

AGENDA NOTE - HRPDC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

ITEM #10: GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS INVENTORY

SUBJECT:

As one element of their Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Programs, the Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach have included funding for a regional inventory of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions.

BACKGROUND:

The HRPDC staff has worked for the past year to facilitate cooperation and coordination among the region's localities on programs developed in response to the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. One element of the successful grant applications submitted by the region's Entitlement Communities was interjurisdictional coordination. For the Non-Entitlement communities, a project was developed cooperatively through the HRPDC.

The Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach included development of a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory as one element of their EECBG program, and proposed funding to support development of the GHG Inventory for the entire region. The cities recommended that the inventory be completed regionally through the HRPDC because of the need for common data and the cost-effectiveness of a regional project. The three cities and HRPDC staff have developed a preliminary scope of work for this project. In order to carry out the project, several steps need to be accomplished – MOA among the funding localities and HRPDC, an MOU among all of the region's localities, a contract to carry out the technical work. The HRPDC staff and members of the GHG Work Group are developing the detailed agreements. Because of time constraints imposed through the federal grant agreements, time is of the essence in authorizing the project to move forward.

The GHG Work Group believes that the inventory will benefit the region by providing a baseline of GHG Emissions and will enhance our ability to respond to potential future federal legislation and potential classification of the region as nonattainment for air quality, as well as filling one of the data gaps identified through the regional climate change initiative. It should assist in both economic development efforts and should facilitate future funding and grant opportunities for the region.

HRPDC Deputy Executive Director John Carlock will brief the Commission on this regional program.

RECOMMENDED ACTIONS:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk and Virginia Beach to manage the GHG Inventory project.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with Old Dominion University to undertake a GHG Inventory for the Hampton Roads Region.

3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the sixteen member localities governing data provision and participation in the GHG Project.

STAFF COMMENTARY:

The project has been discussed on numerous occasions by the EECBG Subcommittee and the Inventory Work Group. The Work Group met on May 10, 2010 and urged the HRPDC staff to move forward with this project.