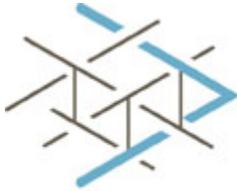


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVEBRIEF

Colleagues,

My wife and I had the honor of attending an award ceremony for President Clinton at American University, where he received their "[Wonk of the Year](#)" Award. He lectured of the wonders of the modern world and how the problems of today

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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 Releases New Water Pollution Tool: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released a new tool, the "Discharge Monitoring Report Pollutant Loading Tool," that provides the public with information about pollutants that are released into local waterways. The tool brings together millions of records and allows for searching and mapping of water pollution by

pale in comparison to the opportunity facing us – unlocking the mystery of the human genome for example. “I would do anything to be 20 again,” he told the audience and, “to be able to be part of what’s coming would be amazing.” I paraphrase the President, but I was inspired to remember that even in this dark economic time our Nation is capable of great things! Congratulations President Clinton and thank you for the reality check.

To further discuss the course of our nation for the next few years, we have lined-up six major keynotes and number of committee and session speakers for next month’s National Conference of Regions. Presentation and discussion topics include surface transportation authorization, work force development policy, emergency management funding and the White House agenda, among many others. I hope you’ll all be with us for this seminal event.

local area, watershed, company, industry sector, and pollutant. This tool helps identify facilities and industries that are discharging the most pollution and impacting waterbodies. Click [HERE](#) to access the tool.

Open Comment Period for Proposed EDA Regulations Ends Next

Monday: Comment Period Closes February 6, 2012. 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](#). *Note: Despite service disruptions for EDA email and websites, the links above and comment submission site remains online at this time.*

New Resources For The Development Of Clean Energy On

Contaminated Sites: The EPA, Department of Energy and the National Association of Local Government Environmental Professionals have developed resources for local governments to cultivate renewable energy on potential contaminated and underutilized sites. Resources can be found [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

Transportation Legislation This Week: In Congress, the Senate Banking and Finance Committees are rumored to be introducing and acting on their legislation this week. In the House of Representatives, three committees are expected to take action next week. The House Natural Resources Committee is expected to vote on their portion of the legislation on February 1, 2012. The House Transportation and Infrastructure (T&I) Committee has indicated that they will introduce their legislation on Friday, January 27, 2012 and vote on it in committee on February 2, 2012. The House Ways and Means Committee will vote on their revenue titles on February 3, 2012. Currently, it is expected that the House will schedule time to consider the entire transportation authorization and the revenue recommendations during the week of February 13, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the proposed House T&I legislation and [HERE](#) for more in-depth information.

Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones: Congressman Geoff Davis (R-KY, 4) introduced [H.R. 3780](#) to amend the federal tax code to allow for the establishment of Regional Infrastructure Improvement Zones (RIIZs). RIIZs

Best,
Fred

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would allow businesses or individuals in a community to contribute tax-deductible funds towards the construction or maintenance of public infrastructure – defined as surface transportation, water, waste water and storm water – if that infrastructure is part of an approved regional plan. This effort was led by the Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana Regional Council of Governments in conjunction with NARC. For additional information, contact Shannon Baxevanis, at shannon@narc.org or click [HERE](#).

State of the Union: Last week, the President delivered his State of the Union. Click [HERE](#) to access NARC's one-page summary on the President's priorities.

Federal Budget: The President will release his FY13 budget on Monday, February 13, a week late. The President has asked agencies to identify five percent in cuts with an eye for an additional five percent. Meanwhile, the House is working on several pieces of legislation to change and guide the budget process.

REGIONS360

Federal Plan Could Pick Up Where Redevelopment Left Off: Regional Infrastructure Investment Zones (RIIZs) are discussed as an alternative to redevelopment agencies in the San Gabriel Valley. Click [HERE](#) to access the article.

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.

PARTNERUPDATE

Nuclear Energy Stakeholders Welcome Blue Ribbon Commission Report to DOE: The final report of the Blue Ribbon Commission on America's

Nuclear Future has been released. The Nuclear Energy Institute, a NARC Corporate Partner, and their partners are committed to establishing a sustainable, integrated program to manage used nuclear fuel from commercial reactors that produce carbon-free electricity for one in five American homes and businesses. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the report and its recommendations.

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

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

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](#).

Get the Right Answers from Your Police and Fire Chiefs - Full Day Workshop

March 15, 2012, Palo Alto, CA: Policy decisions involving your police and fire departments could have huge public safety implications, but these departments are the toughest from which to get accurate, measurable information. Join us for a full day ICMA University Workshop, Asking Your Police and Fire Chief the Right Questions to Get the Right Answers, to learn how to understand the needs of your jurisdiction's public safety agencies and employ methods to evaluate their performance; reduce costs and improve services. The workshop will include an expanded presentation about workload analysis and EMS sections and include a discussion of mergers and consolidations including public safety departments. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register.

Transportation Summit

March 30, 2012, Toledo, OH: 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.

Get the Right Answers from Your Police and Fire Chiefs - Full Day Workshop

April 20, 2012, Lake Forest, IL: Policy decisions involving your police and fire departments could have huge public safety implications, but these departments are the toughest from which to get accurate, measurable information. Join us for a full day ICMA University Workshop, Asking Your Police and Fire Chief the Right Questions to Get the Right Answers, to learn how to understand the needs of your jurisdiction's public safety agencies and employ methods to evaluate their performance; reduce costs and improve services. The workshop will include an expanded presentation about workload analysis and EMS sections and include a discussion of mergers and consolidations including public safety departments. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register.

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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