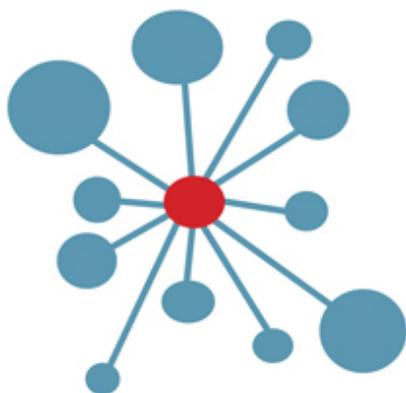




NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



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

Register Today!

Last Call! Join your colleagues at the **2016 Executive Directors Conference** or participate in the inaugural energy and environment directors meeting on Monday, September 19th in South Bend, Indiana. Interested environmental directors should contact Cameron Herbolsheimer at cameron@narc.org.

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

Congress is back in session.

Congress Returns to Major Spending Decisions

When Congress left town for a seven week recess they were unable to reach a funding agreement to combat the Zika virus (now found in Florida) and had no consensus on key spending decisions to avoid a government shutdown on September 31. Republican leaders are expected to meet this week to make plans to avoid a government shutdown before the new fiscal year with the likely outcome of a short term bill that pushes decisionmaking until after the election.

NARC Continues to Push for House Action on Brownfields Legislation

Bipartisan legislation to extend the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) brownfields program was adopted this summer by the Senate – once as an individual bill (**S 1479**) and also as part of a larger energy bill. The bill would authorize EPA grants worth \$950,000 to clean up an estimated 450,000 contaminated sites and spur local economic development. S 1479 would authorize eligible government entities to receive grants for property that was acquired before January 11, 2002, even if the entities do not qualify as bonafide prospective purchasers and would increase the cap on the amount that may be given in grants and loans for each site to be remediated. Two House committees have jurisdiction over the program – the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee and Energy and Commerce Committee – but have not taken action yet to authorize the bill before the end of the year. NARC has **urged House action** on the bill and encourages you to do the same.

OTHER NEWS

Free Webinars on Preparing Your Region for Disaster

In partnership with The Ready Campaign, FEMA and The SBA, Agility Recovery is laying the foundation for a rock solid recovery strategy this September, during **National Preparedness Month**. Join Agility Recovery as they cover disaster recovery planning basics and share easy ways to build resilience. To start laying the foundation, you can register for this **FREE webinar series** and download this **resource-packed infographic**.

2016 Fact Sheet: Polling the American Public on Climate Change

The Environmental and Energy Study Institute (EESI) put out this **fact sheet** that provides information on climate change polling in the United States and internationally from Spring 2015 to Spring 2016. Overall, the studies show that there is a disparity along party lines when it comes to climate change, with a large majority of Democrats saying human actions are changing the climate, while fewer Republicans are convinced by climate science. Strong majorities of Independents say climate change is happening. There is bipartisan support for the federal government to do more to combat climate change.

Strengthening Emergency Preparedness through Alternative Fuel Vehicles

Preparing our communities for disasters and emergencies is essential for minimizing loss and ensuring swift recovery. The Initiative for Resiliency in Energy through Vehicles (**iREV**) is addressing the challenge of these disruptions by developing resources for emergency planners to help communities integrate alternative fuel vehicles (AFVs) into their fleets. This initiative, with support from the U.S. Department of Energy Clean Cities Program and led by the National Association of State Energy Officials (NASEO), promotes this resiliency strategy through case studies, tools, workshops, and policy and planning toolkits.

iREV released several **case studies** conducted by NASEO that detail the challenges and advantages of incorporating alternative fuel types into emergency fleets. NASEO is also in the process of developing the online iREV Tracking Tool to help emergency planners access the data necessary to understand the costs and benefits associated with different AFVs. Your region can get involved in this initiative by attending one of the many workshops that will be held around the country. The **next workshop** takes place in Savannah, Georgia on October 19. There will also be an upcoming webinar for NARC members to learn more about this program. Please contact Cassie Powers (cpowers@naseo.org) with any questions.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

NEFRC Partners with JEA on 2016 Annual Hurricane Exercise

The Northeast Florida Regional Council (NEFRC) assisted JEA Emergency Management in conducting a week long hurricane exercise in May, which coincided with the Statewide Hurricane Exercise. Each day began with a situational briefing on Hurricane Kimo as it approached the state, and then exited through northeast Florida. JEA's Senior Leadership Team and management staff stood up and activated their emergency operations center to prepare and respond to the storm. The exercise allowed JEA to test their new damage assessment data collection system, as well improve their planning and decision-making capabilities. Each day JEA staff had to develop an incident action plan that highlighted internal and external objectives which included considerations for facilities damage, service outages, customer relations, and assisting local governments with services for open shelters. JEA has adopted the Homeland Security Exercise and Evaluation Program guidance for improving and elevating exercise complexities on a continuous basis. Due to the success of this exercise, JEA is prepared to conduct a full-scale exercise in the coming year.

FEATURED JOBS

[View full list of jobs!](#)

Transportation Engineer/Planner

Southeast Michigan Council of Governments, Detroit, MI

Regional Planner

Houston-Galveston Area Council, Houston, TX

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

"We Can Do Better Together" Encouraging Health, Housing, Transportation, and Social Service Partnerships: Successful Strategies to Expand Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Programs

September 20, 2:00– 3:30 PM ET

The Administration for Community Living, Health Resources and Services Administration, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and U.S. Department of Transportation are working together on an interagency initiative focused on livable communities for underserved populations. This webinar will highlight their efforts to reach underserved populations by encouraging health, housing, transportation, and social service partnerships. Dr. Anand Parekh will begin the discussion by sharing recommendations from the Bipartisan Policy Center's Senior Health and Housing Task Force and underscoring the importance of interagency partnerships to reduce the impact of chronic diseases. The webinar will also provide an overview of evidence-based chronic disease self-management education (CDSME) programs and highlight two exemplar CDSME programs that serve affordable housing residents, in partnership with federally qualified health centers, transportation services, and social services.

NARC Event! 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.

Twitter Chat to Celebrate Call to Action Anniversary

September 29, 2:00 PM ET, #StepItUp

The Every Body Walk! Collaborative is celebrating the one year anniversary of the **Surgeon General's Call to Action** on Walking and Walkable Communities. Join America Walks as they celebrate the hard work of the past year and discuss what's in store for the walking movement in 2017! Use #StepItUp to join the conversation.

CONTACT US

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