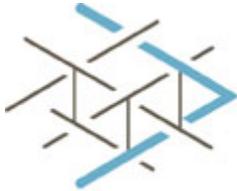


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 3, January 18, 2011

eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

President James 'Jim'
Townsend,

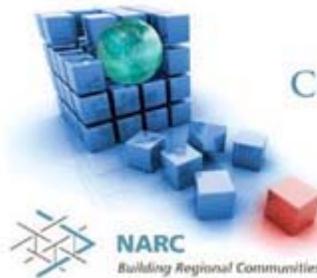
Judge/Executive,
Webster County,
Kentucky

Chair Charles 'Chick'
Krautler,

Executive Directors
Council

Director, Atlanta
Regional Commission

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



2011 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 13-15, 2011

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

I was with our Florida members last week at their recent state association meeting in Tallahassee and headed to visit with the New York Metropolitan MPO in NYC this week.

One theme arising out of these conversations with

The agenda has been updated! You're invited to join local elected officials, Councils of Government and Metropolitan Planning Organizations from around the country at the 2011 National Conference of Regions - *Renewing the Regional Commitment*. Click [HERE](#) to access the current draft agenda; click [HERE](#) to register or contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information.

PROGRAM UPDATE

Contribute to USDA-Funded Payments for Watershed Services Survey:
EcoAgriculture Partners, with support from the U.S. Department of Agriculture

our regions is the need to communicate with the newly elected Congress, of which ninety-three members are new. With the House spending more time in their districts, this is a perfect opportunity to showcase the importance of your regions, local governments, projects and programs. The reason this grassroots communication is necessary is the overwhelming work this Congress will be doing on budget reduction. Programs have been targeted for elimination, core local programs for reduction and general cost cutting efforts are being seen agency wide. I am not espousing one philosophy over another but having a well-informed delegation is always important to ensuring tax dollars are spent wisely and for the best possible affect in your communities.

A recent report in the [Economist](#), using BLS numbers, indicates economic gains in some regions and loses in others. The overall effect is spotty recovery nationwide, mostly concentrated in

(USDA) Office of Environmental Markets and the U.S. Endowment for Forestry and Communities, is conducting a study on payments for watershed services (PWS). They seek to document local government or other entities' PWS projects that compensate farm, ranch or forest landowners for watershed-friendly land management practices. Click [here](#) to access more information on the project, or click [here](#) to access the survey directly.

ETA Releases New Report on Workforce Data: The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL), Employment and Training Administration (ETA), [Office of Workforce Investment has released a new report: Guide to State and Local Workforce: For Analysis and Informed Decision Making](#). This report provides links to a wealth of state and local employment and economic data — virtually all free — from government and private sector sources; combining several features that make it uniquely valuable. Contact [Frank Gallo](#), U.S. DOL ETA for additional information.

POLICYUPDATE

The House resumes legislative activities. The Senate is in recess until January 25.

President Obama Calls for Federal Regulation Review: Today, President Obama issued an executive order and memo to streamline federal regulations, removing outdated or economically damaging rules. The executive order reaffirms existing protocols, which require federal agencies to periodically review existing regulations. The memo was sent to all federal agencies and requires them to put compliance information online within 120 days, and then to make it searchable, as well as to look for ways to reduce regulatory burdens on small businesses. Click [HERE](#) for the executive order; Click [HERE](#) for the memo.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

U.S. EPA Accepting Applications for SmartWay Program – Deadline:
February 10, 2011

The U.S. EPA's SmartWay Program and National Clean Diesel Campaign are announcing the availability of funding assistance to create finance programs, such as low-cost leases or revolving loan programs, to achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions throughout the United States. The SmartWay

professional services. The article provides one answer for why the rich have gotten richer: "Partly because fewer college-educated workers lost their jobs during the recession, so lower unemployment rates in some cities simply reflect a brainier citizenry... But Ed Glaeser, an economist, argues that clusters of clever workers themselves enhance productivity." Key to these findings is clearly creating a stronger higher education policy, core training and diversification of economies.

See you in February,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abouseman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Policy Manager

Sylvia Bryant

Office Manager

Naomi Friedman

Project Director

Jenee Kresge

Program Analyst

Lindsey Riley

Member Services

Manager

Erika Young

Transportation Director

Finance Program is soliciting proposals for projects that reduce diesel emissions through the creation of national, tribal, regional, state or local finance program(s). Finance programs include, but are not limited to, those that provide the loan recipient a specific financial incentive (i.e., longer terms or lower rates) to purchase or lease eligible retrofitted vehicles or equipment. The proposed finance program should maximize the total project funds available for financing eligible diesel emission reduction solutions and be sustainable to maintain the program. Eligible entities include regional, state, local, or tribal agencies or port authorities with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality, and certain non-profit organizations and institutions.

U.S. EPA Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Funding

Assistance Program - Deadline: January 27, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requests proposals for the Clean Diesel Emerging Technologies Funding Assistance Program. This RFP will support projects that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions in terms of tons of pollution produced and diesel emissions exposure, particularly from fleets operating in areas designated by the Administrator as poor air quality areas. Eligible diesel emission reduction solutions are listed on the Emerging Technologies List, available by clicking [HERE](#). For more info, click [HERE](#).

U.S. HUD to Award \$25 Million through New Rural Innovation Fund –

Deadline: February 23, 2011

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) **announced** that \$25,750,000 will be available for grants made through the Rural Innovation Fund (RIF). RIF replaces HUD's former Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, and will award grants on a competitive basis to state housing finance agencies, community development corporations, state community and/or economic development agencies, local rural non-profit organizations, federally recognized Indian tribes and consortia of these eligible groups. Successful grant applications will propose new and innovative solutions to poor housing conditions and concentrated poverty in rural and tribal areas. HUD is particularly interested in proposals that incorporate an "entrepreneurial approach" to addressing these problems. Eligible housing and economic development activities include: Commissioning architectural and engineering plans; Construction of innovative new housing units; Demolition and/or rehabilitation of existing housing units to increase sustainability and/or energy efficiency; Land acquisition; Homeownership counseling Revolving loan programs and microlending programs to establish or grow local businesses and create jobs; and, Direct financial assistance in the form of grants, loans and funding for

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Individual Development Accounts (IDAs) for affordable housing, entrepreneurship and economic development leading to job opportunities. Additional information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

FY11 Environmental Workforce Development Grants Available: *Deadline: March 18, 2011*

The U.S. EPA recently announced the availability of \$4 million to fund approximately 13 awards of up to \$300,000 each. Regional councils are specifically named as eligible applicants for the awards, which will support the delivery of environmental workforce development and job training programs focused on hazardous and solid waste management, assessment and cleanup-associated activities. Additional information is available [HERE](#) or at www.grants.gov.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Transportation and Land Use Webinar

February 8, 2011, 12:00-2:00 pm ET: NARC and the National League of Cities will host the next NARC Transportation Committee webinar, focusing on best practice examples of how regions are linking transportation and land use, and how local elected officials can play a role in developing the regions they represent. The agenda is forthcoming. NARC members can attend for free; click [HERE](#) to register.

10th Annual New Partners for Smart Growth Conference

February 3-5, 2011, Charlotte, NC: Today, more than ever, we are faced with environmental and economic challenges that will define our generation, shape our future, and test our resilience as cities, regions, states and a nation. Join leaders from across the U.S. as we tackle these challenges head-on and demonstrate smart growth solutions that will reduce our dependence on foreign oil, create a green economy, assure a healthy population, and expand transportation and housing options for all Americans. There will be something for everybody, from veteran experts to smart-growth novices, with nearly 90 sessions and workshops. Plan to join us, and others, from across the U.S. for the smart growth event of the year! Visit www.NewPartners.org to get more details.

2011 Good Jobs Green Jobs Conference

February 8-10, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC and its *Pathways Out of Poverty* project team will present a workshop on February 8th on the importance of partnerships in regional workforce and economic development

programs, entitled "Partnerships and Pathways: Keys to Success in Regional Green Jobs Training and Placement." The 2011 Conference is the leading forum for sharing ideas and strategies for building a green economy that creates good jobs, reduces global warming and other environmental problems, and secures America's economic and environmental future. Click [here](#) for a full conference agenda and registration information.

2011 National Conference of Regions

February 13-15, 2011, Washington, DC: NARC will host its 2011 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 register for the conference.

2011 Green Infrastructure Conference

February 23-25, 2011, Shepherdstown, WV: The Conservation Fund and its partners will host speakers from across the country to discuss key elements for success and vital lessons-learned. Featured topics include green infrastructure and public health, social equity, transportation, economic development, climate change and more. For more information please click [here](#).

2011 National Brownfields Conference

April 3-5, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: What began as a response to an overwhelming brownfields concern has become one of the largest environmental conferences in the United States. A partnership between the U.S. EPA and the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has developed the National Brownfields Conference into the premier international forum focused on redeveloping America's brownfield properties and promoting environmental revitalization and economic redevelopment. Registration is free; visit www.brownfields2011.org for more details.

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