



## Response to Questions on the FY 2010 Advertised Budget Plan

**Request By:** Supervisor Herrity

**Question:** What are the specific duties of the Environmental Coordinator? What direct benefit does this position provide to the citizens of Fairfax County? What other options are available for these functions to be performed? What are the costs of this position as well as any related overhead costs?

**Response:** Under the general direction of the Deputy County Executive, the Environmental Coordinator serves as the County's expert and catalyst for the implementation of cross-organizational actions, program policy, initiatives and efforts that directly support the Board of Supervisors' vision, goals and policies related to Environmental Stewardship; briefs and advises the Board of Supervisors, County Executive, and Deputy County Executive on new regulations, provides analysis on the scope and impact of these regulations and provides expert counsel on how they can be implemented within the County to support the County's environmental and other related strategic initiatives; provides technical direction and oversight to County agencies to ensure compliance and continuity of operations and alignment with federal and state mandates, laws, regulations and policies; uses a team-based approach, supervises technical, special assignment and clerical staff as required to initiate and coordinate the development and implementation of cross-organizational strategic and tactical environmental programs and policy for the county on major issues such as water supply, storm water, air quality, energy efficiency and conservation, ecological and natural resources and climate change; the Environmental Coordinator is the primary point of contact to represent the county on all regional and state air quality, water supply and climate change matters and efforts and acts to advocate Board-adopted policy to the business community, environmental organizations and county residents; initiates legislative proposals and negotiates with state counterparts/regulators and representatives from the development industry, concerned citizen groups and Board of Supervisor members on proposed statewide environmental and natural resource protection legislation.

The Environmental Coordinator supports and carries out the policies and goals in the Board's Environmental Agenda and other related documents that contain Board-adopted environmental policy. This position ensures coordination and collaboration among County departments, businesses and residents, which is critical to achieving operational and programmatic continuity, efficiency and sustainability. Stronger alignment among County agencies, the business community, environmental organizations, commissions and councils and county residents will streamline resources, spur creativity and efficacy and institutionalize sustainability principles.

The Environmental Coordinator provides staff support to the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, the County's Environmental Coordinating Committee, the County's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee and works closely with the Planning Commissions Environment Committee. This position must work closely with and gain the trust of both County agencies, as well as other stakeholders, including County

businesses and residents. The Environmental Coordinator operates at a very high level, with a broad range of complexity, impact, and level of responsibility assigned. Prior to the creation of this position, County agencies conducted their environmental efforts largely independent in inefficient “silos”.

The FY 2010 cost of this S-33 merit position is estimated at \$124,355.