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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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



Registration Now Open! Early-bird ends on March 23rd.

A draft agenda will be available soon.

Click [HERE](#) for registration, hotel and sponsorship information.

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar: Federal Surface

Transportation Authorization: NARC will host its monthly

Transportation Committee webinar on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 12:00-2:00 pm ET. NARC and several partners will provide an update on current events and issues surrounding the federal surface transportation authorization. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda; and [HERE](#) to

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues
of *eRegions*, **visit our**
website.

Make NARC your
homepage —
click here to learn how.

register for this free webinar.

NARC Webinar: Are Regions Adapting to Climate Change?: NARC will host this webinar on Thursday, March 15, 2012 from 1:00-2:00 pm ET. The organization is wrapping up a multi-year project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to understand what regional organizations are doing to adapt to climate change. Different from mitigation, adaptation is focused on the planning actions and strategies that can be implemented to respond to the impacts of climate change (e.g., flooding, extreme weather events, drought, sea level rise). The study included a survey of regional organizations, a joint NOAA-NARC workshop, and case study research. Join this FREE webinar to learn about and discuss the key findings of this study, including an analysis of survey results and comments from the case study organizations. Join this free webinar to learn about and discuss the key findings of this study, as well as insights into the experiences of two regional organizations that have done adaptation planning work: Houston-Galveston Area Council and Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. Click **HERE** to register.

EPA Launches New Green Infrastructure Website: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Water announced the release of its new Green Infrastructure website to better communicate the green infrastructure to municipalities, developers, and the general public. The site offers publications and tools developed by EPA, state and local governments, the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and academic institutions. Click **HERE** to access the website.

Southwest Solar Transformation Initiative Newsletter: Funding by the U.S. Department of Energy, the Southwest Solar Transformation Initiative (SSTI) has published their newsletter. The SSTI is a program designed to spur solar market deployment by streamlining permitting processes and improving market conditions. For additional information, please contact **ssti@solarroadmap.com**. Click **HERE** to access the newsletter.

NACo/NACE Infrastructure Survey: The National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) have published a joint survey, *Fixing It: Infrastructure and the Economy*. Findings include: 81% of responding county engineers report that they have deferred maintenance since the beginning of the economic slowdown; and 98% of the same respondents report that some

of their roads are in poor and/or fair condition. Click [HERE](#) to access NACo's press release, as well as information about how to access the survey.

Ohio Analysis of Economic Potential of Shale Gas: Click [HERE](#) to access an analysis by the Ohio State University on the economic potential of shale gas in the state.

NARC Green Infrastructure Survey Summary: NARC recently surveyed its members about green infrastructure activities on the regional level as part of their work with the *Green Infrastructure Assessment* project with the U.S. Forest Service and Virginia Tech University. The *Green Infrastructure Assessment* project seeks to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the institutional support system for green infrastructure planning and implementation in the U.S. Attached is a draft summary of the NARC survey findings. Click [HERE](#) to access a summary of the findings.

POLICYUPDATE

Senate is in session. House is not in session.

House Works on Budget Plan: Majority members of the House Budget Committee continue to work on their FY13 budget plan, which will look at addressing necessary funding reductions required by the 2011 Budget Control Act. Starting in January 2013, \$109 billion must be reduced in spending.

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. Please note that registration is now open; exhibitor information is available [HERE](#).

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

Landscape Conservation Peer Exchange Program

Application Deadline: March 16, 2012

The Regional Plan Association (RPA) is seeking statements of interest from landscape conservation practitioners in the 13-state Northeast megaregion to receive up to \$25,000 of funding to participate in a nine-month peer exchange program. The Landscape Conservation Peer Exchange Program seeks to pair established organizations or initiatives with a proven track record of success in landscape conservation with emerging organizations or programs with extraordinary promise and commitment. The goal of the program is to help further the practice of landscape conservation. Applications are due Friday, March 16th at 5pm. To apply, click [HERE](#).

U.S. DOL Workforce Innovation Fund Grant Opportunity

Application Due: March 22, 2012

The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Employment and Training Administration, will award approximately \$98.5 million in Workforce Innovation Fund grants to support innovative approaches to the design and delivery of employment and training services that generate long-term improvements in the performance of the public workforce system, both in terms of outcomes for job seeker and employer customers and cost-effectiveness. Grants are awarded at three tiered funding levels for new and untested ideas (\$1-3 million per award), promising ideas (\$3-6 million per award) and adapting proven ideas (\$6-12 million per award). Additional information and links to download the SGA can be found [HERE](#).

EPA to Provide \$15 Million to Help Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems

Applications Due: April 9, 2012

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will provide up to \$15 million in funding for training and technical assistance to small drinking and wastewater systems, defined as systems that serve fewer than 10,000 people, and private well owners. Most of the funding, up to \$14.5 million, will provide training and technical assistance to small public water systems to achieve and maintain compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act and to small publicly-owned wastewater systems, communities served by on-site systems, and private well owners to improve water quality. EPA expects to make available up to \$500,000 to provide training and technical assistance to tribally-owned and operated public water systems. EPA expects to award these cooperative agreements by Summer 2012. For more information about these competitive announcements, click [HERE](#).

HUD Choice Neighborhood Grant Applications Available

Deadline: May 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development has announced the availability of Choice Neighborhood Planning Grants. The planning grants can be used to create a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy to transform public or assisted housing within a distressed neighborhood. Public Housing Authorities, local governments, tribal entities, nonprofits and for-profits that apply jointly with a public entity may apply. Click [HERE](#) for more information and [HERE](#) for a direct link to the Notice of Funding Availability.

Roadmaps to Health Community Grants

Deadline: May 2, 2012

The Roadmaps to Health Community Grants program will support communities to implement policy or system changes to address one of the social or economic factors that, as defined by the County Health Rankings, most strongly influence health outcomes in their community. These include: education; employment and income; family and social support; and community safety. Grantees will be organizations that participate in established coalitions or networks that span multiple sectors and perspectives and may include representatives from business; education; public health; health care; community organizations; community members; policy advocates; foundations; and policy-makers. Applicants must engage community members in the planning and implementation of projects, and must collaborate with organizations having expertise in improving the health of the public. Applicants must secure 100 percent matching support, including a cash match of at least 50 percent with the balance as in-kind support. Deadline: Brief proposals May 2, 2012. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Grant Opportunity

Application Deadline: May 9, 2012

The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge is a multi-agency effort that will give out approximately 20 awards to projects that benefit rural communities. Funds awarded can be used to support a range of projects including improving rural communities' ability to undertake or accelerate projects related to housing, community facilities, or economic and community development along with the creation of regional linkages that connect communities with innovation clusters and regional opportunities leading to job creation, expanded markets and economic

growth. Nonprofits, higher education institutions, tribes and state and local governments can collaborate to apply for funding. For more information including, a link to register for a prospective applicant webinar on Tuesday, March 20, click [HERE](#). To apply or access the full grant announcement click [HERE](#).

Community Forest and Open Space Program

Application Deadline: May 15, 2012

The Community Forest and Open Space Program has issued a request for applications to provide funding to local governments, Tribal governments, and qualified nonprofit entities to establish community forests that provide continuing and accessible community benefits. Total CFP funding is \$3.15 million and individual grant applications may not exceed \$400,000. For more information or to apply, click [HERE](#).

Climate Change and Health: Assessing and Modeling Population Vulnerability to Climate Change

Application Deadline: May 24, 2012

This Funding Opportunity Announcement is being issued by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS) of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) with participation from the following NIH components: FIC, NCI, NCMHD NHLBI, NIA, NIBIB, NICHD, NLM and OBSSR. It encourages research applications to examine the differential risk factors of populations that lead to or are associated with increased vulnerability to exposures, diseases and other adverse health outcomes related to climate change. Applications may involve either applied research studies that address specific hypotheses about risk factors or population characteristics associated with increased vulnerability, or research projects to develop general models or methods for identifying and characterizing population vulnerability to climate change. The ultimate goal of this research program is to help inform climate change adaptation and public health interventions to reduce current and future vulnerability of various populations to the health effects of climate change. Applications are anticipated to involve a multidisciplinary research team, including experts in health sciences and climatology as well as geography, modeling, statistics, demography, and social and behavioral sciences as appropriate. In addition, partnerships with community-based or advocacy organizations, public health officials, urban planners and others are encouraged. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar: Federal Surface Transportation Authorization

March 13, 2012, 12:00 pm ET: NARC will host its monthly Transportation Committee webinar on Tuesday, March 13, 2012 from 12:00-2:00 pm ET. NARC and several partners will provide an update on current events and issues surrounding the federal surface transportation authorization. Click [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda; and [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

Saving with Solar: Understanding Retail Solar Power Purchase Agreements Webinar

March 15, 2012, 2:00 pm ET: This webinar will provide a summary of where and under what conditions, retail Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) work in the U.S. The discussion will mention the intricacies that affect the legality of retail PPAs, including highlighting financial issues. This webinar is free of charge; register [HERE](#).

Are Regions Adapting to Climate Change? Webinar

March 15, 2012, 1:00 pm ET: NARC is wrapping up a multi-year project funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to understand what regional organizations are doing to adapt to climate change. Different from mitigation, adaptation is focused on the planning actions and strategies that can be implemented to respond to the impacts of climate change (e.g., flooding, extreme weather events, drought, sea level rise). The study included a survey of regional organizations, a joint NOAA-NARC workshop, and case study research. Join this free webinar to learn about and discuss the key findings of this study, including an analysis of survey results and comments from the case study organizations. Click [HERE](#) to register.

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. Click [HERE](#) for details and to register.

The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge Applicant Webinar

March 20, 2012, 3:00-4:30 pm ET: The Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge is a multi-agency effort that will give out approximately 20 awards to projects that benefit rural communities. Funds awarded can be used to support a range of projects including improving rural communities' ability to undertake or accelerate projects related to housing, community facilities, or economic and community development along with the creation of regional linkages that connect communities with innovation clusters and regional opportunities leading to job creation, expanded markets and economic growth. Nonprofits, higher education institutions, tribes and state and local governments can collaborate to apply for funding. For more information including, a link to register for a prospective applicant webinar on Tuesday, March 20, click [HERE](#).

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. 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 is available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

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 an 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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