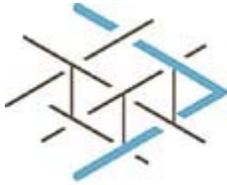


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XIII, No. 32, August 26, 2013

# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

This past week, NARC, in partnership with the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership, held a successful solar workshop in Oklahoma City, OK. Thank you to our host, the Association of Central Oklahoma Governments.

Solar outreach and resources to help regions accelerate local adoption of solar energy can be found on NARC's solar website,

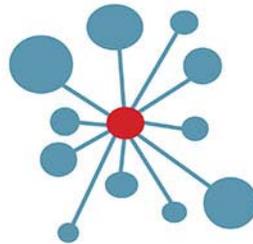
[www.NARC.org/solarOPs](http://www.NARC.org/solarOPs).

Join us at our upcoming workshops in Southern Vermont, Minneapolis-Saint Paul, and Boston. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about these free events.

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

[MEMBER 360](#)

### [GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)



*converge ■ learn ■ share*

**executive directors' conference**  
september 30 - october 1, 2013  
santa monica, ca

### Agenda, Registration and Hotel Information

Click [HERE](#) to access the conference website.

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## PROGRAM UPDATE

**Upcoming Regional Solar Workshops:** NARC is hosting free interactive workshops that provide regions with actionable information on creating a local-level solar program. Find out if NARC is coming to a city near you! Click [HERE](#) for more information.

- *Southern Vermont:* September 6, 2013
- *Minneapolis, MN:* September 10, 2013
- *Boston, MA:* September 26, 2013

Best,  
Fred

## **NARC**LEADERSHIP

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**Hon. Penny Gross**

Supervisor,  
Fairfax County, VA

### **Chair Jim Hassinger,**

Executive Directors Council

Executive Director,  
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### **Anna Rosenbaum**

Intern

To access past issues of  
*eRegions*, [visit our website](#).

Make NARC your  
homepage —  
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**Climate Ready Water Utilities Webinar Series:** Join EPA's Climate Ready Water Utilities (CRWU) initiative and the Water Utility Climate Alliance (WUCA) for a new webinar series beginning in the fall. These webinars will explore planning and decision-making strategies to help drinking water, wastewater and stormwater utilities understand and adapt to the impacts of climate change. To register, click [HERE](#).

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## **POLICY**UPDATE

*Congress is in recess.*

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## **MEMBER**360

**CCOG's Local Food Systems Study Underway:** A Local Food Systems study is underway by the Centralina Council of Governments (CCOG) to examine how food in the 14-county bi-state region is produced, distributed and consumed. The ultimate goal of the Food Systems Work Group's work is a regional food system that supports locally-produced foods with enhanced access to them as part of a vital, growing regional economy. This study will analyze the region's food system by looking into the successes and problems associated with food production, processing, marketing, distribution, access, consumption and food waste recovery processes. If you have questions about the Local Foods System study or Food Systems Work Group, contact Blair Israel at [bisrael@centralina.org](mailto:bisrael@centralina.org).

**CMAP Releases Freight/Manufacturing Report:** The Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP) released a new report, *The Freight-Manufacturing Nexus: Metropolitan Chicago's Built-in Advantage*, which explores how the U.S. freight system's convergence in metropolitan Chicago offers distinct competitive advantages to our region's resurgent manufacturing cluster. Next City, a media organization, covered the report's release [HERE](#). Click [HERE](#) to access a copy of the CMAP report.

**Metropolitan Council - [Sun Will Grow Energy Savings at Blue Lake](#):** Sunshine will help power wastewater treatment at one of the largest metro-area treatment plants, once thousands of solar panels are up and running near the Blue Lake plant in Shakopee, MN. The

Metropolitan Council recently approved a long-term arrangement with a contractor that will allow the Council to lease buffer land just west of the plant for a solar facility, then purchase the energy produced at a lower price than the cost of electricity. Officials say solar energy is likely to shine its light on other Council operations, and Blue Lake is just the beginning. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

**SEMCOG Sponsors Green Infrastructure Survey:** The Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is offering its residents a unique opportunity to provide input for where additional green infrastructure, or natural areas, are located in Southeast Michigan. SEMCOG and its partner organization, the Metropolitan Affairs Coalition (MAC) are sponsoring a regional survey, available [HERE](#). Green infrastructure can provide additional recreation opportunities, improve air and water quality, increase tourism, and enhance our quality of life. Results from the survey will help support the Green Infrastructure Vision for Southeast Michigan and provide a basis for future natural resource funding.

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **USDA - High Energy Cost Grant Program**

*Deadline: September 3, 2013*

The High Energy Cost Grant Program provides financial assistance for the improvement of energy generation, transmission, and distribution facilities servicing eligible rural communities with home energy costs that are over 275 percent of the national average. To learn more about this grant, click [HERE](#).

### **NOAA NEW - Climate Program Office FY 2014**

*Due Date: September 10, 2013 letter of intent;*

*November 14, 2013 full application*

NOAA advances scientific and technical programs to help society cope with, and adapt to, today's variations in climate and prepare for tomorrow's. Toward this end, the agency conducts and supports climate research, essential oceanic and atmospheric observations, modeling, information management, assessments, interdisciplinary decision support research, outreach, education, and stakeholder partnership development. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the [Grants.Gov](#) website. Click [HERE](#) for information.

### **Choice Neighborhoods Implementation Grant Program**

*Deadline: September 10, 2013*

Funding is available to support the implementation of neighborhood revitalization plans aimed at replacing distressed public and assisted housing with high-quality mixed-income housing; improving educational outcomes and intergenerational mobility for youth with services and supports delivered directly to youth and their families; and encouraging public and private reinvestment in distressed neighborhoods. Communities must develop and implement a comprehensive neighborhood revitalization strategy, or Transformation Plan. More information is available [HERE](#).

**The U.S. Department of Commerce EDA Funding Cycle 1 of 2014**

*Deadline to Apply: September 13, 2013*

The Economic Development Administration is offering grants for the Funding Cycle 1 of 2014. Grants made under these programs are designed to leverage existing regional assets to support the implementation of economic development strategies that advance new ideas and creative approaches to increase economic prosperity in distressed communities. Eligible: nonprofits, governments, Native American governments, public institutions of higher learning and others. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**The Rockefeller Foundation – 100 Resilient Cities, Centennial Challenge**

*Registration to Apply by September 23, 2013*

The Rockefeller Foundation has launched the 100 Resilient Cities Centennial Challenge aimed at enabling 100 cities to better address the increasing shocks and stresses of the 21st century. One hundred cities from across the globe will be selected to receive technical support and resources for developing and implementing plans for urban resilience. Challenge applicants may include municipal governments or major institutions (e.g., a nonprofit organization, university, chamber of commerce, or research center) that have a predominant affiliation/association with the city and demonstrate collaborative partnership with a municipal government. Interested applicants must [REGISTER](#) to apply by September 23 to receive the application. The full application is due October 14, 2013. More information is [HERE](#).

**EPA Accepting Applications for Clean Air Award Program**

*Applications Due: September 27, 2013*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is accepting

applications for its [Clean Air Excellence Awards](#). This award honors outstanding and innovative efforts to help make progress toward achieving cleaner air. Award-winning entries must directly or indirectly reduce pollutant emissions, demonstrate innovation, offer sustainable outcomes and provide a model for others to follow. [Past winners](#) include the City and County of Greenville, SC; the Maricopa County Air Quality Department; the Metropolitan Transportation Commission; and many others. You can apply [HERE](#).

#### **U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF) - Paleo Perspectives on Climate Change**

*Due Date: October 15, 2013*

The goal of research funded under the interdisciplinary P2C2 solicitation is to utilize key geological, chemical, atmospheric, and biological records of climate system variability to provide insights into the mechanisms and rate of change that characterized Earth's past climate variability, the sensitivity of Earth's climate system to changes in forcing, and the response of key components of the Earth system to these changes. Click [HERE](#) for details.

#### **Office Depot Foundation**

*Application Deadline: May 1 – October 31, 2013*

The Office Depot Foundation is offering grant support to nonprofit organizations, government agencies, libraries, and schools that bring systemic change to the communities they serve. The Foundation provides grants averaging \$1,000 in three distinct categories. The focus of the "Giving Children Tools for Success" category is on activities that give young people tools to succeed in school and in life through education and inspiration. The "Building Capacity to Serve Communities" category targets programs that help nonprofit organizations to serve the needs of their communities efficiently. The purpose of the "Disaster Preparedness, Relief, Recovery, and Rebuilding" category is to support efforts that help people and communities prepare for disasters and rebuild and recover when disasters occur. Applications will be accepted from May 1 through October 31, 2013. Click [HERE](#) to review the guidelines.

#### **U.S. Department of Agriculture – Rural Community Investment Initiative**

*Deadline: November 12, 2013*

The USDA is seeking applications for grants that will be awarded to organizations to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic

development. USDA is making \$5.6 million available through the Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI), a program that generates economic activity in rural areas. Applications must be submitted to the USDA Rural Development state office where the applicant's headquarters are located. Information is available [HERE](#).

#### **NSF - Cyber-Physical Systems**

*Due Date: January 29, 2014*

The National Science Foundation (NSF) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) have a shared interest in advancing basic and applied research in Cyber Physical Systems (CPS), which are systems in which physical processes are tightly intertwined with networked computing. For transportation, CPS will provide the foundation necessary for a safe, efficient highway transportation system connecting vehicles, infrastructure, people, and goods in a vibrant, competitive economy. More information is available [HERE](#).

#### **NSF - Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering**

*Due Date: February 4, 2014*

The Cyber-Enabled Sustainability Science and Engineering (CyberSEES) program aims to advance interdisciplinary research in which the science and engineering of sustainability are enabled by new advances in computing, and where computational innovation is grounded in the context of sustainability problems. More information is available [HERE](#).

#### **Energy for Sustainability**

*Due Date: February 20, 2014*

This program supports fundamental research and education that will enable innovative processes for the sustainable production of electricity and transportation fuels. Processes for sustainable energy production must be environmentally benign, reduce greenhouse gas production, and utilize renewable resources. Current interest areas in sustainable energy technologies are: Biomass Conversion, Biofuels & Bioenergy, Photovoltaic Solar Energy, Wind Energy, and Advanced Batteries for Transportation. Learn more about this program [HERE](#).

#### **NSF - Environmental Sustainability**

*Due Date: March 20, 2014*

The Environmental Sustainability program supports engineering research that seeks to balance society's need to provide ecological

protection and maintain stable economic conditions. Research in Environmental Sustainability typically considers long time horizons and may incorporate contributions from the social sciences and ethics. There are four principal general research areas which are supported: Industrial Ecology, Green Engineering, Ecological Engineering, Earth Systems Engineering. Click [HERE](#) to learn more.

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## UPCOMINGEVENTS

### ***ICMA Webinar: Getting a Grip on GASB and Pension Funding*** **August 28, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET**

New pension reporting standards from the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) are creating confusion. As local governments struggle to understand and implement changes, some credit reporting agencies have announced that they have yet another way to calculate pension obligations to determine a government's credit worthiness. To guide local and state leaders, ICMA and ten other national organizations representing the nation's governors, state legislatures, state and local officials, and public finance professionals, created the Pension Funding Task Force. The task force's findings are in, and ICMA is conducting a webinar to explain its recommendations. To register, click [HERE](#).

### ***Tying Energy Efficiency to Compensation and Performance*** **Reviews**

**September 3, 3:00-4:00 PM ET**

Join Better Building Challenge to learn about initiatives your organization can put in place to reward employees for meeting energy efficiency goals. Click [HERE](#) to register.

### ***GI 201: Implementing Green Infrastructure at Multiple Scales*** **September 9-12, 2013, Shepherdstown, WV**

This advanced course provides participants with applications and techniques for the implementation of green infrastructure at multiple scales. Building off the GI 101 Course: *Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach*, this course will explore the next steps for on-the-ground implementation of green infrastructure, focusing on how to obtain a maximum return-on-investment from projects that are streamlined and delivered at least cost, and that retain the viability of the network. *Who should attend:* This advanced course is designed to be a collaborative learning

experience for entities involved in the implementation of green infrastructure networks. Professionals should be well versed in the concepts and principles of green infrastructure; this course will be applicable to individuals from a variety of disciplines, sectors, and scales. Completion of TCF's GI 101 Course (Strategic Conservation Planning Using a Green Infrastructure Approach) is recommended, but not required, as a prerequisite to attend the course. Application Deadline: August 9, 2013. Course cost: \$600.

***ICMA Webinar: Urban Stormwater and MS4 Compliance***

**September 10, 1:00 pm ET**

Has your community effectively addressed urban stormwater – a major impairment to water quality that continues to hamper efforts to comply with Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits? ICMA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are hosting a 90-minute webinar to explain common problems that inspectors encounter, along with examples of how operators have overcome them. Click [HERE](#) to register for this webinar.

***2013 Ohio Conference on Freight***

**September 12-13, 2013, Sandusky, OH**

Workshops, tour, and presentations will address the use of innovation in changing how we transport goods, design, fund and deliver infrastructure, and make policy. A full conference schedule will earn 10 hours of professional education credits. Credit for economic development professional (CEcD) is being explored. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

***EPA Webinar: Smart Growth and Economic Success***

**September 18, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET**

This webinar will explore how smart growth strategies at the regional, city, and neighborhood level can maximize economic advantages while creating attractive, healthy communities that help protect the environment. This webinar will feature EPA's report, Smart Growth and Economic Success: Benefits for Real Estate Developers, Investors, Businesses, and Local Government. Speakers will discuss how smart growth is helping their communities prosper. Click [HERE](#) for details or to register.

***EPA Webinar: Infrastructure Financing for Transit-Oriented Development***

**September 24, 2013, 3:00 - 4:00 ET**

NEW. Transit-oriented development (TOD) offers a mix of housing, employment, shopping, and transportation choices that can help reduce air pollution and development on open lands and improve water quality and access to jobs. Yet the infrastructure required to create TOD is expensive and funding for infrastructure for new TOD can be difficult to obtain. This webinar will cover some of the lessons learned from a year-long Smart Growth Implementation Assistance project on financing TOD infrastructure. Speakers from the Utah Transit Authority and the NoMa Business Improvement District in Washington, DC will then discuss TOD in their communities. Click [HERE](#) for details or to register.

***NARC's Executive Directors' Conference***

**September 29-October 2, 2013, Santa Monica, CA**

Join the Southern California Association of Governments and NARC for the 2013 Executive Directors' Conference in Santa Monica, CA. Executive Directors and Senior Staff are invited to meet with experts, network with your colleagues, and share best practices in management, programs, finance, budget, governance and other issues of importance to you. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

***ICMA Webinar: Iceberg Dead Ahead: Course Correction Leadership***

**October 17, 1:00-2:30 p.m. ET**

Is your organization drifting off course? Do you even know? According to John Gardner, ailing organizations have developed a "functional blindness" to their own defects. Many jurisdictions have hit "organizational icebergs" – often due to the economic downturn. Others have seized opportunities to change their course for the better. "Iceberg Dead Ahead!" is an introduction to the topic of Course Correction Leadership that was first described in an article published in the October, 2012 issue of *Public Management* titled "Steering Clear of Organizational Icebergs." To register, click [HERE](#).

***NARC's 2014 National Conference of Regions***

**February 16-18, 2014, Washington, DC**

The National Conference of Regions is the forum that NARC uses to determine key policy issues and a legislative agenda on topics of relevance and importance to executive directors and local elected officials representing regional organizations and boards. Additional information will be available in late 2013.

***NARC's 48th Annual Conference and Exhibition***

**June 6-11, 2014, Louisville, KY**

The Annual Conference and Exhibition is the largest national event focused on promoting effective regional cooperation and solutions through interaction and education. Held annually in June, NARC's Annual Conference is the premier place to learn how to engage in effective regional collaboration. Additional information will be available in early 2014.

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