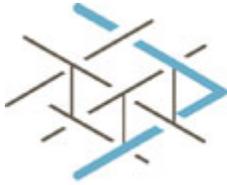


Email not displaying correctly? Click [HERE](#) to view it as a PDF.



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 38, October 15, 2012

eRegions

EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

As part of regular updates we are making to our website, we've uploaded a shared service presentation for those of you interested in building out a shared service program. Visit our [website](#) to access the presentation. Our summer program intern Clare Pritchard worked with Shannon Baxevanis on this and other programmatic case studies we will be uploading over the next few months.

I also had the honor last week of presenting to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' Board of Directors on

[PROGRAM UPDATE](#) [POLICY UPDATE](#)
[REGIONS 360](#)
[GRANT OPPORTUNITIES](#) [UPCOMING EVENTS](#)

PROGRAM UPDATE

NARC Releases Cooperative Purchasing and Shared Services

Information: NARC compiled information highlighting the benefits and successful examples of, as well as steps to achieve cooperative purchasing and shared services programs through regional planning organizations. Please use this information to educate local elected and appointed Board members, staff, stakeholders and citizens. Click [HERE](#) to access the PowerPoint.

Roadmap to Green Infrastructure in the Federal Agencies:

NARC will be releasing an online tool providing a roadmap to green infrastructure in the federal agencies. Green infrastructure is supported by a variety of federal agencies as a strategy to address an array of environmental and development issues. There is not currently a universal definition of green infrastructure within the federal system. Different agencies define green infrastructure differently to reflect their own goals and values, but these definitions contain common elements of ecosystem services, connectivity and multifunctionality. The roadmap details how each federal agency defines and implements green infrastructure. Stay tuned for more

Sequestration. I'd like to thank their Chair Frank Principi and our Board Members Supervisor Penny Gross and Councilmember Walter Tejada, as well as David Robertson for the opportunity. I presented along with Carolyn Coleman from the National League of Cities. Our comments, available [HERE](#) were also picked up on NPR affiliate WAMU 88.5.

Best,
Fred

NARCLEADERSHIP

President David F.

Shafer,

Clerk/Treasurer,

Town of Munster, IN

Chair Sean Dey,

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, West

Michigan Shoreline

Regional Development

Commission

NARCSTAFF

Fred Abousleman

Executive Director

Shannon Baxevanis

Deputy Director

Mia Colson

Program Analyst

Valerie Hermanson

Communications

Associate

information and the release of the roadmap!

Measuring Air Quality in U.S. Cities: Air pollution has been linked to serious health problems such as lung cancer, but without accurate mapping, the effects of poor air quality can be hard to study, trace and solve. The nonprofit organization Safecast, is working to create a real-time map of air quality in the U.S. cities beginning with Los Angeles. Safecast will be developing custom sensors to collect the data. Once developed the prototype sensor will be open-sourced so that any member of the public can purchase or build one to collect air pollution data. Find out more about the project [HERE](#).

POLICYUPDATE

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

Sequestration Update: NARC has updated its educational sequestration PowerPoint with information on the "fiscal cliff" and association activities. Click [HERE](#) to access the information. Below are links to interesting sequestration articles:

- Click [HERE](#) to read an article on the effect of higher federal taxes and sequestration cuts on state budgets and revenue.
- Click [HERE](#) to read an article on how military communities are preparing for cuts.
- Click [HERE](#) to read an article on how sequestration is expected to impact police and criminal justice efforts.

REGIONS360

MARC Recognized as SunShot Awardee Spotlight: The Mid-America Regional Council (MARC), in partnership with NARC and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) SunShot Initiative's Rooftop Solar Challenge, held a discussion forum in August to present the *Solar Best Management Practices* to local stakeholders. This event helped highlight significant progress as well as additional needs. Click [HERE](#) for additional information about the event or [HERE](#) for more information on the SunShot Initiative.

Lindsey Riley

Deputy of
Communications

Erika Young

Transportation Director

To access past issues
of *eRegions*, **visit our
website.**

Make NARC your
homepage —
click here to learn how.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

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.**

FEMA 2012 Community Resilience Innovation Challenge

Application Due: November 16, 2012

The 2012 Challenge program will support a broad range of activities designed to foster community resilience. Particular focus will be placed on reaching across social sectors, while a specific goal will be increased local dialogue that includes the sharing of information about local risks and the vulnerabilities of and consequences for local residents and their well-being. Activities can range from establishing a way to train neighborhoods to prepare and take care of themselves and others in an emergency situation to co-hosting initiatives with the private sector to actively involve businesses and organizations to improve preparedness programs, from involving children and youth through educational

programs and activities to sponsoring drills for local hazards. For more information, visit the [Challenge webpage](#).

EPA Brownfield Area-wide Planning Grant

Application Due: November 30, 2012

This grant will fund projects to facilitate community involvement and conduct research, training, and technical assistance necessary to develop area-wide plans and implementation strategies to facilitate brownfields assessment, cleanup, and subsequent reuse. Brownfields area-wide planning grant funding must be directed to specific areas affected by a single large or multiple brownfield sites, such as a neighborhood, downtown district, city block, or local commercial corridor. The grant funding will result in an area-wide plan, including implementation strategies, for the brownfields-affected area. For more information, see the [request for proposals](#).

USDA 2013 Urban and Community Forest Grant

Application Due: December 3, 2012

The 2013 National Urban and Community Forestry Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program will support urban and community forestry projects on nonfederal public land that have a national or widespread impact and application. The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is seeking innovative grants proposals for program development, research, and collaboration to address the following two strategic priority issues: proposals that demonstrate the connection between the personal benefits of urban forests and quality of life within a community through community engagement; and proposals that design an urban forestry recruitment program and retention strategies that support existing urban forestry academic curricula. Urban and community forests demonstrate benefits including urban heat island reduction. All grant funds must be matched at least equally with non-federal source funds. For more information, see the [request for proposals](#).

NEA Our Town Grant

Application Due: January 14, 2013

The National Endowment for the Art's (NEA) Our Town grant will provide a limited number of grants, ranging from \$25,000 to \$200,000, for creative placemaking projects that contribute towards the livability of communities and help transform them into lively, beautiful and sustainable places with the arts at their core. Our Town will invest in creative and innovative projects in which communities, together with their arts and design organizations and artists, seek to: Improve their quality

of life; encourage greater creative activity; foster stronger community identity and a sense of place; and revitalize economic development. Complete Our Town application guidelines are available [HERE](#).

UPCOMINGEVENTS

Financing Solar in a Fiscally Constrained Time- Power Purchase Agreements Webinar

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

To many local and regional municipalities, the high upfront costs of installing solar energy are still seen as a major barrier to bolstering solar development in their region. However, there are numerous different types of financing incentives and mechanisms that can reduce these upfront costs and provide additional revenue streams. One method local and regional municipalities can consider are power purchase agreements (PPAs). PPAs reduce the risk and complexity of owning a solar PV system while significantly reducing the upfront installation costs. Learn from national solar industry experts and local municipalities about how using PPAs 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!

We are sending you this email primarily for your information, to meet your needs, further our valued relationship and because you requested to receive electronic newsletters from the National Association of Regional Councils. Please forward as appropriate.

[Unsubscribe](#) lindsey@narc.org from this list.

Our mailing address is:
National Association of Regional Councils
777 North Capitol Street NE, Suite 305
Washington, DC 20002

[Add us to your address book](#)

Copyright (C) 2012 National Association of Regional Councils All rights reserved.

[Forward](#) this email to a friend

[Update your profile](#)