

Environmental News Brief

Baltimore Metropolitan Council • July 19, 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

SIP Approval for the Washington Area Vacated

On July 2, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit vacated EPA's approval of the revised SIP for the Washington Metropolitan area. The approval was challenged in the case by the Sierra Club, namely because EPA did not reclassify the area as severe once the 1999 attainment date was not met. For more information, including additional issues, please review the decision available at

<http://pacer.cadc.uscourts.gov/common/opinions/200207/01-1070a.txt>

MD Governor Signs on to Cleaner Northeast Air

Maryland will join nine other states in an effort to intervene in law suits that threaten a federal rule regarding the transport of air pollution. The other states include New York, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, and Maine. Visit www.mde.state.md.us for more information.

Land Use

Building Greener...Save the Date

Mark your calendar for the Mid-Atlantic "Building Greener, Building Better" Conference on September 17-18, 2002. The Conference, to be held at the Baltimore Maritime Institute in Linthicum, MD, will address how to build and finance green building projects. For more information on the conference, registration form, exhibitor packets and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Sean McGuire at SMCGUIRE@dnr.state.md.us. More information should also be posted shortly at

www.energy.state.md.us/program/greenbuildings.html.

Water Quality

Maryland Drought Continues

The Central Portion of Maryland, and the entire Baltimore region, remains under drought emergency or drought watch. Mandatory Level One restrictions are in effect for areas not served by Baltimore City water and voluntary restrictions are requested for everyone. Efforts to preserve water may include fixing leaking faucets or toilets, not letting the water run while brushing your teeth, and running dish and clothes washers only when full. For more information, visit <http://www.mde.state.md.us/drought/>.

New National Watershed Media Campaign

The National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF), with support from EPA, the Forest Service, NOAA, and USGS, have developed a national media campaign to bring watershed information to the homes and living rooms of millions of Americans through the use of television weather reports over the next two years. On

February 28, 2002, NBC Channel 4's Chief Meteorologist, Bob Ryan, presented a short feature on the Chesapeake Bay and launched "Envirocast" as well as a new website, "Where the Atmosphere Meets the Earth." The website includes watershed information, watershed tips, fly-overs, and satellite images of the Bay and its tributaries. Go to <http://www.watershed.interactive-environment.com/main/> to learn more.

Transportation

Report Examines Commuter Behavior and Awareness

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (MWCOC) 2001 State of the Commuter Report was released on June 19. The Report summarizes findings of a random sample of over 7,000 employees of the Washington region regarding their awareness and attitudes toward various transportation options and commuter assistance programs. Some findings include a wide availability of public transportation, increased availability of worksite commuter assistance, increased commute trip lengths, and a higher percentage of teleworkers. For more information, visit <http://www.mwcog.org/commuter/press.htm>.

General

Free Workshop for EPA Grant Recipients

EPA is hosting a workshop on Grant Training for Non-Profit Recipients. The workshop is September 18, 2002, from 9:00 - 4:00 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Capitol, Columbia Ballroom, 550 C Street, SW, Washington, DC 20024 (202-479-4000).

This is a free training seminar for non-profit recipients of EPA assistance dollars. Topics to be discussed include: an Overview of EPA's Grant Programs, Review of the Assistance Award Document, an Overview of EPA's Roles and Responsibilities, Regulations for Non-Profit and Institutes of Higher Learning, and more.

Register On-line at www.epa.gov/ogd/grants/Training.htm or call 202-564-5342, The deadline for registration is September 6, 2002, limited space available.

Quick Stats...

Over the past 20 or so years...

Gross Domestic Product:	up 147%	Since 1970
Vehicle Miles of Travel:	up 143%	Since 1970
Lane miles	up 3%	Since approximately 1970
VOC Emissions:	down 59%	Since 1970
CO emissions:	down 43%	Since 1970
Light-duty truck Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT):	up 173%	between 1980 & 1998
Autos and motorcycle VMT:	up 22%	between 1980 & 1998
Transit & intercity bus passenger miles:	up 50%	between 1985 & 1998
% commuting by driving alone	up 3%	1990 to 2000
% of trips for work commute	down 8%	1969 to 1995

Source: Transportation Air Quality: Selected Facts and Figures, US DOT, January 2002, FHWA-EP-02-006

Websites of Interest...

- Commuter Choice Leadership Initiative: <http://www.commuterchoice.gov/>
- CMAQ Weighted Populations by State, Nonattainment Area, and County, FY2002 <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/cmaggps/napop02/index.htm>
- Daily Forecasts of Ozone Pollution Levels (Baltimore and Washington, DC): www.cleanairpartners.org
- EPA has a new website providing tips to consumers and families including a special section for children about specific summer activities to help reduce pollution and learn about the environment. Some of the categories include: Air Quality and How You Can Help, Conserving and Protecting Our Water Resources Using Pesticides Safely and Resources For Kids and Students. <http://www.epa.gov/epahome/hi-summer.htm>

Noteworthy...

**MTA launched a pilot program, equipping 200 out of about 800 buses with bike racks. Each rack holds two bikes. All buses on M1, M2, M3, M6, M8, M9, M10, M12, and M17 routes have bike racks; some on the 5, 7, 13, 16, 22, 27, 33, 44, 46, 51, 77, 86, 91, and 102 routes also have racks.

**Ridership on the Downtown Area Shuttle (DASH) has nearly doubled since its launch in Spring 2002. Thirty-nine additional companies have signed on, including Allfirst, Harbor Bank of Maryland, The Daily Record, and the Law Offices of Peter Angelos, to name a few. The shuttle transports riders from stadium parking lots throughout downtown Baltimore. For more information, visit http://www.godowntownbaltimore.com/dash_faqs.html.

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