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NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

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eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

As NARC moves into the new year, we will be focusing more of our time on the issues important to you - the federal budget, bill analysis, advocacy on core issues, technical assistance and training. We can do this because of the generous support of you, our members. As our membership and budget continues to grow, our programs will concentrate on the big ideas moving regions forward.

Part of this you are already seeing, a regional research push, including a landmark project with American University on the Federal

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NARC Board Member Pam O'Connor Receives Award for Service:

Congratulations to Pam O'Connor, Councilmember, City of Santa Monica, CA and Member, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), for winning Mobility 21's *Public Sector Leader of the Year Award*. Councilmember O'Connor was recognized for her many years of public service and leadership at SCAG during the RTP-SCS process. Additional information can be found [HERE](#).

PROGRAM UPDATE

FHWA Releases Interim Guidance: Last week, FHWA released their first round of interim guidance for the implementation of the new federal surface transportation authorization, MAP-21. These include Q&A's on a number of topics, including metropolitan and statewide planning. You can access these and other MAP-21 resources from NARC's [MAP-21 Resource Page](#).

ICLEI Releases Standard for Measuring a Community's Carbon

Footprint: The ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability USA (ICLEI) released a first-ever national standard for how to measure and report the greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions associated with

budget; program related grants, like an analysis of regional economic structures funded through the McKnight Foundation; deep analysis on issues like sequestration; and member engagement, like we are doing on implementing MAP-21. More will come.

We need, however, your continued participation and engagement. Thank you for being members and your support!

Best,
Fred

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communities. The U.S. Community Protocol for Accounting and Reporting of Greenhouse Gas Emissions (Community Protocol) changes the game for U.S. cities and counties. It is a much-needed resource to help more local governments reduce their communities' carbon emissions. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

U.S. Census Bureau Releases 2011 ACS Estimates: The U.S. Census Bureau released its 2011 American Community Survey (ACS) estimates last Thursday. The estimates released are available in detailed tables for the nation, all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, every congressional district, every metropolitan area, and all counties and places with populations of 65,000 or more. Click [HERE](#) for more information on data in your region.

GAO Solar Energy Initiatives Duplication Report: The U.S. Government Accountability Office recently released *Solar Energy: Federal Initiatives Overlap but Take Measures to Avoid Duplication*. The report investigates the potential for duplicate actions within the sixty-five solar initiatives supported by six federal agencies in fiscal years 2010 and 2011. The report found that while many of the initiatives overlap to some degree, coordination efforts took place to avoid duplication. In addition, federal agencies tailored their initiatives to meet their specific missions, such as the Department of Defense's energy security mission. To read the full report, click [HERE](#).

Climate Change Adaptation for State and Local Governments: The Environmental Protection Agency's State and Local Climate Energy Program's three-part series outlines Climate Impacts and Risk Communication; Adaptation Planning and Implementation; and Federal Resources and Support for Climate Change Adaptation. Click [HERE](#) to access the webinars.

POLICYUPDATE

The House and Senate are in recess until after the November elections; they are expected to return on November 14.

REGIONS360

HGAC Launches New Episode of *Mobility Now*: Watch "*Mobility NOW*," a television show created by the Houston-Galveston Area

Associate
[Lindsey Riley](#)
Deputy of
Communications
[Erika Young](#)
Transportation Director

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Council (HGAC) dedicated to discussing solutions to the region's transportation challenges. Hosted by H-GAC Director of Transportation Alan Clark, the third episode touches on Regional Goods Movement. As guest, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett describes how transportation of goods is essential to our region's economy. Visit YouTube to watch "[Mobility NOW - Episode 3](#)" or [www.mobilitynow.tv.](http://www.mobilitynow.tv)

Broward MPO Issues Request For Proposals (RFP): The Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), through partnership with 2-1-1 Broward is requesting proposals from qualified firms to expand the 2-1-1 Broward Telephone and Website Software System. Utilizing a grant from the Federal Transit Administration and a multi-agency partnership, this project will provide residents of Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach Counties with centralized access to transportation information. A tri-county One Call One Click transportation service will be created utilizing the 2-1-1 phone number and existing call center infrastructures. Deadline for submitting a proposal is 5:00 PM, October 17, 2012. For more information, click [HERE.](#)

Broward MPO Issues Request For Qualifications (RFQ): The Broward MPO is requesting responses from qualified firms to develop a ready to use scope of services to develop a Public Education Campaign to help implement Broward's transportation plans and projects (Transit Systems Plan). The Successful Offeror shall be responsible for Tasks identified in the Scope of Services located in Appendix A. Interested firms should submit an offer that addresses all factors listed in the RFQ. Deadline for submitting the offer is 5:00 PM, October 17, 2012. For more information, click [HERE.](#)

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

AIA Sustainable Design Assessment Teams - Technical Assistance

Application Due: October 12, 2012

The American Institute of Architects' (AIA) Center for Communities by Design is seeking potential partner communities that can demonstrate the capacity to convene a diverse set of community leaders and stakeholders for an intensive, collaborative planning process focused on long-term sustainability. The Center is particularly focused on identifying communities that have the ability to leverage local resources and build strong partnerships for implementation of an SDAT process. For more

information, visit the [AIA SDAT page](#).

FEMA Announces New Funding Opportunity

Application Due: October 26, 2012

FEMA announced a new funding opportunity – the Community Resilience Innovation Challenge – to build local resilience, through a Whole Community approach. This new opportunity, provided through FEMA and the Rockefeller Foundation, is designed to continue to move community preparedness forward and assist local areas in building and revitalizing community-based partnerships to advance the nation’s resilience to disasters. The program will be administered by the Los Angeles Emergency Preparedness Foundation who will act as a third-party intermediary to encourage local communities to engage in creative activities that enhance disaster resilience. The highest grant amount is \$35,000, and applications are open to most local, state, and tribal agencies and governments; business entities; associations; organizations and groups. Key assessment areas for the awards will be the approach to community resilience is innovative, collaborative with community stakeholders, sustainable, replicable outcomes, and measurable benefits. Click [HERE](#) for additional information on the Challenge program criteria and application process.

NOAA Climate Program Office FY13 Grant Application Information

November 6, 2012

Individual programs within CPO will now be accepting letters of intent and project applications. The full announcement of opportunity is available on the [CPO Funding Opportunities](#) page and on the [Grants.Gov website](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Solar Energy for Water and Wastewater Utilities Webinar

Thursday, October 11, 2012: 1:00-2:30 PM ET

EPA’s Office of Wastewater Manager hosts this webinar on helping water utilities understand how they can use solar energy to increase their energy efficiency. The first part of the webinar will detail the process of implementing solar energy projects at water or wastewater utilities, the various types of solar technologies available, and where they can be used most appropriately. The webinar will also highlight innovative funding approaches, including those with no up-front capital requirements, that result in long-term energy cost savings and stability.

Finally, this webinar will present the case study of a successful solar installation at a small wastewater utility in Grafton, Massachusetts. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Estimating the Health Impacts of Climate Change and Clean Energy Programs Webinar

Thursday, October 11, 2012: 2:00-3:30 PM ET

State and local climate change and clean energy policies can improve air quality, reduce negative impacts on human health and save lives. This webinar will cover three EPA tools that state and local governments can use to estimate and communicate the health and related economic benefits of actions that reduce air emissions: Diesel Emissions Quantifier, Co-Benefit Risk Assessment, and Environmental Benefits Mapping and Analysis Program. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Community-Based Social Marketing and Home Energy Retrofit Programs Webinar

Thursday, October 11, 2012: 4:00-5:00 PM ET

The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) webinar will be co-hosted by staff from the One Change Foundation, who will discuss details of their High Five philosophy for mounting Community-Based Social Marketing campaigns in support of home energy retrofits. High Five is one of the approaches discussed in the recent ACEEE white paper, *Reaching the "High-Hanging Fruit" through Behavior Change: How Community-Based Social Marketing Puts Energy Savings within Reach*. Click [HERE](#) to register.

Financing Solar in a Fiscally Constrained Time Webinar

Thursday, October 18, 2012: 3:00pm-4:00pm ET

To many municipalities, the high upfront costs of installing solar energy are still seen as a major barrier to bolstering solar development in their region. Join us for a webinar presented by NARC and the SunShot Solar Outreach Partnership to learn about the numerous different types of financing incentives and mechanisms that can reduce these upfront costs and provide additional revenue streams. Learn from solar industry experts and local municipalities about how you can make solar affordable in your region. To register, click [HERE](#).

UPEDA Conference on Bi-National Collaboration Meeting

October 24-25, 2012, Sault Ste Marie, MI

Presenters include Roy Norton, Consul General of Canada at Detroit; a panel on alternative energy; Phil Becker, Executive Director of the

International Bridge Authority; and other presenters still being confirmed. Click [HERE](#) for registration and [HERE](#) for a copy of the agenda.

Ask the Utility: Working with your Local Municipal Utility Webinar
Thursday, November 1, 2012: 2:00pm-3:00pm ET

This webinar will be focused on a discussion with municipal utility representatives about the opportunities and limitations of increasing distributed solar electricity, and how municipal utilities have worked successfully with local governments to implement best practices and policies around solar development and interconnection. This webinar seeks to educate local government professionals who are interested in learning about how to better collaborate with municipal utilities to develop solar projects in their community. Participants of this webinar will come away with a better understanding of the following issues: how municipal utilities view solar, how to best work with your muni and other utilities, and how to leverage electric utility expertise. To register, click [HERE](#).

2013 National Conference of Regions
February 10-13, 2013, Washington, DC

Save the Date for this premier event, focused on all that is happening in Washington, DC. Information about NARC's February event will be available before the end of 2012. Local elected officials, executive directors and staff of regional and metropolitan planning organizations need to be here!

NARC's 47th Annual Conference and Exhibition
June 20-23, 2013, Philadelphia, PA

Save the Date for NARC's annual conference will focus on best practice and programming for regional and metropolitan planning organizations nationwide. Executive Directors and Staff of regional organizations should plan on attending!

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