

**Climate Energy and Environment Policy Committee  
FINAL 2013-2016 ACTION PLAN**

*\* Indicates a goal that is new in the 2016 Action Plan (i.e. not included in the 2012 Action Plan)*

*\*\*Status indicates the percent total that has implemented or is in progress on each action. Most results are based on the COG annual climate and energy surveys.*

**REGIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION**

**Goal:** To reduce the region’s greenhouse gas emissions to 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

**Implementation Actions:**

<b>Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Inventories and Plans</b>		<b>Status**</b>
1	100% of jurisdictions complete GHG inventories for government operations.	77%
2	100% of jurisdictions complete community-wide GHG inventories.	68%
3	100% of jurisdictions adopt GHG emission reduction plans for government operations.	68%
4	75% of jurisdictions adopt plans to reduce GHG emissions community-wide.	55%

**BUILT ENVIRONMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

**Goal:** To reduce non-transportation energy consumption, which accounts for two thirds of the region’s greenhouse gas emissions, by 20% below 2005 levels by 2020.

**Implementation Actions:**

<b>Energy Efficiency</b>		<b>Status**</b>
5	100% of jurisdictions track and/or benchmark energy performance in all government buildings.	95%
6*	75% of jurisdictions participate in a regional <a href="#">EPA Portfolio Manager</a> Master Account Sharing.	TBD (5 use Portfolio Manager)
7*	75% of jurisdictions disclose energy performance of all government buildings.	50%
8*	75% of jurisdictions prepare an energy plan for local government facilities.	50%
9*	75% of jurisdictions perform walk-through energy audits of local government facilities.	68%
10*	50% of jurisdictions participate in <a href="#">US DOE Better Buildings Challenge</a> which includes pledging to reduce 20% energy use in building(s).	9%
11*	50% of jurisdictions develop a policy or ordinance to increase the energy efficiency of outdoor lighting in appropriate areas such as streets, parking lots, parks and/or signage.	41%
12*	At least 6 jurisdictions implement integrated community energy planning initiatives, including active consideration of deploying combined heat and power, district energy, and/or microgrid systems.	5
13*	2% of households region-wide participate in <a href="#">Home Performance with Energy Star Program</a> (HPwES) (home energy assessments and retrofits).	TBD (27% promoting HpwES)

Energy Financing		Status**
14*	50% of jurisdictions develop or participate in financing programs to support sustainable building retrofit programs for energy efficiency or renewable energy in the residential and/or commercial sectors.	45%
High Performance/Green Building		Status**
15	100% of jurisdictions adopt a green building policy.	64%
16*	50% of jurisdictions implement an affordable housing green rehabilitation program.	32%
17*	35% of jurisdictions offer incentives for commercial and residential buildings certified by a high efficiency building green rating system.	32%
18*	35% of jurisdictions outline a policy to implement green or “energy-aligned” lease terms and requirements in contract agreements for leased public spaces and/or facilities.	9%
Water Resources		Status**
19*	75% of potable water and wastewater entities (i.e. local government or utilities) in the COG region implement energy efficiency measures, alternative energy and/or renewable energy generation at their facilities.	63%
20*	50% of local governments and /or wastewater utilities implement a water reuse project.	50%

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

**Goal:** To increase renewable energy production in line with state Renewable Portfolio Standards, meeting 10% of regional electricity consumption with power from renewable sources by 2016.<sup>1</sup>

**Implementation Actions:**

Renewable Energy		Status**
21	5,000 residential, commercial or government buildings to have renewable energy systems installed.	1,623
22	100% of jurisdictions have a renewable energy system on local government property.	82%
23*	75% of jurisdictions become an <a href="#">EPA Green Power Partner</a> .	41%
24*	25% of jurisdictions become an <a href="#">EPA Green Power Community Partner</a> .	14%
25	Implement two regional pilot projects promoting a renewable energy park.	1

**TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE**

**Goal:** To minimize the greenhouse gas impact of our transportation system, which contributes one third of regional emissions, by reducing vehicle miles travelled and increasing the use of alternative fuel and high efficiency vehicles.

**Implementation Actions:**

Transportation		Status**
26	100% of jurisdictions have idling regulations and promote them, as reflected through review of citations and/or education/outreach.	64%
27	75% of jurisdictions offer a commute options program for their workers (telework,	68%

	flex time, alternative work schedule, car pool, van pool, guaranteed ride home, bike/pedestrian, and/or financial incentive).	
28	A regional employer-based and general public commute option program (telework, flex time, alternative work schedule, car pool, van pool, guaranteed ride home, bike/pedestrian, and/or financial incentive continues operating in all jurisdictions.	100%
29*	75% of jurisdictions adopt and implement a bicycle/pedestrian plan.	64%
30*	75% of jurisdictions adopt a <a href="#">complete streets policy</a> .	50%
31	75% of jurisdictions adopt a green fleet policy.	73%
32	75% of jurisdictions implement alternative fuel vehicle infrastructure project(s) (e.g, natural gas, biofuel, electric, hydrogen).	50%
33*	25% of jurisdictions participate in car sharing programs, such as Zip Car, as an alternative to expanding fleet.	23%
<b>Land Use</b>		<b>Status**</b>
34	100% of jurisdictions with land use authority adopt land use plans that allow for and incentivize walkable, higher density, mixed use, mixed income and/or transit oriented development in activity centers.	73%
35*	50% of jurisdictions identify, promote and incentivize the redevelopment of greyfield and/or brownfield sites.	23%
36*	50% of jurisdictions have one or more of its facilities at a former greyfield and/or brownfield site(s).	27%

**SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY**

**Goal:** To increase the resiliency and sustainability of the region’s infrastructure, economy, and environment.

**Implementation Actions:**

<b>Climate Resiliency – Adaptation and Energy Security</b>		<b>Status**</b>
37*	40% of jurisdictions assess their community’s vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.	18%
38*	40% of jurisdictions develop and adopt strategies to adapt to the impacts of climate change/increase the community's resiliency to climate impacts.	18%
39*	State, regional and local agencies responsible for transportation and utility infrastructure assess vulnerability of critical assets.	TBD
40*	50% of jurisdictions apply the energy assurance planning framework to assess strategies for enhancing community resiliency and energy security.	18%
<b>Green Infrastructure</b>		<b>Status**</b>
41	75% of jurisdictions implement a plan to preserve and enhance ecologically valuable green spaces (such as forests, wetlands, stream buffers) in urban, suburban and rural areas, such as a green infrastructure plan, natural resource management plan, or green space plan.	64%
42*	100% of jurisdictions in the region are a <a href="#">Tree City USA</a> .	73%
43*	75% of jurisdictions adopt a tree canopy/forest cover goal.	64%
44*	75% of jurisdictions have a green roof located on government property.	41%
45*	50% of jurisdictions adopt a <a href="#">green streets policy</a> .	32%

Green and Local Economies		Status**
46	75% of jurisdictions to adopt green purchasing policies.	64%
47*	75% of jurisdictions provide public land and/or support for community gardens.	64%
48*	50% of jurisdictions allow for and encourage urban agriculture in zoning codes, where appropriate.	36%
49*	Jurisdictions adopt policies/implement tools that preserve working farmland, where appropriate.	23%
Waste Reduction and Recycling		Status**
50	Divert 50% of solid waste in the region from disposal.	@ 35%
51*	Where applicable, jurisdictions provide recycling educational, technical, and logistical support to public schools to ensure that it is successful.	Ongoing
52*	100% of jurisdictions no longer collect grass and leaf waste curbside in plastic bags – will be collected loose or in paper bags.	40%
53*	Jurisdictions support establishment of sufficient public or private regional capacity for organics (grass, leaf, and food) composting.	Ongoing

**OUTREACH**

**Goal:** To improve public understanding of climate change and promote positive change in individual and institutional behaviors to reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions and increase use of renewable energy.

**Implementation Actions:**

Outreach		Status**
54	75% of jurisdictions promote federal, state, utility, and/or local energy efficiency and/or renewable energy incentive programs.	55%
55	50% of jurisdictions implement challenge or pledge programs for energy and sustainability aimed at the community and citizens.	50%
56	50% of jurisdictions implement green business challenges/ certifications/initiatives for businesses and employees.	41%
57	35% of jurisdictions encourage private commercial building owners to benchmark energy performance.	18%
58*	50% of jurisdictions develop an employee education program on energy/sustainability policies and practices at work and home.	45%
Advocacy		Status**
59*	Jurisdictions help support, where appropriate, state and federal legislation that reduces barriers to renewable energy and energy efficiency, and supports local governments in climate change mitigation and adaption efforts.	TBD

<sup>i</sup> 10% represents the weighted average of renewable portfolio standards impacting the COG region: mandatory standards in MD and DC, and a voluntary standard in VA. The goals are weighted according to relative share of regional electricity consumption by jurisdictions in each state.