



Developing a Climate Change Action Plan for the National Capital Region

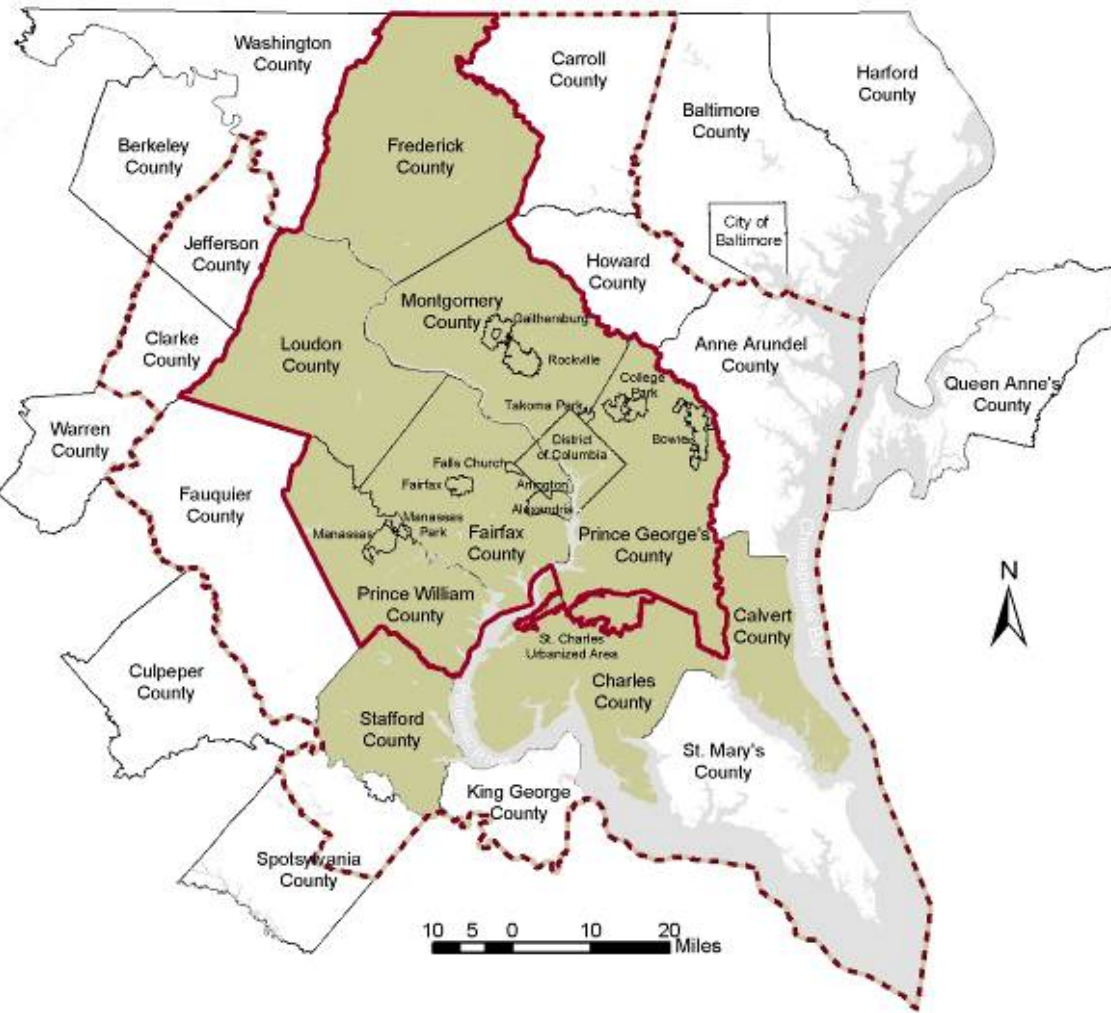
Presentation to Air and Waste Management Association (AWMA)

Williamsburg, VA

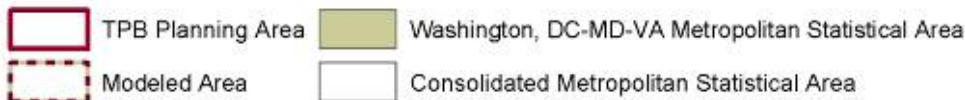
November 20, 2008



Planning in the Washington Region



- Approximately 3,000 square miles
- Includes 5 million people and 3 million jobs



Climate Change Steering Committee

Officers:

Chair: Hon. Nancy Floreen, Montgomery County Council

Vice-Chair: Hon. Gerry Connolly, Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Vice-Chair: Hon. Mary Cheh, Council of the District of Columbia

District of Columbia - Members

Rick Rybeck, District Dept. of Transportation

George Hawkins, District Dept. of the Environment

Harriet Tregoning, District Office of Planning

Maryland - Members

Tad Aburn, Director, Air and Radiation Management,
Maryland Dept. of the Environment

Hon. Roger Berliner, Montgomery County Council

Hon. Judith Davis, Mayor, Greenbelt

Hon. Camille Exum, Prince George's County Council

Virginia - Members

Hon. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County Clerk of the Circuit Court

Mercury Payton, Manassas Park City Manager

Hon. Andrea McGimsey, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Hon. Redella Pepper, Vice Mayor, City of Alexandria

Hon. David Snyder, Falls Church City Council

Other Regional/State Organizations - Members

John Catoe, General Manager, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority

Robert Grow, Director, Government Relations, Greater Washington Board of Trade

Nikki Rovner, Deputy Secretary of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Virginia

Alternates to Members:

Zach Dobelbower (alternate to Ms. Tregoning)

Mark Rawlings (alternate to Mr. Rybeck)

Jack Werner (alternate to Mr. Hawkins)

Elizabeth Entwisle (alternate to Mr. Aburn)

Hon. John Foust (alternate to Mr. Connolly)

Nat Bottigheimer (alternate to Mr. Catoe)

COG Staff:

Department of Environmental Programs:

Stuart Freudberg, Director

Joan Rohlf, Jeffrey King, George Nichols, Leah Boggs,

Ted Graham, Tanya Spano, Naomi Friedman, Sunil Kumar

Department of Transportation Programs:

Ron Kirby, Monica Bansal, Eulalie Lucas, Daivamani Sivasailam



Building On Other COG Regional Initiatives

☐ COG Initiatives

- ☐ Clean Air Partners
- ☐ Commuter Connections
- ☐ Intergovernmental Green Building Group (IGBG)
- ☐ Alternative Fuel Vehicle Partnership
- ☐ Strategic Energy Plan
- ☐ Climate Change Roundtable



☐ County Initiatives

- ☐ Cool Counties
- ☐ Fresh AIRE – Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions
- ☐ Montgomery County Clean Energy Rewards

☐ District of Columbia, Maryland, Virginia

- ☐ Climate Change Commissions
- ☐ EmPower Maryland
- ☐ DC Sustainable Energy Utility
- ☐ Virginia Governor's Energy Plan





COG Board Action April 11, 2007



- **Resolution 31-07 creates COG Climate Change Steering Committee to:**
 - ❖ Prepare regional inventory of greenhouse gases
 - ❖ Identify best practices and policies
 - ❖ Examine climate change impacts
 - ❖ Recommend regional greenhouse gas reduction goal(s)
 - ❖ Recommend committee structure for climate change initiative
 - ❖ Propose advocacy positions
 - ❖ Prepare recommendations report to COG Board

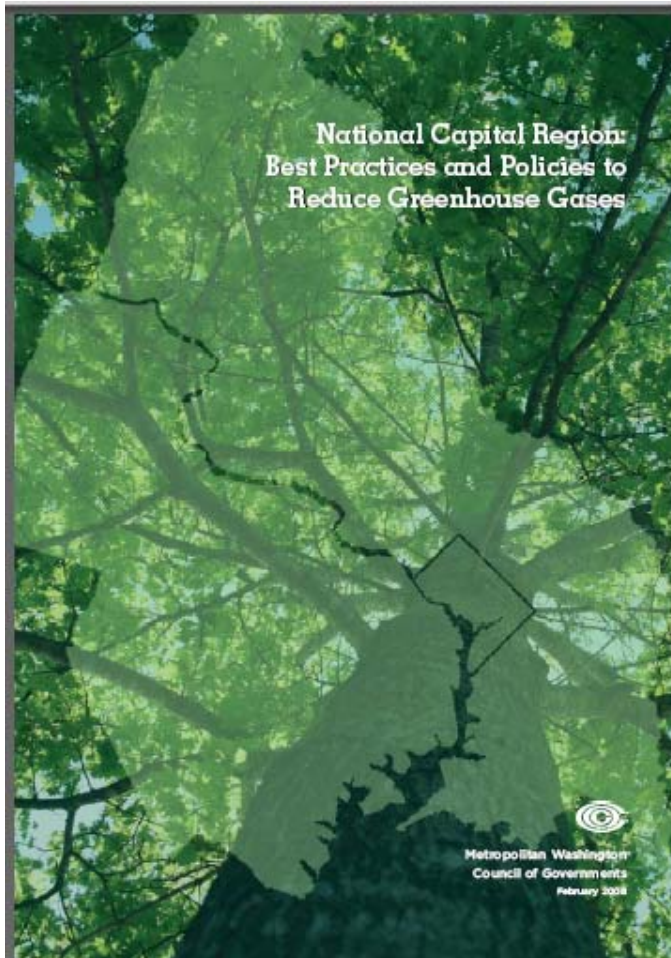


Major Accomplishments

- ❖ Best Practices Report
- ❖ Federal/state Advocacy
- ❖ Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory 2005-2050
- ❖ Emission reduction goals for 2012, 2020, 2050
- ❖ Public Review and Comment July 9 – Sept. 30
- ❖ Final Report November 12, 2008



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.



Energy and Climate Change 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

Regional Climate Program

- Endorsed Cool Capital Challenge
- Sent letter of concern re proposed coal-fired power plant in Wise County, Virginia



Climate Change Report

I. Getting Smart on Climate Change

*Climate Change, Potential Impacts on Region;
Current & Projected Regional Greenhouse Gas
Emission Inventory;
Regional Greenhouse Gas Reduction Targets*

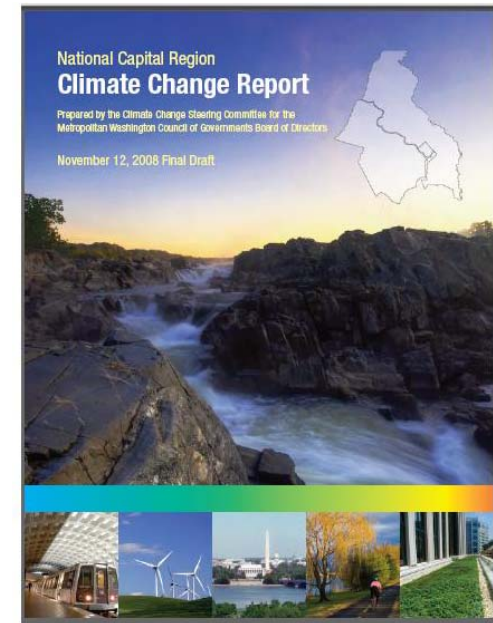
II. Taking Action

*Energy Consumption;
Transportation and Land Use;
Economic Development; Preparing for Impacts,
Financing; Outreach and Education.*

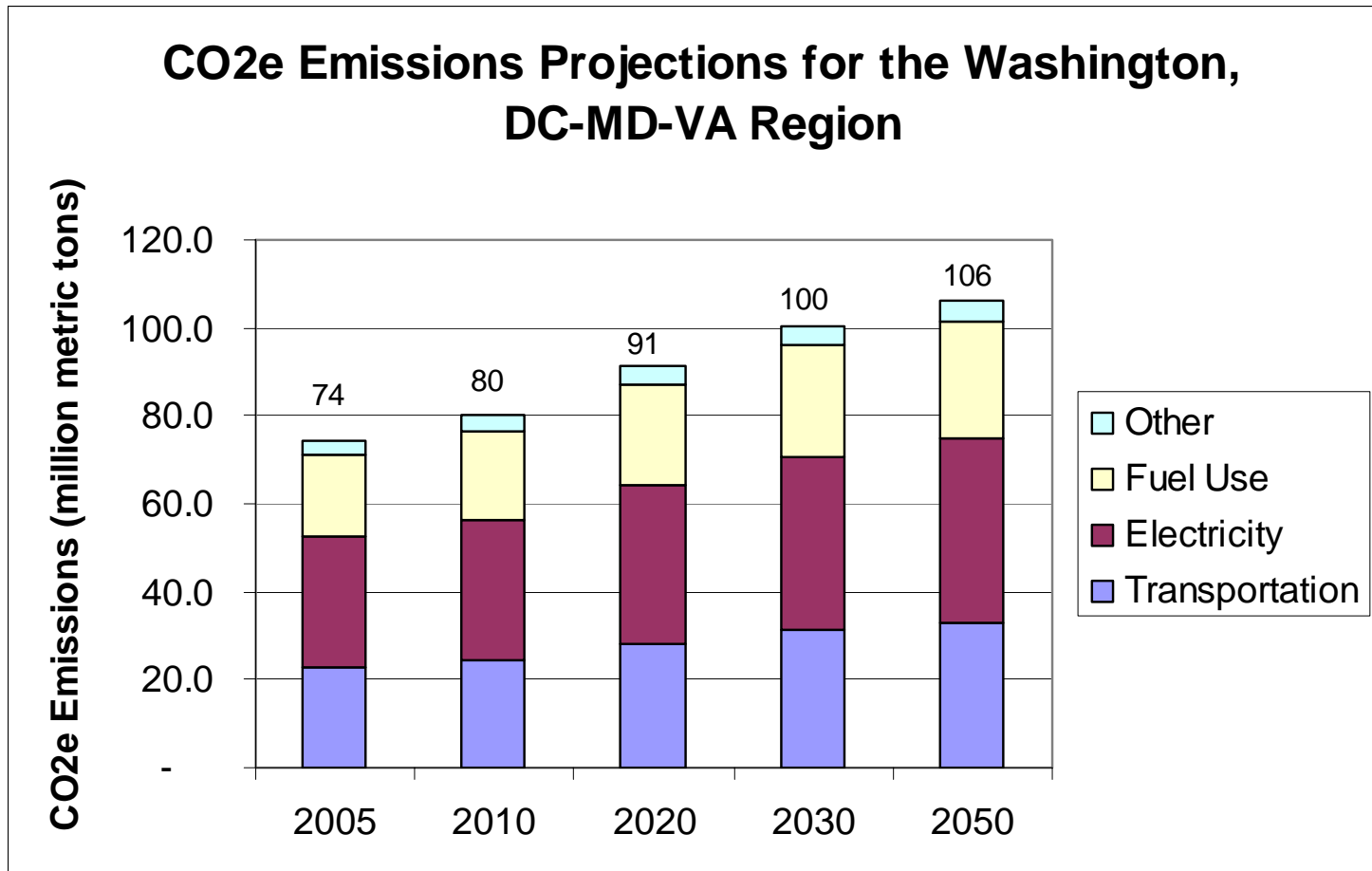
III. Moving Forward

COG Climate Change Program

IV. Reference Information



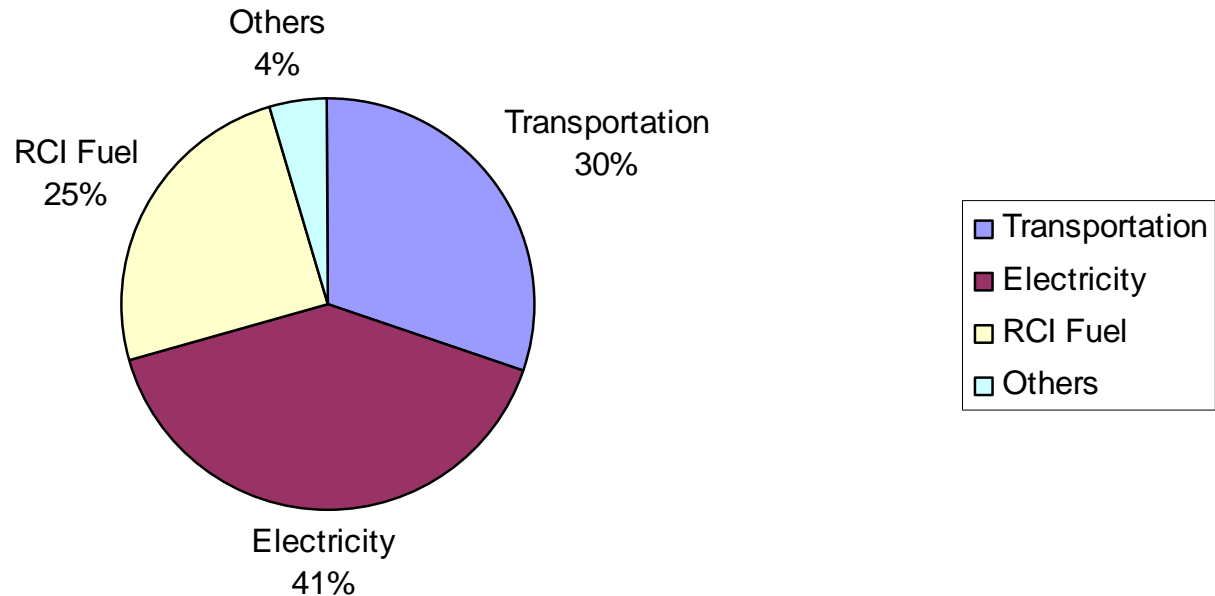
Projections of Regional Greenhouse Gas Emissions: 2005-2050



Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments

Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

Figure 9. CO₂ Emissions by Sector for the Washington, DC-MD-VA Region



Total - 74 million metric tonnes in 2005

RCI Fuel = Residential, commercial, industrial fuel use.

Source: Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments



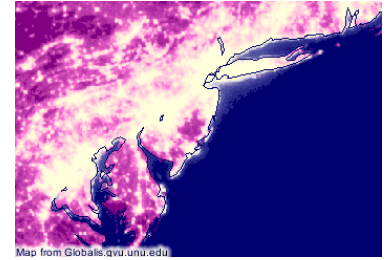
Recommendations for Taking Action:

- ❖ Regional Reduction Goals
- ❖ Energy
- ❖ Transportation and Land Use
- ❖ Economic Development
- ❖ Adaptation
- ❖ Financing
- ❖ Outreach & Education
- ❖ COG Climate Change Program

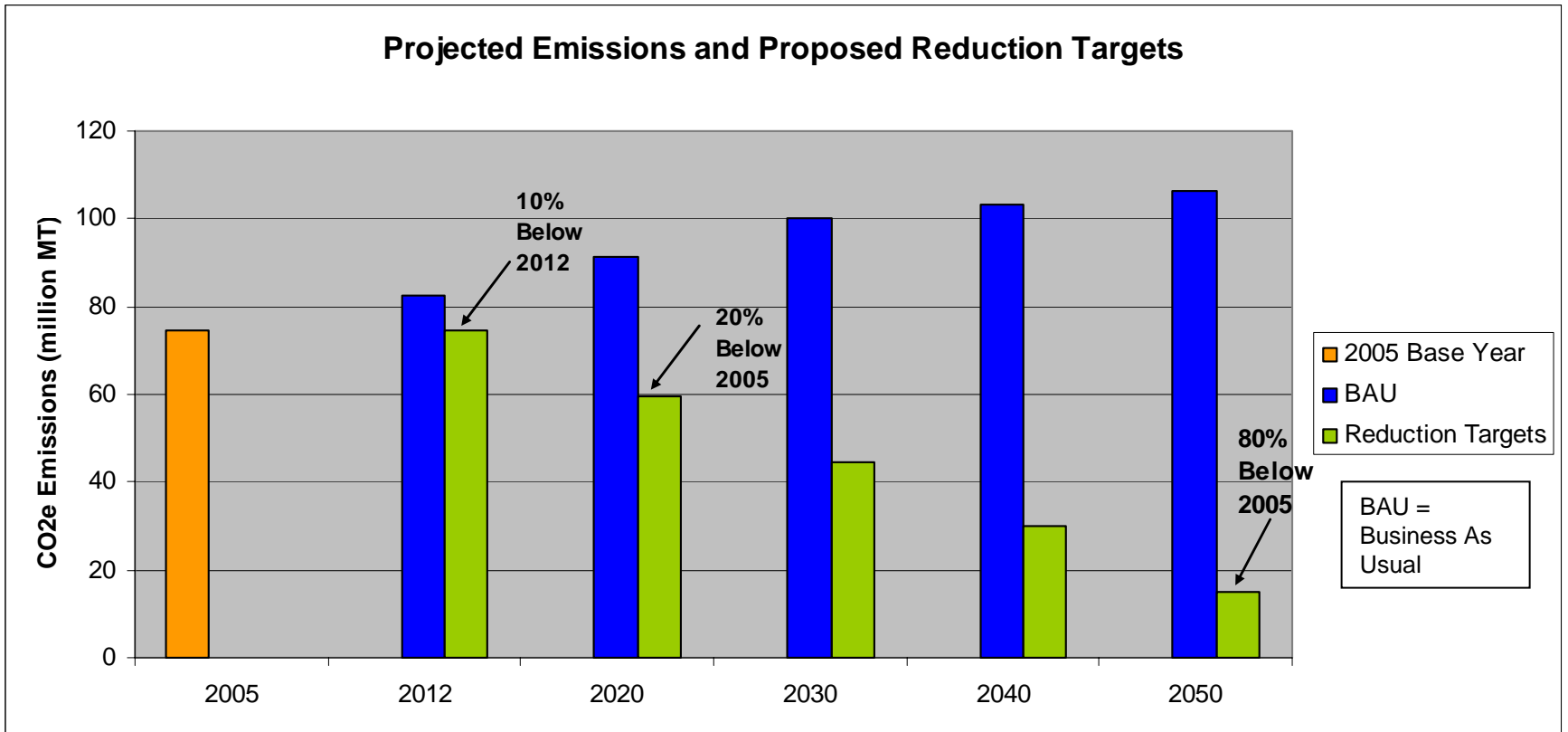
Proposed Regional Reduction Goals



2012: 10% Below Business as Usual
2020: 20% Below 2005
2050: 80% Below 2005



Map from Globalis.gvu.unu.edu





Energy Recommendations



Improve Energy Efficiency/Reduce Energy Demand

- **Implement COG Green Building Policy**
- **Implement Best Practices to reduce local government energy use by 15% by 2015**
- **Promote energy efficient building codes**
- **Promote energy performance contracting/cooperative purchasing**
- **Explore energy audit and retrofit program.**
- **Promote energy efficient street lighting.**
- **Collaborate with utilities on regional energy conservation program.**
- **Advocate for rate structure that rewards conservation investment.**

Develop Clean Energy Alternatives

- **Remove barriers to renewable energy implementation.**
- **Local Governments Purchase 20% Renewable Energy by 2015.**



Transportation Recommendations



Increase Fuel Efficiency and Clean Fuel Vehicles

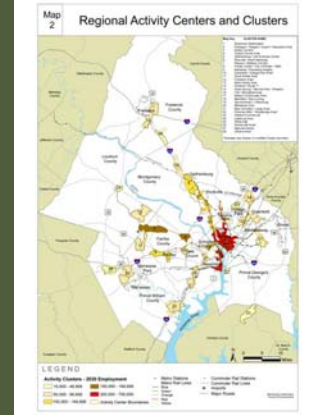
- **Adopt Regional Green Fleet Policy**
- **Implement incentives for high mileage and alternative fueled vehicles**
- **Support California Low Emission Vehicle Standards**
- **Plan for alternative fuel infrastructure (natural gas, hybrid-electric, hydrogen)**
- **Explore state/regional alternative fuels standard.**

Reduce Vehicle Miles Traveled

- **Collaborate with TPB on:**
 - **“What Would it Take?” Analysis**
 - **Regional planning process for reducing transportation greenhouse gas emissions**
- **Invest/expand transit use and infrastructure**
- **Expand commuter options**



Land Use Recommendations



Smart Growth/Comprehensive Planning

- **Promote transit-oriented development and concentrated growth**
 - Establish Transit-oriented development as the region's preferred growth strategy
 - Evaluate benefits from directing up to 95% of new development to activity centers
- **Integrate greenhouse gas analyses into comprehensive planning and new capital projects**
- **Develop standard methodology for evaluating greenhouse gas emissions from proposed individual development projects**

Tree Canopy Preservation

- **Prepare plan to meet goal of increased tree canopy in region**



Additional Recommendations

Financing and Economic Development

- Evaluate financing mechanisms for energy efficiency projects
- Develop Regional Carbon Offset Fund for preserving tree canopy
- Promote green businesses and green jobs
- Promote cooperative regional green purchasing.

Outreach and Education

- Implement regional public education campaign
- Develop partnerships with private sector and other organizations.

Adaptation

- Partner with universities to research climate change and adaptation strategies
- Develop regional adaptation policies



Report Review and Approval Process

- Comment Period: July 9 through September 30
- Report Presented to Nearly all Member Jurisdictions, all COG Policy Committees
- 214 Comments from 33 commenters:
 - Government, Non-profits, Businesses, Individuals
- All Comments and Responses Posted on COG Website
- CCSC Met to Consider Major Comments and Complete Final Report
- Resolution R-60-08 Adopted Nov. 12
 - Resolution Adopting and Promoting Implementation of the National Capital Region Climate Change Report

What did we hear?

- COG members are leaders
- Early action is critical
- Evaluate costs and benefits of recommendations
- Make emission reduction targets more aggressive
- Emission reduction targets should be consistent across states and jurisdictions
- Note risk of catastrophic climate change and cost of inaction
- Remove barriers to implementation of local renewable energy (e.g., solar)
- Provide incentives for utilities to invest in energy conservation and renewable energy technology
- Some climate change skepticism remains



Next Steps

- **2009 Tasks**

- Convene Policy Workgroup to Develop Recommendation for Legislative Session
- Prepare Work Program and Budget
- Develop Plans to Meet 2012 and 2020 Goals





For further information...

- To obtain an electronic copy of the report:
 - <http://www.mwcog.org/environment/climate/public/>
- Questions?
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 - jking@mwkog.org, 202/962-3238