

COG BOARDS AND POLICY COMMITTEES

COG is comprised of three independent policy boards and various supporting advisory and technical committees.

INDEPENDENT POLICY BOARDS

COG Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is COG's governing body and is responsible for its overall policies, functions, and funds. The board acts on committee or staff recommendations, discusses current and emerging multi-jurisdictional problems, and receives briefings on issues facing the region as a whole. Policy items on the agenda are normally generated from COG's policy and technical committees; business or administrative items are usually generated from staff. The COG Board meets monthly on the second Wednesday of the month.

Transportation Planning Board

The National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board (TPB) is the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region and plays an important role as the regional forum for transportation planning. With participation from the District of Columbia and State Departments of Transportation and the region's local governments, the TPB prepares intermediate-range and long-range plans and programs that permit federal transportation funds to flow to the metropolitan Washington region. The TPB meets monthly on the third Wednesday of the month.

Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee

The Metropolitan Washington Air Quality Committee (MWAQC) is the entity certified by the mayor of the District of Columbia and the governors of Maryland and Virginia to prepare an air quality plan for the region and ensure compliance with the Federal Clean Air Act. MWAQC coordinates air quality planning activities among COG and other entities, including the Transportation Planning Board; reviews policies; resolves policy differences; and forges a regional air quality plan for transmittal to the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia and, ultimately, to the Environmental Protection Agency. MWAQC meets bi-monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

POLICY COMMITTEES

Policy committees are advisory committees of the COG Board.

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee

Chesapeake Bay and Water Resources Policy Committee (CBPC) advises the COG Board on Bay-related policies and tracks developments under the federal-state Chesapeake Bay Program for implications to local governments. It also considers questions of potable water supply and waste water treatment. CBPC regularly prepares position statements in response to state and federal legislation affecting the Bay. CBPC meets bi-monthly on the third Friday of the month.

Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee

The Climate, Energy, and Environment Policy Committee (CEEPC) advises the COG Board on climate change, energy, green building, alternate fuels, solid waste and recycling policy issues, and other environmental issues as necessary. CEEPC is responsible for managing implementation of the COG Climate Change Report adopted by the COG Board on November 12, 2008. This responsibility includes development of a regional climate change strategy to meet the regional greenhouse gas reduction goals adopted by the board. CEEPC meets bi-monthly on the fourth Wednesday of the month.

Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee

The Food and Agriculture Regional Member Policy Committee (FARM) supports development of long-term regional direction and collaboration toward a more resilient, connected food and farm economy (food system) across urban, suburban and rural communities in the metropolitan Washington region. FARM meets bi-monthly on the second Friday of the month.

Human Services Policy Committee

The Human Services Policy Committee (HSPC) advises the COG Board on a variety of issues including housing, homelessness, public health, foster care, child welfare, mental health, and substance abuse. Recent actions have included reports on homelessness in the region. HSPC is composed of elected officials, department managers, and directors from the local and state levels. HSPC meetings bi-monthly on the second Friday of the month.

National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council

The National Capital Region Emergency Preparedness Council (EPC) oversees and implements the Regional Emergency Coordination PlanSM (RECP); coordinates activities of the various Regional Emergency Support Function (RESF) Working Groups as they develop specific procedures and relationships; develops training or tests of various components of regional emergency preparedness. The EPC is composed of elected officials, public safety professionals and agency representatives at the state and federal level. The council meets on an ad-hoc basis to conduct tabletop exercises.

***Region Forward Coalition** – The Region Forward Coalition will not meet regularly in calendar year 2025. COG will take this time to evaluate and align the mission of this group with the needs of the region. New members will be requested for appointment in 2026.