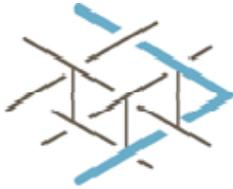


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

We are honored to have Secretary Ray LaHood, U.S. Department of Transportation, join us at the NCR. His perspective on the state of transportation and the road to reauthorization is timely and important. We have other great

[PROGRAMUPDATE](#) [POLICYUPDATE](#)
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[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.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

PROGRAMUPDATE

EPA Webinar on Communities and Clean Energy: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is hosting a webinar tomorrow, Tuesday, January 18 at 1:00pm ET on "Making an Impact on Energy Use in Your Community: EPA's Green Power Communities and Local Climate and Energy Program." Green Power Partners and EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy

sessions and speakers as well; please see the agenda for the depth of dialog we expect in this important election year. As always we look forward to seeing you in D.C.

See you soon,
Fred

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Program will highlight how EPA programs can help communities reduce their energy use. Learn about the Green Power Community and Climate Showcase Communities programs and the tools and resources they offer. Two EPA Green Power Communities—Washington, DC and Corvallis, Oregon—will present information on their Green Power Community experience; Corvallis will also discuss its Climate Showcase Community project. Click [HERE](#) for more information. Click [HERE](#) to register.

EPA to Conduct Stakeholder Workshops on Integrated Municipal Stormwater and Wastewater Management Plans:

The EPA will conduct five workshops to solicit stakeholder input on the use of integrated municipal stormwater and wastewater plans to meet the water quality objectives of the Clean Water Act. The workshops are intended to assist EPA in developing an integrated planning approach framework that could be used to help municipalities prioritize their infrastructure investments in order to maximize water quality benefits and consider various innovative approaches, such as green infrastructure, that may be more sustainable. Participants must [pre-register](#) to attend the workshops by January 20, 2012. The workshops will be held on the following dates at the following locations:

- January 31, 10am-3pm, EPA Region 4 Office; 61 Forsyth Street SW, Atlanta, GA 30303
- February 6, 10:00am-3:00pm, EPA Region 2 Office; 290 Broadway, New York, NY 10007
- February 13, 10:00am-3:00pm, EPA Region 10 Office; 1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle, WA 98101
- February 15, 10:00am-3:00pm, EPA Region 7 Office; 901 North 5th Street, Kansas City, MO 66101
- February 17, 10:00am-3:00pm, EPA Region 5 Office; 77 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, IL 60604

NRC Report on Wastewater Reuse: According to the National Research Council's (NRC) report, "Water Reuse: Potential for Expanding the Nation's Water Supply Through Reuse of Municipal Wastewater," recent advances in technology, design and treating municipal wastewater could increase the total amount of available water supply, particularly in coastal areas facing water shortages. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

HUD Call on Sustainable Communities Progress: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Sustainable Housing and Communities will conduct a call on Friday, January 20 at 3:30pm ET to provide an update on the accomplishments of the office and its 2012 priorities.

Please RSVP to Germaine Walker (germaine.m.walker@hud.gov) by 12 pm on Thursday, January 19th. Call in number: (800) 230-1093; Conference name and confirmation code: 2012 Sustainable Communities Update (234035).

FEMA Report on Whole Community Approach: The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) published a new document, "A Whole Community Approach to Emergency Management: Principles, Themes, and Pathways for Action." Click [HERE](#) to access the document.

UTC Awardees Announced: Secretary Ray LaHood, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), announced the winners of the University Transportation Center (UTC) competition today. These universities will advance research and education programs that address critical transportation challenges and conduct research that directly supports the priorities of the U.S. DOT. Click [HERE](#) for U.S. DOT's announcement.

New NALGEP Report: *Cultivating Green Energy on Brownfields:* The National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals (NALGEP) last week released [***Cultivating Green Energy on Brownfields: A Nuts and Bolts Primer for Local Governments***](#). The primer serves as a resource for local governments to investigate opportunities for renewable energy development for the brownfields in their communities. Additional information on the primer can be found [HERE](#).

Clean Energy Financing Decision Tool and Guide: States and communities are increasingly investing in energy efficiency and renewable energy to achieve their air quality, economic, and energy goals. In doing so, they have found that the up-front costs of improving energy efficiency and increasing renewable energy generation can be a barrier for many homeowners, building owners, and businesses. One way to address these barriers is by adopting clean energy financing programs that can make efficiency and renewable energy more affordable for these sectors. EPA's State and Local Climate and Clean Energy Program is supporting these efforts with the launch of a new online [**Financing Program Decision Tool**](#) and a [**Financing Program Decision Guide**](#).

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.

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](#).

POLICYUPDATE

The House is in session; the Senate will return on January 23.

Debt Limit Update: This week the House will review and decide on the President's request to increase the national debt limit by \$1.2 trillion – the current limit is at \$15.19 trillion. It is anticipated that the House will adopt a resolution to reject the President's request for increased borrowing authority with the Senate following similarly next week. The request to raise the debt ceiling will go forward even with Congressional disapproval because of Presidential veto powers.

Federal Budget Update: The President is expected to lay out his priorities in his State of the Union address on Tuesday, January 24. Further details of his budget priorities will be outlined in his FY13 budget, which is anticipated for delivery on Monday, February 6. For the FY13 budget, the President has requested that federal agencies find five percent in reductions with an eye for an additional five percent.

President Requests Authority for Streamlining and Agency

Consolidation: Last Friday, President Obama asked Congress for the authority to "streamline and reform" the executive branch by consolidating six federal departments and agencies that handle business and trade issues. The proposed consolidation would include the Commerce Department, the Small Business Administration, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, the Census Bureau, the Bureau of Economic Analysis and the Bureau of Labor

Statistics. The proposed new department would address trade and investment, small business and economic development, technology and innovation, and statistics. NARC will continue to brief its membership on the President's request and its potential impacts on local governments and regional planning as information becomes available.

REGIONS360

FRCA Launches New Website: The Florida Regional Councils Association has launched their new website: www.flregionalcouncils.org.

Transportation Summit: The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is hosting the 18th Transportation Summit on Friday, March 30th. Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

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@drcog.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@rvcog.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 or 202.986.1032 x225

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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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 5th, 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 or 617-524-9239.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Making an Impact on Energy Use in Your Community Webinar

January 18, 2012, 1:00pm ET: EPA's Green Power Communities and Local Climate and Energy Program Green Power Partners will co-host a webinar with EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program to highlight how municipalities from around the country are leveraging EPA programs to reduce the impacts of their communities' energy use. For more information and registration, click [HERE](#).

Getting Economic Growth, Energy Security and Environmental Benefits on the Same Page: a REMI Webinar

January 18, 2012, 2:00pm ET: The speakers will be Thomas D. Peterson, President and CEO of the Center for Climate Strategies (CCS), Dr. Adam Rose, Research Professor and Dr. Dan Wei, Research Assistant Professor, both of the School of Policy, Planning, and Development at USC. Their presentation is titled: "Getting Economic Growth, Energy Security and Environmental Benefits on the Same Page," and will summarize CCS' recent work enabling stakeholders and policy makers to evaluate "triple win" policies that spur economic growth, enhance energy security and provide environmental benefits. There is no charge to attend the webinar, though advanced registration is required. If you would like to attend, please click [HERE](#) to register online.

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](#).

EDA Webinar: Building Disaster Resilient Economies

Thursday, January 26, 2012, 2pm ET

The U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), with the National

Association of Development Organizations (NADO), the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) and the Business Civic Leadership Center (BCLC), will host a webinar showcasing successful EDA-funded projects on post-disaster economic recovery, as well as information related to a new federal funding opportunity. Registration and additional information is available [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.

Working with Your Local Electric Utility Webinar

February 8, 2:00-3:00pm ET: This webinar will provide local government representatives an opportunity to hear directly from a panel of SEPA member electrical utility representatives about the opportunities and limitations pertaining to increased amounts of distributed solar electricity and how they have worked successfully with local governments to implement best practices and policies around solar development and interconnection. This webinar is free of charge; register [HERE](#).

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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