
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory and forecast
- Regional reduction goals
- Climate Impacts/Adaptation
- Advocacy
- Recommendations

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Member Jurisdictions:

District of Columbia: Maryland: Bladensburg, Bowie, College Park, Frederick, Frederick County, Gaithersburg, Greenbelt, Montgomery County, Prince George's County, Rockville, Takoma Park;
Virginia: Alexandria, Arlington County, Fairfax, Fairfax County, Loudoun County, Manassas, Manassas Park, Prince William County



National Capital Region: Best Practices Guide



HIGHLIGHTS:

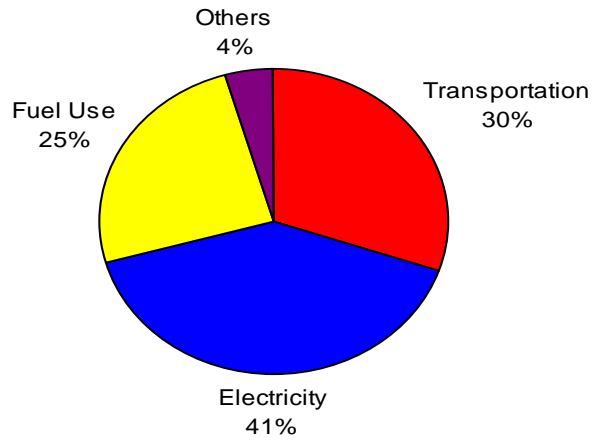
- Over 2/3 of local governments in the region purchase renewable energy
- Over 1/2 of the jurisdictions have adopted energy efficiency measures
- Nearly 90% of the communities in the region have embarked on transit oriented development and over 80% have “walkable community” initiatives
- About 70% of communities have green space protection and green infrastructure programs
- All communities in the region have recycling programs.



Available electronically at:

<http://www.mwcog.org/uploads/pub-documents/8ldcXQ20080328151326.pdf>

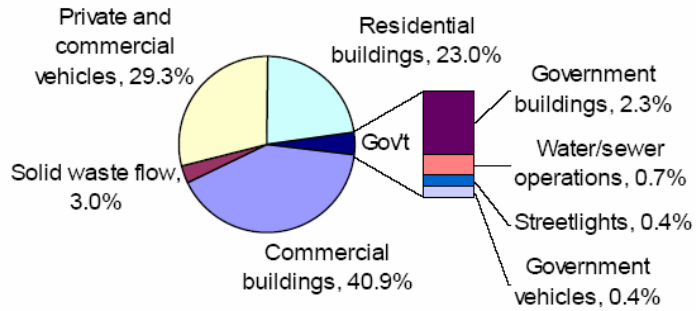
Major Sources of Greenhouse Gas Emissions – Washington Metro Region



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



Emission Contribution from Local Governmental Operations: Arlington County, Virginia



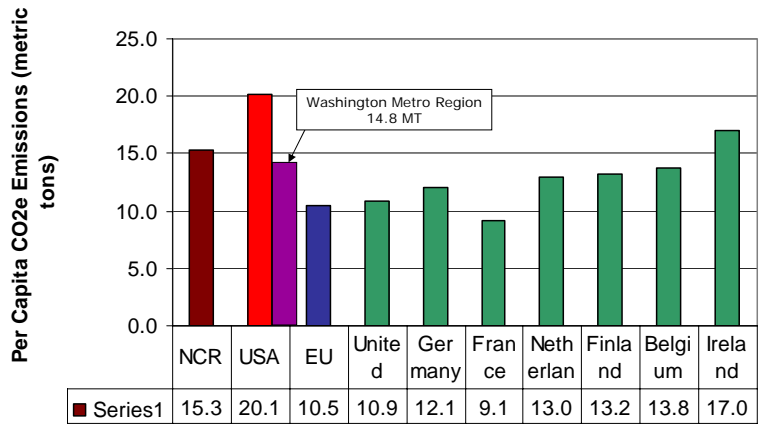
Community Total: 96.2%

Government Total: 3.8%

Source: Arlington County, Virginia (Estimate for the year 2000)



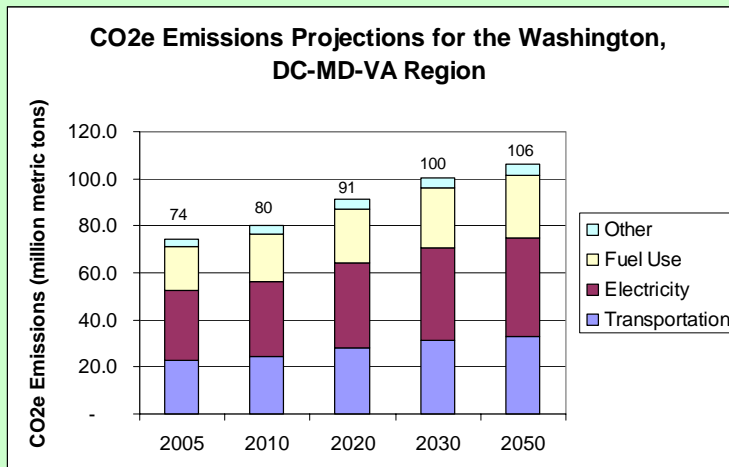
Comparison of Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions (2005)



US EPA 2008, European Environment Agency 2008, US Department of Energy 2008, MWCOG 2008, Cooperative Forecasts Round 7.0a.



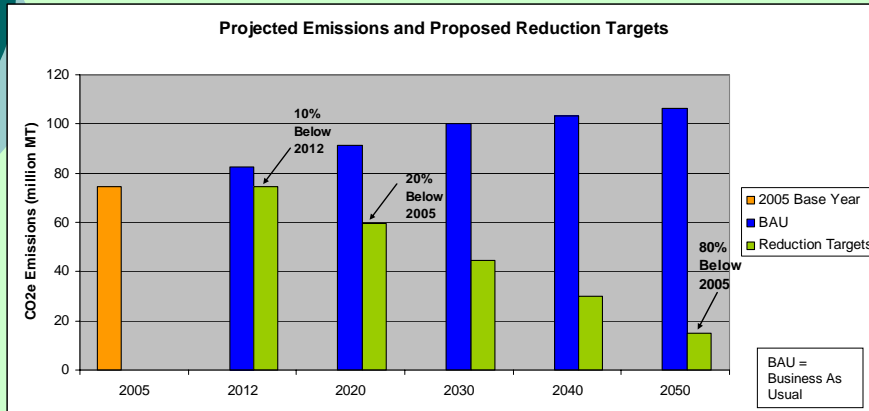
Taking Stock - Business As Usual Projections of Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2005-2050



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

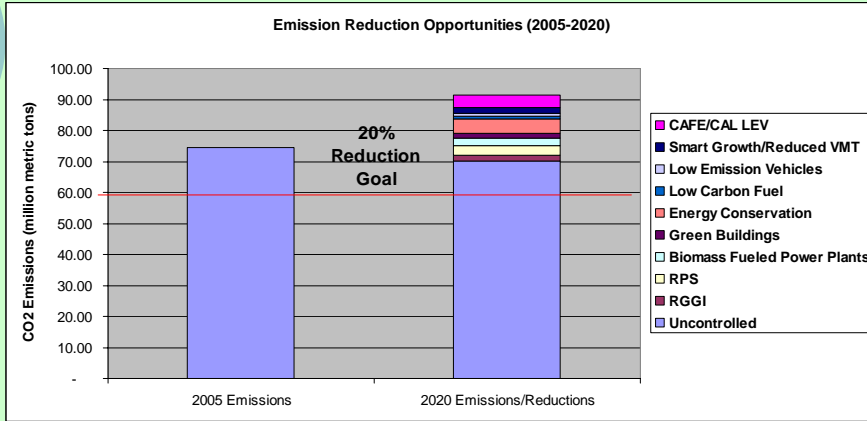


COG Climate Change Steering Committee: Proposed Regional Reduction Goals



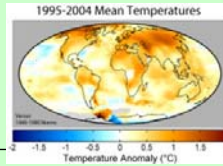
NOTE – GOALS ARE PROPOSED AND HAVE NOT BEEN ADOPTED BY THE COG BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

Meeting the 2020 Goal – Initial Assessment



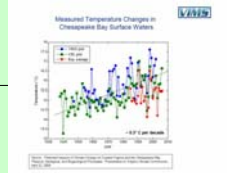
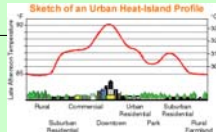
Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Climate Impacts



- Altered Weather – intensification of:
 - Droughts
 - Storms – both wind and rain
 - Hot weather extremes
- Other potential changes include:
 - Increases in invasive species
 - Increases in infectious diseases
 - Impacts on forests and urban trees
 - Impacts on wetlands

- Potential Impacts:
 - Water Supply
 - Public Safety/Infrastructure
 - Flood & Wind Damage:
 - Buildings, Roads, Bridges, Pipelines...
 - Emergency Services
 - Public Health
 - Environmental Health/Water Quality
 - Energy Demand



COG Advocacy Positions

- Federal Energy Legislation:
 - Promoted strengthening CAFÉ standards
 - Supported “green collar” job programs
 - Supported Energy efficiency block grants to local governments
- Federal Climate Legislation:
 - Promoted the role of local governments/regional entities
- Endorsed Cool Capital Challenge
- Sent letter of concern re proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise, Virginia





Energy – Recommendations (DRAFT)



Energy Efficiency/Demand Reduction

- Implement Regional Green Bldg Policy
- Energy perf goals for public buildings
- Adopt incentives for private bldg energy conservation
- Expand use of energy performance contracting
- Set regional energy conservation goals
- Set regional recycling goals
- Evaluate methane recapture and biosolids use as fuel at area wastewater plants

Clean Energy

- Support 20% Renewable Portfolio Standard
- Expand RGGI to DC and Virginia
- Establish region as leader in production and use of renewable energy



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Local Governments Leading By Example – Energy (DRAFT)

Energy Efficiency/Demand Reduction

- Identify best practices to support reducing overall local government energy use by 15% by 2012.
- Examine feasibility of setting regional percentage goal for incorporating Energy Star® in new public buildings.
- Evaluate implementing energy efficient street lighting across the region.
- Promote energy performance contracting/facilitate implementation with regional cooperative purchase.

Clean Energy

- Evaluate setting regional green power utilization goals for local governments/explore regional cooperative purchase. – Consider 20% by 2015
- Develop a long-term goal for carbon neutrality for all government buildings.



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Transportation – Recommendations (DRAFT)

Reduce VMT/Alternative modes

- Collaborate with TPB* to develop regional VMT reduction goals for 2012 and 2020.
- Collaborate with TPB to evaluate how a regional process modeled after the current regional conformity process for air quality planning might be adapted to address greenhouse gas emissions.
- Identify the percentage of auto trips under 3, 2, 1, ½ mile and develop strategy to shift half of these trips to bike or pedestrian modes.
- Evaluate greenhouse gas reduction benefits of specific increments of transit system expansion.
- Examine/implement new parking policies to reduce VMT-promote equalization of transit and parking benefits.

Vehicle Fuel Efficiency/Lower Fuel Carbon Content

- Advocate for implementation of California Low Emission Vehicle Standard (CAL LEV).
- Establish regional green fleet policy with measurable goals and timetables.



*TPB = National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board, e.g. the Metropolitan Planning Organization



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Recommendations – Land Use (DRAFT)

- Evaluate the benefits from achieving a range of possible goals (up to 95%) for directing new residential and commercial growth to regional activity centers.
- Consider establishment of transit oriented development as the region's preferred growth policy
- Establish goal and develop program and plan to achieve a "no net loss" in the region's tree canopy.
- Identify best practices enabling local governments to include greenhouse gas reduction and energy efficiency/conservation as elements in their local comprehensive planning.
- Devise a consistent, standardized methodology for evaluating the greenhouse gas emission from proposed individual development projects.



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Selected Additional Recommendations (DRAFT)

- Develop regional plans for meeting 2012 and 2020 goals and regional tracking system
- Promote green business, green jobs, cooperative green purchasing
- Promote local food production options, local vendors and suppliers.
- Implement regional climate and energy outreach program
- Partner with university to develop 2050 regional climate impacts report/adaptation strategy
- Establish COG Board *Climate and Energy Policy Committee*



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Schedule

Date	Action
June 25	CCSC* Meeting to review adopt draft final report to COG Board
July 9	Presentation to COG Board/start 60 day comment period
July 26	COG Retreat Discussion
Sept 9	End of 60 day comment period
Sept 24	CCSC Meeting to review/adopt final report
October 8	COG Board adoption of CCSC final report

*CCSC – COG Climate Change Steering Committee



For More Information...

COG Climate Change Initiative

<http://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/about.asp>

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