

APRIL 6, 2015 [View this email in your browser](#)



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS

EXECUTIVE NOTE

Dear NARC Members,

NARC's 49th Annual Conference & Exhibition webpage contains lots of details on the upcoming conference, and will continue to be updated as more speakers are confirmed. There are a number of exciting events that you won't want to miss, including two pre-conference mobile workshops with walking tours of Raleigh, a welcome reception at the Marbles Kids Museum, and an all-conference visit to Durham to see an innovative example of building reuse at the American Tobacco Campus, and an Awards Gala Dinner on Tuesday evening. Stay tuned as the agenda develops!

Remember that "Early Bird" registration ends April 17, so register now to secure those discounts.

Hope to see you in Raleigh!

Thanks,
Joanna

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

House & Senate are not in session this week; both will return on April 13

President Obama Submits U.S. Climate Plan to United Nations

On March 31, President Obama submitted the U.S. target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. In the non-binding plan, the U.S. commits to reduce emissions by 26-28% below 2005 levels by 2025. According to the **plan**, "the target reflects a planning process that examined opportunities under existing regulatory authorities to reduce emissions in 2025 of all greenhouse gases from all sources in every economic sector. A number of existing laws, regulations, and other domestically mandatory measures are relevant to the implementation of the target." This target is part of the

Administration's commitment to combat climate change in advance of UN-sponsored negotiations in Paris this November.

OTHER NEWS

NARC PODCAST: Planning for Solar Energy Through Five Strategic Points of Intervention

In this NARC podcast, the American Planning Association's David Morley discusses the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) report, *Planning for Solar Energy*. Morley explains how the report provides planners, public officials, and other community stakeholders with a rationale for solar energy use planning and how solar planners can take advantage of five strategic points of intervention to promote solar energy in their community.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ETCOG's Regional Exercise on Mass Fatality Preparedness

Take a look at what the East Texas Council of Governments (ETCOG) is doing for emergency preparedness. This week ETCOG, in partnership with 46 agencies across East Texas, will host a three day Mass Fatality Exercise. This exercise will incorporate local and regional hospitals; volunteer agencies; cities; counties; school districts; and various state and federal agencies. The exercise will simulate a wide spread influenza outbreak causing mass fatalities. The purpose of the full scale exercise is to test mass fatality preparedness, to practice use of the mobile medical unit, and to train on techniques such as medication disbursement and agency coordination.

SEMCOG on Comcast Newsmakers

The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments' (SEMCOG) Bill Anderson recently appeared on a *Comcast Newsmakers* broadcast. Mr. Anderson's remarks covered Michigan's road funding ballot proposal, which will come to a vote on May 5.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Senior Contracts and Procurement Analyst/Engineer

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Chief Economist

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

Environmental Planner Engineer

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Rehab Specialist

Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus, OH

Active Transportation Planner

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

Transportation Planner Engineer

Wasatch Front Regional Council, Salt Lake City, UT

FUNDING

[View full list of grants!](#)

USDA Announces \$332 Million for Agricultural Conservation Easements

Application deadline: May 15

Last week, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack **announced** the availability of \$332 million in financial and technical assistance for state and local governments through the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program. Eligible entities include local governments, Indian tribes and nongovernmental organizations that have farmland or grassland protection programs.

DHS Releases Preparedness Grant Guidance for FY 2015

Applications Due: May 19

Last week, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released FY 2015 funding guidance for nine preparedness grant programs. The guidance includes grant application instructions and allocations for: Urban Area Security Initiative (\$587 million for 28 metropolitan areas), Nonprofit Security Grant Program (\$13 million), Intercity Passenger Rail Program (\$10 million), Port Security Grant Program (\$100 million), Transit Security Grant Program (\$87 million), Intercity Bus Security Program (\$3 million), State Homeland Security Grant Program (\$402 million), Operation Stonegarden (\$55 million), and Tribal Homeland Security Grant Program (\$10 million).

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

Reminder for NARC Webinar! The Park Squeeze: Balancing the Demand for Parks vs. Pavement

April 7, 2:00 PM ET

Regions across the country often battle with conflicting land use interests. In the San Francisco Bay Area, despite the region's strong commitment to parks, only a handful of infill parks have been created in the past 10 years due to conflicting issues ranging from the price of land to the desire for automobile parking. During this webinar Peter Harnik, director of the **Center for City Park Excellence** at The Trust for Public Land, will discuss the findings of a recent article in *Landscape Architecture Magazine*, as well as the reasons some regions have succeeded. He will then lead a lively, interactive conversation with listeners from other regions.

Census' Investigating Economic Indicators Webinar Series

April 8, 1:00 PM ET

The U.S. Census Bureau's Economic Indicators keep the world informed by providing the first official measures of the changing U.S. economy. Through this webinar series, learn about the Economic Indicators data, how the data can be used, and how you can access the data. This webinar will provide an overview of the 13 Economic Indicators that measure the Nation's economic activity and information that is available for each.

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