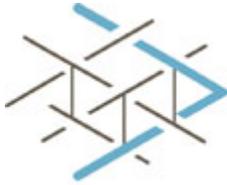


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## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REGIONAL COUNCILS

VOL. XII, No. 46, December 10, 2012

# eRegions

### EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Colleagues,

Good news! According to a recent [Bay Area Council Economic Institute](#) report high tech jobs across the U.S. are soaring. These jobs pay up to 17% higher than other industries by region and are found in places where manufacturing has declined, including the Great Lake and Great Plain states. However, these and other industries may take a beating if we do not address the current austerity problem we face.

Congress has 21 days until the sequester hits and tax cuts expire with less than two weeks until Holiday recess. The

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

[REGIONS360<sup>0</sup>](#)

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



## 2013 NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF REGIONS

FEBRUARY 10-12, 2013

THE RITZ-CARLTON HOTEL  
WASHINGTON, DC

**REGISTER TODAY!**

## PROGRAM UPDATE

**NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Meetings:** NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of the Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21) from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) and regional councils of government (COGs). Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

- **Orlando, FL** - January 25, 2013
- **Sacramento, CA** - January 29, 2013
- **Phoenix, AZ** - January 31, 2013
- **Indianapolis, IN** - February 27-28, 2013
- **Tulsa, OK** - March 4-5, 2013

White House and Congress assure the public they are coming up with a plan but this week Treasury Secretary Geithner indicated we may go over the "cliff" if a settlement cannot be reached. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has lowered its growth estimate for the United States to 2.1%, and the IMF Secretary stated in a CNN interview that "[i]f the U.S. economy was to suffer the downside risk of not reaching a comprehensive deal, then growth would be zero." The sequester will affect every program local governments and regions run including the solvency of the Highway Trust Fund.

Best,  
Fred

## **NARCLEADERSHIP**

### **President**

**Hon. David F. Shafer,**

Clerk/Treasurer,

Town of Munster, IN

**Chair Sean Dey,**

Executive Directors

Council

Executive Director, West

Michigan Shoreline

Regional Development

Commission

- **Worcester, MA** - March 8, 2013
- **Washington, DC** - March 14, 2013

**NARC Participates in MAP-21 Panel:** The North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) hosted an expert panel, which provided an analysis of MAP-21, where funding was the central theme. NARC Executive Director Fred Abousleman said "now the standard is, we get to the end of the fiscal year at the federal level, we threaten government shutdown, we come up with some compromise and we move on." Experts discussed how MAP-21 defers hard funding decisions, while transportation needs are increasing. NJTPA staff detailed the discussion, concerns and opinions of NARC and other panelists in their [\*In Transition\*](#) magazine.

**NARC Final 2012 Webinar on MAP-21:** As the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) continues to draft and prepare guidance that supports the implementation of MAP-21, NARC will schedule its final Transportation Committee webinar, which will focus on Measuring Success: Examining the state of practice in performance management. The webinar is scheduled for December 11, 2012, at 12:00 pm ET. Click [HERE](#) to register.

**New Solar Podcasts:** NARC released two new regional solar podcasts. Learn from the Pima Association of Governments and the Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission on how they are working to make their regions leaders in solar development. To listen to the podcasts, click [HERE](#).

**EPA Releases New Smart Growth Report:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Smart Growth Program released a new report, *Smart Growth and Economic Success*, designed to inform developers, businesses, local government, and other groups about the economic advantages of smart growth development. For more information, click [HERE](#).

**EPA Recommends New Recreational Water Quality Criteria:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently recommended new recreational water quality criteria for states that will help protect peoples' health during visits to beaches and waters year round. The criteria provide states and communities with the most up to date science and information that they can use to determine whether water quality is safe for the public and when to issue an advisory or a beach closure. For

## **NARCSTAFF**

### **Fred Abousleman**

Executive Director

### **Shannon Baxevanis**

Deputy Director

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Director of Community  
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### **Mia Colson**

Program Analyst

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Associate

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Deputy of

Communications

### **Erika Young**

Transportation Director

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of *eRegions*, **visit our**  
**website.**

Make NARC your  
homepage —  
**click here to learn how.**

more information, click **HERE.**

**New Reports Detail Continuation of Lowering Solar PV Prices:** The U.S. Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) and Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (LBL) jointly released two reports examining solar photovoltaic (PV) pricing in the U.S. For more information, click **HERE.**

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## **POLICYUPDATE**

**House of Representatives choose Chairmen and Ranking members for 113th Congress:** Click **HERE** to access the House Committees to see list. New Chairmen include Rep. Bill Shuster (PA) on Transportation and Infrastructure; and Michael McCaul, (TX) on Homeland Security.

**Farm Bill Update:** Lawmakers could consider a Farm Bill compromise as part of deficit-reduction agreement. Leaders on the House and Senate Agriculture Committee have discussed including spending cuts as part of a broader agreement to avoid sequestration and protect programs from larger cuts in the future. While details on a potential cost-cutting measure are still unclear, on Sunday's Meet the Press, Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner stated support for looking at farm subsidies as a possible source for spending cuts.

**Hurricane Sandy Relief Update:** The White House on Friday sent a letter to Congress requesting \$60.4 Billion in Hurricane Sandy relief and recovery funding. According to a **letter** sent from the Office of Management and Budget Deputy Director to the Speaker of the House, funding would be used to repair damaged personal property and public infrastructure and to help communities prepare for future storms. Senate Democrats hope to pass a supplemental this month, while House Republicans will largely determine how fast Congress acts to provide relief funding. The White House also announced it would set up a Hurricane Sandy Rebuilding Task Force and tapped HUD Secretary Shaun Donovan to lead the effort.

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## **REGIONS360°**

**Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) geographic information system (GIS) application wins award:** H-GAC's Community and Environmental Planning Department Regional Land use Information

System (RLUIS) mapping application and the GIS team received two awards during the Housing GIS day event in November. The RLUIS application won first place for Best Analytical Presentation and second place for Best Cartographic Design. The RLUIS can be found [HERE](#).

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## GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

### **EPA's 2013 Environmental Justice Small Grants**

*Application Due: January 7, 2013*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is providing \$1.5 million in environmental justice small grants. The grants enable non-profit organizations to conduct research, provide education and develop solutions to local health and environmental issues in communities overburdened by harmful pollution. Grants are available for up to \$30,000 each. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

### **The Coastal Resilience Networks Program**

*Applications by January 11, 2013.*

The U.S. Department of Commerce is offering grants through The Coastal Resilience Networks program that provides support for activities that enhance the resilience of coastal communities to natural hazard and climate risks through a regional or national network. Support is provided in the following three U.S. regions: the U.S. Flag Pacific Islands (Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands), the Gulf of Mexico Coast (the State of Alabama, Gulf Coast areas of Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Texas), and the West Coast (California, Oregon and Washington). Click [HERE](#) to learn more about this opportunity.

### **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 application guidelines are available [HERE](#).

### **The Gannett Foundation's Community Action Grants**

*Application Deadline: February 16, 2013.*

The Foundation's Community Action Grants support nonprofit organizations with funding priority given to programs that focus on education and neighborhood improvement, economic development, youth development, community problem-solving, assistance to disadvantaged people, environmental conservation and cultural enrichment. For more information on these grants, click [HERE](#).

### **The Surdna Foundation**

*Application Deadline: Letters of Inquiry accepted year around.*

The Surdna Foundation offers funding to nonprofit organizations that seek to help communities build wealth in a sustainable manner. The Surdna Foundation's Strong Local Economies program aims to help create communities of opportunity that offer good jobs within reach for low- and moderate-income residents, and provide sustainable development solutions that enable people to easily travel between their homes and jobs, schools, and day-to-day services. For more information on the application process, click [HERE](#).

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## **UPCOMINGEVENTS**

### ***Transportation Committee: MAP-21; measuring success: examining the state of practice in performance measurement***

**December 11, 12:00-2:00 pm ET**

As the U.S. Department of Transportation continues to draft and prepare guidance that supports the implementation of the recently enacted federal surface transportation authorization, NARC has scheduled two Transportation Committee webinars to focus on different aspects of the law. This webinar will review efforts by the federal government, state departments of transportation, and regional planning organizations to create performance measurement systems for their planning and programming processes. An agenda is forthcoming. Click [HERE](#) to register for the webinar.

### ***Materials Management through Sustainable Consumption: Public Perceptions and Sustainable Consumption Webinar***

**December 11, 12:30-2:00 PM ET**

In this session, we will explore public opinions on climate change and the role of individuals, governments, and institutions in addressing climate change issues. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

***Learn how Tribes are Confronting Climate Change Webinar***

**December 11, 2:00-4:00pm ET**

This webcast, hosted by EPA's Office of Atmospheric Programs, will showcase tribes that are implementing programs in energy efficiency, materials recycling, and climate change adaptation. For more information, click [HERE](#).

***New Guidance on Energy Efficiency Program Evaluation:***

***Calculating Energy & Emissions Impacts Webinar***

**December 11, 2:00-3:00 PM ET**

This webcast, sponsored by EPA's State and Local Climate and Energy Program and the State and Local Energy Efficiency Action Network (SEE Action), will provide a preview of the forthcoming Energy Efficiency Program Impact Evaluation Guide from SEE Action. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

***Larimer County's Regional Energy Master Plan Consortium Collaborative Webinar***

**December 19, 1:00 -2:00 PM ET**

Larimer County, Colorado, is working with a wide variety of stakeholders to develop a regional energy master plan. Two local government organizations that have successfully developed regional energy plans will participate in this interactive, collaborative work session webinar with Larimer County. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

***Trade Workshop to Feature Major Players in the Supply Chain***

**January 24-25, 2013, Tampa, FL**

The 2013 *Shifting International Trade Routes* workshop will examine the effect of the world economic outlook on investment decisions, cargo movements and international trade in general. The program is cosponsored by the American Association of Port Authorities and the U.S. Maritime Administration and hosted by the Tampa Port Authority. Registration and hotel information are available [HERE](#).

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 25, 2013, Orlando, FL**

NARC is hosting regional roundtables to examine and discuss the implementation of MAP-21 from the perspective of metropolitan planning organizations and regional councils of government. Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 29, 2013, Sacramento, CA**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**January 31, 2013, Phoenix, AZ**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***2013 National Conference of Regions***

**February 10-12, 2013, Washington, DC**

Register today for this premier event, focused on all that is happening in Washington, DC. Local elected officials, executive directors and staff of regional and metropolitan planning organizations need to be here! Click [HERE](#) for registration and hotel reservation information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**February 27-28, 2013, Indianapolis, IN**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 4-5, 2013, Tulsa, OK**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 8, 2013, Worcester, MA**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***NARC's MAP-21 Implementation Roundtable***

**March 14, 2013, Washington, DC**

Click [HERE](#) to register for one of the following roundtables or [HERE](#) for additional information.

***Brownfields Renewal: Bringing Stakeholders Together***

**May 15-17, 2012, Atlanta, GA**

The National Brownfields Conference is the largest event in the nation that focuses on environmental revitalization and economic

redevelopment. Click [HERE](#) for additional information.

***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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