

NARCLEADERSHIP

President Stephen Cassano,
Selectman,

Town of Manchester, CT

Chair Anthony Reams,

Executive Directors Council
President, Toledo Metropolitan
Area Council of Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The 2010 Board of Directors election information has been released. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

We've had another busy week at NARC with three significant events to highlight. President Steve Cassano and I met with the National Workforce Association to discuss the authorization of the Workforce Investment Act and other opportunities for collaboration on workforce issues.

President Elect James Townsend testified on behalf of regions around the country to the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee on the authorization of surface transportation programs. His testimony is available [HERE](#).

Vice President and EDC Chair Anthony Reams also convened our National Advisory Council on Green Career Pathways. Included on the Council are national experts in building performance, wind projects, air conditioning, heating, refrigeration, solar installation, and HVAC education, as well as national partners Monster Government Solutions, ICF Macro, and regional representatives from Ohio, Texas and Arizona. The Council

NARC 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition

*Cleveland, OH
June 15-17, 2010*



Early Bird Registration Ends Wednesday, March 31st!

The **National Association of Regional Councils** and the **Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency** will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Recently released information:

[Board of Director Election Information](#)

(Executive Directors Council election information will be available in the next week.)

[Draft Conference Agenda](#)

Updated March 18, 2010

[NARC 2010 NARC Achievement and Leadership Award Information:](#)

Hurry—the deadline to submit is April 15, 2010!

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website and registration information.

NARC PROGRAM

FCC Sends Congress National Broadband Plan: Earlier this week, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) sent Congress a National Broadband Plan to connect the nation while transforming the economy and society. Titled "[Connecting America: The National Broadband Plan](#)," the Plan sets America's 2020 Broadband Vision and calls for action over the next decade with the following goals and recommendations:

- Connect 100 million households to affordable 100-megabits-per-second service, building the world's largest market of high-speed broadband users and ensuring that new jobs and businesses are created in America.
- Affordable access in every American community to ultra-high-speed broadband of at least 1 gigabit per second at anchor institutions such as schools, hospitals, and military installations so that America is hosting the experiments that produce tomorrow's ideas and industries.
- Ensure that the United States is leading the world in mobile innovation by making 500 megahertz of spectrum newly available for licensed and unlicensed use.
- Move our adoption rates from roughly 65 percent to more than 90 percent and make sure that every child in America is digitally literate by the time he or she leaves high school.
- Bring affordable broadband to rural communities, schools, libraries and vulnerable populations by transitioning existing Universal Service Fund support

representatives from Ohio, Texas and Arizona. The Council will guide new investment and opportunities in labor, energy and training from the national level to support regional institutions and assist local communities and citizens in retaining and creating new jobs.

We greatly appreciate all the time NARC members and leadership put into continuing to promote the Regional Agenda.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Make NARC your homepage —

- Bring affordable broadband to rural communities, schools, libraries and vulnerable populations by transitioning existing Universal Service Fund support from yesterday's analog technologies to tomorrow's digital infrastructure.
- Promote competition across the broadband ecosystem by ensuring greater transparency, removing barriers to entry, and conducting market-based analysis with quality data on price, speed and availability.
- Enhance the safety of the American people by providing every first responder with access to a nationwide, wireless, interoperable public safety network.

Article: Preparing For Mandatory Greenhouse Gas Reporting: Click [HERE](#) to read an article that discusses what and how local governments might have to track and report greenhouse gas emissions.

EPA Launches Web Forum on Protecting America's Waters: EPA announced that it is seeking public input on how the Agency can better protect and improve the health of our waters. For a two- week period, EPA is holding a [Web discussion forum](#) on how the nation can better manage some of the most significant water pollution problems facing our nation. The feedback received on the online forum will help shape the discussion at EPA's upcoming conference on April 15, [Coming Together for Clean Water](#), where EPA will engage approximately 100 executive and local level water leads on the agency's clean water agenda. EPA wants to receive input on water quality issues about best solutions—from planning, scientific tools, low impact development, to green infrastructure and beyond—in controlling water pollution and how resources can be better focused to improve these efforts.

BLS Public Comment Period Open for Green Jobs Definition: The Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) is requesting public comments on its proposed definition of green jobs. This definition, which includes seven green economic activity categories and four categories for green jobs and services, will be used to measure green jobs activity in the economy. Specifically, BLS is looking for comments on:

- The composition of the set of seven economic activities in which green jobs are involved
- The composition of the set of four types of green goods and services, including:
- Whether the distribution of green goods should be included as green services
- Whether the preparation and sale of organic food by restaurants and food service industries should be included as green services
- The apportioning of employment at establishments producing green and non-green outputs into green and non-green jobs using revenue share

The definition and information on how to provide commentary to BLS can be found by clicking [HERE](#). Comments are due by April 30, 2010.

Is your regional council planning for your regional food network? If you have or are developing a program that involves planning for your region's food production and supply, please complete the short survey found [HERE](#). NARC is working to support our members in their work in regional food network planning and implementation programs and we need your assistance in surveying the programs that currently exist across the country, in order to better represent our members' needs for support in this area. For more information on NARC's work in regional food network planning, or with any questions about the [survey](#), please contact Jenee Kresge at jenee@NARC.org or 202.986.1032 x215.

NARC GIS User Group: NARC has created a NARC GIS User Group for GIS managers and technicians. The purpose of the group is to collaborate with other GIS managers and technicians from regional planning organizations across the country to open a dialogue and share information among one another. This group is open to all individuals, but focused on those GIS managers and technicians. If you are interested in learning more or joining, please contact Jenee Kresge, jenee@narc.org.

NARCPOLICY

President Obama Signs Jobs Bill: On Thursday, President Obama signed a jobs bill – HR 2847, the Hiring Incentives to Restore Employment (HIRE) Act. The legislation will extend highway and transit program through December 31, 2010, and it will transfer \$19.5 billion to the Highway Trust Fund from the General Fund, keeping SAFETEA-LU programs funded at FY09 levels, as well as restoring \$8.7 billion in rescinded contract authority that had been taken at the end of FY09. Capital investment grants for federal transit programs (including metropolitan and state planning and research programs) are also

levels, as well as restoring \$8.7 billion in rescinded contract authority that had been taken at the end of FY09. Capital investment grants for federal transit programs (including metropolitan and state planning and research programs) are also extended through the end of this calendar year. Also, smaller towns and municipalities who issue certain tax-exempt bonds may be eligible for a refundable tax credit on clean renewable bonds and school construction bonds if they are issued before January 1, 2011. Click [HERE](#) for a summary.

Senate Working to Finish FAA Reauthorization Next Week; House Passes Extension: The Senate is looking to finish the Federal Aviation Administration reauthorization bill (HR 1586 – the vehicle for reauthorization) some time early next week, aiming for a final vote on Monday, March 22. The FAA is currently operating under a temporary authorization extension (P.L. 111-116), which is scheduled to expire on March 31, 2010. The reauthorization will cover the fiscal years 2010 and 2011 for the four major accounts of the FAA and the Airport Improvement Program (AIP) at increased levels. Much of the recent delay in the bill is due to Senate discussion on adding extra slots for flights into the local Reagan National Airport. The House passed its FAA reauthorization (HR 915) last May. Once the bill is passed by the Senate, a House-Senate conference committee will be established to reconcile a final bill.

Meanwhile, the House passed legislation on Wednesday to temporarily extend the authorization for the FAA and to modify the distribution of certain highway funds on the verge of being awarded to states. The bill, HR 4853 would change how certain funds for highway, mass transit and road safety programs would be distributed under in the jobs bill (HR 2847), which the President signed on Thursday. The highway funding formula change prevents what Chairman Oberstar (D-MN) views as inequitable funding distribution to only a few states.

New Senate Climate Change Bill Outlined: Earlier this week, a new Senate climate change effort, led by Senators Kerry (D-MA), Graham (R-SC) and Lieberman (I-CT), was outlined and circulated this week, detailing a proposal to rebate to consumers half the revenue from selling pollution allowances. The measure would set a mandatory cap on carbon emissions across the economy but would apply different sets of regulations to different polluting sectors. Senator Kerry is prepared to send detailed legislative language late next week to the EPA and the Congressional Budget Office for analysis of the impact on the economy and federal deficit, with an unveiling of a final bill in about mid-April. The final bill is expected to include:

- An economy-wide cap on carbon emissions that would begin in 2012, with a target of reducing carbon pollution 17 percent by 2020 and 80 percent by 2050;
- Separate caps on carbon emissions by the electric utilities and manufacturing sectors, which would have to buy pollution permits from the federal government;
- A straight fee or tax, paid by consumers at the pump, on transportation fuels. The levy would be linked to the carbon content of the fuel and the price of carbon in the other markets;
- A combination for the regulated sectors of a cap-and-trade model, under which polluters could trade pollution permits on an open market, and a “cap and dividend” model, which would return revenue from the sale of permits directly to consumers;
- Direct rebates to consumers of half the revenue from the sale of pollution permits;
- Delay until 2016 in starting the phase-in of carbon caps on manufacturers;
- Application of a “carbon tariff” to imports of goods from countries that do not regulate their carbon emissions;
- A “hard collar” on the price of emission permits of no less than \$10 per ton of carbon emitted and no more than \$30 per ton. The government would keep a strategic reserve of 4 billion credits and would flood the market if the carbon price exceeded \$30 per ton. The price would be indexed to inflation rates and would rise over time;
- A threshold of 25,000 tons of carbon per year before a polluter would be subject to regulation;
- A single federal system to cap emissions, pre-empting separate state limits; and,
- Sections or titles devoted to oil refining, farming, coal, clean energy innovation, and increasing production of nuclear energy and oil and natural gas drilling.

Support Livable Communities: Both the House (HR 4690) and Senate (S1619) have bills supporting the regional role in building livable communities with their local governments. The legislation seeks to reinvigorate regional comprehensive planning and implementation for regions of all sizes and make ups. We urge all regional planning organizations and their boards of local elected officials to send letters of support to your Congressional delegation urging their endorsement by showcasing the on-the-ground benefits of this legislation for your region. Click [HERE](#) for a summary of the bills. Click [HERE](#) to access a letter for your region to personalize. For more information or assistance with an endorsement, please contact Shannon Menard at shannon@NARC.org or 202.986.1032, x217.

The APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch (EMD) Program. Comprehensive. Customized. Cost-Effective: The public expects 9-1-1 telecommunicators to be prepared for the unexpected. **Are yours?** Give your staff the essential tool for effective response to critical situations—The [APCO Institute Emergency Medical Dispatch Program](#). With in person and online training opportunities, your personnel will be certified to present the EMD course within your agency and begin using customized EMD Guidecards and/or APCO's customized software program. Click [HERE](#) to learn more. at: For questions, contact: APCO Institute at institute@apco911.org or call (888) 272-6911.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

NACo now accepting applications for coastal county initiative grants: *Deadline: March 29, 2010.* The Coastal Counties Restoration Initiative (CCRI) program, a partnership between the National Association of Counties (NACo) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will be accepting applications for the 2010 round of funding. CCRI will provide between \$50,000-\$100,000 to improve stream, river, estuarine and other important marine habitats, and remove barriers such as dams and culverts for fish migration and passage. For more information, please click [HERE](#).

EPA Accepting Applications for National Award for Smart Growth Achievement and for Smart Growth Implementation Assistance: *Deadline: April 5, 2010:* The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is now accepting applications for the 2010 National Award for Smart Growth Achievement. This competition is open to public- and private-sector entities that have successfully used smart growth principles to improve communities environmentally, socially and economically. For more information about the award program and how to apply, click [HERE](#).

EPA Accepting Letters of Interest for the 2010 Round of the Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program. *Deadline: April 9, 2010.* EPA, with the assistance of HUD and DOT, is offering direct technical assistance from national experts to communities, tribes, regions, and states that want to incorporate smart growth techniques in their development. EPA is also interested in identifying and documenting innovative solutions to complex problems faced by communities as they seek to incorporate smart growth practices. Letters of interest are due by 3:00 pm April 9, 2010. EPA expects to select up to 4 applicants for assistance this year. For more information about the 2010 application process, click [HERE](#).

EDA Announces Available Grant Funding: *Deadline: April 20, 2010.* EDA's Community Trade Adjustment Assistance (Community TAA) Program, which was created by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), is aimed at helping to create and retain jobs by providing project grants to communities that have experienced, or are threatened by, job loss resulting from international trade impacts. A total of \$37 million is available for grants to support a wide range of technical, planning, and infrastructure projects to help communities adapt to pressing trade impact issues and diversify their economies. Click [HERE](#) for more information on the program.

USDA Seeks Project Proposals to Improve Water Quality in Mississippi River Basin: *Deadline: May 1, 2010.* U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is seeking project proposals that will improve water quality and the overall health of the Mississippi River in 41 eligible watersheds in 12 states. The [Request for Proposals](#) (RFP) for the [Mississippi River Basin Healthy Watersheds Initiative](#), through which up to \$75 million will be available for partnership projects, was published in the [March 2 Federal Register](#). The RFP explains the procedures for potential partners to sign agreements with USDA for projects that meet with the initiative's objectives. USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service will administer this initiative, first announced on September 24, 2009. Forty-one eligible watersheds or focus areas in the following 12 states—Arkansas, Kentucky, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Wisconsin—were selected to participate in this initiative. Smaller watersheds within the initial 41 will be selected for approved partnership projects based on their potential for managing nitrogen and phosphorus—nutrients associated with impaired water quality in the Mississippi River Basin—while maintaining agricultural productivity and benefiting wildlife. Individual producers can only participate in this initiative in approved partnership projects. USDA will use a competitive process to distribute up to \$75 million using two conservation programs in fiscal year 2010, the initiative's first year. Up to \$50 million will come from the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative ([CCPI](#)) and an additional \$25 million from the Wetlands Reserve Enhancement Program ([WREP](#)). USDA expects to provide about \$320 million in financial assistance over four years for voluntary conservation projects in these watersheds.

Energy Efficient Building Systems Regional Innovation Cluster Initiative: *Deadline: May 6, 2010.* The Obama Administration today announced a multi-agency initiative to spur regional economic growth while making buildings more energy efficient. Seven federal agencies issued a combined Funding Opportunity Announcement of up to \$129.7 million over five years to create a regional research center that will develop new building efficiency technologies and work with local partners to implement the technologies in area buildings. Additional details and a link to the announcement are available by clicking [HERE](#).

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22-24, Philadelphia, PA: EDA Regional Training Event for the EDA Philadelphia Region 2010 Regional Economic Development Training Conference, "Building Strong Economies through Innovation, Entrepreneurship and Competitiveness." Click [HERE](#) to view the event Agenda and registration information.

March 23, Webconference, 1:00-2:30pm ET: The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a webconference titled *Local Government Collaboration: Success Stories and Lessons Learned*. Shared service arrangements bring local governments an opportunity for cost cutting and improving services. Collaboration is a way of working more effectively—especially for smaller cities and counties. This event will feature the Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission, the Green River Area Development District and the North Central Texas Council of Governments, and how local government collaborations helped to make the participating jurisdictions stronger and better able to provide services to the community. Additional details are available [HERE](#) and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

March 23, Webcast, 2:00-3:00pm ET: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Department of Energy will co-host a webcast, Portfolio Manager for EECBG Grantees and State and Local Governments. Participants will learn how to use ENERGY STAR Portfolio Manager (EPA's building energy benchmarking tool) for effective municipal building retrofit projects and efficiency programs for target markets in the community. Click [HERE](#) to register.

March 25, Webcast, 2:00-3:00pm ET: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a webcast: *Financing Energy Efficient Upgrades with Energy Star*. Attendees will learn about financing projects in the public and private sectors, the basics of performance contracting, and how EPA's tools and resources can help you make the decision to improve your facilities now or later. Click [HERE](#) to register.

March 29 and March 30, Washington, DC, 9:00am-12:00pm and 1:00-4:00pm: ICMA will host a *Ethics at Work* workshop. Based on the core values of public service, these three hour sessions are designed for local government managers and supervisors, and will provide the strategies and tools needed to foster an ethical organization. The workshop will provide skills to introduce and put to work ethics principles within your organization. Begin the work to establish an ethical culture today by registering online, [HERE](#).

March 31, Webcast, 2:00-4:00pm ET: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a webcast: *Using Smart Growth Strategies to Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions*, to provide an introduction to federal programs and resources related to smart growth. It will discuss how smart growth strategies can help communities use energy more efficiently; reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and provide other environmental, economic, and social benefits. Two communities will showcase how they successfully developed and implemented programs that integrate smart growth policies into community design. To register for this webcast click [HERE](#).

April 8, Webconference, 1:00-2:30pm ET: The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) will host a webconference titled *Let's Talk: Getting Citizens Involved in Tough Budget Choices*. This webconference will discuss how you can successfully involve citizens in making budget decisions, especially on really tough choices on service delivery. Discover how Washoe County, Nevada, launched two citizen-involved processes around budgeting—one to establish criteria that were used to prioritize services, and one to establish budget policies. Additional details are available [HERE](#) and registration information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

April 15, Webcast, 2:00-3:00pm ET: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will host a webcast: *K-12 Benchmarking 101*. This webcast will teach attendees the basics of benchmarking K-12 buildings using EPA's Portfolio Manager tool. Portfolio Manager can help measure and track energy and water use across an entire portfolio of buildings. Buildings can earn an energy performance rating compared with peer facilities across the country, and top-performing buildings are eligible for national recognition. Click [HERE](#) to register.

May 26-27, Washington, DC: The Coalition for America's Gateways and Trade Corridors will hold their 2010 Annual Meeting. Registration is free and open to non-members, but you must RSVP to Adrienne Gildea at agildea@blakey-agnew.com.

June 15-17, Cleveland, OH: Early-bird registration ends on March 31st! NARC and the Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency will host the 44th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Full conference details will be available on the conference website, available by clicking [HERE](#).

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