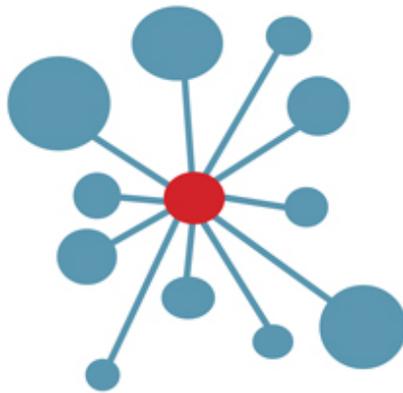




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



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**executive directors conference  
september 18 - september 20, 2016  
south bend, in**

**Register Today!**

**Conference Note!**

As part of the 2016 Executive Directors Conference in South Bend, Indiana, NARC is inviting COG environmental and energy program directors to participate in a peer exchange on regional environmental and energy issues on Monday, September 19. This initial convening will be facilitated by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and could serve as a catalyst for future regular communication among regional council environmental programs. If you are interested, please share which of the environmental/energy topics listed below are considered high priority for your organization. Please include your organization's point of contact for the session and email responses to [cameron@narc.org](mailto:cameron@narc.org).

- **Stormwater:** Opportunities and challenges meeting MS4 and other stormwater management requirements; options for coordinated regional actions in product/technology evaluation, permit streamlining, contracting, workforce training/ certification?
- **Air Quality:** Opportunities and challenges meeting federal 2015 ozone NAAQS standards; options for coordinated regional actions to address the point, area, non-road and on-road sectors.
- **Regional Resiliency and Adaptation:** Opportunities and challenges in resilient regions, climate adaptation, inventory of regional greenhouse gas emissions.
- **Drinking Water:** Opportunities and challenges in drinking water system resiliency planning and implementation.
- **Waste Management:** Adding organics composting and addressing recycled material markets
- **Communications Strategies:** How to best communicate environmental challenges and successes across regions.
- Updates on NARC alternative fuel vehicle cooperative procurement and solar roadmap projects.

**NEWS FROM WASHINGTON**

*Congress is not in session and will return after Labor Day.*

## **Congress Passes Opioid Legislation**

On July 13, Congress passed major legislation to combat the prescription opioid and heroin epidemic with overwhelming bipartisan support in both chambers. The passage of the *Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)* follows months of intense negotiations between the House and Senate on a bill that was introduced partly in response to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) showing that more people died from drug overdoses in 2014 than in any year on record. The final bill contains a number of provisions that will help local governments address the nation's prescription painkiller and heroin crisis. CARA authorizes federal grants from the U.S. Departments of Justice (DOJ) and Health and Human Services (HHS) to state and local governments to test new approaches to preventing and treating opioid addiction. For example, a new DOJ-administered Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Program is authorized at \$103 million each year through FY2021. Under the program, state, local and tribal governments can apply for grants to be used for a number of opioid abuse reduction activities, including training and equipment for first responders on the usage of opioid reversal drugs and treatment alternatives to incarceration programs. Local governments would need to certify that federal funds would not supplant their own funds, but would be used to augment their local response.

## **Senate Passes Brownfield Legislation**

The Senate recently passed the *Brownfields Utilization, Investment, and Local Development Act of 2015 (BUILD; S. 1479)* – a two-year bill that would help communities revitalize underused and contaminated land. Administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the brownfields program provides grants and technical assistance to communities, to reclaim industrial sites. The brownfields program, viewed as both an economic development and environmental program, was originally passed in 2002 and over 24000 brownfields assessments and 1200 brownfields cleanups have been undertaken. The fate of the legislation in the House remains unclear as supporters wait to see what the two committees with jurisdiction, Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce, do when Congress returns from recess in early September. NARC has urged the committees to move ahead but with limited legislative days prior to the election, the outcome remains unclear.

## **Treasury Clarifies Guidance on the CRA to Include Broadband Financing**

In response to the *Community Reinvestment Act (CRA)*, the Office of Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Fed put together *Interagency Questions and Answers Regarding Community Reinvestment* to clarify guidelines and requirements financial institutions should follow to comply with CRA regulations and to determine CRA ratings for new programs. The bill serves to facilitate financial institutions in helping low- and moderate-income communities achieve credit goals and needs. In order to be considered for a CRA rating, financial loans and investments must meet low- and moderate-income community needs of reviving and/or securing public goods and services. Another way to be considered is to provide loans or invest in expanding broadband or making it more accessible to communities that cannot capitalize on the opportunities and increasingly common services broadband provides. Please contact Sharon Canavan at [sharon.canavan@occ.treas.gov](mailto:sharon.canavan@occ.treas.gov) or (202) 649-6420 with questions.

## **Fourth Urban Waters National Training Workshop**

Last week in Pentagon City, EPA sponsored the **4<sup>th</sup> Urban Waters National Training Workshop**. Nearly five hundred federal agency, non-governmental organizations, associations, educational institutions, state and local governments, and community leaders attended the three day workshop. Panelists discussed current and upcoming **Urban Waters Federal Partnership** projects as well as best practices concerning community engagement, stewardship, and ways to form and sustain effective partnerships. Learn why urban waters are so important and how **green infrastructure** and restored waterways are offering urban communities access to environmental, economic, and social benefits by reading NARC's blog.

## **OTHER NEWS**

### **NACo Holds Annual Conference in LA County**

Over 2000 county officials and guests attended NACo's Annual Conference that wrapped last week in Long Beach/Los Angeles County, CA. Attendees heard from a broad range of speakers, including NBA great Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, and participated in a broad range of educational sessions, ranging from reducing mental illness in jails to preparing for active-shooter scenarios,

strengthening relations between county governments and Native American Tribes, combatting human trafficking, and dealing with the public health threat from the Zika virus. More than a 100 policy platform changes and resolutions were approved by NACo membership at the Annual Business Meeting.

## FEATURED JOBS

*[View full list of jobs!](#)*

### **Transportation Planner**

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

### **Planner**

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission, Philadelphia, PA

### **Senior Transportation Planner**

Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission, Springfield, IL

## FUNDING

*[View full list of grants!](#)*

### **FEMA National Training Program Continuing Grants**

Applications Due August 22

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security FY2016 Homeland Security National Training Program (HSNTP), Continuing Training Grants (CTG) program plays an important role in the implementation of the National Preparedness System by supporting the building, sustainment, and delivery of core capabilities essential to achieving the National Preparedness Goal of a secure and resilient nation. This highly competitive \$11.5 million program attracts applicants from state, local, tribal, and territorial governments, eligible non-profit organizations, and higher education institutions. Funding is provided as cooperative agreements and awarded directly to selected applicants.

## EVENTS

*[View full list of events!](#)*

### **Registration is open! NARC's 2016 Executive Directors Conference and Board Retreat**

EDC: September 18-20 – South Bend, IN

Board Retreat: September 20-21 – South Bend, IN

Join NARC and the Michiana Area Council of Governments for the 2016 Executive Directors Conference in South Bend, Indiana. This conference brings executive directors, deputy directors, and senior staff together to network, share best practices, and explore opportunities for strengthening professional capacity and development. *Please plan to arrive on Sunday, September 18. Hotel rooms will not be available on Saturday night at our hotel or any others in the area.* More details on our website.

## CONTACT US

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