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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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# eRegions

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### **EXECUTIVEBRIEF**

Colleagues,

Save the Date! The 2011 Executive Directors' Conference and Board of Directors meeting date and location have been set! Join us in Jacksonville, Florida, September 18 - 21, 2011 for our fall meetings. Registration

## **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](mailto: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.*

and hotel information will be released soon.

This week, I am on the road in Arizona visiting the Central Arizona Association of Governments.

Finally, you'll see an updated 45th Annual Conference agenda from us before the end of the week. Sessions are coming together and attendance is record high. If you haven't already done so, register to join us in San Diego, CA!

Best,  
Fred

#### **NARCSTAFF**

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## **PROGRAMUPDATE**

**President Proclaims May Older American's Month:** The month of May is being celebrated as *Older Americans Month* with the theme "Older Americans: Connecting the Community," which is intended to remind everyone that seniors are continually enriching lives and contributing to our country. This theme also highlights how technology, including social media and assistive devices, can help adults remain engaged in their communities and connected to friends and family who may live far away. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

**NLC to Host Webinar on Japanese Nuclear Crisis and U.S. Reaction:** In response to requests for additional information from city leaders, on Tuesday, May 17 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. ET, the National League of Cities (NLC) and the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) will host a free webinar examining the current status of the nuclear reactors in Japan, activities to stabilize the complex, and efforts to prevent the spread of radiation following the country's recent earthquake and subsequent tsunami. It will also examine the important implications for the U.S. nuclear energy industry, steps U.S. nuclear facilities are taking to respond to safety concerns, and the role of local communities in ensuring the safety of citizens. Please register by Friday, May 13 by clicking [HERE](#).

**Stormwater Newsletter is Available:** The Water Environment Federation (WEF) released its second issue of *The Stormwater Report*, a monthly electronic newsletter highlighting advanced practices, cutting-edge research, policy updates, and current events pertaining to stormwater. The current issue features an article on the city of Los Angeles' Low Impact Development Ordinance. Other news includes the U.S. EPA's release of a Green Infrastructure Strategic Agenda and the agency's solicitation for comments on a new Construction General Permit, U.S. waters guidance document and healthy watersheds document. Click [HERE](#) to access the newsletter.

**EPA Releases 2011 Edition of Liability-Focused Handbook for Local Governments:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its 2011 "Revitalizing Contaminated Sites: Addressing Liability Concerns (The Revitalization Handbook)," which summarizes the federal statutory provisions and EPA policy and guidance documents that address the potential liability concerns of parties involved in the cleanup and revitalization of contaminated sites. Click [HERE](#) to access the handbook.

To access past issues of *eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

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

### **New LEED for Neighborhood Development Local Government**

**Resources Webpage is Available:** The U.S. Green Building Council recently launched a new website that provides resources and tools for local government officials and staff to facilitate development of green, sustainable neighborhoods in their jurisdictions, including policy tools, design guidelines, model codes, education resource and presentation slides. Click [HERE](#) to access the site.

### **EPA is Taking Nominations for the Building Healthy Communities**

**Award:** EPA's Building Healthy Communities for Active Aging awards recognizes communities that have excelled in strategies, planning and programs that support active aging and smart growth. The Achievement Award, the top honor, is awarded to communities for overall excellence in building healthy communities for active aging. The Commitment Award recognizes communities that have developed and begun to initiate a specific plan to implement smart growth and active aging principles. Communities self nominate for the award. Applications are due July 11, 2011. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**Complete Street Policy Analysis Available:** A new report, [Complete Streets Policy Analysis 2010: A story of growing strength](#), was released that rates the strength of written policies that are designed to ensure that future transportation infrastructure investments provide safe options for using the roadways. The report provides examples of language from actual policies adopted by communities. Click [HERE](#) to access the report.

### **NARC Survey on Regional Experiences in Federal Emergency Grants:**

The National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) is working on a report for Congress with recommendations on the effectiveness of grants administered by the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), namely the State Homeland Security Grant Program (SHSG) and the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). To best assist NAPA in their assessment and provide the regional perspective, NARC respectfully requests members fill out a brief online survey that poses questions important to NAPA's effort. Click [HERE](#) to access the survey.

**NARC Collecting Regional Livability Information:** NARC has recently begun a project to develop strategies by which local governments and their regional planning counterparts may implement livability strategies in their regions. The project will result in policy and practical changes that your organizations can use to grow your region in new ways. The initial phases of this project require a large amount of documentation review. As Regional

Councils and Metropolitan Planning Organizations are on the forefront of this type of activity, NARC is looking for any information you have that pertains to how your region understands the livability concept (the regional vision) and how it is, or is considering, implementing your regional livability visions (the practical tools). Any supporting materials your region may be using to inform your understanding of livability would also be helpful in this endeavor. Please forward any documentation regarding your region's livability concept and vision to NARC's Research Fellow, Valerie Hermanson, at [valerie@narc.org](mailto:valerie@narc.org) by Friday, May 22, 2011.

**NARC Regional Air Quality User Group:** NARC has launched a new Regional Air Quality User Group, providing a forum for regional air quality planners and local elected officials to discuss changes to federal air quality standards, establish a community of practice and exchange best practices in the field. This group builds off work NARC has done previously on the topic and is open to regional planners and local elected officials with an interest in air quality. Click [HERE](#) to become a member of this group.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*The House and Senate are in session.*

**Senator Reintroduces Bill to Reduce Stormwater Runoff from Highways:** Senator Cardin (D-MD) reintroduced S 898, *the Safe Treatment of Polluted Stormwater Runoff Act (STOPS)*, which would require all federally funded highway and road projects to meet performance-based standards to reduce the flow of millions of gallons of polluted stormwater runoff from our nation's highways. This legislation would apply to new federal-aid highway construction and major highway rehabilitation projects that disturb five or more acres of land. It also would require that the maintenance of predevelopment hydrology, preservation of natural landscape and stormwater mitigation approaches be a part of the site selection, design and engineering process. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## REGIONS360<sup>0</sup>

**MORPC Nationally Recognized for Complete Streets Policies:** The National Complete Streets Coalition, in their recently released report, recognized MORPC's Complete Streets Policy as rated number one among

metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and in the categories of strong intent and jurisdiction. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**NLC Column:** The National League of Cities released it's latest *Emerging Issues* column, "U Street and Neighborhood Change: A Thing of Beauty is a Joy Forever." Click [HERE](#) to read the column.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **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](mailto:matthews.lura@epa.gov). More information on the RE-Powering initiative and the request for applications can be found [HERE](#).

### **Health Impact Project**

*Deadline: June 1, 2011*

The Health Impact Project, a collaboration of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Pew Charitable Trusts, is accepting brief proposals through June 1, 2011 for grants to conduct health impact assessments (HIAs). The funding will enable awardees to develop an HIA, which is a study that can help policy makers and community members identify and address the potential, and often-overlooked, health implications of proposed policies

and projects in a broad range of sectors, such as agriculture, energy, transportation and development. The Health Impact Project will fund up to eight HIAs to identify how policy proposals will impact health at the local, tribal or state levels. Grants will range from \$25,000 to \$125,000 and will support government agencies, educational institutions and nonprofit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

**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](#).

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***Transportation Committee Webinar***

**May 10, 2011, 12:00 pm ET:** 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.

### ***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:** Register now for a FREE Solar America Communities workshop "Getting Started with Solar in Your Community" from 8:00am - 4:00pm on Tuesday, May 17; held in conjunction with this event. Go to [www.icma.org/solar2011](http://www.icma.org/solar2011) for more details, or email Anna

Read at [solar@icma.org](mailto:solar@icma.org) to register.

***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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