

Environmental News Brief

Baltimore Metropolitan Council • December 2002

The following news "briefs" highlight recent news regarding transportation-related environmental issues, primarily air quality, affecting the Baltimore region. Please note that this brief is not all inclusive of the variety and magnitude of activities in the region. It is intended for informational purposes only; refer to the source, guidance, or program for additional information.

Air Quality

CLEAR SKIES INITIATIVE BENEFITS CHESAPEAKE BAY

The Chesapeake Bay Program has completed an initial modeling study quantifying the benefits of nitrogen emission reductions on loads to the Bay from the proposed Clear Skies Initiative. Findings show that nitrogen emission reductions would lower nitrogen deposition to the Bay's watershed by roughly 36 million pounds per year more than what is projected under the existing CAA while lowering nitrogen loads delivered to the Bay by approximately 8 million pounds more than anticipated to be achieved under existing CAA by 2010. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/clearskies/>. A summary of projected benefits for the mid-Atlantic region can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/clearskies/region3.pdf> (requires Adobe Acrobat).

EPA REDESIGNATES WASHINGTON, D.C. AS SEVERE

On November 13, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published a proposed "bump-up" for the Washington D.C. nonattainment area from serious to severe. In summary, this reclassification has the following effects:

- Requires emissions controls for smaller polluting sources (25 tons/year) NO_x or VOC
- Businesses intending to increase NO_x or VOC emissions must obtain greater offsets
- Requires reduction in ozone-forming emissions by 3 percent per year until attainment

Many requirements of severe areas are already in place in the area, such as reformulated gasoline and enhanced inspection and maintenance programs. The proposed rule complies with a July 2002 ruling in a lawsuit brought by the Sierra Club. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2002/November/Day-13/a28845.htm> or www.epa.gov/region3.

Land Use

BALTIMORE WINS EPA GRANT TO DEVELOP SMART SITES

The Baltimore Development Corporation was awarded \$45,000 by EPA as part of the Smart Growth: Saving Open Space, Revitalizing Brownfields program. The grant will support the establishment of "Smart Sites," a program to market brownfield sites to potential developers. The Baltimore grant was one of nine awarded nationally. Through the "Smart Sites" program, state and city governments will promote sites that have been identified as development priorities. The program will target sites most likely to create smart growth projects, considering the potential for a mix of uses and proximity to public transit. For more information, visit <http://www.epa.gov/smartgrowth/baltimore.htm>.

Water Quality

NEW HANDBOOK HELPS LOCAL GOVERNMENTS PROTECT STREAMS

A new book, "A Stream Corridor Protection Strategy for Local Governments," has been created by the University of Virginia. In addition to attempting to help implement many facets of the Chesapeake 2000 agreement, the handbook aims to protect forested stream buffers and development of local watershed plans. It describes how to devise an effective stream protection

strategy, provides tools such as the use of zoning to protect local streams, gives case studies of successful projects and how to engage the local community. Copies are available on the Institute's website at: http://www.virginia.edu/~envneg/ien_projects_featured.htm

SMALL WATERSHED GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Chesapeake Bay Small Watershed Grants Program provides grants to organizations working on a local level to protect and improve watersheds in the Chesapeake Bay basin. The purpose of the grants program is to address the water quality and living resource needs of the Chesapeake Bay ecosystem. The Program has been designed to encourage the development and sharing of innovative ideas among the many organizations wishing to be involved in watershed protection activities. For more information, including a listing of free workshops, please visit <http://www.nfwf.org/chesapeake/index.htm>.

EPA AWARDS GRANTS FOR WATER PROGRAMS IN MARYLAND

- \$8.9 million to improve drinking water systems, with \$1.8 million matching state funds (Drinking Water State Revolving Fund)
- \$3.2 million to reduce water pollution, with \$6.4 million matching state funds (Water Quality State Resolving Fund)

General

Visit www.h2ouse.org, a new website designed for the home resident. The site includes water saving tips such as the best ways to save water, fix leaks and maintain appliances, install water efficient appliances, and more. Take a room-by-room tour of how to save water. The website was developed by the California Water Conservation Council in cooperation with EPA.

EPA ANNOUNCES SUMMER INTERN PROGRAM FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WORKING ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

EPA recently announced its Summer Intern Program for Community Organizations Working on Environmental Justice. Through the Environmental Careers Organization (ECO), EPA will sponsor 30 interns to work at local community organizations in the summer of 2003. Interns may be from all academic levels and will receive a \$450 weekly stipend. Interested groups must submit applications to the ECO/EPA by January 31st, 2003. Preference will be given to organizations that have not previously participated in this program. For more information please contact Jing Yang, Community Intern Program, ECO at (617) 426-4783, Ext. 129 or Renee Goins, EPA/ECO Intern Program Coordinator at (202) 564-2598.

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