



SHARON BULOVA
CHAIRMAN

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
County of Fairfax
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

SUITE 530
12000 GOVERNMENT CENTER PKWY
FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22035-0071

TELEPHONE: 703/324-2321
FAX: 703/324-3955
TTY: 711

chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov

BOARD MATTER

Joint Board of Supervisors School Board Meeting on Energy and the Environment October 30, 2018

On Oct. 11, the Fairfax County School Board adopted a resolution (attached) calling on state and federal lawmakers to act to address climate change. I agree with their call and believe our two Boards can holistically work together to act locally while thinking globally. Our Board has already taken a strong position on reducing our impacts on the environment, through the adoption of our Environmental Vision, commitment to Cool Counties, the recent adoption of the Operational Energy Strategy, and multiple environmental positions in our legislative agenda. We are also engaged regionally through the Council of Governments and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission. By collaborating further on all matters regarding the environment, the County and the Schools can make a lasting impact and effect real change in Fairfax County.

Therefore, I move that the Board direct the County Executive to compile information relative to our County's commitments to energy and the environment to share with the School Board to be presented at a joint meeting in early 2019. An emphasis should be placed on potential areas for cooperation with Fairfax County Public Schools. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss our energy and environmental strategies and goals and to look for areas of collaboration to further Fairfax County's efforts in energy efficiency and environmental sustainability.

RESOLUTION OF THE FAIRFAX COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD

CALLING FOR STATE AND FEDERAL ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

WHEREAS, an overwhelming majority of credentialed scientists, in the U.S. and abroad, support the finding that climate change is happening and that human activity is a key contributor; and

WHEREAS, if left unaddressed, the consequences of climate change will harm all Americans, most especially children and those living in poverty, and saddle future generations with the costly burden of a dangerously damaged planet; and

WHEREAS, climate instability is a global challenge requiring bold, innovative, and sustained actions at all levels of government, local, state, and federal; and

WHEREAS, the size of Fairfax County Public Schools' physical footprint provides an unparalleled opportunity to advance the use of renewable energy sources and reduce greenhouse gas output in Northern Virginia; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to School Board Environmental Stewardship Policy 8542, FCPS leads the nation in energy efficiency, the development of green building design standards, and award-winning classroom opportunities for student advocacy and learning through the Get 2 Green program; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board's commitment to the safety, well-being, and future success of all children in our community also demands a high priority on reducing carbon consumption in our decisions regarding capital improvement, energy use, transportation, and other policy priorities within the Board's control; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County School Board depends on committed partners in local, state, and federal government to realize our climate action goals, and recognizes the efforts and progress made to date, especially Fairfax County Government's recently announced request for proposals for solar installations on public buildings, to include schools;

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Fairfax County School Board: 1) calls on the members of the Virginia General Assembly and the United States Congress to act boldly on climate change and provide a regulatory framework that removes barriers to progress on climate action and encourages the rapid replacement of fossil fuels with renewable energy technology; and 2) directs the Superintendent to report timely to the Board changes in state and federal policy that support the goal of reducing carbon consumption, along with staff proposals to make best use of those opportunities in facilities and transportation planning.