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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

On behalf of all our staff, our thoughts are with all the States currently affected by fire, tornado and storm. We hope everyone's families, friends and property are safe.

Erika Young and I are

[Register Today!](#)

Join your colleagues from around the country at the largest event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education - NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition. Click [HERE](#) to register or access the current draft agenda. Contact Lindsey Riley at lindsey@narc.org or 202.986.1032 x220 for more information. *If you are making travel arrangements, we recommend traveling on Sunday, June 12th and Thursday, June 16th. If you haven't already made your hotel arrangements, please do so as soon as possible. Hotel rooms are going fast!*

out this week attending the co-sponsored NACo, NLC, NARC Rail Summit in IL. Meanwhile, Shannon Baxevanis, Kristin Heery and Mia Colson will be discussing solar opportunity in Philadelphia.

We are still showing peak numbers for the Annual Conference in San Diego, so please continue to register and reserve your rooms.

This week I am also giving a presentation to the American Meteorological Society on work we are doing under contract with NOAA on the National Climate Change Assessment.

And of course, the news this morning warned of new danger from climate change – “peak coffee”. For those of you who enjoy a daily cup of coffee, prices are on the rise as (supposedly) climate change, demand from China and India, and other factors are both yielding a decline in production and a demand for supply. This seems to be the decade

PROGRAMUPDATE

Transportation Committee Webinar: NARC's next Transportation Committee webinar will be held on May 10, 2011 at 12:00 pm ET and will showcase how metropolitan planning organizations work with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The agenda is forthcoming, but registration is open; click [HERE](#) to register.

Solar America Communities Webinar: Join NARC in a discussion about the Solar America Communities Outreach Program on May 3, 2011 at 3:00pm ET. NARC is working with the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), International City/County Management Association (ICMA), the American Planning Association and ICLEI to increase the use and integration of solar energy technologies in regions and communities across the country. As the nation's centers of electricity consumption, regions are uniquely positioned to reduce global climate change, strengthen American's energy independence and improve air quality, by adopting cleaner and renewable energy technologies, such as solar energy. The Solar America Communities program supports local governments and regional organizations committed to making solar a mainstream energy source. This webinar will provide an overview of the Solar America Communities project, the current state of the solar industry, common obstacles and myths associated with solar, and the potential for solar as an economic driver within regional communities. To register click [HERE](#).

EPA Releases Greenhouse Gas Inventory: Last week the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its 16th annual U.S. greenhouse gas inventory, which reports that overall emissions during 2009 decreased by 6.1 percent from the previous year (the lowest total since 1995) but that overall emissions have grown by more than 7.3 percent from 1990 to 2009. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

Free Webcast on Stormwater and Public Education: The Water Environment Federation is offering a free webcast on Wednesday, May 4 at 2:00 pm ET on "Stormwater and Public Education: Meeting the Public Education Requirements of the Municipal Stormwater (MS4) Permit." This webcast aims to help small to mid-size municipalities meet the newly-required public education and outreach components of the NPDES/MS4 Stormwater permit. Click [HERE](#) to register.

of “peaking”. Peak oil, peak water, and now peak coffee. The only domestic producer of coffee is the State of Hawaii, so for those of you interested in new economic opportunity see if you can get those beans growing.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

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Make NARC your homepage — [click here to learn how](#).

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are out of session on a two week recess.

House to Start FY12 Appropriations Bills in May: The House Appropriations subcommittees are planning to begin markups of the FY12 spending bills next month. Hearings have been held on the President’s FY12 request, and on April 15 the House approved a FY12 budget resolution (H Con Res 34); the Senate has yet to discuss the House-approved budget resolution.

House Calendar through the Summer: Congress returns next week from Spring recess, and the House will be in session for just two weeks before its recesses for a week. This recess pattern (two weeks in session, one week off) will continue for the House until August.

REGIONS360⁰

Triangle J COG Recipient of Green Business Challenge Implementation Pack: The Triangle J Council of Governments was awarded a Green Business Challenge Implementation Pack, provided by ICLEI USA and Office Depot. The Green Business Challenge is a unique program that seeks to engage commercial buildings and businesses in a friendly competition to save energy, reduce waste and water consumption, procure greener products, and implement other sustainable activities within their companies. Triangle J COG’s Vice Chair, Johnston County Commissioner Jeffrey Carver rang the Closing Bell at the New York Stock Exchange on April 21st, marking the national expansion of the Green Business Challenge program. Additional information is available by clicking [HERE](#) or available on [Triangle J COG’s website](#).

PARTNERUPDATE

ESRI Earth Day Poll Map: ESRI has developed an Earth Day Poll Map, available by clicking [HERE](#), that allows you to vote on what you think is the most important environmental challenges facing humankind. To participate, imagine that you have \$100 to help protect the Earth, how would you invest your money? Current statistics are updated as the survey is completed.

NACo's 2011 Rail Conference: April 27-29, 2011. Sponsored by NACo, the National League of Cities (NLC) and NARC, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city and state governments and their citizens and businesses. Click [HERE](#) to access the tentative agenda and registration information.

Call for Speakers for the 97th ICMA Annual Conference: The ICMA 97th Annual Conference, being held September 18-21, 2011 at the Frontier Airlines Convention Center in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, is now accepting applications from speakers wishing to be part of the conference program. ICMA is looking for the best combination of panelists to share their experiences for each session within these educational tracks: Excellence in the New Normal; Changing Demographics and Employee Relations; Lessons in Leadership; Personal Issues Facing Local Government Managers and Their Families; and Career Tracks: Assistant Managers, Senior Managers/ICMA Credential Managers and Small Community Managers. We encourage you to download and submit an application by Friday, May 6 to be considered for this event. All Session Speaker Application Forms must be completed electronically and submitted to callforspeakers@icma.org. Full details and application form are available online at icma.org/callforspeakers.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EDA Announced i6 Green Challenge Competition

Letter of Intent Due: May 2, 2011

The i6 Green Challenge Competition provides \$12 million in funding focused on the nexus between economic development and environmental quality. At least six applicants will be selected for up to \$1 million for a two-year project, with the potential for supplemental awards from several participating federal agencies. Economic Development Districts, Tribes, nonprofits, state and local governments are all qualified applicants. Additional information on the competition is available at www.eda.gov/i6.

EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Funding

Deadline: May 2, 2011

The U.S. EPA is accepting [grant applications](#) for \$1.9 million in funding for the Environmental Education Grant Program to promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students,

teachers and citizens. EPA expects to award at least 20 grants nationwide ranging from a minimum of \$15,000 to a maximum of \$100,000 and will accept applications until May 2, 2011. Eligible entities include: local education agencies, state education or environmental agencies, colleges or universities, not-for-profit organizations, noncommercial educational broadcasting entities, and tribal education agencies.

USDA Community Connect Grant Program

Deadline: May 3, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced the availability of Community-Oriented Connectivity Broadband Grant Program (Community Connect), for projects that (1) deploy broadband transmission service to critical community facilities, rural residents and businesses, (2) construct, acquire or expand a community center, or (3) equip and operate a community center providing free access to broadband services for communities with populations of 20,000 or fewer. Application instructions are available [HERE](#), and additional program information can be found [HERE](#).

EPA Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites

Deadline: May 20, 2011

Through its RE-Powering America's Land: Siting Renewable Energy on Potentially Contaminated Land and Mine Sites initiative, EPA is soliciting applications from states, tribes, regional governments, and communities that want to evaluate the potential development of renewable energy on potentially or formerly contaminated properties. This evaluation will be in the form of a feasibility study conducted by the Department of Energy National Renewable Energy Laboratory that will determine the best renewable energy technology for the site, the optimal location for placement of the renewable energy technology, potential energy generating capacity, the return on the investment, and the economic feasibility of the renewable energy projects. The purpose of the technical assistance is to reuse sites, improve communities, create jobs, develop partnerships, decrease the use of greenspace for siting renewable energy, and increase the amount of renewable energy generated. Proposals are due to EPA Friday May 20 and may be submitted to matthews.lura@epa.gov. More information on the RE-Powering initiative and the request for applications can be found [HERE](#).

Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

Deadline: June 13, 2011

The U.S. DOE's National Energy Technology Laboratory is soliciting projects emphasizing the development of local and regional plug-in electric vehicle and charging infrastructure for their Clean Cities Community Readiness and Planning for Plug-in Electric Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure project. The U.S. DOE is interested in exploring ways that will prepare communities for successful deployment and implementation of plug-in electric drive vehicles. Projects should include policy implementation and planning elements that support the deployment of plug-in electric vehicles and charging infrastructure on the local and regional level. Plans must also address infrastructure deployment for light, medium, and/or heavy duty plug-in electric vehicles (including extended range electric vehicles). Overall, the U.S. DOE hopes this effort will help to decrease the nation's dependence on petroleum and reduce greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the deployment of plug-in electric drive vehicles and electric vehicle supply equipment (EVSE). The U.S. DOE will award 10-15 awards ranging from \$250,000-\$500,000. More information is available [HERE](#).

The Kodak American Greenways Grant Program

Deadline: June 15, 2011

The Eastman Kodak Company, The Conservation Fund and the National Geographic Society have announced the release of their 2011 Greenways Awards. Each year a Greenway Award is presented to land trusts, local governments, and other organizations that are growing our nation's networks of greenways, blueways, trails and natural areas. These projects connect Americans to the outdoors and their heritage. Funded projects typically advance one or more of the program goals, including catalyzing new greenway projects; assisting grassroots greenway organizations; leveraging additional money for conservation and greenway development; and promoting use and enjoyment of greenways. Award amounts range from \$500 to \$2,500. The full grant announcement is available [HERE](#).

EDA University Center Competition

Deadline: June 30, 2011

The U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration (EDA) announced its FY 2011 University Center Economic Development Program competition to promote bottom-up regional strategies that help foster business expansion and job creation in EDA's Chicago and Philadelphia regions. Accredited institutions or consortium of higher education, including community colleges, are eligible to apply for funding. The U.S. EDA will award \$1.1 million in the Chicago region and \$1.4 million in the Philadelphia region. Additional information is available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

2011 Rail Conference: Moving Freight and Passengers in the 21st Century

April 27-29, 2011, Naperville, IL: Sponsored by NACo, NLC and NARC, this conference will focus on the impact of freight and passenger rail on county, city, and state governments and their citizens and businesses. It will look at the movement of freight in the urban, suburban and rural communities of the U.S. and discuss who will pay to modernize and expand passenger and freight rail systems. This conference is for you if you have ever asked why the freight industry operates the way it does, had questions about economic growth and the availability and affordability of freight rail, wanted to have commuter rail in your region or wondered about the future of high-speed rail. Participants will get to meet and hear from experts in the field, including representatives of the rail industry, the U.S. Department of Transportation, the shippers who use the system, commuter rail experts, Amtrak and proponents of high-speed rail. The conference will conclude with a half-day discussion on where we go from here; how city, county, regional, and state governments can work together with the freight and passenger industry to influence federal legislation and policy; and both reduce the negative impacts from freight rail movement and improve passenger rail service in America. Click [HERE](#) to access the tentative agenda and registration information.

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H-GAC Eco-Logical Webinar

May 12, 2011, 2:00 pm ET: Join the Houston-Galveston Area Council for an exciting and informative webinar to learn about H-GAC's interactive GIS-based Eco-Logical tool on May 12, 2011 at 2:00pm ET. The webinar will provide information on the development process for the Eco-Logical Geographic Information System (GIS) tool including the data development, mapping and metric models of the project. Learn how the data was developed, how the application works, and what tools are available. The Eco-Logical GIS tool gives planners an opportunity to identify valuable environmental resources in the region. Roadway designers can save time and money by using this free decision-making tool to identify potential environmental concerns early in the project development process. Conservation groups can use Eco-Logical to help identify and focus efforts on protecting high-priority environmental resources in the region. To register click [HERE](#); registration closes May 9th.

National Solar Conference

May 17-21, 2011, Raleigh, NC: Save the date. More information will be released as it becomes available.

Transforming Local Government Conference

June 1-3, 2011, Clearwater, FL: Making Magic: How BOLD Can Local Government Be? The Alliance for Innovation's Transforming Local Government (TLG) Conference is different from any other conference you'll attend. At TLG, you'll learn about some of the most innovative programs in the country directly from the teams that created them. This year, TLG takes place in conjunction with the Florida City/County Management Association Annual Conference. The joint event will attract participation from local governments that seek new and innovative ways to connect people, information, and ideas to become some of the best places to live, grow, work, play, and prosper. Recognized for its dynamic content, the TLG format encourages team building and free thinking and fosters the generation of unprecedented ideas, all within a relaxed and professional networking and learning environment. Visit the conference website by clicking [HERE](#); a full program, registration and hotel information is available.

NARC's 45th Annual Conference and Exhibition

June 13-15, 2011, San Diego, CA: Join us for the the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. NARC's annual conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

Freight Community to Share Best Practices on Advocating for Infrastructure Investment

June 21-23, 2011, Savannah, GA: Members of various freight-related organizations will gather to share information and best practices on how to effectively communicate the value of transportation infrastructure investment to policymakers, influencers and the public. The American Association of Port Authorities is sponsoring this seminar on *Communicating the Importance of Infrastructure Investment*. Featured key note speakers will include Atlanta Mayor Kasim Reed, representing the Building America's Future coalition, who will address the topic of *Successfully Promoting the Infrastructure Investment Agenda*; as well as Former U.S. Senator Mack Francis Mattingly (R-GA 1981-87) who will address *Effectively Communicating with Key Legislators*. More information is available by clicking [HERE](#).

NLC's 19th Annual Leadership Summit

September 15 - 17, 2011, Minneapolis, MN: Join renowned leadership scholars and authors Dan Buettner, Lindsay Strand, John M. Bryson, Barbara C. Crosby, and John Luthy as you engage in a unique, reflective program that will help guide your work and leadership in local government. Insightful learning experiences will provide you the opportunity to reflect, recognize and discover what you can do to enhance your success as a local leader. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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