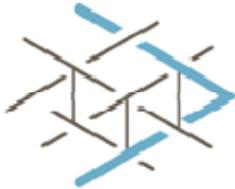


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XI, No. 43, December 5, 2011

# eRegions

### NARCLEADERSHIP

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National City, CA  
**Chair Mark Policinski,**  
Executive Directors  
Council  
Executive Director,  
Ohio-Kentucky-Indiana  
Regional Council of  
Governments

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Speaker John Boehner told reporters last week that in finalizing the 2012 budget most of what can be achieved in reductions through federal agency cuts "has been done." This leaves entitlement and tax reform as the most

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2012 NATIONAL  
CONFERENCE OF REGIONS  
FEBRUARY 12-14, 2012

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

**REGISTER TODAY!**

**Draft Agenda Available:** click [HERE](#) to access the draft agenda.

**Registration:** click [HERE](#) to register.

**Interested in Congressional Guides?:** If you are interested in ordering copies of the Congressional Guides for your organization, contact [Lindsey Riley](#). As in past conferences, one copy of the Guide will be provided to each registered conference attendee. *Additional copies are available at \$7.75/copy.*

*Orders must be received no later than December 31, 2011.*

## PROGRAMUPDATE

**EPA Awards Smart Growth Grants:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recognized five communities with the 2011 National Award for

viable options for further deficit reduction - good news for agencies and many favored programs. What remains are uncertainties in the mandatory reductions not passed by the Deficit Reduction Committee.

Join us in February at the 2012 National Conference of Regions to discuss this and other policy issues.

Best,  
Fred

**NARCSTAFF**

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To access past issues of *eRegions*, **visit our website.**

Make NARC your

Smart Growth Achievement, which acknowledges and supports communities that use innovative policies and strategies to strengthen their economies, provide sustainable housing and transportation choices and protect the environment. Click **HERE** for information about the winners. The following are the categories and award winners:

- Overall Excellence - Old North St. Louis Revitalization Initiative, St. Louis, MO
- Smart Growth and Green Building - Silver Gardens Apartments, Albuquerque, NM
- Programs, Policies, Regulations - Plan El Paso 2010, El Paso, TX
- Rural Smart Growth - Maroney Commons, Howard, SD
- Civic Places - Uptown Normal Roundabout, Normal, IL

**HUD Releases Tool to Link Community Efforts with Private Funding:** Last week, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) released a new web tool in an effort to connect public/private partnerships and philanthropic support for community development plans. The web tool displays contact information, partnerships, maps and funders for the most robust proposals to HUD's flagship community development initiatives, allowing users to easily find and support local transformation efforts. Click **HERE** to access the tool.

**NRDC Releases Report on Stormwater:** The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) released a new report, *Rooftops to Rivers II*, providing case studies for 14 geographically diverse cities employing green infrastructure solutions to address stormwater challenges. These cities are focused on how to transform stormwater into a community resource. The report also recognizes the benefits green infrastructure provides over conventional infrastructure. Click **HERE** to access the report.

**EPA National Drinking Water Advisory Council Public Meeting:** The U.S. EPA will hold a public meeting on December 14 and 15 from 8:30am-5:00pm of the **National Drinking Water Advisory Council** to consider issues associated with drinking water protection and public water systems including actions to assist small water systems and efforts underway to address nutrient pollution of drinking water supplies. The Council will also receive updates about several on-going drinking water program activities. The meeting will be held at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City Hotel, 2799 Jefferson Davis Highway, Arlington, VA 22202.

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

**Article - *The 52-Cent Case for 'Sustainability'***: Click [HERE](#) to read an article by Neal Pierce regarding sustainability and the federal Sustainable Communities Partnership efforts.

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## POLICYUPDATE

*Congress is in session.*

**Federal Budget Update:** Congress is working on an omnibus bill, which would roll together the nine remaining FY12 appropriations bills in a single measure. They have the goal of completing this effort before the current continuing resolution expires on December 16. The White House has indicated it would refute any legislation that includes policy riders on areas such as environmental regulation or significant spending reductions.

### **Energy and Commerce Subcommittee Moves Broadband Public Safety**

**Bill:** The House Energy and Commerce Communications and Technology Subcommittee passed HR 3509, Wireless Innovation and Public Safety Act of 2011, which would reallocate the currently vacant D block for the deployment of a nationwide public safety broadband network for use by first-responders. It is expected that the full committee will mark up the bill next week.

**Buy America Legislation Introduced:** House Transportation & Infrastructure Committee Ranking Member Rahall (D-WV) introduced HR 3533, the Invest in American Jobs Act of 2011, which would extend "Buy America" requirements for infrastructure projects utilizing federal tax dollars.

### **House Subcommittee to Hold a Hearing on Water Infrastructure**

**Financing:** The House Transportation & Infrastructure Water Resources and Environment Subcommittee is tentatively scheduled to hold a hearing on December 14th at 10:00am ET on the issue of water infrastructure financing. One potential issue for discussion is HR 3145, the Water Quality Protection and Job Creation Act of 2011, which would authorize the Clean Water State Revolving Fund and a new Clean Water Trust Fund financing mechanism. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about HR 3145.

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## REGIONS360

**Federal Leadership in Sustainable Development – It Is Important!**: Click [HERE](#) to read an article by NARC member David Warm, Executive Director,

Mid-America Regional Council in Kansas City, MO.

**DOE Rooftop Solar Challenge Awardees:** Congratulations to several regional planning organizations who received the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) Rooftop Solar Challenge awards. For more information about the awards, click [HERE](#).

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## ASSISTANCEREQUEST

**Performance Audit Scope of Work:** The Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG) is looking for an example of scope of work (SOW) for a Council of Government performance audit. Specifically, they are looking for a performance audit SOW for the organization itself, rather than for a specific program. Has your organization completed a performance audit and could share your SOW? Please contact Michael Cavallaro, RVCOG Executive Director, at [mcavallaro@rvcog.org](mailto:mcavallaro@rvcog.org).

**SOLAR CASE STUDIES:** As part of NARC's work with the [SunShot Initiative](#), NARC is developing case studies of regional councils who have done work in the field of solar energy. The goal is to include a variety of examples to be highlighted in a publication. We would love to hear about your experience working to promote solar energy in your region. CONTACT: Kristin Heery, [kristin@narc.org](mailto:kristin@narc.org) or 202.986.1032 x225

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## PARTNERUPDATE

**NLC Adopts 2012 Policies:** Last month, the National League of Cities (NLC) adopted their 2012 National Municipal Policy (NMP) at their 88th Annual Business Meeting. The NMP consists of policy statements that guide NLC's federal advocacy efforts on a wide range of issues impacting municipalities, including transportation, federal funding, sustainability and tax reform. At meetings in Washington in December and January, NLC's leadership will use the NMP to set the organization's federal legislative priorities for 2012. The full NMP is available for viewing by clicking [HERE](#).

**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 six-

digit identifier are provided on the paper survey). If you need to obtain your identifier or have questions, please email [solar@icma.org](mailto:solar@icma.org).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **Community Planning Assistance Team 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 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, regional planning organizations and non-profit organizations. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

### **2012 IBM Grants Available for Cities**

*Deadline: December 16, 2011*

IBM will award \$50 million in grants and expert advice to cities that want to solve their problems using data-based solutions. One hundred cities worldwide will have the opportunity to demonstrate their commitment to becoming a "[smarter city](#)"-- using data to study local urban issues like high crime and food deserts, and come up with solutions based on scientific, systematic observations. IBM's Smarter Cities Challenge, embarking on its second year, provides winning cities with free consulting services from urban and technology experts, who will study each city and offer tailored recommendations for improving their services (approximately a \$400,000 value). Last year, 24 grants were given out and [U.S. cities](#) nabbed eight of them. Applications can be found [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.

### **EPA Requests Proposals for Urban Waters Small Grants**

*Deadline: January 16, 2012*

The U.S. EPA will award at least \$1.8 million in funding for projects across the country to help restore [urban waters](#) by improving water quality and

supporting community revitalization. The goal of the urban waters small grants are to fund research, studies, training, and demonstration projects that will advance the restoration of urban waters by improving water quality through activities that also support community revitalization and other local priorities such as public health, social and economic opportunities, general livability and environmental justice for residents. Examples of projects eligible for funding include:

- Education and training for water quality improvement or green infrastructure jobs
- Public education about ways to reduce water pollution
- Local water quality monitoring programs
- Engaging diverse stakeholders to develop local watershed plans
- Innovative projects that promote local water quality and community revitalization goals

Information about urban waters small grants including the Request for Proposal and registration links for the webinars is available [HERE](#). Questions can be submitted in writing via e-mail by clicking [HERE](#) and addressed to Ji-Sun Yi. EPA expects to award the grants in Summer 2012.

#### **DOI WaterSMART: Water and Energy Efficiency Grants for FY 2012**

*Application Due: January 19, 2012*

The Department of Interior (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](#).

#### **U.S. DOE Smart Grid Data Access Funding Opportunity – \$8 million**

*Application Due: March 1, 2012*

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) 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.

Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***ICLEI Webinar: Intro to CLEAN Programs and the CLEAN Program Guide***

**Tuesday, December 6, 2011, 2:00-3:00pm ET:** Join this free webinar to learn how your community/region can create a local policy landscape that will support long-term growth in renewable energy deployment. CLEAN Clean Local Energy Accessible Now (CLEAN) Programs (also known as feed-in tariffs) drove 75% of all solar photovoltaic capacity and 45% of all wind energy capacity installed in the world before 2008. The Clean Coalition has produced the Local CLEAN Program Guide, a free resource that helps communities and local utilities design and enact CLEAN Programs, which streamline the process of purchasing locally produced renewable energy. In this webinar, learn how to design and implement a CLEAN Program from Craig Lewis, the Executive Director of the Clean Coalition, Wilson Rickerson of Meister Consultants Group and Pegeen Hanrahan, former Mayor of Gainesville, FL. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### ***Got Broadband? Building Businesses on Rural Broadband Investments Webinar***

**December 14, 2011, 11:30am ET:** The U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development will host a webinar for local elected officials, economic development specialists and rural entrepreneurs to learn more about opportunities presented by recent broadband investments made across the country. Click [HERE](#) for more information or click [HERE](#) register.

### ***Young Family Recruitment Webinar for Rural Communities***

**December 14, 2011, 1pm ET:** The Heartland Center for Leadership Development and the Center for Rural Entrepreneurship will host a webinar offering strategies for rural communities to recruit young alumni and families to improve economic opportunity. Additional information and registration is available [HERE](#).

### ***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.

***Green Infrastructure Workshop***

**March 5-9, 2012, Shepherdstown, WV:** The Conservation Fund's National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, WV is hosting *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach* on March 5-9, 2012. This workshop provides participants with a strategic approach for prioritizing conservation opportunities and a planning framework for conservation and development- integrating the green and the grey. For more information, click [HERE](#).

***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 and Exhibition 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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