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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This week, I'm heading to the Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting in Indianapolis to discuss the reauthorization of surface transportation.

This past week, staff Kristin Heery and Mia Colson worked with the

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PROGRAM UPDATE

DHS Announces First National Preparedness Goal: Last week, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced the release of the country's first-ever National Preparedness Goal. The goal is the first deliverable required under Presidential Policy Directive (PPD) 8: National Preparedness, which was released in April 2011. The goal sets the vision for nationwide preparedness and identifies the core capabilities and targets necessary to achieve preparedness across five mission areas laid out under PPD 8: prevention, protection, mitigation, response and recovery. The [full goal](#) can be found by clicking [HERE](#).

Universities Named to Host Regional Climate Science Centers: Last week, the Department of Interior (DOI) announced three universities selected to host DOI's Climate Science Centers (CSCs) for the Northeast (The **University of Massachusetts-Amherst**, the Northeast Climate Science Center), South Central (The **University of Oklahoma**, the South Central Climate Science Center), and Pacific Islands (The **University of Hawaii-Manoa** in Honolulu, the Pacific Islands Climate Science Center) regions. The three locations complete the national network of eight CSCs that will serve to provide land managers in

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) to host a Regional Solar Workshop in Washington, DC. The event was a great success – with close to 100 participants.

Erika Young has also been on the road. Recently, she's attended the International City/County Management Association's Annual Conference, where she presented on localizing livability; the Ohio Conference on Freight, hosted by the Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments; the Illinois Department of Transportation meeting, where she presented on transportation reauthorization; and the National League of Cities' Infrastructure Forum.

We will launch the 2012 National Conference of Regions soon. This is the premier event for regions - focusing on your exact needs on Capitol Hill. We look forward to a great discussion, expert presenters and your participation.

Best,
Fred

federal, state and local agencies access to the best science available regarding climate change and other landscape-scale stressors.

October Named Energy Action Month: President Obama declared October "Energy Action Month," a national effort to focus on the critical link between American energy and prosperity, highlight the tremendous potential of clean energy technologies to create new American jobs and industries, and underscore the importance of investing in American innovation to lead the 21st century global clean energy economy. Click [HERE](#) to access the Presidential Proclamation.

Infrastructure Projects Selected for New Administration Initiative:

Today, the Obama Administration announced the selection of 14 infrastructure projects that will be expedited through permitting and environmental review processes as laid out in a [Presidential Memorandum](#) in August. These high priority infrastructure projects were selected because of their ability to create jobs, have the necessary funding, and where the significant steps remaining before construction are within the control and jurisdiction of the federal government and can be completed within 18 months. The projects selected are: Tappan Zee Bridge (NY), Crenshaw/LAX light rail (CA), Whittier Bridge (MA), Provo Westside Connector (UT), Baltimore Red Line transit (MD), Next Generation Air Transportation System Infrastructure Project (TX), Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project (NM), Denver Mariposa Housing Project (CO), City Market at "O" Street (DC), Arroyo Sequit Watershed and Qwuloolt Estuary Coastal Habitat Restoration Project (CA), West Coast Coastal Habitat Restoration Project (CA and WA), Cleghorn Ridge Wind Project (CA), Deerfield Wind Power Project (VT), and Dakota Prairie and Little Missouri National Grasslands (ND and SD).

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar: The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

DOT Seeks Nominations for Transportation Planning Awards: The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Transportation Planning Capacity Building Program requests nominations for the 2012 Transportation Planning Excellence Awards. The award program recognizes outstanding initiatives across the country to develop, plan and implement innovative transportation planning practices. The application period will be open from October 1, 2011 through December

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1, 2011. For more information, visit www.planning.dot.gov/tpea2012.

POLICYUPDATE

Congress is in session.

Senate to Debate Jobs Bill: Tomorrow the Senate will give a jobs bill, the American Jobs Act of 2011 (S 1660), its first opportunity for formal debate. Among other provisions, this legislation includes \$50 billion for highways, transit, rail and aviation investments. Click [HERE](#) for how much the Congressional Budget Office estimates S 1660 will cost in total.

Appropriations Committees Working to Pass Bills: The U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees are working to pass the annual appropriations bills by Friday, November 18, 2011. This is the deadline set by the Continuing Resolution (P.L. 112-36) under which the government is currently operating. While the House of Representatives has passed more appropriations bills than the Senate, no piece of appropriations legislation has yet to become law. Due to the short timeframe, there is the potential of passing an omnibus appropriations bill, which would include all appropriations legislation that have not yet become law.

Deficit Committee Continues Work: The Joint Deficit Reduction Committee continues its work this week to determine next steps. The Committee has received several recommendations from Congressional members on strategies to employ to reduce the debt such as Senators Shaheen and Isakson's proposal to switch to two-year budgeting (S. 211). Additionally, many nonprofits, businesses and industry groups have sent letters with suggestions. Click [HERE](#) to view NARC's letter.

PARTNERUPDATE

NLC Column: The National League of Cities (NLC) released it's latest *Emerging Issues* column, "To act or not to act - Is that the question for governments." Click [HERE](#) to read the column.

Solar Survey: The International City/County Management Association

(ICMA) is conducting a solar survey of local governments to collect data on what local governments are doing related to the adoption of solar energy. The survey was sent to the Chief Elected or Appointed Official of all city- and county- type local governments with a population of 2,500 or above and can also be completed online (the URL and your jurisdiction's unique 6-digit identifier are provided on the paper survey). If you need to obtain your identifier or have questions, please email solar@icma.org.

REGIONS360

MWCOG hosts Regional Solar Workshop: On October 6, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) worked with NARC to host a regional Solar America Communities workshop. The workshop brought together over 80 stakeholders from across the metropolitan Washington, DC region, including local elected officials, state government representatives, energy and sustainability managers, solar industry experts, electric utility representatives, and local solar practitioners. The workshop allowed for an update on the status of regional solar projects and opportunities, as well as panel discussions on how to deal with regionally specific regulatory barriers and find financing solutions. More information about the workshop, including speaker presentations and the agenda, can be found [HERE](#).

NARC helped organize this workshop as a part of its outreach partnership with the International City/County Management Association (ICMA) for the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) [Solar America Communities](#) program. The program is designed to increase the use and integration of solar energy in communities across the United States. Through federal-local partnerships and nationwide outreach, U.S. DOE supports local governments' efforts to accelerate adoption of solar energy.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

HUD's Energy Innovation Fund - Multifamily Pilot Program (\$25 Million)

Application Deadline: October 20, 2011

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Office of Affordable Housing Preservation is issuing a Notice of Funding

Availability (NOFA) for the Multifamily Energy Innovation Fund. This fund provides a total of \$25 million in grants to be used for energy efficiency upgrades at multifamily properties. The overall objective of the Energy Innovation Fund is to help catalyze a home energy retrofit market in the United States by accelerating private investment in cost-saving energy efficiency retrofits in the residential sector. The Energy Innovation NOFA can found by clicking [HERE](#). Eligible Entities included National, regional, or local private or non-profit entities currently administering affordable housing development and rehabilitation programs; special purpose financing entities; non-profit or for-profit organizations that own or control a portfolio of Eligible Multifamily Properties.

**EPA 2011 Smart Growth Implementation Assistance Program
(\$225,000-\$300,000)**

Application Deadline: October 28, 2011

The Office of Sustainable Communities in EPA's Office of Policy is seeking letters of interest from states, regions, and communities that want to develop in ways that protect the environment, use resources efficiently, create economic opportunities, and provide a high quality of life. The Smart Growth Implementation Assistance program provides assistance from national experts to help communities explore barriers to smart growth implementation and pilot innovative ideas that create more sustainable communities. EPA will provide this assistance through an Agency contract, not a grant. For more information, click [HERE](#). Eligible Entities include Tribal, local, regional, and state governments and non-profit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity.

**EPA 2011 Smart Growth Building Blocks for Sustainable
Communities Program**

Application Deadline: October 28, 2011

Building Blocks for Sustainable Communities seeks to provide quick, targeted technical assistance to communities using a variety of tools that have demonstrated results and widespread application. This technical assistance will help selected local and/or tribal governments to implement development approaches that protect the environment, improve public health, create jobs, expand economic opportunity, and improve overall quality of life. Assistance will be provided in two ways: first, EPA will select up to 50 communities and provide direct assistance by EPA staff and private sector experts, and second, EPA has awarded cooperative agreements to four non-government organizations with sustainable community expertise to deliver technical assistance. For

more information, click [HERE](#). Eligible Entities include Tribal, local, regional, and state governments and non-profit organizations that have a demonstrated partnership with a governmental entity.

EPA Accepting Applications for Environmental Education Sub-Grants Program

Application Deadline: November 8, 2011

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the availability of \$1.5 million in grant funding for the Environmental Education (EE) Sub-grants Program for 2011. The purpose of this competitive grant program is to increase environmental awareness and stewardship. This funding will provide participants in EE grant-funded projects with the skills necessary to make informed environmental decisions and take responsible actions toward the environment. EPA expects to award one (1) grant for approximately \$150,000 in each of EPA's ten (10) Regions. EPA will be hosting conference calls for potential applicants interested in additional information about the application process. To participate, dial the toll free number and enter the conference ID code. The call-in number for the calls are 1-866-246-5569.

Sept. 27, 2011, 2:00 pm EDT (ID code: 97740900)

Sept. 30, 2011, 12.00 pm EDT (ID code: 97741103)

For more information on eligibility and application materials, click [HERE](#). For direct questions on the Environmental Education Sub-grants Program for 2011, send emails to EEgrants@epa.gov.

2012 NSDI Cooperative Agreements Program

January 2012

Preliminary information regarding the 2012 National Spatial Data Information (NSDI) Cooperative Agreements Program has been released. A full grant announcement will be posted by the end of October. Click [HERE](#) to access the information that is available now.

UPCOMINGEVENTS

EPA Webinar: Public Health Effects of Climate Change

October 18, 2:00-3:00pm ET: This is Part II of a two-part series addressing human health effects of climate change in the Northeast. Janet L. Gamble, Ph.D., of EPA's Office of Research and Development will discuss the state of science and opportunities for research in the

area of assessing the vulnerability of older Americans to climate change. Nathan Graber, M.D., of the Climate Change and Public Health Project at the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene will discuss climate change adaptation and addressing heat-related morbidity and mortality among seniors in New York City. This webinar is free of charge; registration by clicking [HERE](#).

EPA Webinar: Long-term Green Power Contracts Sponsored by EPA's Green Power Partners Program

October 26, 1:00-2:15pm ET: this webinar explores the ability of long-term green power contracts to drive the development of new renewable generation capacity. The webinar will cover various options for long-term procurement and highlight the experiences of several Green Power Partners that have committed to contracts of 10 years or more. This webinar is ideal for organizations that want to forge a firm connection to a tangible, discrete renewable energy project for marketing and branding purposes. Visit [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

Solar Powering Your Community Workshop: Getting Started with Solar in Your Community – Dallas, TX

October 21, 8:00am-1:00pm: This *free* half-day workshop, in conjunction with Solar Power International, will focus on important concepts related to residential and small scale commercial solar installations, including how to create a local-level solar program and install solar on municipal and other community facilities. As a participant, you will learn about policy considerations in the state of Texas and learn best practices from communities across the state, including the Solar America Cities of Austin, Houston, and San Antonio. To learn more or register, click [HERE](#).

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar

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2011 Water Resources Summit

October 25, 2011, College Park, MD: Join the Horinko Group for the Second Annual Water Resources Summit, hosted on the campus of the University of Maryland. The topic of this year's summit is *Sustaining Our Nation's Water Resources: Answering the Call for Stewardship*. The summit will focus on Water Governance, Water Advocacy, and the Business of Water, and will feature speakers from the public, advocacy,

and the business sector. To view the full agenda and register, please click [HERE](#).

2012 National Conference of Regions

February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC: Save the Date! 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. Registration and additional information will be available soon.

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 is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Registration and additional information will be available in early 2012.

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