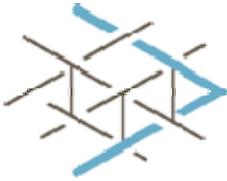


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

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EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Last week, I attended the Indiana Metropolitan Planning Organization meeting in Indianapolis to discuss the reauthorization of surface transportation. While in town, I was also able to meet with several NARC members to talk about their programs and how

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#) [REGION 360](#)

[PARTNER UPDATE](#) [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#)

[UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC RASP Case Studies Released: NARC recently released seven case studies on the role of metropolitan planning organization's (MPOs) in Regional Aviation Systems Planning (RASP). The regions studied include:

- [The Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission](#)
- [The Houston-Galveston Area Council](#)
- [The Metropolitan Council](#)
- [The North Central Texas Council of Governments](#)
- [The Puget Sound Regional Council](#)
- [The Southern California Association of Governments](#)
- [The Transportation Planning Board of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#)

Solar America Cities Case Studies Released: Lessons learned from the 25 original Solar America Cities have been compiled into brief case-study reports, available on the Solar America Communities website, [HERE](#). This is a great resource of best practices in implementing solar

NARC can be of assistance.

As I mentioned last week, we are close to launching 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. Stay tuned for more details!

Best,
Fred

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on a local level. These cities were the starting point for the U.S. Department of Energy's Solar America Communities program, which now extends to include all sizes of communities, including regions. For more information about NARC's involvement in the program, click [HERE](#).

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar: The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011 from 12:00-2:00pm ET. The webinar will focus on Regional Aviation Systems Planning: Introductions and Perspectives and will feature the case studies we've recently created. While the agenda is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

POLICYUPDATE

The Senate is in session; the House is in recess.

Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011 Introduced:

The *Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011* ([HR 3145](#)) was introduced on October 11 by Reps. Bishop (D-NY), Rahall (D-WV), Petri (R-WI), and LaTourette (R-OH). The bill would provide \$13.8 billion to the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (SRF), which funds wastewater infrastructure. The bill also would provide for the long-term financing of wastewater infrastructure through the establishment of direct loan and loan guarantee programs and a Clean Water Infrastructure Trust Fund. The bill would also permanently reinstate the application of Davis-Bacon prevailing wage for wastewater infrastructure construction and would codify Buy American provisions within the Clean Water Act.

Senate to Debate Spending Effort: The current funding stopgap bill expires on November 18 and Congress has yet to pass the 12 appropriations bills. This week, the Senate is debating a \$128 billion discretionary funding package, which would roll together the Agriculture (HR 2112), Commerce-Justice-Science (S 1572) and Transportation-HUD (S 1596) spending bills. It is likely that similar efforts will need to be taken with the other appropriations bills to complete the FY12 budget process.

Ways and Means Committee Approves Bill to Repeal 3%

Withholding Requirement: Last week, the House Ways and Means Committee unanimously approved [HR 674](#), which would repeal the three

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percent withholding requirement on payments made to vendors by government entities. Currently, under Section 3402(t) of the Internal Revenue Code, beginning next year, federal, state, and local governments with more than \$100 million in annual expenditures will be required to withhold three percent of their payments for goods and services. This bill would repeal this new withholding requirement to assist government and private entities that contract with the government. This bill is championed by Reps. Blumenauer (D-OR) and Herger (R-CA).

PARTNERUPDATE

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

Blogging about Regional Solar Implementation: Check out the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' most recent [blog](#), inspired by their October 6, 2011 Solar Workshop, which was co-hosted by NARC as part of the [Solar America Communities](#) program.

GRANTOPPORTUNITIES

HUD's Energy Innovation Fund - Multifamily Pilot Program

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

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. [HERE](#) 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.

NIFA Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program Accepting Applications

Applications Due: November 17, 2011

The U.S. Department of Agriculture National Institute of Food and Agriculture (NIFA) is accepting applications for its Community Food Projects Competitive Grants Program, which includes funds for nonprofit organizations engaging in Community Food Projects, Planning Projects of Capacity Building Projects. Anticipated funding for the full program is \$5 million. More information is available [HERE](#).

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. It will cover various options for long-term procurement and highlight the experiences of several Green Power Partners that have committed to contracts of ten years or more. Visit [HERE](#) to register for this free webinar.

Solar Powering Your Community Workshop: Getting Started with Solar in Your Community – Dallas, TX - Last Chance to Register

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](#).

Breaking Ground 2011: The Power of Partnerships

November 1, 2011, Philadelphia, PA: In a time of declining funding resources, creative partnerships between government, the private sector, nonprofits, and philanthropy can offer solutions to address growing needs, such as infrastructure, redevelopment, public amenities, and human services. This one-day conference, hosted by the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, will examine some of those creative partnerships from within Philadelphia and around the country that are making a difference in today's tough economic climate. Click [HERE](#) for more information about the event.

NARC Transportation Committee Webinar

November 8, 12:00-2:00 pm: The next Transportation Committee webinar is scheduled for Tuesday, November 8, 2011. While the agenda

is yet to be released, you can Click [HERE](#) to register early.

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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