

Local Government Advisory Committee

Public Meeting Agenda - September 29, 2023

All times in Eastern Standard Time

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| 2:30pm | <p>Call to Order
<i>Paige Lieberman, Designated Federal Officer</i></p> <p>Welcoming Remarks
<i>Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i>
<i>Mark Rupp, EPA Assistant Deputy Administrator</i></p> <p>Roll Call
<i>Paige Lieberman, Designated Federal Officer</i></p> |
| 2:50pm | <p>Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of Recommendations, <i>Commissioner Christine Lowery and Supervisor Ann Mallek, SCAS Co-Chairs</i>- Discussion and Voting, <i>Mayor Lucy Vinis, LGAC Vice-Chair</i> |
| 3:10pm | <p>PFAS Risk Communications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Presentation of Recommendations, <i>Secretary Jeff Witte, Workgroup Chair</i>- EPA's plan of action, <i>Zach Schafer, EPA Senior Advisor</i>- Discussion on next steps, <i>facilitated by Secretary Jeff Witte, Workgroup Chair</i>- Vote on recommendations, <i>Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i> |
| 3:45pm | <p>Public Comment
<i>facilitated by Mayor Lucy Vinis, LGAC Vice-Chair</i></p> |
| 3:55pm | <p>Closing Remarks
<i>Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird, LGAC Chair</i></p> |
| 4:00pm | <p>Meeting Closed
<i>Paige Lieberman, Designated Federal Officer</i></p> |

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Member Biographies

September 2023



Leirion Gaylor Baird, Chair

Mayor, Lincoln, NE

Leirion Gaylor Baird was elected Mayor of Lincoln, Nebraska in 2019, after serving two terms on the City Council. The mayor's vision of leading Lincoln toward a more successful, secure, and shared future drives her administration's agenda. Upon taking office, she launched the Resilient Lincoln initiative and commissioned the development of a Climate Action Plan – a first of its kind in the state of Nebraska. She currently serves on the Advisory Board of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and as Chair of their Mayors and Metro Universities Task Force. Mayor Gaylor Baird has been Chair of the LGAC since 2021.



Lucy Vinis, Vice Chair

Mayor, Eugene, OR

Lucy Vinis has served as Mayor of Eugene, Oregon for 5 years. She has worked across the government and non-profit sectors to address equity, land use, natural resources, agriculture, housing, and homelessness. She previously worked as a consultant in Washington, DC, and co-authored studies on sustainable farming, land use, and development impacts on ground and surface water in the Chesapeake Bay. Vinis is a member of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and a Climate Mayor, bringing Eugene's leadership and experience into the national discussion about the role of cities in responding to climate change. Vinis is the Vice Chair of the LGAC.



Ras Baraka

Mayor, Newark, NJ

Ras J. Baraka is currently serving his third term as Mayor of Newark, New Jersey. A Newark native, he has received accolades from grassroots organizations to the White House, for his ability to reduce crime to its lowest levels in five decades, address affordability while maintaining growth, lower unemployment, and nearly complete the replacement of all 23,000-plus lead service lines in the city. As the President and Chair of the New Jersey Urban Mayors Association, and through his involvement in the New Jersey DEP Environmental Justice Advisory Council, he is addressing climate change and environmental justice inequities.



Sharon Broome

Mayor-President, Baton Rouge, LA

Sharon Broome was sworn in as the Mayor-President of Baton Rouge, Louisiana in 2017, but has a long history of public service and leadership. She is the first female to hold her position and was also the first female to hold the leadership positions of Speaker Pro Tempore in the Louisiana State House and President Pro Tempore in the State Senate. Broome is focused on uniting her city around the common goals of equality in education, economic development, justice, housing, and other quality ways of life.



Luke Bronin

Mayor, Hartford, CT

Mayor Bronin has worked to establish Hartford, Connecticut as a leader in environmental stewardship, while also maintaining fiscal responsibility. He is an advocate for cleaning up PFAS and other hazardous chemicals, as well as carbon-friendly mass transit. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served as general counsel for the Connecticut Governor's office, and two senior posts at the U.S. Department of Treasury. While serving in the U.S. Navy in Afghanistan he was a member of the anti-corruption task force.



Gary Brown

Water and Sewerage Department Director, Detroit, MI

Gary Brown is Director of the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), which is the largest water and sewerage system in the United States. Service has been a constant in Brown's life, starting with the U.S. Marines, and including 26 years in the Detroit Police Department as a patrol officer, precinct commander and deputy chief. Since taking the helm of DWSD in 2016, Brown has transformed its operation by focusing on compassionate customer care and addressing the evolving needs of the community.



Darcy M. Burke

Board of Directors, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, CA

Darcy M. Burke was elected to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Lake Elsinore, California in 2018 and then re-elected in 2022. Her professional career has focused on water quality and small water system assistance. Since joining the Board, she has led a five-year strategic planning effort which included creating a cohesive regional water resiliency planning group, focusing on securing new long-term water supplies for fast-growing Southwest Riverside County. She currently serves on the Urban Water Institute's Board of Directors, the California Nevada Section, American Water Works Association's Communications and Customer Service Committee, and Associated California Water Agencies Water Quality PFOS Working Group.



José Aponte Dalmau

Mayor, Carolina, Puerto Rico

José Aponte Dalmau has served as Mayor of Carolina, Puerto Rico, since 2007. He successfully navigated his community through the recovery of Hurricane Maria in 2017 and has developed innovative solid waste management solutions for his community. Prior to serving as Mayor, he had a successful career as an engineer. He has served on the LGAC and SCAS since 2015.



Kimberly du Buclet

State Representative, State of Illinois

Representative Kimberly Du Buclet was elected to her current position in 2023. Prior to this role she was a Commissioner for the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago, she was inspired to run for after repeated flooding in her childhood home on Chicago's south side was met with inaction from the local government. Prior to this position she was a state-elected legislator and Chicago Park District Director of Legislative and Community Affairs. She has experience working on green infrastructure, water supply, water quality, and flood damage protection, as well as turning vacant space into green spaces.



Miki Esposito

Los Angeles County Public Works Department Assistant Director, Los Angeles County, CA

Miki Esposito is the Assistant Director of the Los Angeles County Public Works Department, which serves nearly 10 million people. Esposito began her career as an attorney for the Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality, specializing in Environmental and Natural Resources Law. She also worked in the Lincoln City Attorney's Office on civil litigation, contract negotiation and legislation, and as Senior Policy Advisor to the Mayor of Lincoln, where she supported a range of policy issues.



Jacob Frey

Mayor, Minneapolis, Minnesota

Jacob Frey was elected Mayor of Minneapolis, Minnesota in 2017 and has championed an agenda during his tenure centered on increasing access to affordable housing throughout the city, strengthening community-police relations, and fueling economic growth through inclusive policies. He has successfully secured record-setting investments for the city's affordable housing work, boosting efforts to expand and preserve affordable housing. Prior to his role as Mayor, he served on Minneapolis City Council Member from 2014 to 2018. As an employment and civil rights attorney, Frey became an active community organizer, including fighting for gay rights and supporting those experiencing homelessness.



Sarah Fox

Council Member, Vancouver Washington

Washington State Department of Commerce Climate Program Manager

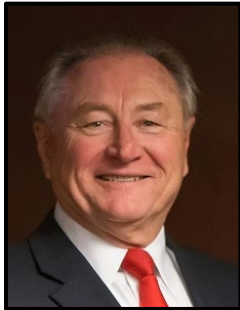
Sarah Fox was elected to Vancouver, Washington's City Council in 2019. She is also a Climate Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Commerce, where she guides local governments in planning for climate change impacts. She has more than 18 years of experience in long-range and current planning, including advocating for urban development and affordable housing, land use, transportation, fossil fuel regulations, and climate action policies.



Katherine Gilmore Richardson

Councilmember At-Large, Philadelphia, PA

Katherine Gilmore Richardson is serving her first term as Councilmember At-Large for the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. A lifelong Philadelphian, Gilmore Richardson is the youngest woman ever elected Citywide and the youngest African-American woman ever elected to Philadelphia City Council. She is focused on upskilling and reskilling the local workforce, supporting local, small, and minority-owned businesses, and addressing climate change and environmental justice. Gilmore Richardson previously served for 11 years as a staff member for Councilwoman Blondell Reynolds Brown in roles ranging from Constituent Services to Chief of Staff.



Nick Gradisar

Mayor, Pueblo, CO

Nick Gradisar was elected as Mayor of Pueblo, Colorado in 2019. For 65 years the town of 110,000 had no head of government, but Gradisar fought for years to change the system, accomplished it in a referendum, and then ran for the newly created position. Gradisar has been engaged in public service for many years and spent 40 years in the private practice of law. As mayor he is working to address housing, transportation, economic development, education, and neighborhood revitalization within Pueblo.



Jonathan Grieder

Councilmember, Waterloo, IA

As a Councilmember for Waterloo, Iowa, Jonathan Grieder is focused on addressing the affordability and accessibility of childcare, raising wages to a livable level, investing in Waterloo's infrastructure, ensuring quality city services, addressing the spike in gun violence, and fighting to ensure equitable economic development that lifts all his constituents. Grieder has also made tangible progress on addressing climate change in his city and bringing other communities along. Outside of elected office Grieder is a high school social studies teacher.



Evan Hansen

West Virginia House of Delegates Member, WV

Evan Hansen is serving his third term in the West Virginia House of Delegates, representing Monongalia County. Hansen owns an environmental and economic development consulting firm that strengthens economies, sustains healthy environments, and builds resilient communities. Before his election, Evan worked with legislators to respond to the Freedom Industries chemical leak and provided testimony regarding attempts to increase the amount of cancer-causing chemicals in the state's rivers. Hansen's work has also included consulting on water and energy issues across Sub-Sahara Africa, and in China and Egypt.



Brenda Howerton

Durham County Commissioner, NC

Commissioner Howerton is the first African American commissioner in Durham County. She has focused her four terms on the initiative “100 Counties Helping Our Children Thrive.” She has a history of demonstrated advocacy for disadvantaged communities and public health, including addressing juvenile crime prevention, workforce development, and public health issues. Outside of elected office she owns a consulting firm that specializes in organizational development and executive coaching for public and private industries.



Deana Holiday Ingraham

Mayor, East Point, GA

During her first term as mayor of East Point, Georgia, Deana Holiday Ingraham has championed implementation of livable wages for City employees, financial literacy for youth, developing public arts and agricultural master plans, and using Brownfields grant funding to develop unused land. Prior to her role as mayor, she had a successful legal career, including serving as a trial court law clerk, managing member of her own law firm, and an advocate for senior citizens. Ingraham serves on several organizations, including as a board member for the National League of Cities (NLC) and Georgia Municipal Association.



Ella Jones

Mayor, Ferguson, MO

Ella Jones was elected as Ferguson, Missouri’s first African-American and female mayor in 2020, having served on the City Council for one term. During her tenure she has championed public safety, neighborhood stabilization (including funding for first-time homeownership), and engaging Ferguson’s youth with more job opportunities. Prior to public service, Jones was a trained chemist, working for the Washington University School of Medicine and KV Pharmaceutical before becoming a Sales Director with Mary Kay for 30 years.



Heather Kimball

Hawai'i County Commissioner, HI

Heather Kimball is in her second term as Commissioner, representing the rural and economically disadvantaged district of Hawai'i County. During her tenure she has supported legislative projects on affordable housing, electric vehicle charging infrastructure, and climate change targets. Outside of elected office Kimball manages a consulting firm focused on environmentally sensitive land management planning and creating public communication materials and policy support tools. She has technical expertise in the zero-waste movement, Extended Producer Responsibility, and has written for several relevant academic publications.



Christine Lowery

Cibola County Commissioner, NM

Christine Lowery, a second term Commissioner in Cibola County, New Mexico, views her role on the Committee as spiritual, personal, and purposeful for the people she serves. She is a member of the Pueblo of Laguna and post-retirement, has lived on her ancestral land at the Pueblo of Laguna for over 20 years. Her village of Paguete is also home to the Jackpile-Paguete Uranium Mine, once the world's largest open-pit mine, and now, a Superfund site. Lowery had a successful career as a social worker and finally, an associate professor at the University of

Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Helen Bader School of Social Work. Lowery is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



Ann Mallek

Albemarle County Board of Supervisors Member, VA

Ann Mallek was first elected to the Albemarle County Board of Supervisors in November 2008. She has over 40 years of experience in public service, including Committees on tourism, agriculture, forestry and historic preservation. She is also an active member of the Virginia Association of Counties (VACO) Board of Directors and the National Association of Counties (NACo) Environment and Land

Use Committee. In 13 of her 14 years on the Board of Supervisors, she has held 6 town halls annually to meet with constituents, going online with Covid. Mallek is co-chair of the Small Communities Advisory Subcommittee.



Rachel May

New York State Senator, NY

Fresh off a career in sustainability education at Syracuse University, Senator May brought a whole systems approach to New York state government when she was elected in 2018. She helped negotiate the nation's strongest climate law in 2019, making sure that upstate forests and farms were considered in crafting solutions. In her approach to the state budget, she has sought holistic decision-making, promoting measures like soil health policies to prevent flooding downstream, or home care investments to help seniors and the state avoid the high costs of

nursing home care.



Christian Menefee

Harris County Attorney, TX

Christian Menefee was reared in an environmental justice community, living near the largest petrochemical company in the world. In 2020 he was elected as Harris County Attorney, as the youngest person and first African American to hold the position. During his tenure he has engaged in legal action against the Texas highway agency for infrastructure projects with detrimental impacts on underserved neighborhoods, as well as with Texas environmental regulators

failing to follow permit laws, and a company responsible for creosote contamination in a predominantly Black neighborhood that resulted in cancer clusters.



Douglas Nicholls

Mayor, Yuma, Arizona

Currently in his third term as Mayor of Yuma, Arizona, Nicholls believes that quality communities provide opportunities for success to all residents through jobs, superior education, and a robust quality of life. His vision to make higher education more accessible culminates in plans for the Yuma Multiversity Campus (YMC), a brownfields redevelopment project that will utilize the academic programs and specialties offered by state universities and local community colleges. Nicholls has also spearheaded efforts to enhance and grow the Yuma community, including founding 4FrontED, an economic development-focused governing board of mayors from binational locations near the U.S.-Mexico border.



Ron Nirenberg

Mayor, San Antonio, TX

Ron Nirenberg is currently serving his third term as the Mayor of San Antonio, Texas, which has the 7th largest population in the United States and is one of the nation's fastest growing cities. Nirenberg is the first San Antonio Mayor of Asian Pacific Islander descent. Through his personal experiences, Nirenberg developed a core commitment to civic participation and the universal values of liberty, justice, and equal opportunity for every person. Under his leadership as mayor, the city has adopted an equity framework in budgeting to reduce poverty, improve public health, and overcome historical socioeconomic inequality.



Neil O'Leary

Mayor, Waterbury, CT

Mayor Neil M. O'Leary has dedicated over 40 years to the people of Waterbury, Connecticut. He joined the Waterbury Police Department in 1980 and rose through the ranks to Chief. As Mayor, O'Leary revitalized the city's former brass manufacturing industry in a way that not only kept the metal industry, but also used Brownfield programs and other funding sources to remediate contaminated properties and create new opportunities. He believes that a team-centric approach predicated on input from the community is critically important to successful government and has used this approach to lead multiple regional government coalitions.



David Painter

Clermont County Board of Commissioners, OH

David Painter is currently serving his second term on the Clermont County Board of Commissioners and is a strong advocate for market competition and government efficiency. Painter is committed to reducing the impacts resulting from the Ohio opiate crisis. He represents the people of Ohio on several regional and national organizations, including the National Association of County's (NACo) Energy, Environmental and Land Use Steering Committee and NACo Board of Directors.



Mary Lou Pauly
Mayor, Issaquah, WA

Mary Lou Pauly has served as Mayor of Issaquah, Washington since 2017, following 19 years on the City's Development Commission and four years on City Council. During her time as a public servant, she has implemented a City Climate Action Plan, provided electrification incentives, and worked with regional partners to evaluate PFAS contamination and remediation. She is an active member on several national organizations, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Mayors Water Council, and the National League of Cities. Prior to elected office she worked in environmental consulting and civil engineering.



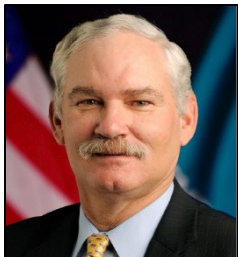
Whitford Remer
Sustainability and Resilience Officer, Tampa, FL

As the first Sustainability and Resilience Officer for the City of Tampa, Whitford Remer is guided by three core principles: Go Green, Be Fair, and Keep Safe. Remer is responsible for developing the Resilient Tampa Roadmap and secured major financial commitment in his first few months on the job to develop the city's first Climate Action and Equity Plan to reach 100% renewable energy. His drive towards equity and inclusion comes from living in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina.



Satya Rhodes-Conway
Mayor, Madison, WI

Elected in 2019, Satya Rhodes-Conway is the second female and first out LGBTQ person to serve as mayor of Madison, Wisconsin. She has extensive experience in local policy and practice, having served three terms on the Madison Common Council, and worked with mayors and organizations across the country to implement innovative policy that promote environmental economic sustainability and build democratically accountable communities. As co-chair of the Climate Mayors, Rhodes-Conway recognizes the need for whole-of-government approach to climate change, including public budgets, capital investments, and a focus on equity.



Michael Scuse
Delaware Secretary of Agriculture, DE

Michael T. Scuse is in his second term as Delaware's Secretary of Agriculture, having previously held several leadership positions with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), where he oversaw USDA's Farm Service Agency, Risk Management Agency, and Foreign Agricultural Services. He led initiatives to improve the competitiveness of American products in the global marketplace, created new markets to increase rural economic opportunity, and delivered assistance that helped to keep America's farmers and ranchers in business. He has experience working on a range of water issues and is a lifelong farmer of corn, soybean, and wheat.



Jeff Witte

New Mexico Secretary of Agriculture, NM

Jeff Witte has served with New Mexico's Department of Agriculture since 1994, and as Secretary since 2011. He has been a member of both the LGAC and SCAS since 2015, including serving as Vice Chair from 2018 to 2020. During his tenure he created the New Mexico Agricultural Leadership Program, represented New Mexico ranchers and farmers on state legislation, and started the Southwest Border Food Safety and Defense Center at New Mexico State University, which brings together law enforcement and the agricultural industry to develop plans that will protect New Mexico agriculture as part of a homeland security strategy.



Lisa Wong

Town Manager, South Hadley, MA

Lisa Wong is the Town Manager of South Hadley, Massachusetts. Prior to this position she served four terms as Mayor of Fitchburg, Massachusetts, where she was elected as the youngest female and the first Asian American mayor in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. As Mayor, Wong restored fiscal stability to Fitchburg, notably by increasing the stabilization fund, increasing the bond rating several times, reorganizing city departments, reducing health care costs, and instituting energy efficiency projects throughout the city. Wong was a member of the LGAC under Administrator Lisa Jackson, during which she chaired the Environmental Justice workgroup.

Draft Recommendations from EPA's Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS)

In March 2023, the Local Government Advisory Committee's Small Community Advisory Subcommittee (SCAS) was charged to advise EPA on ideas to guide the Office of Community Revitalization's work with small communities, with a particular focus on land use and transportation matters. Input from the Subcommittee underscores the needs of smaller communities so that EPA can support clean, convenient, and affordable transportation options for residents and businesses. The SCAS has summarized a set of challenges faced by smaller towns as the nation moves to an affordable and equitable transportation system and offers solutions to the various sets of barriers highlighted. Recognizing that the SCAS represents localities with population sizes varying from 30,000 to as few as 300 residents, the Subcommittee collectively agrees on the need for financial assistance from federal and state governments to strengthen the capacity of small communities throughout America to improve and protect the health of their people and the environment in which they live.

SCAS members were asked to identify transportation challenges that are faced as the U.S. moves to a cleaner transportation system. Members acknowledged the increased risk levels with being early adopters moving to electrify vehicles and tests early technologies. Associated risks include expensive upfront costs with ongoing maintenance. Communities are reluctant to continue making similar purchases once they realize the weight of being early adopters with continuous development/upgrades needed for new technologies.

Another challenge recognized is that small communities do not have enough tax base to pay for the initial costs electrifying local transit. SCAS members also highlighted that smaller communities are slow to implement the adoption of electric vehicles due to the geographic distance of local amenities (i.e., agricultural communities). For example, in some communities, the closest store can be as far as 10-15 miles away from homes and schools, and the infrastructure for vehicle charging stations do not exist. Therefore, there is a lack of confidence to adopt electric vehicles, especially when there's an absence of charging infrastructure locally. Not only are smaller communities faced with the lack of confidence for the instillation of charging stations, but they also face the lack of capacity for maintenance required for these stations, especially in rural areas. Another challenge involves the increasing high-traffic demand on outdated corridors like highways and railways. The need for continuous maintenance tests state funding for transportation.

SCAS members were asked to identify challenges related to underlying land use policies that involves walking, biking, public transportation, and other means of electric vehicles for individuals, businesses, school districts, and municipalities. Members echoed capacity concerns of grid plans at the municipal level and that many grids cannot sustain the efforts to electrify. The SCAS also highlighted the amount of time that it will take for a small community to electrify public transit and the perception that the effort of fleet electrification costs more than it's worth to pursue federal funding.

There also exists a set of issues beyond small town planning at the government level to transition to a cleaner transportation system. These issues boil down to community concerns from residents. Smaller communities face challenges of community buy-in to municipal energy plans as there is a lack of community education on the benefits of electrifying vehicles. Additionally, many small towns have populations of residents that do not have access to vehicles. Rural communities, such as Bethel AK, have yet to consider electrifying their transit system because the town relies heavily on diesel fuel for transportation due minimal paved roads. Boat transportation is available for use, but there's a risk to

the health of the river and there's limited conversation around electrifying water transportation systems.

Finally, the SCAS was asked to identify gaps in the current set of available tools that small communities can use to take advantage of federal investments for cleaner transportation options. All in all, SCAS members highlighted an overarching intimidation of the federal grant process for smaller communities including the process of identifying applicable federal funding options, applying for the funding, and grant management.

Despite the set of existing challenges to move to cleaner transportation selections for smaller communities throughout the nation, the SCAS offers ideas and recommendations to EPA that can support the overall goal to decarbonize transportation in all communities.

To accelerate affordable and equitable clean transportation, there needs to be an increase of electric options for households that take public transportation at a macro level, rather than individually. Similar to larger municipalities, small towns are faced with a population of people that do not have access to personal vehicles. This is especially true for senior citizens, but the need for more transit options to simply attend doctor's appointments is critical. Increasing the availability of community-based transportation and/or incentivizing ride share options is a greater priority to small towns rather than the electrification of single use vehicles, which will also reduce carbon footprints. Additionally, the SCAS believes that smaller communities need assistance with connecting transportation plans with their county and state designs, rather than piecemealing the building of a new electric transportation system. The SCAS recommends that EPA work with states and regions to find systems that incentivize green energy and set long term goals to improve services for people to be able to use electrified public transportation. **The SCAS also recommends that EPA and the Department of Transportation (DOT) help facilitate the discussion with states and local governments to improve the sustainability of the current grid.** The SCAS believes that a whole-of-government approach is needed to transition smaller communities to a more clean and affordable economy involving critical facets such as workforce, housing, transit, etc.

Finally, the SCAS recommends the development of a program that assists smaller communities' ability to apply for grants, which will ultimately make grants more accessible, understandable, and overall, more attractive. Technical assistance centers that are regionally designed provide great opportunities to those that can easily access; however, this is not the case for many smaller communities. Therefore, the SCAS recommends EPA to incentivize states to deploy federal funding for grant navigators. Grant navigators will go directly to smaller communities and help city officials to identify applicable grant funding based on the town's priority. These opportunities will incentivize training programs for the navigators and will help smaller communities increase the effective maintenance required for grant management.

The SCAS thanks EPA for the opportunity to provide insight to their efforts to help smaller communities to support clean, convenient, and affordable transportation options.

LGAC Recommendations that Supports Local Governments Address PFAS

EPA has tasked the Local Government Advisory Committee (LGAC) to pull from its institutional knowledge and inform ways that EPA can support local and state governments communication the risk of PFAS. Specifically, the LGAC's PFAS Risk Communications Workgroup was asked to provide a local perspective on what happens when PFAS is detected and how can EPA support this work to position a community for effective engagement with local residents while balancing the initial management of PFAS contamination. Additionally, workgroup members were asked if there are specific tools that EPA should develop, local examples of best practices, and/or lessons learned that EPA should consider adopting, and lastly ways that EPA can support effective partnerships of local, state, and federal governments on the issue of PFAS. The subsequent paragraphs respond to this call for information as the first step to build a set of collaborative solutions locally and federally to address this national issue. However, a missing, yet critical component to these solutions involves state collaboration. Although the LGAC is mainly comprised of locally elected officials, members of the LGAC look forward to building a tier set of solutions amongst local, state, and federal partners to mitigate the occurrence of longstanding PFAS and prevent any future use of these chemicals.

Local governments are on the frontline for their constituents. Policies established at federal and state levels, which in turn are implemented locally, require local officials to be prepared and fully equipped with a clear communication strategy for their residents. As the detection of PFAS is increasing nationwide, members of the LGAC call upon EPA to help local governments communicate the risk once PFAS is identified and detected in a community.

The LGAC appreciates EPA being a leading agency dedicated to tackling the devastating effects of PFAS in human health and the environment. We value the agency's commitment to provide meaningful, understandable, and actionable information on PFAS and understand the set of nuances that results in chemicals that continues to be researched to efficiently detect and measure its prevalence. Local governments are looking to EPA to provide support, specifically with risk communications, when PFAS is identified.

Building upon the LGAC's 2020 recommendations to EPA on the overall topic of risk communications along with a more recent series of workgroup discussions and a table-top exercise demonstrating a scenario of PFAS detection, **the LGAC recommends EPA to develop a PFAS Toolkit adoptable for local governments.** Components within this toolkit should include a table-top exercise, comprehensive messaging kits, standardized talking points, message maps, and FAQ's. Another key component to this toolkit will be communication templates. These templates can offer scenarios when testing for PFAS is over and/or below the regulatory threshold. Having this information will allow local governments to access the most up to date data that can be shared with their constituents. The messaging kits and communication templates will assist local officials to communicate 1) PFAS and what it entails, 2) it's place of origin and where it's likely to be found, 3) the risk of PFAS once exposed, 4) outline the mitigating factors of PFAS, 5) describe the corrective actions to ensure public water systems continue to provide healthy water, and 6) federal actions taken to address PFAS. The toolkit can also include information on actionable steps for communities and individuals to take to reduce the use and exposure of PFAS, information on laboratory testing, factual publications on PFAS, and PFAS visuals, graphs, and charts.

In regard to EPA supporting effective partnerships of local, state and federal governments on the issue of PFAS, **the LGAC recommends that EPA acts as a convener and facilitator for regional coalitions, states and local jurisdictions to ensure that the risks of PFAS is factually communicated to the public.**

Once PFAS is identified, all levels of government will need to organize and determine how to communicate the problem to residents. EPA can be a reliable expert and trusted voice for state and local governments to communicate the risks of PFAS. Since the occurrence of PFAS is a national issue, utilizing EPA as the federal entity to help facilitate solutions, and provide funding and technical assistance is critical.

Finally, we appreciate EPA bringing the proposed PFAS National Drinking Water Regulation to the LGAC with the opportunity to provide recommendations ahead of its finalization. Although we've offered our input to the proposal, it should be emphasized throughout all discussions involving PFAS the financial cost to address the issue. **The LGAC recommends that EPA hold manufactures of PFAS chemicals accountable and ensure that financial assistance is granted to local governments to ensure appropriate resources are available to mitigate and clean up the contamination.** EPA's analysis on the cost for regulating PFAS in public drinking water systems is significantly low, however according to a study conducted by Black & Veatch on the PFAS cost model on behalf of the American Water Works Association (AWWA) estimated the national cost for water systems to install treatment to remove PFOA and PFOS to levels required by EPA's proposal exceeds \$3.8 billion annually*. This increase in cost for water treatment systems should not be solely charged to ratepayers. Federal funding needs to be made available that allow local governments to treat and prevent PFAS from public and private drinking systems, especially in small and disadvantaged communities.

We look forward to the continued collaboration between EPA and the LGAC as we address the issue of PFAS keeping in mind the protection of public health for our residents and the environment.

*source: [New Proposed EPA Regulations on PFAS: What Water Utilities Need to Know.](#)