

## SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

### I. INTRODUCTION

This fact sheet will focus on Sustainability and Climate Change at state, county, and individual levels, with particular attention to resources available through the League of Women Voters of the United States (LWVUS). Several years ago LWVUS established a Task Force on Climate Change and determined that existing LWV national positions on clean air enable the organization to take positions that favor combating climate change. Combating climate change is essential in promoting the sustainability of all life on earth, including ours.

### II. STATE OF MARYLAND

#### A. LEGISLATION AND POLICIES [see <http://www.green.maryland.gov/climate.html> ]

In April 2007, Governor Martin O'Malley signed an executive order establishing the **Maryland Commission on Climate Change** (made up of 16 state agency heads and 6 members of the General Assembly and supported by 3 working groups). O'Malley charged this commission with developing a **Climate Action Plan** to address the contributors to climate change, to prepare for its likely impacts in Maryland, and to establish goals and timetables for implementation. With more than 3,000 miles of shoreline, the state identifies Maryland as "the fourth most vulnerable state in the nation to the effects of climate change and rising sea levels."

The Commission released its Adaptation **Phase 1** (interim) report in 2008 and an update in 2010; these address **Sea Level Rise and Coastal Storms**. The Adaptation **Phase II Strategy for Reducing Maryland's Vulnerability to Climate Change** ("Building Societal, Economic, and Ecological Resilience") was released in January 2011 [see <http://www.green.maryland.gov/pdfs/MDclimate.pdf> ]. The earlier reports detail 42 specific actions "to help the state greatly reduce its greenhouse gases (GHGs) while creating jobs and reducing energy costs to consumers". An 80-page report, available on the website of Maryland's Department of Natural Resources, details the Phase II recommendations [see [http://dnr.maryland.gov/climatechange/climatechange\\_phase2\\_adaptation\\_strategy.pdf](http://dnr.maryland.gov/climatechange/climatechange_phase2_adaptation_strategy.pdf)].

Maryland also participates in the **Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative** (RGGI), the nation's first cap-and-trade cooperative effort by ten Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from electricity generating plants. RGGI auction proceeds go to Maryland's Strategic Energy Investment Fund programs to promote cleaner energy sources, energy efficiency, and conservation, and to provide rate relief for low and moderate income households. In addition, Maryland's **Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act**, passed in 2009 (with Montgomery County delegate Kumar Barve as a cosponsor) commits the State to a 25 percent reduction in GHGs by 2020.

Governor O'Malley's "**EmPOWER Maryland**" initiative aims to reduce the state's energy consumption by 15 percent by the year 2015, which could also reduce its emissions. The **2007 Clean Cars Act** implemented stricter emissions regulations for cars purchased and registered in Maryland, which joined 16 other states in requiring stronger emission standards than the federal CAFÉ (Corporate Average Fuel Economy) standards.

One step not popular with many environmental organizations was a law approved in spring 2011 that moves incineration (converting waste to generate energy) from the list of energy sources that the state plans to phase out (others on that list are large hydroelectric power plants and poultry waste) to

the list of renewable energy sources that the state plans to grow and even subsidize. Environmental activists are concerned about the amount of air pollution produced when waste is incinerated. Before this addition, the preferred renewable energy sources included solar, wind, biomass, some methane sources, geothermal, ocean energy, fuel cells, small hydroelectric power plants, and poultry-litter-to-energy projects. Given the existence of such large enterprises as Montgomery County's trash-burning incinerator, the state's decision was possibly one of political pragmatism.

Peripherally related is "**PlanMaryland**", the state's first long-range plan for sustainable growth, which the governor accepted in December 2011 from the Department of Planning and filed with the Secretary of State; he also issued an implementing executive order. The plan coordinates smart growth efforts and state programs. State agencies will work on delineating areas for future state investment, growth, and preservation.

Also relevant—because of the great value of trees in contributing to clean air, retention of water, and amelioration of climate change—is the state's **Forest Conservation Act (FCA)**, initially passed in 1991 [see <http://dnr.maryland.gov/forests/programapps/newfca.asp>]. The FCA is administered by the state but implemented on a local level. In 2009, the legislature passed an addendum called the "**No Net Loss of Forest Policy**," which requires the Department of Natural Resources to work with stakeholders to determine what this means and how to implement it.

## B. PROPOSALS

In 2011, the governor sponsored the **Maryland Offshore Wind Energy Act**, which would have required the Public Service Commission to order the four investor-funded utility companies in the state to enter into long-term power purchase contracts with one or more qualifying offshore wind generators. The contracts would have been for not less than 20 years for 400 to 600 megawatts. However the bill did not pass. The proposed siting is about 10 miles off the coast of Ocean City, MD, with perhaps 300 turbines involved. The 2011 bill failed largely because of legislators' concerns that the mandatory agreement would increase energy costs and consumers' utility bills (even though the calculated increase was only \$2 per month).

Before and during the 2011 legislative session environmental groups held information seminars and support rallies for the bill. LWVMD was one of the organizations testifying in favor of the bill. LWVMD continues to participate in the MD-Wind Coalition with a mixture of environmental and labor organizations.

For 2012 other funding alternatives are being looked into for off-shore wind facilities in the state. One major step occurred during negotiations of a merger—Governor O'Malley announced that Chicago-based Exelon Corp. agreed last month to **invest \$30 million in offshore wind in Maryland** as part of its proposed \$7.9-billion takeover of Constellation Energy, which owns Baltimore Gas and Electric, the state's largest utility provider. At the time of this fact sheet, the governor has suggested that his 2012 proposal will be less aggressive than the one that failed in 2011, and that he will instead promote **legislation that might use tax incentives or other incentives to encourage utilities to buy energy credits from offshore wind firms**—rather than forcing them to enter 25-year contracts with the firms.

## III. MONTGOMERY COUNTY

On Earth Day 2008 (April 22), the County Council adopted Bill 32-07, which **codified the county's greenhouse gas reduction goals**. The bill also established a **Sustainability Working Group (SWG)** that was charged with developing a **Climate Protection Plan** to reduce county-wide GHG emissions to 80% below the amount in fiscal year 2005. This plan was to provide a method by 2010 to stop increasing county-wide GHG emissions and to achieve a 10% reduction every five years through 2050.

The SWG presented its Climate Protection Plan in January 2009 with a total of **58 recommendations** in seven distinct areas: (1) Renewable Energy, (2) Residential Building Energy Efficiency, (3) Commercial/Multi-Family/Public Building Energy Efficiency, (4) Transportation, (5) Forestry and Agriculture, (6) Long-Term Planning, and (7) Education and Outreach.

Montgomery County received more than \$7.6 million in **federal stimulus funding** as part of the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). These funds have been used to address some of the recommendations of the Climate Protection Plan. The discussion below includes approximate amounts allocated to each program area that are subject to reallocation. Administrative costs may not be shown in some cases. While the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has set a target date of July 31, 2012 for completion of the projects carried out under this grant, the funds must be expended by November 2012. Some programs will continue, but the incentive programs will end.

## **A. ARRA-funded programs**

### **1. RENEWABLE ENERGY** (1) (see above list of areas)

#### **Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy in County Buildings**

Although the program was designed to include renewable energy, the funds have actually gone to the energy efficiency programs described below. DEP suggests that the county has other cost-effective ways to increase the use of solar energy.

### **2. RESIDENTIAL BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY** (\$2 Million) (2)

#### **a. Residential Rebate** (\$1.1 million)

The Residential Rebate Program provides incentives for comprehensive home improvement projects in single family homes and individual condominium units. The program provides incentives up to \$3,000 for improvements, such as insulation, heating and cooling, solar water heating and appliances. The incentives can be combined with those from utilities and other sources. To date the department has received 635 applications for single family and condominium projects and reserved \$788,904 for those projects, which are primarily air sealing and improvements in heating and cooling equipment. The remaining \$311,096 is available on a first-come, first-served basis. In order to be eligible, a homeowner must obtain a professional energy audit and a scope of work from a contractor. Details of the program and an application are online at [www.mcenergyfunding.com](http://www.mcenergyfunding.com).

#### **b. Opportunity Housing** (\$515,000)

The Montgomery Housing Opportunities Commission (HOC) develops affordable housing for low- and middle-income residents. The Commission has deployed energy efficiency measures via performance contracts and other mechanisms, and the county will support these efforts by upgrading 45 to 50 units. Emphasis is on scattered housing sites, mostly housing built between 1960 and 1990, which the HOC rents to tenants.

Each retrofit includes a high-quality energy audit to identify the most cost-effective energy efficiency measures. Two years ago this process started with a grant of \$250,000 from the Maryland Energy Administration. The block grant funds are expected to cover upgrades for an additional 95 homes, but the remaining 59 dwellings could benefit from efficiency upgrades. Renters on average have been able to realize energy savings of \$575 per year from the energy efficiency measures.

### **3. COMMERCIAL/MULTI-FAMILY/PUBLIC BUILDING ENERGY EFFICIENCY** (5.1million) (3)

#### **a. Commercial and Multi-Family Energy Efficiency Rebate** (\$1.9 million)

The commercial and multi-family energy efficiency rebate assisted businesses, non-profits, and congregations with the initial financial barrier for implementing energy improvements. The rebate program was intended to “jumpstart” projects by providing a cost-shared rebate that complements utility incentives. DEP received 119 applications for this program and was able to make awards to 18 multi-family, 10 faith-based, and 15 commercial properties.

The program covers less than 50% of the cost of qualified energy-efficiency improvements or a maximum of \$75,000 per recipient. Eligible improvements include cost-effective energy conservation measures—such as lighting upgrades, heating and cooling upgrades, cool roofing materials, energy management systems, and ENERGY STAR-qualified equipment. The recipients ranged from a body shop that upgraded its lighting to large multi-family buildings. All projects are underway and about half are near completion.

**b. Energy Conservation and Renewable Energy in County Buildings (\$2.7 million)**

Funds are being used to make energy-efficient upgrades to county government buildings, including Strathmore Music Center (\$604,000), as well as buildings owned by the Montgomery County Public Schools (\$1.6 million), the Maryland National Capital Park & Planning Commission (MNCPPC) (\$111,000), and Montgomery College (\$210,000). Funds were allocated according to the amount of energy various agencies use. Most of the funds were used for air sealing. The schools allocated their funds to the Carver Educational Services Center, and MNCPPC allocated its funds to upgrading the lighting at Brookside Gardens.

**c. Commercial and Multi-Family Building Study (\$418,940)**

Energy consumption in the commercial sector is increasing. Without significant improvements, GHG emissions from these buildings will soon exceed emissions from the residential sector. The Montgomery County Climate Protection Plan calls for the development of specific energy-performance requirements and timelines to benchmark, commission, and improve new and existing commercial buildings and reduce energy consumption in this sector by 25% by 2020. A study now under way has inventoried the types of buildings and ownership structures in the county and is reviewing the policies adopted in other jurisdictions. Consultants will develop a preliminary catalogue of policies that will be discussed with stakeholders who might be affected by the policies. Later this year DEP will make policy recommendations to the County Council on how to reach the energy reduction targets specified in the Climate Protection Plan.

**4. ENERGY EDUCATION AND OUTREACH (\$412,000) (7)**

**a. MyGreenMontgomery (\$100,000)**

The MyGreenMontgomery website [<http://mygreenmontgomery.org>] will serve as a one-stop source for environmental information on programs and resources available to Montgomery County residents. It provides tips and actions for reducing energy consumption, water use, and waste. The website has links to help engage the community and encourage local participation in energy efficiency actions. Approximately one-fourth of the education budget was allocated to develop the website, which the county will when grant funds run out.

**b. Workforce Development (\$306,000)**

Through a partnership between two county agencies, the Department of Economic Development and Montgomery Works, the county is launching two workforce-development programs to train and certify individuals for energy-efficiency jobs.

**i. Skills Enhancement Program**

The Energy and Green Technology Skills Enhancement Program is designed to increase the skills of new and current workers so they can assist county businesses in improving energy efficiency and making greater use of renewable energy. Workers and businesses can choose from a list of approved, eligible training opportunities—such as certified solar installers through the North American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners or building analyst training through the Building Performance Institute. Businesses will receive grants for employees who successfully complete their training. There is approximately \$76,000 for an a la carte program with 50% reimbursement from grant funds; the workforce contractor determines the areas of need.

**ii. Energy Management**

The Building Energy Managers program provides commercial businesses and property management firms an opportunity to train energy managers to work in existing buildings. This program will upgrade the skills of new and current facility managers to manage energy use in day-to-day building operations. Trainees will receive a transferable credential, such as a nationally recognized certification through the Building Operators and Management Institute (BOMI) or a recognized community college certificate. Classes are scheduled to begin soon and will comprise approximately

88 mostly lower-level workers who want to move up the labor scale. PEPCO also offers an incentive that funds 50% of the \$1,700 per student cost of the 30-hour course. Data indicate that a trained energy manager can save as much as \$12,000 a year in energy costs.

**c. The Montgomery County Green Business Certification Program**

This ongoing program certifies and recognizes businesses in the county for their environmental achievements. The county is using its existing infrastructure and contracts for verifications, but will allocate some grant money to provide verification for 50 to 60 additional businesses. Currently, 35 businesses are listed in the county's green business certification directory. [See <http://mcgreenbiz.org/>.]

**B. Non-ARRA-funded programs**

**1. LONG-TERM PLANNING (6) [LAND USE AND ZONING]**

**a. Land Use**

The Climate Protection Plan's long-term planning recommendations primarily address growth and land use policies. As the new zoning code master plans are developed, the emphasis is on infill development and directing growth to areas with significant existing or planned transit resources. This is consistent with climate protection recommendations. Of particular interest are the commercial/residential (CR) zones that the County Council has adopted.

The CR zones determine the density allowed for development based upon factors that include connectivity and mobility, diversity of uses and activities, design quality, and natural area protection and enhancement. The connectivity and mobility factors emphasize using public transportation and reducing the number of trips during peak hours—partly through more neighborhood services, convenient walking patterns, and minimum parking spaces. A diversity of uses encompasses a mixture of affordable housing, care centers, and other types of dwelling units. Retaining small business in the area is another aspect of this criterion, which aims to reduce vehicle miles traveled.

The natural environment protection and enhancement category credits density credit that conserves energy and reduces the need to generate more energy—for example, improving efficiency by 17.5% for new buildings and 10% for existing buildings above the industry standard for the building type—or for generating 2.5% of energy needs from renewable resources within one-half mile of the site. Such actions as purchasing building lot termination rights to protect agricultural land and providing green (living) walls and roofs, tree canopy, and other vegetation areas also merit density awards.

**b. Green Infrastructure Plan**

The adoption of a green infrastructure plan by the county is a Climate Protection Plan recommendation. MNCPPC began to develop a Green Infrastructure Plan in 2 but the plan work was abandoned after significant MNCPPC budget cuts. That plan addressed the connectivity of green space and related resources, such as water quality and green canopy. The County Council has not authorized a resumption of work on that plan. A Green Infrastructure Plan adopted by the County Council would necessarily be given consideration in land use master plans. LWVMC currently has a consensus position favoring the use and consideration of green infrastructure as a criterion in the planning and zoning process.

**c. Water Resources Functional Master Plan**

The Climate Protection Plan calls for the adoption of a Water Resources Functional Plan, and the County Council adopted such a plan in September 2010. The plan amends all county master and sector plans plus “the General Plan (on Wedges and Corridors) for the Physical Development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District in Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties, as Amended.” It provides information on county water and sewer service capacity in light of planned growth to 2030, summarizes an estimate of nutrient loadings on watersheds for existing and future conditions and identifies the policies and recommendations to amend the General Plan that are needed to maintain adequate drinking water supply and wastewater treatment capacity to 2030 and meet water quality regulatory requirements as the county continues to grow.

## 2. BUILDING CODES

Maryland is the first state to adopt a new energy conservation code for buildings under the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). Effective January 1, 2012, all new buildings constructed in Maryland—residential and commercial—and renovations of existing buildings will be required to conform to the 2012 IECC energy efficiency standards, which are roughly 15% higher than those currently in effect. The more efficient Maryland's buildings are, the more money homeowners and businesses will save on energy costs. The focus, as already cited in this fact sheet, is initially on improving the thermal envelope of buildings: heating, ventilating, and air conditioning equipment; doors, windows, and skylights; and Insulation where possible.

## 3. FOREST CONSERVATION

The county's Forest Conservation Law (FCL), passed in 1992 [see <http://www.montgomeryplanning.org/environment/forest/documents/ForestConservationLaw2011.pdf>], is administered by the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (MNCPPC). Its purposes include establishing procedures, standards, and requirements to minimize tree loss, protect trees and forests, and guide afforestation and reforestation. MNCPPC coordinates with the Department of Environmental Protection, which is guided by a Forest Preservation Strategy (2000, 2004) that speaks about urban trees and canopy cover as well as forests. There have been several recent attempts to amend the FCL either to clarify it or to expand coverage. There is also an ongoing debate whether individual (urban) trees need separate legislation or should be covered under the same law. The administration is expected to introduce new legislation in 2012.

## IV. ACTIONS INDIVIDUALS CAN TAKE (also see <http://mygreenmontgomery.org>)

Although many of the suggestions here may seem trivial, when individuals assume responsibility for many of them in their homes, and a significant fraction of the population does so, the cumulative effect can be substantial.

The story is told that, shortly after taking office in 1933, FDR met with a group of business and national leaders, seeking their advice on what to do to fix the economy. After listening to their suggestions for a while he concluded the meeting by telling them, "Fellows, I agree with every one of your suggestions. Now your job is to go out there and make me do them!" Political action requires support from the people, and that is especially true in the case of climate change. It is vital that we actively support actions at all governmental levels that will reduce the effects human activity is having on the climate. We need to "go out there and make them [the politicians] do it."

With regard to consumables, a message the LWV has used for a long time is—"reduce, reuse, recycle." Use less; if it is reusable, then reuse it; and if it can be recycled, recycle it (but make sure that what is recycled ends up in a recycling stream, and not just in the local landfill). Also—try to purchase only what can be reused and recycled.

### A. What we can do within our homes (in no particular order)...

Get a home energy audit. [Watch for a future article on this in the LWVMC newsletter.]

Take advantage of any energy-saving or load-leveling offers made by our local utilities.

Plug air leaks in windows and doors.

Repair leaking faucets immediately.

Install low-flush toilets and low flow shower heads.

Run dishwasher only when full and do not use "heat dry."

Wash clothing in cold or warm water, not hot.

Replace incandescent light bulbs with CFLs or LEDs whenever possible, and where practical, put the lights on a timer/sensor to minimize their use when no one is in the area.

Purchase a home power-meter to enable monitoring of in-home power use by devices that still use power when "off," such as TVs, home entertainment systems, computers, and modem/routers. Turn

those devices off at the plug (easily accomplished by installing them on a switch-activated power strip) when not in use or when going on a trip.  
Turn furnaces/air conditioners down/off at night or when going away.  
Keep freezer full to reduce the energy required to keep the freezer cold.  
Run high-energy appliances late at night (e.g., clothes dryer, dishwasher), when power demand is low.  
Avoid running high-energy appliances in the afternoon/early evening when demand tends to be high.  
Install solar hot water heating and/or electric panels on rooftops.  
Take advantage of the various types of smart metering as they become available.  
Do not buy bottled water (which costs approximately 2,500 times as much as tap water, not counting the disposal cost of the bottles--80% of which get tossed, not recycled).

### **B. When renovating, remodeling, or building...**

Install roofing of either white or "cool" gray color.  
Pave driveways or walkways with "permeable" coverings to reduce water runoff.  
Replace windows with double- or triple-pane and IR (infra-red)-blocking coated windows.  
Insulate with sprayed-on expanding foam insulation.  
Use "daylight" light fixtures where practical (fixtures that install a lens on the roof to focus sunlight to the interior of rooms via a duct through the ceiling).  
Install high-efficiency furnaces, water-heaters, air conditioners and appliances.  
Install "tankless" water heating.  
Create heating/cooling "zones" in the house to allow heating/cooling of only occupied areas of the house as needed.  
Add wider eaves on walls with southern exposure to block summer sunlight and admit winter sunlight.  
Consider a geothermal heating/cooling system when renovating a building or when constructing a building on a previously undeveloped lot.

### **C. Regarding transportation**

Use public transportation, walk, or cycle where practical.  
Purchase a plug-in hybrid or electric vehicle if practical.  
Combine trips where practical to minimize fuel usage.  
Minimize long-distance travel by private vehicles.  
Avoid travel during times of high traffic density.  
Join a car pool if practical.

The lists above are not exhaustive, and taking action will sometimes not be practical or feasible. A more extensive list is on the web at <http://www.globalwarming-facts.info/50-tips.html> .

## **V. LWVUS**

The League of Women Voters of the United States has a strong position on taking actions to ameliorate climate change—including the increased use of alternative energy sources that do not cause emissions of carbon dioxide or other greenhouse gases. To help educate local Leagues and others on these issues and ways to approach them, the LWVUS Climate Change Task Force developed a toolkit, available through the LWVUS website, [www.lwv.org](http://www.lwv.org), or specifically at [http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content\\_item\\_KEY=3766](http://participate.lwv.org/c/9217/p/salsa/web/common/public/content?content_item_KEY=3766) .

### **A. The LWVUS Climate Change Toolkit**

#### **1. Introduction and Call to Action**

**The changing climate is threatening human health and causing environmental damages.**  
Global climate change is one of the most serious threats facing our nation and our planet today. Increasingly severe consequences are projected for more people and more regions of the world

unless we act now -- as individuals, as communities, and as a nation. For its part, the League is calling for prompt action to **cut this country's GHG emissions**, freeze construction of new coal-fired power plants, **invest in a new clean energy economy**, and help the world's poorest countries tackle the challenges of climate change.

The League encourages members to keep up-to-date with LWVUS work on its 2011-2012 climate priority, Clean Air Defense. Local leagues can make sure all members receive LWVUS Action Alerts and take part in global climate action demonstrations in their community. The next global event is **Earth Hour 2012**, 8:30pm-9:30pm local time, Saturday, March 31, 2012.

State and local Leagues, and individual League members, have a critical role to play in helping to **limit future climate change and protect the planet**. This toolkit provides **action plans and resources** that Leagues and League members can use to help people in their community learn what they can do—at individual and household levels—to **save energy and reduce their carbon footprints**, to work with their communities to **set emissions-reduction goals** and then to develop and implement plans to achieve those goals, and to **build grassroots support for strong action** on climate change at the state and federal levels. Such actions hopefully will include (sooner rather than later) the eventual ratification of an effective international climate agreement.

## 2. Using the Toolkit

There are numerous ways to take part in protecting the planet. Start by reviewing this mini-guide to the many resources in the Toolkit. And as you get involved, please share your comments about the Toolkit and your experiences working on climate change.

The sections in the Toolkit include the following: Introduction (☐ Guide to the Toolkit / ☐ Share Your Comments); I. Choosing a Role for Your League; II. Grassroots Action Priorities (☐ Clean Air Defense); III. Basics of Climate Change; IV. Engaging Individuals (☐ Communicating About Climate Change/ ☐ Preparing for a Meeting on Climate Change/ ☐ Engaging Groups in Your Community); V. Mobilizing Communities (☐ Community Action Models/ ☐ Local Policies & Programs/ ☐ Organizing For Community Action); VI. Promoting Public Policy (☐ State Initiatives/ ☐ Federal Initiatives/ ☐ International Action/ ☐ Tips for Building Grassroots Support); VII. Resources.

## VI. SOME DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Do you support the county's sustainability goals? How would you be willing to adjust your lifestyle to achieve the goals? How are you willing to pay to reduce the county's carbon footprint?
2. Should energy efficiency standards be set and enforced by the county for new construction of all types? For existing county buildings? Commercial buildings? Multi-family buildings? Single-family residential?
3. Do you agree that county growth should be directed to infill development?
4. Should the county develop a green infrastructure plan?
5. What other actions would you suggest that individuals, organizations, businesses, or governments take to combat climate change?
6. What would you say to deniers of climate change?

This was an information only Fact Sheet and no positions were adopted.

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This fact sheet was prepared by the LWVMC Natural Resources Committee. Among the contributors were Lorna Chang, Margaret Chasson, Sylvia Diss, Helen Gray, Hugh Haskell, Brigitta Mullican, Alyce Ortuzar, and Linda Silversmith (chair).