The DC Region Met Its 2020 Climate Goal. Now, the Hard Part

The DC region met its goal to cut greenhouse gas emissions by 20% by the year 2020, according to a new report by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. This means the region is on track to meet ambitious climate goals for 2030 and 2050, but the hardest part still lies ahead, the DCist reports.

“We’re not talking about the low-hanging fruit anymore,” said Maia Davis, senior environmental planner at COG. “We need to push towards the zero’s: zero carbon or carbon-neutral grid, zero-energy buildings, zero-emission vehicles, and zero waste.”

For 2030, the region’s jurisdictions have committed to cutting carbon emissions by 50%, compared to 2005 levels. The goal for 2050 is an 80% cut in emissions.

The biggest area of emissions reductions, by far, has been in the power grid: transitioning away from coal to natural gas and renewable energy. Electricity on today’s grid has roughly half the carbon emissions associated with it compared to 2005. This means that even though the region is using more electricity — about 10% more — there has been a dramatic drop in greenhouse gas emissions from generating that electricity. Read more.

Potomac Yard Metro Station Delays Continue

For the second time, the completion of the Potomac Yard Metro station has been delayed due to unforeseen site conditions and remediation needs. The station is now slated to open in early 2023. The original opening was planned for April 2022.

Construction work to tie in tracks that was supposed to be finished this month will now continue into early November, Metro said in a release. As site work got underway, crews discovered issues with the underlying soil that affected the structural stability of the ground beneath the tracks. Construction was stopped and
a remediation plan was developed and implemented. This work was beyond the initial scope of the tie-in work. Reinforcing the ground below the tracks required removing any work already completed, excavating additional soil beneath 1400 feet of track, and installing new subgrade materials to provide the required stability.

The station will be located near the sprawling Amazon headquarters, between the existing Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport and Braddock Road stations. This will be Metro’s second infill station in the system’s history after NoMa-Gallaudet U Station opened in 2004. Read more.

**Former Sand Filtration Site to Become Public Infrastructure**

Mayor Muriel Bowser recently announced the District will invest over $100 million in public infrastructure and community amenities at the former McMillan Sand Filtration Site. The area includes 25 acres of land that the District bought from the federal government in 1986.

Over the years, discussions about what to do with the site have centered on preserving the history of the site and providing green space and public amenities to Ward 5 residents. The new infrastructure will include an eight-acre park and a 17,000 square-foot community center with a pool. The District investment will also preserve all four regulator houses, 20 sand silos, sand bins, and two underground filter beds.

The project will also include new housing, for which there is high demand in the area. Read more.

*Stay up to date on legislative issues through the [NSPE Advocacy Center](#).*

**Mark Your Calendar for Engineers Week 2023**

Founded by NSPE in 1951, [Engineers Week](#) (February 19–25, 2023) is dedicated to ensuring a diverse and well-educated future engineering workforce. The latest theme for Engineers Week seeks to inspire the next generation by celebrating all the way engineers are **Creating the Future!**

Engineers play a vital role in innovating solutions to global challenges that impact future generations. By working together to develop new technologies, products, and
opportunities, engineers create new possibilities that make the world a better place.

Engineers Week is a time for you to:
- Celebrate how engineers make a difference in our world.
- Add your voice to the conversation about the need for engineers, technicians, and technologists.
- Engage students in engineering.

Access promotional resources.

**DiscoverE Outreach Grants**
Don't miss your chance to fund your events for Engineers Week and Introduce a Girl to Engineering Day.

There are $250-$1000 grants available:
- Bell Girl Day grants for girl-centered programs
- Engineers Week grants for underserved students

The deadline to apply for the grants is November 4.
Workability Wednesdays Webinars

The fall series of Workability Wednesdays webinars recently launched with a webinar on What Separates Good Engineers From Great Engineers. The series is free for NSPE members and covers topics impacting the industry and helps to enhance your competencies in the profession.

Upcoming Webinars

- How Blockchain Protects Public Safety: A Working Solution (October 26)
- Navigating the Ethical Dilemmas that Arise in Everyday Engineering Practice (November 16)

If you missed the spring lineup of Workability Wednesdays webinars, you can still view the recordings and receive PDH credit.

Last Call for FEYA Nominations

Nominations for the Federal Engineer of the Year Award are open until October 31. The
award, sponsored by the Professional Engineers in Government, honors engineers employed by a federal agency that employs at least 50 engineers worldwide.

The FEYA ceremony is scheduled for February 24, 2023, at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Tickets will be available for sale in January.

Nominations must be made by the federal agency. Access the application here.

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