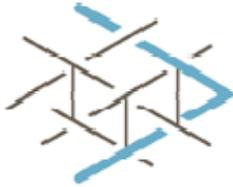


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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

NARC LEADERSHIP

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Regional Council of
Governments

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

The Deficit Reduction Committee Co-chairs Sen. Patty Murray and Rep. Jeb Hensarling announced today that no agreements have been reached on debt reduction. The Co-chairs stated, "[w]e have come to the conclusion today

*We wish you all a
safe and happy Thanksgiving.*

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[GRANTOPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMINGEVENTS](#)



2012 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL
WASHINGTON, DC

REGISTER TODAY!

PROGRAMUPDATE

HUD Announces Sustainability Grant Winners: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced the winners of the Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grants (SCRPG) and the Community Challenge Grants. Many awardees include regional planning organizations and NARC members. We congratulate those awarded and look forward to working with you. Click [HERE](#) to see a list of awardees.

that it will not be possible to make any bipartisan agreement available to the public before the committee's deadline."

The next step in the process is an automatic \$1.2 trillion in cuts across all programs to be enacted in 2013. Congress can modify these cuts through legislation and have already begun discussing programs, to save including those in Defense. Analysts warned that tampering with the cuts may result in further downgrading of America's credit rating.

We will keep you informed in this and other congressional activity.

Best,
Fred

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Kristin Heery

Program Analyst

Jenee Kresge

EPA Developing Report on Clean Water and U.S. Economy: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced in the November 14 Federal Register that the Office of Water will be developing a report on the importance of clean water to the U.S. economy. The report will consider how the availability of clean water may affect economic development, advantages clean water provides to different economic sectors, and what economic data are available to support strategic choices. EPA has asked their Science Advisory Board to consult on the data and methodologies available to evaluate the economic value of clean water. On November 14, the SAB announced a public teleconference to solicit input on these topics. The teleconference will be held on December 5 from 12:30 to 5pm EST. For additional information on this report and the teleconference, click [HERE](#).

GI Recommendations for Cities and Citizens: The Vibrant Cities and Urban Forests Taskforce released urban forestry, natural resources stewardship and green infrastructure recommendations designed to guide cities and their citizens closer to making their community a vibrant and sustainable place to live, work and play. To read the report, click [HERE](#).

Georgetown Climate Center Launches Online Adaptation Clearinghouse and Adaptation Reports: The Georgetown Climate Center has launched [the Adaptation Clearinghouse](#), an online database and networking tool to assist state and local policymakers, resource managers, and others who are working to help communities adapt to climate change. The clearinghouse contains nearly 1,000 resources, including state and local adaptation plans and adaptation legislation.

Georgetown Climate Center Launches Two New Adaptation Reports: The first, [Adaptation Tool Kit: Sea-Level Rise and Coastal Land Use](#), explores 18 different land-use tools that can be used to respond to the threats posed by sea-level rise to coastal development and infrastructure. The second report, [Adaptation Case Studies in the Western United States](#), contains case studies that explore water shortages in the West, water rights along the Colorado River, and the protection of an endangered bird.

Northeast Landscapes Project: In an effort to support and understand all the landscape conservation initiatives at work in the 13 state Northeast mega-region, the Regional Plan Association and America 2050 have compiled federal, state, and private information for inclusion in the [Northeast Landscape](#) Initiatives Atlas. The inventory includes GIS maps to understand the spatial relationships between landscape conservation initiatives, important natural resources, and urban growth and infrastructure investment. The most

Economic and
Community
Development Manager

[Lindsey Riley](#)

Deputy of
Communications

[Erika Young](#)

Transportation Director

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recent analysis assessed energy related impacts, and prior work evaluated the impacts of climate change.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are in recess.

Debt Committee Update: Failure to reach a budget agreement today impacts all federal agencies, triggering an automatic round of \$1.2 trillion cuts in defense (50%) and domestic spending (50%); domestic spending exempts Social Security, Medicaid, civilian retirement and low income assistance, and limits cuts to Medicare. These cuts would begin in January 2013 and would be in addition to the reductions achieved by lowering the annual spending caps; roughly \$109.3 billion (\$54.5 billion in defense, \$54.5 billion in domestic) would be cut each year from 2013 through 2021. Click [HERE](#) to see the Congressional Budget Office's estimates on the impact of automatic budget cuts.

FY12 Appropriations Update: The first minibus bill (HR 2112), which provided \$128 million and combined Agriculture, Commerce-Justice-Science, and Transportation-HUD spending bills, was approved by Congress and signed by the President last week. The measure also included a continuing resolution to keep government operations funded through the unfinished appropriations bills through December 16. Nine appropriations bills remain and will likely be placed into a single omnibus bill for finalization before the end of the year.

House Rejects Balanced Budget Amendment: Last week the House voted down [HJ Res 2](#), a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution by a vote of 261-165. This amendment would have required that the government operate under a balanced budget and not run any deficits on an annual basis unless otherwise allowed by Congressional authorization.

REGIONS360

Miami-Dade MPO Website Available in Multiple Languages: The Miami-Dade Metropolitan Planning Organization's website, www.miamidade.gov/mpo, is now available in 53 different languages.

MORPC Launches New Greenways Website: The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) has launched a new interactive [website](#) for trail users of the Central Ohio Greenways that features helpful information, a detailed map, trail alerts and more. The Central Ohio Greenways are an extensive series of trails that wind through recreational areas and neighborhood attractions throughout central Ohio.

PARTNERUPDATE

ICMA Event: Finding Your True North: Leading with Purpose: ICMA, in partnership with the Authentic Leadership Institute, is offering a new, one-and-a-half-day program that will set you on the path toward discovering the authentic leader within you. Through stories, guided exercises, and feedback, [Finding Your True North](#) will help you gain perspective about your identity and true purpose and how best to apply your authentic leadership talents. By understanding at a deep level your motivations, passions, strengths and weaknesses, you'll clarify your leadership "sweet spot." Most importantly, you'll become part of a group of like-minded leaders, who will help you create and implement an action plan for leading an authentic, purposeful life. Join us for this powerful, life-changing program and learn how to lead authentically and with purpose. For more information, visit icma.org/TrueNorth.

Solar Survey: 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.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

U.S. Forest Service 2012 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant – approximately \$900,000

Pre-proposal (Required) Due: December 1, 2011

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is offering Innovation Grants for program development, research and collaboration to address the following three strategic priority issues widely seen as confronting the urban and community forestry community at a national or multistate level:

Climate Change, Public Health and Economic Development. The Council seeks proposals from organizations, agencies, and partnerships to fund innovative projects that will demonstrate the reach, resources, and expertise needed to address the three priority issues in ways that will lead to meaningful, replicable results. More information is available [HERE](#).

Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) Initiative

Deadline: December 13, 2011

The American Planning Association is seeking applications from local communities for the Community Planning Assistance Team (CPAT) initiative. The CPAT gives communities with limited resources an opportunity to engage, educate, and empower its citizens in order to accomplish a planning goal related to social equity and affordability, economic development, sustainability, consensus building, or urban design. The CPAT program is open to local jurisdictions and different types of planning and community groups, including district planning commissions and nonprofit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the program.

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.

DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012 – \$18 million

Application Due: January 19, 2012

The DOI WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program establishes a framework to provide federal leadership and assistance on the efficient use of water, integrating water and energy policies to support the sustainable use of all natural resources, and coordinating the water conservation activities of various DOI bureaus and offices. DOI invites eligible entities to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with the Bureau of Reclamation on projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, increase the use of renewable energy and improve energy efficiency, benefit endangered and threatened species, facilitate water markets, or carry out other activities to address climate-related impacts on water or prevent any water-related crisis or conflict. More information is available [HERE](#).

DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million

Application Due: March 1, 2012

The U.S. Department of Energy National Energy Technology Laboratory is seeking applications aimed at empowering consumers to better manage their electricity use by enabling access to electricity consumption data by customers and their authorized third parties, and providing or supporting the use of third party tools and software products that use the available data to deliver a value-added service to the customer. More information is available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program Webinar

December 1, 1:00-2:00 pm ET: The Federal Geographic Data Committee (FGDC) invites you to participate in a free webinar that will provide information about the 2012 National Spatial Data Infrastructure Cooperative Agreements Program (NSDI CAP). The purpose of NSDI CAP is to fund innovative projects in the geospatial data community to build the infrastructure necessary to effectively discover, access, share, manage and use digital geospatial data. Participants will learn what the NSDI CAP is and how to apply for this federally funded program. Click [HERE](#) to register.

2012 National Conference of Regions

February 12-14, 2012, Washington, DC: Register Today! 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. Click [HERE](#) to access registration and additional information.

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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