



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

eREGIONS



Please update your files with
NARC's new address:

660 NORTH CAPITOL ST NW
SUITE 440*

WASHINGTON, DC 20001

**Please note that the suite number has changed.*

NEWS FROM WASHINGTON

House returns November 14; Senate returns November 15.

Overview

As we wait for the results of tomorrow's election, we already know that changes are in store for the next Congress. With tight Senate races in seven states, the Democrats need to pick up four seats to change the party balance. Senate Minority Leader Harry Reid is retiring and New York Senator Charles Schumer is poised to take his place as Minority Leader or take over as Majority Leader, depending on the result of the elections. Senator Schumer has made immigration and tax code reform priorities in his time in the Senate. NARC will bring you news on the impact of the elections on local government priority issues following tomorrow's vote.

The Lame Duck Congress will face the immediate task of extending federal spending. The current short term bill expires on December 9. After a bruising election, the task of developing joint spending priorities will be even more difficult. While House Speaker Ryan would prefer to pass several smaller spending bills, Congress may be forced to again pass a catchall omnibus spending bill to fund the government past the current December 9 deadline. Congress will only have three weeks before the current bill expires and four weeks until the 114th Congress is scheduled to adjourn.

Moving Toward a National Drinking Water Action Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Local Government Advisory Committee's (LGAC) latest report, *Clean and Safe Drinking Water: EPA's Local Government Advisory Committee's Findings and Recommendations*, is now available. The **report** can be found on the LGAC website, alongside the **transmittal letter** to Administrator McCarthy.

LGAC is a federal advisory committee made up of state, local, and tribal elected and appointed officials, chartered to provide recommendations representing the views of local government to the EPA Administrator. On July 28, 2016, Administrator McCarthy charged the LGAC with providing

recommendations and input on the National Drinking Water Action Plan, currently under development by the Office of Water. Some of the key messages in this report draw attention to the fact that: access to clean drinking water is a growing issue in American society, and the EPA has a very significant role in mitigating this major threat to public health; every American should have an awareness of the value of water as a driver of public health, economic prosperity, and quality of life; and a collaborative partnership of federal, state, local, and tribal governments is essential in delivering clean and safe drinking water to all American communities. The recommendations and advice in the report will be heavily considered by EPA in the development of a National Drinking Water Action Plan.

Great Lakes Task Force Sends WRDA Letter

On November 2, the Great Lakes Task Force sent a bipartisan letter to House and Senate leaders encouraging the inclusion of key provisions that benefit the Great Lakes in any final 2016 Water Resource Development Act (WRDA). A total of 31 Members of Congress from both parties and all eight Great Lakes states signed the letter, which outlines a list of WRDA asks, including several NACWA priorities like sewer overflow control grants, additional assistance for small and disadvantaged communities, and promotion of green infrastructure. The letter helps demonstrate bipartisan House support for reconciling a final WRDA package with key clean and safe water provisions.

Accelerating the Deployment of Electrical Vehicles and Charging Infrastructure

On November 3rd, the Obama Administration announced key steps to accelerate the implementation of electric vehicles and charging infrastructure across the United States. The announcement includes shared goals between the administration, states, localities, and the private sector to advance deployment and improve technology. Twenty-four states and local governments have made commitments that include impressive goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, build new charging stations, and electrify their fleets. The White House announcement also highlights U.S. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) initiatives that are promoting the adoption of electric vehicles.

White House Announces Climate Resilience Initiatives

Last week, the White House announced three measures to help the U.S. anticipate and respond to harmful climate change impacts. A report from the White House Council on Climate Preparedness, ***Opportunities to Enhance the Nation's Resilience to Climate Change***, identifies high-priority opportunities to increase climate resilience among federal agencies and to enhance resilience opportunities for state, community, and business stakeholders. The report identifies 17 key opportunities, which are grouped into three thematic areas: (1) the application of science-based data and tools; (2) support for community resilience initiatives; and (3) greater integration of climate resilience into federal operations. In addition, the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy released ***Resilience Dialogues***, an online service designed to help stakeholders make better use of climate information. The service will assist community leaders through facilitated discussions with resilience and climate experts to help identify and plan for climate risks.

OTHER NEWS

Active Transportation Agenda for the Next President

The Partnership for Active Transportation, a collaboration of organizations, has published recommended actions for the next presidential administration to promote the health, safety, and economic vitality of communities nationwide. Their actions include increased investment, prioritizing safety, improving planning, and focusing on transportation networks to create safe and practical routes for pedestrians and cyclists. Organizations can sign on to their agenda before November 10 to recommend their proposed actions to the next administration.

What Mayors Want from the Next President

CityLab surveyed a bi-partisan group of mayors on how they view the stakes of the 2016 election. Unsurprisingly, attention to infrastructure and continuing a direct relationship with local leaders (rather than through states) are mentioned a lot.

EPA Proposes Implementation Rule for 2015 Ozone NAAQS

On November 2, EPA released its proposed rule for implementation of the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). In the proposal, EPA retains without revision “the majority of implementation provisions” of the 2008 ozone NAAQS implementation rule. However, the agency seeks comment on various proposed changes, including ones related to:

1. nonattainment area classification thresholds and attainment deadlines,
2. the transition from the 2008 ozone NAAQS to the 2015 ozone NAAQS and anti-backsliding requirements (for which EPA proposes two options),
3. milestone compliance demonstrations for reasonable further progress,
4. deadlines for submittal and implementation of Reasonably Available Control Technology State Implementation Plan revisions,
5. consideration of sources of intrastate transport with respect to Reasonably Available Control Measures, and
6. emissions inventory and emissions statement requirements.

EPA also seeks comment on some additional considerations including:

1. managing emissions from wildfires and wildland prescribed fires,
2. international transport and background ozone,
3. transportation conformity and general conformity,
4. contingency measure requirements in the event of failure to achieve a milestone or an attainment deadline,
5. enforcement and compliance,
6. achieving emission reductions and
7. applicability of the rule to Tribes.

Comments on the proposed rule are due within 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register. The agency will hold a public hearing on the proposal if one is requested within 15 days after Federal Register publication.

Health Impact Assessment Toolkit for Planners

The American Planning Association (APA) released a toolkit for planners ready to begin a Health Impact Assessment (HIA). The APA toolkit provides guidance for planners on how to move from “considering an HIA” to “conducting an HIA” within the context of the community and builds upon the findings in their **report** and research with the Pew Charitable Trusts.

REGION SPOTLIGHT

Congratulations to NARC Members that Received 2016 NADO Innovation Awards

Many NARC members received National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) innovation awards in 2016. NADO has created a **story map** to tell you more about their award winners. Congratulations to all!

Florida

- Central Florida Regional Planning Council, **2015 Polk County Local Mitigation Strategy Update**; and **Sebring Airport Encouragement Zone/Spring Lake Mixed Use Development (SAEZ/SLMUD) Area Overlay**
- **North Central Florida Regional Planning Council**, Natural Gas Pipeline Safety Training Project
- Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council & East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, **Coast to Coast Trail Urban-Rural Overlay Study**

Illinois

- Bi-State Regional Commission, **Fostering Intergovernmental Relationships**
- **Western Illinois Regional Council**, Macomb Transit Facility

Kentucky

- **Bluegrass Area Development District**, Sanitary Sewers for Burgin Kentucky
- Green River Area Development District, **McLean County Regional Water Commission and International Economic Summit**

- **Kentucky Council of Area Development Districts**, Kentucky Agricultural Development Information System
- Pennyriple Area Development District, **Todd County Career Path Institute**
- Pennyriple Area Development District / Pennyriple Area Agency on Aging and Independent Living, **Kentucky Veterans Directed Care**
- Purchase Area Development District, **Restoration of Fulton County Medical Clinics**

North Carolina

- Centralina Council of Governments, **CONNECT Our Future**

Texas

- Alamo Area Council of Governments, **Supporting San Antonio's Military**
- **Brazos Valley Council of Governments**, Text to 9-1-1; and Community Loan Center of the Brazos Valley
- Brazos Valley Council of Governments / Workforce Solutions Brazos Valley, **Externships for Teachers**
- Capital Area Council of Governments, **Potential Costs of an Ozone Nonattainment Designation to Central Texas**
- **Heart of Texas Council of Governments**, HOTEDD Revolving Loan Fund
- Houston-Galveston Area Council, **Designing for Impact**

FEATURED JOBS

View full list of jobs!

Economic Development Planner

Cowlitz-Wahkiakum Council of Governments, Kelso, WA

Transportation and Data Manager

Omaha-Council Bluffs Metropolitan Area Planning Agency, Omaha, NE

Regional Planner

San Diego Association of Governments, San Diego, CA

FUNDING

View full list of grants!

WIFIA Information Sessions

November 14 – San Francisco, CA

November 15 – Los Angeles, CA

November 18 – Dallas, TX

The *Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act* (WIFIA) establishes a new financing mechanism to accelerate investment in our nation's water infrastructure. The WIFIA program will provide loans for up to 49 percent of eligible project costs for projects that will cost at least \$20 million for large communities and \$5 million for small communities (population of 25,000 or less). Join EPA to learn how the WIFIA program will be implemented in the coming year, including:

- Program basics, including current status, eligibility, statutory requirements, and anticipated schedule
- Application and selection process
- Creditworthiness assessment
- Examples of how WIFIA could be used and its potential cost-savings

Register in advance. The intended audience includes potential WIFIA applicants (like municipal entities, corporations, partnerships, and State Revolving Fund programs) and private and non-governmental organizations that support potential applicants. Details and agenda are available at <http://www.epa.gov/wifia>. If you are unable to attend in-person, EPA will host a

webinar series covering the same topics in December.

2017 Walkability Action Institute

Applications due: November 30, 11:59 pm ET

Send via email in one PDF document to Karma Edwards (kedwards@chronicdisease.org).

The National Association of Chronic Disease Directors in collaboration with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division of Nutrition, Physical Activity, and Obesity seeks applications from MPO regions (or other similar regional entity) for competitive funding assistance to support attendance at the third annual walkability action institute, *Step It Up!: Action Institute to Increase Walking and Walkability*. The purpose is to prepare interdisciplinary teams from MPO regions to pursue policy, systems, and environmental (PSE) supports for walking and walkability. This action institute will provide teams with the most up-to-date academic and applied learning methods, and will reinforce and support implementation of significant national public health policy statements promoting walking and walkability.

EVENTS

[View full list of events!](#)

2018 IECC Online Voting with cdpACCESS Webinar

November 9 12:00 PM ET

November 18 1:00 PM ET* *Note date/time change*

The Energy Efficient Codes Coalition will provide this briefing on the upcoming nationwide online voting period for the 2018 IECC using the cdpACCESS system of the International Code Council, nominally scheduled for November 8-22. The briefing will review the outcomes from the Kansas City hearings that determined the code changes on the final ballot. The briefing will cover the IECC's *Voting Guide and Recommendations* for measures to be approved or modified to keep the IECC on track for efficiency gains, and on the backsliding and rollback measures to be disapproved. Please choose the date which works best for you above.

Connecting Senior Health and Housing: A Regional Forum in Miami

November 10, 9:00 AM-12:00 PM ET – *webcast available*

The Bipartisan Policy Center's Senior Health and Housing Task Force will host a forum to explore the importance of integrating America's health care and housing systems, specifically in Florida, which is at the forefront of the exponential growth of the older adult population in the United States. The Bipartisan Policy Center recently released the report, *Healthy Aging Begins at Home*, to advance policy reforms that would better position communities to support the increasing and diverse health and housing needs of our nation's older adults. The forum will feature former senator and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Mel Martínez as the keynote speaker as well as regional experts who will speak on two panels: Local Innovations to Bridge the Health-Housing Divide and Supporting Healthy Aging at Home in Florida.

Advice for States on Providing Solar Information to Consumers

November 17, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM ET

In this webinar, Warren Leon, Clean Energy States Alliance's (CESA) executive director, will provide an overview of the new program guide for state program managers on providing solar information to consumers. The guide explains why states should provide consumer information on solar, describes the types of information that can be useful, and points out existing educational efforts by states and other entities that provide models and useful resource information. This webinar is a presentation of CESA's Sustainable Solar Education Project. The **project**, funded through a grant from the DOE SunShot Initiative Solar Training and Education for Professionals program, is helping state and municipal officials to ensure distributed solar electricity is equitable and consumer friendly. The project assists states and municipalities in improving consumer information, implementing consumer protection measures, and finding ways to make solar more accessible to low- and moderate-income households.

DOE Clean Cities Tools Webinar

November 17, 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET

DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energy created **Clean Cities Tools**, a group of resources consumers can use to calculate and inform themselves about ways to lower emissions, spend less money, and consume less petroleum. This set of tools allows users to compare different

eco-friendly vehicles and systems; calculate the amount, cost, and impact of petroleum and greenhouse gas emissions a fleet produces; locate alternative fueling stations; research how companies, fleets, and agencies are using alternative fuel; and much more. Join us as we take an in-depth look at some of these tools and learn how your organization can benefit from using them.

CONTACT US

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