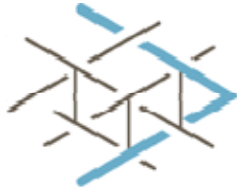


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 2, January 9, 2011

# eRegions

### **NARC LEADERSHIP**

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Executive Directors  
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Executive Director,  
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana  
Regional Council of  
Governments

### **EXECUTIVE BRIEF**

Colleagues,

While Congress is still out of session, let me shift focus to your upcoming National Conference of Regions (NCR). This year we've had a record number of early registrations and expect more to come. If you have not, please

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)  
[ASSISTANCEREQUEST](#) [PARTNERUPDATE](#)  
[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



**2012 NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS**  
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012  
THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC  
**REGISTER TODAY!**

**Draft Agenda Available:** click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda.

**Registration:** click [HERE](#) to register.

*Hotel rooms must be reserved by Saturday, January 14th. Click [HERE](#) for more information.*

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## **PROGRAMUPDATE**

**EPA Delays Release of Proposed Stormwater Rule:** The U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has delayed the release of a proposed stormwater rule due to the complex nature of quantifying costs and benefits associated with stormwater management across the country, which must account for varying climates, soils and land development patterns.

According to EPA officials, the post-construction rule will set a runoff

register and make your hotel reservations this week. Hotel rooms are going fast!

We anticipate great speakers, sessions and time on the Hill, in educating Congress on your and the regional agenda. If we can assist in setting up meetings, please let us know. The NCR will focus on pending authorization legislation and the disorder that is the budget, deficit and debt debate. For example, what will mandatory cuts be and how do they affect your programs? This will be the core discussion in Washington this year and we encourage you to be as vocal as possible in the dialog.

See you soon,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

**Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

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Deputy Director

**Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

**Kristin Heery**

Program Analyst

**Jenee Kresge**

Economic and

performance standard and provide compliance options, including green infrastructure. EPA is considering a retention standard; however, some stakeholders oppose this option in favor of a more flexible framework. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**EPA Extends Effluent Guidelines Plan Comment Period:** EPA announced in December that it has re-opened the public comment period for another 60 days for the 2010 Final Effluent Guidelines Plan and the 2011 Effluent Guidelines Reviews. On October 20, 2011, EPA published its final 2010 Effluent Guidelines Program Plan, as required by the Clean Water Act, which identified new or existing industrial dischargers selected for effluent guidelines rulemaking and provided a schedule for such rulemakings. The notice also solicited data and information for the EPA's 2011 Effluent Guidelines Program Reviews. Comments are due on or before February 27, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for the December Federal Register. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**CBO Reports Stimulus Spending Higher than Projected:** According to a new report by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA or stimulus) spending is nearly fourpercent higher than originally projected. To date, approximately \$494 billion (of the \$787 billion) has been spent since the law was enacted in February 2009. Click [HERE](#) to read CBO's report.

**Rural Economic Development Resources: The Rural Support Partners,** a social enterprise working across the Southeast to strengthen anchor organizations, develop collective impact networks, and help move sustainable economic development efforts to scale, released a report on rural on issues related to local food, housing and conservation. The report ***Rural Networks for Wealth Creation*** led to the development of an accessible toolkit with worksheets designed for a range of audiences. To access these and other materials from Rural Support Partners, click [HERE](#).

**Report on Comprehensive Community Development:** The Institute for Comprehensive Community Development released the report, ***Designing for Healthy Communities: Active Living and Comprehensive Community Development***, which offers a summary of empirical evidence that can be used by community developers to add a public health component to their work. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

**NCSL and AARP Report on Aging and Livability:** The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) and the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) released the report, ***Aging in Place: A State Survey of***

Community  
Development Manager

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of  
Communications

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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of *eRegions*, [visit our](#)  
[website](#).

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*Livability Policies and Practices*, which suggests State policies, such as land use, housing and transportation, home services, etc. that are needed to help seniors age in place. Click [HERE](#) to access a copy.

#### **Report: States and Localities Face Reduced Support for Health**

**Emergencies:** A report, *Ready or Not? 2011*, was released by Trust for America's Health (TFAH), a non-profit, nonpartisan think tank focused on disease prevention. The report revealed that many agencies have been targeted for budget cuts in recent years, potentially putting the public at a greater risk if a major health crisis occurs. It concluded that preparedness programs could be dramatically reduced or completely eliminated if trends in federal budget cuts continue. For more information about how specific states and localities are being affected, visit the TFAH [website](#).

#### **EPA Briefs Water Stakeholders on Proposed Integrated Planning**

**Framework:** On December 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) briefed water stakeholders on EPA's current thinking as they develop their framework to implement the October 27 [memo](#) "Achieving Water Quality Through Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Plans," which included key elements of an integrated municipal stormwater/wastewater plan. Click [HERE](#) to access the PowerPoint presentation used, which will serve as the basis for upcoming stakeholder meetings early next year. The principles and elements laid out in the presentation will be revised based on the comments EPA receives over the coming months. EPA indicated this schedule, which will be posted in the Federal Register, for their series of public workshops starting in January 2012 across the U.S. in various EPA Regional Offices: Atlanta - week of January 31; New York City - February 6; Seattle -February 13; Kansas City - February 15; and, Chicago - February 17.

#### **Open Comment Period for Proposed EDA Regulations:** *Comment Period*

*Closes February 6, 2012.* Last week, the U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) published its [proposed revised regulations](#) based on external and internal feedback gathered through a public comment period earlier this year. Stakeholders may now provide comments on the proposed revised EDA regulations. Please click [HERE](#) to learn more or provide comments, and please provide copies of any comments you plan to submit to [Jenee Kresge](#).

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

*Congress is out of session.*

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## ASSISTANCEREQUEST

**Grant Management:** The Denver Regional Council of Governments (DRCOG) is looking for assistance with the following questions regarding grants. 1) Does your organization use the services of a grant writer or have an FTE that handles grant management? Can you provide a copy of the scope if you work with a contractor or a job description if it's an employee? 2) If your organization doesn't have a dedicated person responsible for grants, who handles the close-out of grants, the management of your grant(s), etc.? Please contact Roxie Ronsen, DRCOG, directly at [rrosen@drcoq.org](mailto:rrosen@drcoq.org).

**Performance Audit Scope of Work:** The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) is looking for an example of scope of work (SOW) for a Council of Government performance audit. Specifically, they are looking for a performance audit SOW for the organization itself, rather than for a specific program. Has your organization completed a performance audit and could share your SOW? Please contact Michael Cavallaro, RVCOG Executive Director, at [mcavallaro@rvcoq.org](mailto:mcavallaro@rvcoq.org).

**Solar Case Studies:** As part of NARC's work with the [SunShot Initiative](#), NARC is developing case studies of regional councils who have done work in the field of solar energy. The goal is to include a variety of examples to be highlighted in a publication. We would love to hear about your experience working to promote solar energy in your region. CONTACT: Kristin Heery, [kristin@narc.org](mailto:kristin@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x225

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**EcoSummit 2012:** The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission will host EcoSummit 2012, September 30-October 5, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio. The Call for Abstracts has been released. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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## GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

### **Siemens Sustainable Community Awards**

*Deadline: January 13, 2012*

For the fifth year, Siemens, a National League of Cities (NLC) Corporate Partner, is sponsoring The Siemens Sustainable Community Awards in partnership with the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Business Civic Leadership

Center (BCLC). Nominations for the 2012 awards will include three categories: small communities (less than 50,000 residents), midsize cities (50,000-500,000 residents) and large communities (more than 500,000 residents). Each winning city will be announced during an awards reception in April 2012 and will receive a donation of \$20,000 worth of trees through the Alliance for Community Trees. Strong candidates for the award are able to demonstrate that their community has forged relationships with residents and the local private sector to set and achieve complementary economic, environmental and social goals. Together, these goals have helped the community realize long-term competitiveness and success. Communities will be judged by a panel of experts in three categories — environmental sustainability, economic sustainability and overarching sustainability. For more information, or to apply, click [HERE](#).

### **EPA Requests Proposals for Urban Waters Small Grants**

*Deadline: January 16, 2012*

The U.S. EPA will award at least \$1.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore [urban waters](#) by improving water quality and supporting community revitalization. The goal of the urban waters small grants are to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Education and training for water quality improvement or green infrastructure jobs
- Public education about ways to reduce water pollution
- Local water quality monitoring programs
- Engaging diverse stakeholders to develop local watershed plans
- Innovative projects that promote local water quality and community revitalization goals

Information about urban waters small grants including the Request for Proposal and registration links for the webinars is available [HERE](#). Questions can be submitted in writing via e-mail by clicking [HERE](#) and addressed to Ji-Sun Yi. EPA expects to award the grants in Summer 2012.

### **DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012**

*Application Due: January 19, 2012*

The Department of Interior (DOI) WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. More information is available [HERE](#).

### **2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program**

*January 24, 2012*

The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC), which is hosted by the USGS, sponsors the CAP to promote the technologies, standards, best practices and organizational collaboration vital to data integration, partnerships and collaborations for data investment and speedy delivery of geospatial products to support government and other stakeholders. This year the FGDC is offering a total of \$810,000 to award for up to 41 geospatial related projects that are spread across seven categories. Each project will focus on ways to expand the geospatial data infrastructure that is necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geographic data. The project awards are scheduled to be announced in March 2012 with obligated work to begin on each project no later than September 30, 2012. More information and a link to the announcement on Grants.gov are available [HERE](#).

### **U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million**

*Application Due: March 1, 2012*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **The National Endowment for the Arts**

*Deadline: March 1, 2012*

The National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) announced funding for the 2012

Our Town grants, which supports creative placemaking projects that contribute toward the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful, and sustainable places. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$150,000. Click [HERE](#) for guidelines and more information.

**Funders' Network: Local Sustainability Matching Fund**

*Deadline: March 5, 2012*

In partnership with the Urban Sustainability Directors Network, the Funders' Network is pleased to announce the formation of the Local Sustainability Matching Fund. The Fund has been created with leadership support from four Network members: the Kendeda Fund, the New York Community Trust, the Summit Foundation, and the Surdna Foundation.

The purpose of the [Local Sustainability Matching Fund](#) is: to catalyze partnerships between local government sustainability directors and local, place-based foundations, including community foundations, and to advance important community-based sustainability initiatives. The Fund will provide partnership investments between \$25,000 and \$75,000, with a 1:1 match required by one or more local foundation. The Network anticipates that the Fund will support up to ten partnership projects in the first year in two rounds in the spring and fall of 2012.

The application deadline for the first round is March 5<sup>th</sup>, and you may [download the Request for Proposals here](#). Applications must be submitted in MS Word and use the application [Cover Sheet](#). The Network will host a conference call to provide more information on the fund and review the selection criteria. The call will be held on January 24th, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern, and you may register for the call by [clicking here](#).

A selection committee comprised of foundation representatives and urban sustainability directors will make selection decisions on behalf of the matching fund, and awards will be announced on May 5, 2012. For more information on the Local Sustainability Matching Fund, please contact Ann Wallace at [ann@fundersnetwork.org](mailto:ann@fundersnetwork.org) or 617-524-9239.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

***Installing Solar On Municipal Facilities Webinar***

**January 24, 2012 1:00pm ET:** Are you or your members considering installing solar on a municipal facility? This webinar focuses on writing a solar

RFP for municipal installations, the importance of building partnerships with utilities and the private sector and financing mechanisms that have helped make municipal solar installations possible. For more information and registration, click [HERE](#).

***New Partners For Smart Growth Conference***

**February 2-4, 2012, San Diego, CA:** Register today for this 11th annual event. Additional conference details are available [HERE](#).

***Planning for Solar Energy in Your Community: Workshop***

**February 4, 2012, San Diego, CA:** This workshop will be held during the New Partners for Smart Growth Conference and will focus on overcoming planning and zoning barriers to adoption of solar energy technologies—primarily rooftop PV—at the local level. Increased solar adoption supports smart growth goals. Throughout the workshop, speakers will present zoning tools and innovative financing options that can make communities more "solar-friendly" and case study examples of what communities across the country are doing to address solar in their planning, zoning, and development decisions. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***2012 National Conference of Regions***

**February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC:** Register Today! NARC will host its 2012 National Conference of Regions, which will focus on Obama Administration's priorities, Congressional activities, and critical policy issues and pending federal legislation that will impact regions. Click [HERE](#) to access registration and additional information.

***Green Infrastructure Workshop***

**March 5-9, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV:** The Conservation Fund's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV is hosting *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach* on March 5-9, 2012. This workshop provides participants with a strategic approach for prioritizing conservation opportunities and a planning framework for conservation and development- integrating the green and the grey. For more information, click [HERE](#).

***46th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 10-14, 2012, St. Petersburg, FL:** Save the Date! Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's Annual Conference and Exhibition is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available



in early 2012.

**2012 Executive Directors' Conference**

**September 24-26, 2012, Boise, ID:** Save the Date! Join Executive Directors and senior staff of regional councils and metropolitan planning organizations at this premier regional training event. Registration information and a draft agenda will be available in mid 2012.

**2012 EcoSummit**

**September 30-October 5, 2012, Columbus, OH:** EcoSummit 2012 will bring together the world's most respected minds in ecological science to discuss restoring the planet's ecosystems. Click [HERE](#) for additional information - now accepting Call for Abstracts!

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