

2013 Annual Report on the Environment

Environmental Quality Advisory Council

DETAILED REPORT
November 2013

A Fairfax County, Virginia Publication



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The cover shows a Pipevine Swallowtail Butterfly. Photo by Charles Smith, Fairfax County Park Authority. Cover design by Hana Burkly, Student Member, Environmental Quality Advisory Council.

ANNUAL REPORT
on the
ENVIRONMENT

2013



DETAILED REPORT

Fairfax County, Virginia

Environmental Quality Advisory Council

November 2013

Printed on recycled paper

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and on-line at EQAC's website at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/eqac**

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Introduction

This year's Annual Report on the Environment has been prepared by the Environmental Quality Advisory Council. Staff support for the coordination and printing of the report has been provided by the Planning Division of the Department of Planning and Zoning.

The Annual Report on the Environment, which is an update on the state of the county's environment, serves a threefold purpose. Initially, it is intended to assist the Board of Supervisors in evaluating ongoing environmental programs and to provide the basis for proposing new programs. The document also aids public agencies in coordinating programs to jointly address environmental issues. In addition, the report is directed to residents and others who are concerned with environmental issues.

Similar to Annual Reports from the past several years, EQAC is presenting this year's report in two formats: (1) A detailed report similar to the reports that have been produced each year; and (2) A summary report providing highlights of recent activities, key issues, and comments and recommendations associated with each of the major topical areas covered in the larger report. Both report formats are provided electronically, but only the summary document is being made available in hard copy. It is EQAC's hope that this approach to report formatting will provide interested readers with the level of detail or generality that they desire while saving resources associated with hard copy production.

The report continues to include chapters on major environmental topics including: climate change and energy; land use and transportation; air quality; water resources; solid waste; hazardous materials; ecological resources; wildlife management; and noise, light, and visual pollution. An appendix addressing state legislation relating to the environment is also provided within the detailed report format, as is an appendix providing EQAC's resolutions and positions taken over the past year. In last year's report, EQAC included a "spotlight" on two environmental initiatives of Fairfax County Public Schools: High performance and sustainable schools; and Get2Green Environmental Education and Action. EQAC has updated these discussions and has added to the "Spotlight" section a discussion of a collaboration between FCPS and the county's Stormwater Planning Division on stormwater management plans for school properties. EQAC commends FCPS for working towards improved environmental performance in these areas. The report also includes a short table identifying who people can call in regard to various potential environmental crimes/concerns. A similar table has been provided in previous years' reports. The report also includes EQAC's "Scorecard" of progress made on its recommendations from last year's report. Finally, new to this year's report is a brief section highlighting environmental stewardship/volunteer opportunities in Fairfax County.

Within each chapter of the detailed report format are: a discussion of environmental issues; a summary of relevant data; and a discussion of applicable government programs. Most of the chapters include information regarding stewardship opportunities and conclude with recommendations that identify additional actions that EQAC feels are necessary to address environmental issues. References are generally presented only in the detailed report format. As was the case in last year's report, recommendations are presented in two formats: items addressing ongoing considerations and continued support for existing programs are noted as "comments." Items addressing new considerations, significant refinements of previous recommendations, or issues that EQAC otherwise wishes to stress, are presented as "recommendations."

This report covers activities affecting the environment in 2012; however, in some cases, key activities from 2013 are also included.

While the Environmental Quality Advisory Council has prepared and is responsible for this report, contributions were made by numerous organizations and individuals. Many of the summaries provided within this report were taken verbatim from materials provided by these sources. EQAC therefore extends its appreciation to the following:

Alice Ferguson Foundation
Audubon Naturalist Society
Clean Air Partners
Clean Fairfax
Coalition for Smarter Growth
Fairfax County Airports Advisory Committee
Fairfax County Deer Management Committee
Fairfax County Department of Cable and Consumer Services
Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance
Fairfax County Department of Information Technology
Fairfax County Department of Neighborhood and Community Services
Fairfax County Department of Planning and Zoning
Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services
Fairfax County Department of Transportation
Fairfax County Department of Vehicle Services
Fairfax County Executive's Office
Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator
Fairfax County Facilities Management Department
Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department
Fairfax County Health Department
Fairfax County Master Naturalists
Fairfax County Office of Community Revitalization
Fairfax County Park Authority
Fairfax County Police Department, Division of Animal Services
Fairfax County Public Schools
Fairfax County Restoration Project
Fairfax County Wetlands Board
Fairfax County Wildlife Biologist
Fairfax Joint Local Emergency Planning Committee
Fairfax Master Naturalists
Fairfax ReLeaf
Fairfax Water
Federal Aviation Administration
Illuminating Engineering Society of North America
International Dark-Sky Association
Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin
Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments
Northern Virginia Conservation Trust
Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority
Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District
Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory
Reston Association
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
United States Geological Survey
United States National Museum of Natural History
Upper Occoquan Service Authority
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality
Virginia Department of Forestry

Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
Virginia Department of Transportation
Virginia Outdoor Lighting Taskforce
Virginia Outdoors Foundation

Finally, EQAC wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the county's interagency Environmental Coordinating Committee, which coordinated the staff responses to the recommendations within EQAC's 2012 *Annual Report on the Environment*, as well as the ongoing efforts of the interagency Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee.



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

Board of Supervisors
County of Fairfax
12000 Government Center Parkway
Fairfax, VA 22035

November 19, 2013

The Environmental Quality Advisory Council is pleased to present the 2013 Annual Report on the Environment. In this report, we discuss various environmental issues in Fairfax County and make recommendations as to what actions the county should take to resolve identified problems. This report covers 2012, but also includes significant actions from 2013 that could impact EQAC's comments and recommendations. We recognize that the report does not capture all ongoing actions; if we tried to accomplish this, the report would never be finished and would be even longer. The report consists of nine chapters – each chapter addressing a different aspect of the environment. The chapters are arranged to reflect the order of topics listed in the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda. We have again have created two versions of the report; one a printed summary version, and two, an electronic complete version with all data included, available both on-line and in the CD attached to this report. We have again highlighted environmental stewardship opportunities within the report chapters; this year, however, we have added a summary of these opportunities.

EQAC thanks the board for its continued strong support of environmental programs. We understand that although budget constraints lessened again this year they continue to impact all programs within the county.

EQAC asks that you continue to support the environmental programs you have established. These programs are important if we are to maintain the high quality of life we have in Fairfax County and the high standards we have set for ourselves. We note that for Fairfax County residents, quality of life is not just about good schools and jobs but also about having a clean and healthy environment in which to live and recreate.

EQAC's priority recommendations this year focus on the need for continuing long-term financial support to sustain these environmental programs:

1. EQAC recommends that Fairfax County continue to adequately fund and implement its ongoing stormwater program, which includes dam maintenance, infrastructure replacement, water resource monitoring and management,

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watershed restoration and educational stewardship programs. EQAC realizes the funding for the stormwater program will come entirely from funds generated through the Service District rates.

EQAC recommends that the Stormwater Service District rate be increased in FY 2015 by at least one-quarter penny, from a rate of 2.0 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 2.25 cents per \$100. EQAC understands that this increase would not fully meet stormwater management needs and therefore suggests that additional increases be continued each fiscal year until adequate funding to support the program is achieved. This would, once again, result in more funding for modest watershed improvement programs and a somewhat more realistic infrastructure replacement timeline. We realize that there will be a need for additional increases in funding for water quality projects to meet future permit conditions, and for infrastructure reinvestment, as the system is continually growing and aging.

2. EQAC recommends that the board **continue support for funding for the Environmental Improvement Program for the upcoming fiscal year.** The EIP is a reflection of those non-stormwater programs, including Energy Action Fairfax and other county sustainability initiatives. Funding the EIP is necessary to implement the Environmental Agenda adopted by the board for this county.
3. **EQAC is looking forward to the upcoming County Dialogue on Transportation and recommends that non-motorized and multi-modal transportation options receive priority.** The Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan, Phase 1: Tysons Corner, for example, identifies healthy, effective, shovel-ready options to better connect Tysons with neighboring communities and trails in the county. There are both capital and non-capital elements in the plan. In order to be successful, we recommend that outreach and education be included. This is an example of combining land use and transportation to create great interconnected places across the county.

As we do each year, EQAC would like to commend the outstanding efforts of the following groups whose actions improve and safeguard the environment in Fairfax County. The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District continues its work to provide excellent education programs, to consult with the county on innovative stream restoration work, to have a large and successful stream monitoring program and to be available to residents and developers alike for site work consultation. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust continues to obtain easements on privately owned environmentally sensitive land. Fairfax ReLeaf continues to promote tree preservation and tree replacement programs. The Park Authority Natural Resources staff continues to provide exemplary service due to a small group of dedicated individuals, working with a very small budget, who are slowly enhancing environmental efforts in the county's parks. The members of EQAC thank all these groups, and all others who work to preserve and enhance the environment of the county.

Board of Supervisors
Continued

Once again, EQAC would like to thank and commend the county staff for its continued outstanding work. We thank staff especially for providing the data for this report and for a continued willingness to meet with EQAC to discuss various issues. We commend the county's Environmental Coordinating Committee, which is chaired by Deputy County Executive David Molchany, for its continued efforts at managing environmental action within the county. We appreciate the ECC's willingness to meet with EQAC twice each year and to discuss issues of environmental significance.

As I do every year it gives me great pleasure as the representative of EQAC to thank and acknowledge the work of two individuals. Every year we do this and every year the members of council continue to be impressed with the work and input of these two people.

First, we need to truly thank Noel Kaplan of the Environment and Development Review Branch, Department of Planning and Zoning. Noel provides county staff support to EQAC. Noel sets up and tapes every EQAC meeting, follows up on actions generated from the meetings and coordinates the inputs and publication of the Annual Report. Although the members of EQAC write the Annual Report, it is Noel who makes publication of the document possible. Again EQAC cannot thank him enough for his hard work and long hours in our support.

Second, we thank Kambiz Agazi, Environmental Coordinator, Office of the County Executive, who also attends all of our meetings and provides helpful advice and suggestions. His insight and his overview of county environmental activities are invaluable to our work. EQAC thanks him for his assistance and valuable contributions.

Finally, as I did last year, I would like to personally recognize my fellow EQAC members. They represent a diversity of views that allows for knowledgeable discussions and results in thoughtful recommendations. They spend extensive time investigating issues, write excellent resolutions and produce comprehensive chapters on subjects they have carefully researched. They are to be commended for their efforts.

The members of EQAC thank the Board of Supervisors for its leadership and look forward to continue working with you to achieve the goals of the Environmental Agenda and protecting and enhancing Fairfax County's quality of life in the coming years.

Respectfully submitted,



Stella M. Koch, Chairman

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SCORECARD
Progress Report on 2012 Recommendations

1. CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENERGY

Climate Change & Energy Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC is very encouraged to hear that a process has been established through which the funding of education programs (including social media) and programs to promote energy efficiency through the county's Environmental Improvement Program can be considered. EQAC recognizes that a broader range of EIP projects may be proposed in any given year and that any education and energy efficiency proposals will compete against these other proposals for limited funds; however, EQAC stresses the need for the prioritization process to ensure that strong education and energy efficiency proposals will be successful. Further, while EQAC appreciates all the efforts that have been made, EQAC recognizes that both the County Executive must recommend funding projects recommended by county staff and that the Board of Supervisors must approve the funding. EQAC recommends that the County Executive and the Board of Supervisors support and fund those projects that are recommended by staff.</p>	<p>This recommendation has been addressed. In response to a recommendation included in the FY 2012 Environmental Quality Advisory Council's Annual Report on the Environment, beginning in FY 2014, a new project selection process has been implemented. A staff Environmental Improvement Program Committee developed a more rigorous project selection process to support the board-adopted Environmental Agenda and other board-adopted environmental and energy policy. To facilitate the selection process, the committee developed minimum submission requirements and specific project scoring criteria, both of which were reviewed by EQAC. The committee then solicited requests from county agencies for project proposals, interviewed project teams and ranked each proposal based on the project scoring criteria and subsequent interviews.</p>	<p>EQAC agrees that a process has been addressed to implement the recommendation. EQAC will continue to track this recommendation until implementation is successful.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

Climate Change & Energy Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2. EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors direct county staff to evaluate alternatives for the county to further reduce greenhouse gas emissions from either incineration of waste or placement of waste in landfills. The long-term goal should provide for expanding the recycling of all waste streams, including composting of compostable waste. The expansion of waste streams recycled should be considered as the county develops a strategic plan for the management of county waste. In order to support the expansion of recycling, the following steps are recommended:</p> <p>a. Education and outreach on options for increasing recycling, including the composting of compostable material.</p> <p>b. Cooperating with other governments in the region to build capacity and enhance affordability for recycling and composting of-waste. This work should include quantifying the various waste streams.</p> <p>c. Gaining experience in expanding recycling streams. For example, modest composting efforts similar to what is being pursued-in the District of Columbia and Arlington County that are helping to provide experience in expanding recycling programs and waste composting should be undertaken.</p>	<p>These recommendations are currently being addressed as described below.</p> <p><i>Education and outreach on options for increasing recycling, including the composting of compostable material.</i></p> <p>Currently, information about composting is on the county website at http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/recycling/composting.htm. A new backyard composting outreach campaign will require an evaluation of best management practices of the compost piles to ensure that practices recommended do not create odors or harbor rodents.</p> <p><i>Cooperating with other governments in the region to build capacity and enhance affordability for recycling and composting of waste. This work should include quantifying the various waste streams.</i></p> <p>The county solid waste program staff has been involved in attempting to address organics management needs by participating in the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ organics committee that was established in 2009.</p> <p><i>Gaining experience in expanding recycling streams. For example, modest composting efforts similar to what is being pursued in the District of Columbia and Arlington County that are helping to provide experience in expanding recycling programs and waste composting should be undertaken.</i></p> <p>Fairfax County has recently embarked on a project to evaluate other opportunities to recycle and dispose of waste from the county. This is a Request for Expressions of Interest to manage any and all of the waste generated in the county and it allows prospective bidders to present proposals for a variety of waste management techniques. As of the time that this summary was prepared, the results of this RFEI have not been analyzed but they should help guide future decisions on recycling in Fairfax County.</p>	<p>Progress on this recommendation is great but concrete steps have yet to have been implemented.</p> <p>A key issue in determining what waste streams will or can be recycled will depend on the final contract requirements for the flow of waste to the Covanta facility.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

Climate Change & Energy Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>3. While the county has promoted the incorporation of energy efficient certification, such as LEED at the Silver level or higher, EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors should also promote periodic (e.g., bi-annual) evaluation of the GHG footprints for buildings and facilities. Such a step would be a natural follow up action to education and outreach that has been started in 2012 for residential energy use and that is envisioned for the commercial sector. While EQAC is encouraged that plans are being developed that would address this recommendation, additional work will be needed before this recommendation can be fulfilled.</p>	<p>This recommendation will continue to be addressed with an action in the Environmental Improvement Program that will be updated for fiscal year 2015.</p> <p>In January 2012, Fairfax County launched its Energy Action Fairfax pilot program to increase the awareness of Fairfax County residents regarding their personal energy consumption and to encourage them to reduce that consumption.</p> <p>Major activities in developing and implementing the initial residential Energy Action Fairfax program included proposing program names and logos, developing messaging and branding, creating informational materials and content for the program website, establishing contacts with community organizations and preparing for and hosting numerous events with participating communities, including workshops focused on home energy efficiency and energy audit “parties” at the homes of community volunteers.</p>	<p>While progress has been made with this recommendation and while EQAC sees great promise with the new Energy Coordinator, this recommendation is still in implementation.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

Climate Change & Energy Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>4. EQAC recommends that Fairfax County fund a program to serve as follow-on to the Energy Action Fairfax (previously referred to as the Residential Energy Education and Outreach) program that was funded by a grant through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. The EAF program completed a small number of outreach events and audits and developed a website and educational videos. The program educated county residents on energy conservation and greenhouse gas emission reductions. EQAC feels that it would be beneficial if the program was to continue. Given the significant efforts and expenditures made by the county to get this program started, it would be most cost-efficient to continue the program at this time rather than stop it and then try to re-start it at some future date</p>	<p>In January 2012, Fairfax County launched its <i>Energy Action Fairfax</i> pilot program to increase the awareness of Fairfax County residents regarding their personal energy consumption and to encourage them to reduce that consumption.</p> <p>The pilot program relied on three distinct but inter-related approaches to energy education and outreach: direct engagement to homeowner and civic associations; a social media and marketing “push;” and a user-friendly website that serves to “pull” residents and Web-visitors to the site and program. The direct engagement aspect provided the peer-to-peer contact essential to behavior change; it also generated content for the marketing efforts. Program objectives included educating citizens about their energy consumption both at home and in the workplace, explaining the energy assessment (audit) process and encouraging residents to undertake energy-savings measures. The program also educated residents about the expected direct benefits and costs of typical improvements and considerations for evaluating and prioritizing recommended improvements.</p> <p>Although the pilot program has ended with the expiration of the EECBG award term, the county extended the contract with GolinHarris on December 10, 2012 to begin the process of developing a long-term strategic plan that will serve to guide future Energy Action Fairfax program efforts and initiatives. Although details of the draft plan are currently under development, it is envisioned that the plan will include a residential and commercial sector business energy outreach and education plan.</p> <p>In addition, the fiscal year 2014 budget included an amount of \$250,000 to support Energy Education and Outreach initiatives including the county’s <i>Energy Action Fairfax</i> program. This program is intended to increase the awareness of Fairfax County residents and businesses regarding energy consumption and to encourage them to reduce consumption.</p>	<p>We are encouraged to see continued progress and hope that an effective established program can be developed.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

II. LAND USE AND TRANSPORTATION

Land Use & Transportation Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that the county prioritize the Fairfax Forward work plan. EQAC also recommends that the county establish a stakeholder task force to work with the Fairfax Forward team to build familiarity and support for the new approach.</p> <p>EQAC also recommends that the county continue to refine and formalize process for revitalization, especially in mixed-use centers. . . .</p> <p>This formalization should include incorporating GIS technology directly into the planning process and expanding the use of modeling to help understand future conditions and scenarios.</p>	<p>Fairfax Forward is an important step in the continued maintenance of the county's Comprehensive Plan. Building familiarity and support for the recommendations of Fairfax Forward, including the new approach to Plan review and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment Work Program, are critical to the success of the effort. ... The recommendations have received support through substantial public outreach efforts, which provide information about the project, build understanding and gather stakeholder input. Public outreach has involved community meetings, generally one in each supervisor district, at significant milestones in the process.</p> <p>The county encourages revitalization efforts throughout the land use process through a variety of techniques. The techniques are applied when needed during revitalization projects, depending on the stage in the land use process and the particular proposal, but may not be necessary as a formal part of all revitalization efforts. In order to better utilize these techniques and their appropriateness, an evaluation of revitalization incentives is being conducted this year and should result in a more comprehensive understanding of how current incentives influence development decisions and identify possible new incentives and improvements to current incentives.</p>	<p>Fairfax Forward was carefully initiated and is following a work plan with broad community support. EQAC wants to encourage the process for adopting future work plans and processes.</p> <p>EQAC looks forward to an evaluation of revitalization practices.</p>	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

<p>Land Use & Transportation Recommendations</p>	<p>Action taken by Agency or Department</p>	<p>EQAC Comments</p>	<p>Completed</p>
<p>2. EQAC is an advocate of the county GIS and the Integrated Parcel Lifecycle System. . . .</p> <p>a. EQAC recommends that the county push to have all land use and parcel based data tied into the GIS. . . .</p> <p>b. EQAC continues to recommend that the Comprehensive Plan be reflected and modeled in the GIS. Applications such as the internal Comprehensive Plan Potential and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment applications (used to gather data for the State of the Plan report) are very useful for understanding the real time status of the Comprehensive Plan. These applications should be available to the public on the Comprehensive Plan website.</p> <p>IPLS has made great strides with the housing base, but other systems need to continue to be brought up to date. New nonresidential pipeline data should be incorporated in IPLS. . . .</p>	<p>The integration of land use and parcel information with GIS has been done through several venues, including the Land Development System, IPLS and internal DPZ GIS applications and databases. There is an established regular feed of Plan data from the DPZ databases to IPLS for land use forecasts. These data are currently used for various planning functions, including population and employment forecasting for Fairfax County.</p> <p>In 2012, the county created a new data repository called Land Development Information, which consolidated land development and land use data from multiple current and legacy systems.... LDI provides powerful web based inquiry and search capabilities. The LDI portal is regularly used by employees, developers and residents and can be found at: http://ldip.fairfaxcounty.gov/ .</p> <p>Part b of this recommendation has be addressed and implemented partially. The Comprehensive Plan Map has been digitized and is accessible to the public. In addition, the Comprehensive Plan Potential database was refined and the improvements to the Comprehensive Plan Potential GIS application are on-going. As part of the Area Plans Review Retrospective, Plan Amendment data were refined and updated to create a GIS layer of all the Plan Amendments going back to 1994.</p>	<p>EQAC appreciates the work done to digitize the Comprehensive Plan Map and refine the plan potential tools.</p> <p>EQAC is still concerned that nonresidential data are not integrated into the GIS.</p>	<p>Partially.</p>

III. AIR QUALITY

There were no recommendations in the 2012 Annual Report

IV. WATER RESOURCES

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC recommends that Fairfax County continue to adequately fund and implement its ongoing stormwater program, which includes dam maintenance, infrastructure replacement, water resource monitoring and management, watershed restoration and educational stewardship programs. . . .</p> <p>EQAC recommends that the Stormwater Service District rate be increased in FY 2014 by a half penny, from a rate of 2.0 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 2.5 cents per \$100. This would, once again, result in more funding for modest watershed improvement programs and a somewhat more realistic infrastructure replacement timeline. We realize that there will likely be a need for additional increases for water quality projects to meet future permit conditions, and for infrastructure reinvestment, as the system is continually growing and aging.</p>	<p>There was no increase in the Stormwater Service District rate in FY 2014, but staff has identified an approach to a gradual, long-term, increase in the rate and has recommended completion and consideration of a long-term funding and staffing plan for the stormwater program.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to support this request for increases in the Stormwater Service District rate to meet the needs and requirements for Stormwater management and stream protection and restoration.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

Water Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>2. Fairfax County is preparing a Stormwater Management Ordinance in response to state regulations requiring localities to adopt ordinances and take over reviews and inspections for Virginia Stormwater Management Program general permits relating to stormwater runoff from construction sites; the program must be effective on July 1, 2014. As the ordinance is developed, EQAC will provide more specific comments. However, EQAC recommends that this new Stormwater Management Ordinance maximize stream protection and curtail exceptions and waivers that might have an adverse impact on the environment.</p>	<p>The proposed ordinance has been drafted and is undergoing review; a Planning Commission public hearing has been held, and a Board of Supervisors public hearing has been scheduled. There is some lessening in certain areas proposed but also language that would keep the present level of protection. Decisions have not yet been made by the Board of Supervisors.</p>	<p>EQAC continues to recommend that this new Stormwater Management Ordinance maximize stream protection <u>and</u> lessen no current protection, in order not to have an adverse impact on the environment.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

V. SOLID WASTE

There were no recommendations in the 2012 Annual Report

VI. HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

There were no recommendations in the 2012 Annual Report

VII. ECOLOGICAL RESOURCES

Ecological Resources Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. The Fairfax County Park Authority approved a Natural Resource Management Plan in 2004. This partially fulfills a long-standing EQAC recommendation to develop and implement a countywide Natural Resource Management Plan. However, most of this plan cannot be implemented without additional staff and funding for the FCPA. The FCPA staff estimates that implementation will require approx.. \$8 million per year. A more phased approach will allow FCPA to begin to manage 10 percent of parklands and set up the program to be phased in over time. Phase 1 with this approach would require \$650,000 and six positions. EQAC strongly feels that the plan needs to be implemented. Therefore, EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors provide sufficient funding to implement Phase 1. EQAC recommends that some of the six staff positions should be found from internal FCPA staff assets.</p>	<p>The Park Authority concurs with the recommendation to fund and implement the Natural Resources Management Plan, but at this time cannot realign staff from other important existing programs and services to the natural resources management program—FCPA is unable to reallocate staff to the natural resources management program without sacrificing other important existing programs and services to the public. However, the Park Authority will continue to work with the Department of Management and Budget to seek funding in future years. If funding is provided, FCPA will look at its positions again to see if any can be realigned to the natural resources program.</p> <p>Staff began revision of the agency Natural Resource Management Plan in fall 2012. The Park Authority staff will hold a public review in fall 2013 and hope to adopt the revised Natural Resource Management Plan by January 2014</p>	<p>The Park Authority ungraded the Natural Resource Management and Protection Section to a Branch plus created new positions. Unfortunately, sufficient funding does not exist to increase staff and fully implement the Natural Resources Management Plan.</p> <p>A revised Plan should be adopted by January 2014. EQAC reiterates its recommendation that the Board of Supervisors provide funding to implement the first phase of the Plan. (EQAC expects the first phase under the revised Plan to be similar to the Phase 1 associated with the current Plan.)</p>	<p>No</p>

VIII-1. IMPACTS OF DEER IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Deer Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
1. Managed hunts should be continued as they are both cost-effective and efficient in reducing excesses in the deer herd and deer vehicle collisions.	The Fairfax County Deer Management Program will continue to utilize all available deer management tools for population control. Public managed hunts will continue to be used at selected parks to implement sustainable hunting pressures.	The numbers of hunts and the success rates have been what could be reasonably expected given the level of staffing availability.	Yes
2. The sharpshooter program should be continued as it is both cost-effective.	Sharpshooting operations will continue to be used at night to implement sustainable hunting pressures at selected parks.	The number of sharpshooter events and the success rates has been what could be reasonably expected given the level of staffing availability.	Yes
3. The newly begun archery program should be continued as a means of controlling deer depredation of vegetation on residential properties where firearms cannot be used.	The Archery Program will continue to be used at selected parks to implement sustainable hunting pressures.	The archery program has been very successful in addressing one of the key needs of homeowners to control the environmental destruction caused by deer in residential neighborhoods.	Yes, within the limits of staff availability. Expanded effort would be desirable.

VIII-2. IMPACTS OF GEESE IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

Geese Management Recommendations	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. EQAC strongly recommends that geese management be continued, particularly the public outreach and training activities so that a cadre of volunteers can be created to provide the labor to do the actual egg-oiling that is the principal control measure. In addition, the shotgun hunt pilot test conducted by the Park Authority should be expanded into an established program.</p>	<p>Community outreach and a public education program to train volunteers to “addle” (oil) eggs will continue to be used as management tools to control the resident Canada geese population at selected sites.</p> <p>To date it appears that the majority of the egg oiling activity remains concentrated on public lands. In order to be effective at reducing local resident goose populations, efforts will need to be greatly expanded on both public and private lands county and region wide, particularly by land managers and volunteers working on properties which contain large amounts of managed turf and/or water features.</p> <p>Egg oiling efforts should be combined with habitat modification to reduce the amount of suitable habitat for resident geese; behavior modification to discourage use of lands by resident geese; and goose population control (hunting) to better manage resident goose populations.</p>	<p>With the increases in the resident goose population it is desirable to increase the staffing for this program as soon as the budget situation permits.</p>	<p>Yes, within the limits of staff availability.</p>

VIII-3. COYOTES IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

There were no recommendations in the 2012 Annual Report

VIII-4. WILDLIFE BORNE DISEASES OF CONCERN IN FAIRFAX COUNTY

There were no recommendations in the 2012 Annual Report

IX-1. NOISE

Noise Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. The noise monitor at Great Falls Elementary, which primarily served Reagan National Airport, has been decommissioned with no plans for a replacement as there are currently few complaints about noise at that site. EQAC is concerned that that noise may become more of a concern in the future and that a monitor would then be needed. EQAC therefore recommends that the Board of Supervisors request to MWAA that a replacement site be found.</p>	<p>MWAA reports that the monitor that had been stationed at Great Falls Elementary had been destroyed and there were no plans to replace it, as there have been few complaints of aircraft noise in the Great Falls area. In fact, aircraft-related noise levels recorded at this site were in the range of DNL 45 dBA (annually), which is 20 decibels below the threshold at which federal interagency noise compatibility guidelines identify potentially incompatible land uses. MWAA has, therefore, concluded that the cost of replacing this monitor cannot be justified.</p> <p>The staff response stated that, for the reasons noted above, the replacement of the Great Falls monitoring site may not be justifiable without some clear evidence that noise may become more of a concern in this location in the future. The response suggested, though, that a more appropriate question may be whether this site should be replaced elsewhere in Fairfax County; i.e., are there any gaps in the monitoring network in Fairfax County that would benefit from the relocation of the Great Falls monitoring station to another location in the county? MWAA's view on this question is that the site selection process was completed about five years ago, resulting in the addition of several Fairfax County sites. MWAA points out that since the process is so complex, involving coordination with MWAA, county staff and the Airports Advisory Committee to recommend sites that would be appropriate (sites that then must meet very restrictive siting criteria of being publicly owned, being accessible to ground transportation and being accessible to electric service), it is not worth the time and money to go through the process again. MWAA believes the Great Falls Elementary site should be valued on its own merits and a replacement site not be researched. Staff recommended referral of this issue to the county's Airports Advisory Committee.</p>	<p>EQAC concurs with the staff recommendation to refer these questions to the Airports Advisory Committee, in order to give the committee the opportunity to consider MWAA's view of the merits of decommissioning the Great Falls site, and relocating the station elsewhere in the county.</p> <p>EQAC understands that the Airports Advisory Committee will be reviewing this issue and making recommendations about a replacement monitor. While EQAC's recommendation calls for the referral of the issue to the Airports Advisory Committee, no Board of Supervisors action is needed to effectuate the committee's review.</p>	<p>In progress.</p>

III/VIII

IX-2. LIGHT POLLUTION

There were no recommendations in the 2012 Annual Report

IX-3. VISUAL POLLUTION

Visual Pollution Recommendation	Action taken by Agency or Department	EQAC Comments	Completed
<p>1. The Environmental Quality Advisory Council supports the general concepts as discussed by the Board of Supervisors at its December 6, 2011 meeting concerning actions that the county can take regarding the removal of illegal signs in the county. This includes: support for legislation that would remove unnecessary restrictions that apply to Fairfax County (refer to discussion above about recent activities); development of options for the removal of signs (including an estimate of cost and the potential reduction in cost over a three-year period); an agreement with the Commonwealth Transportation Commissioner that would authorize the Board of Supervisors to remove all signs from VDOT rights-of-way; and research on the opportunities for the sign bond to be increased to \$1,000. EQAC requests that, within six months of receiving the Annual Report on the Environment, the results from these efforts be completed and provided to the public, or that the board identify an alternative timeline for addressing these actions.</p>	<p>The Board of Supervisors at its meeting on February 27, 2013 directed the county executive to enter into an agreement with the State of Virginia which would allow for the removal of illegal signs in the public rights-of-way by the county.</p>	<p>EQAC applauds the county's efforts to enter into a legal agreement with the Virginia Department of Transportation that addresses removal of illegal signs from highway rights-of-way. Further, EQAC supports the plan noted by the county to evaluate the program following its first year of operation in the county. EQAC intends to follow the results from this program and to provide further input regarding both the county staff's analysis of its successes and/or failures and staff's recommendations about retention of and possible modifications to the program.</p>	<p>Partial.</p>



Spotlight on Fairfax County Public Schools

Fairfax County Public Schools is the largest school district in Virginia (the 11th largest in U.S.) and has an enrollment of over 184,625 students for the 2013-14 school year. Over 14 percent of Virginia's K-12 students are enrolled in FCPS.

In this Spotlight, EQAC wants to provide recognition and highlighting for three areas where FCPS is working towards improved environmental performance. These areas are:

- High Performance and Sustainable Schools.
- Get2Green Environmental Education and Action.
- Collaboration between FCPS and the county's stormwater program.

High Performance and Sustainable Schools (Facilities and Transportation) – A high performance school implements design, construction and implementation strategies intended to create a learning environment which is: healthy; thermally, visually and acoustically comfortable; efficient in its use of energy, water and materials; easy to maintain and operate; environmentally responsible; a learning tool; safe and secure; and a community resource. Benefits of a high performance school include: heightened student performance; increased daily attendance; better student and teacher health; improved teacher satisfaction; improved indoor air quality; and reduced environmental impact.

FCPS uses the Collaborative for High Performance Schools (see <http://www.chps.net/dev/Drupal/node>) as its standard for sustainable design. CHPS offers resources for different phases and types of projects, including planning, designing, operating, specifying for, commissioning or maintaining a school. In addition, it offers a "Best Practices Manual" to help schools, districts and practitioners to achieve: high performance design, construction and operation; assessment tools for new construction, major modernizations and relocatable classrooms; and recognition programs.

FCPS's use of CHPS is relatively new and data are not yet available on overall district-wide compliance with CHPS. FCPS did not identify anything new in regard to CHPS in the information it provided for this report.

Historically, managing energy has been about providing comfort and lighting in our classrooms and offices while containing costs. The need to control greenhouse gas emissions and other air pollutants resulting from energy use has become increasingly important as our understanding of climate change and its potential ramifications has advanced.

The FCPS Energy Management Section monitors energy and water consumption for 245 buildings. Nearly all schools and offices have digital energy management control systems that are programmed to turn off heating and air conditioning systems at night, on weekends and on holidays.

U.S. EPA ENERGY STAR® data are automatically uploaded and scores are determined for 194 schools each month. Forty nine schools have received the EPA ENERGY STAR certification and the ENERGY STAR plaque is displayed in the school lobby. FCPS continues to increase the number of certified schools as building efficiency improves.

As part of an energy performance contract done between 2003 and 2006, FCPS invested over \$21 million in 107 buildings that received upgraded lighting, windows and heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems.

Infrastructure replacement projects where systems and building components are beyond the ends of their useful lives are designed and selected to conserve energy. Examples are: boiler and chiller and other HVAC system replacements that are selected to be high efficiency units; energy management control systems that are modernized and re-commissioned; roofs that are replaced with reflective materials to reduce heat loads; lighting systems that are upgraded; and older windows that are replaced with high quality double pane windows.

The Office of Facility Management Energy Management Section prepares an annual greenhouse gas inventory for all of FCPS (See <http://www.fcps.edu/fts/facmanagement/greenhousegas/index.shtml>). However, that office has not yet completed the inventory for 2012; additional data about emission factors for specific types of equipment are needed before the inventory can be completed.

Get2Green Environmental Education and Action – FCPS Get2Green (see <http://www.fcps.edu/is/science/get2green/>) is a set of internal and external partnerships and resources aimed at producing a cadre of environmental stewards as mandated by School Achievement Goal 3.

Get2Green will promote environmental education and environmental action across disciplines K-12 through three main foci:

- Professional development of teachers.
- Technical support for schools that wish to participate in a project or become an Eco-school.
- Building relationships around environmental stewardship that will help pyramids and clusters develop successful, student driven programs.

FCPS has formally partnered with the National Wildlife Federation Eco-Schools USA program to assist with these endeavors. The Eco-Schools USA program is based upon student-driven action teams that work on issues such as schoolyard wildlife habitat, recycling, composting, energy conservation and other environment and health related topics. In an effort to promote environmental action among students, FCPS sees the Eco-Schools USA program as a framework to facilitate this at any school. Eco-Schools USA provides sample action materials, curriculum and background information on its website and personnel are available to lend expertise to FCPS teacher trainings and meetings.

To date, FCPS has approximately 65 schools that are in some stage of the Eco-School process, and another 60 schools that are asking for technical assistance to get involved. Additional metrics include: schoolyard habitats (45 schools); edible gardens (33+ schools); staff training (1,600); and Blackboard Get2Green Community Members (500). As of August 2013, FCPS had three Green Flag Eco Schools, the highest honor in the Eco School process. They are Lanier Middle School, Churchill Road ES and Centreville ES.

Get2Green collaborates with a wide variety of internal FCPS departments to assist schools in their “greening” efforts, as well as a group of Get2Green principals that meets quarterly. The school district works with many external partners across the county and region to bring expertise and resources to the schools. Get2Green is also working on efforts to improve communication both internally and externally and to provide staff development for teachers and administrators to help student teams successfully work on sustainable projects.

Get2Green in Fairfax County is part of a regional and national movement to make schools healthier environments for students and staff. There is a Mid-Atlantic Elementary and Secondary Environmental Literacy Strategy that was released last year and the Virginia Resource Use Education Council is developing a policy on environmental education. Further, Virginia is participating in the U.S. Department of Education’s Green Ribbon Schools program.

Recycling efforts have been under way at Fairfax County schools for several years. The district’s waste hauler, Potomac Disposal Services, provides a consultant to assist schools in setting up recycling efforts. In addition, Get2Green is encouraging student teams to upgrade recycling efforts at all schools. Many schools have been recycling white paper for several years. There are some high schools like George C. Marshall HS that have relationships with outside vendors that buy white paper and cans collected at the school; they are continuing that practice in addition to recycling other items.

With the new Fairfax County move to single stream recycling, student teams are being encouraged to single stream recycle from their cafeterias and classrooms. In the cafeterias, some schools such as Westbriar ES and Centreville ES are upcycling (collecting and sending materials such as juice pouches and chip bags to organizations such as TerraCycle for payment back to the school). A short video on the methods Centreville ES uses for recycling can be seen at http://youtu.be/JU6_IRhG9I4. Other schools are involved in composting cafeteria food waste. Recently, Food and Nutrition Services worked with school administrators to develop a letter of agreement to be used if a school wants to donate unopened food to an area food pantry. Dranesville ES and Churchill Road ES are leading the way with this, with other schools such as Louise Archer ES investigating the feasibility of doing this within their communities. Food sharing has recently been the largest way schools are reducing the weight of cafeteria waste.

Some schools elect to run special recycling programs for batteries, printer cartridges, electronics, etc. if there is an adult staff member or PTA representative or student group that can administer the program. For example, Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology and Centreville ES have been doing this for several years.

In conjunction with FCPS Recycling, Langley High School ran a program to recycle on its playing fields during the spring 2012 sports season. The program was to have been expanded for the fall football season with the hopes that other high schools will follow Langley's lead. Langley funded this effort through grants from Clean Fairfax and a FCPS Schoolyard Stewardship Mini Grant.

Collaboration between Fairfax County Public Schools and the County's Stormwater Planning Division on Stormwater Management Plans--In November 2012, staff from FCPS and from the county's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services provided a briefing to EQAC regarding the identification of opportunities to enhance stormwater management efforts (beyond code requirements) on school properties through FCPS and DPWES collaboration. These efforts have targeted events of two inches or less of rainfall, which is 98% of all rainfall events. There was an identification of opportunities to implement stormwater management measures during school renovation/construction processes (the Capital Improvement Program for schools), and funding of enhancements through the Stormwater Service District revenue.

Stormwater management projects have been implemented at eight schools with CIP projects and 10 others where watershed plan projects have been identified, with a potential for increased efforts during Fiscal Year 2014. In the briefing to EQAC, examples of stormwater management projects were discussed for Waples Mill Elementary School (rain garden, native meadow, tree planting, and permeable pavers) as well as preliminary concepts for Sunrise Valley and Terraset Elementary Schools. In addition, there were discussions about collaboration among FCPS, the Fairfax County Park Authority and DPWES at the Forestville Elementary School/Nike Park site (early in the planning stages).

Environmental Stewardship/Volunteer Opportunities in Fairfax County

Environmental Quality is a team effort. We need partnerships with government, commercial and volunteer organizations to strive to improve our environment as is described throughout this annual report. We give details of stewardship efforts and best practices supporting government and non-government resources and broader environmental needs. This section is provided to highlight a group of governmental and non-governmental opportunities that individuals or organizations might consider supporting with their time and focus. Many of these organizations rely on volunteer resources to be effective, and greater participation may allow the organizations to expand the scope of their current work. EQAC does not assert that these are the only organizations making a valuable contribution to our environment, and we hope, in future reports, to expand the list of activities that are identified--this is the first year that we have provided this section and we hope to make it more valuable to the county leadership and to environmentally-conscious members of the community in the future. Some government organizations are listed if they either organize environmental activities or provide a good source for members of the community who want to contribute their time to improving environmental quality.

1. NORTHERN VIRGINIA REGIONAL PARK AUTHORITY

For the environmentally-conscious park enthusiast, we recommend contacting the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority, <http://www.NVRPA.org/>. NVRPA continues to have a roving park naturalist regularly visit the high-attendance parks such as pools, campgrounds and golf courses, bringing live wildlife and other exhibits and providing programming about nature and the environment. The naturalist also attends events and functions such as the Dominion W&OD Trail Mix, the Walter Mess 5K race and the Friends of the W&OD 10K race.

In 2012, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Foundation gave grants through its Nature Nuts Program to 11 Fairfax County public schools for children to attend environmental education camps at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park. Adventure Links at Hemlock Overlook Regional Park in Clifton offers a variety of outdoor and environmental education, team development programs for public and private schools, religious and community groups, sports teams, corporations, professional organizations and local, state and federal government and military agencies. Also in 2012, Meadowlark partnered with the Volgenau Foundation to provide teacher training and student field trips to Meadowlark Botanical Gardens and Potomac Overlook Regional Park. These trips focus on the natural history of the Potomac River basin, conserving native plants and animals.

NVRPA partners with REI's adventure school, introducing people to the outdoors at Pohick Bay, Hemlock Overlook and Fountainhead Regional Parks. NVRPA's naturalists hold regular educational canoe and kayak trips at Pohick Bay, and the roving naturalist conducts environmental programs at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens as well as at Bull Run and Pohick Bay Regional Park campgrounds. Potomac

Overlook Regional Park and W&OD Trail staff hosted booths at various county fairs to give environmental information to the public.

Occoquan Regional Park hosted two clean up events on the Occoquan River and added five new recycling bins at its picnic shelters and boat ramp. Fountainhead and Bull Run Marina were host sites for the Friend of the Occoquan clean-up days, removing dozens of bags of trash from the reservoir area. At Sandy Run Regional Park, rowing crew teams took part in water clean-up days, removing trash from the Occoquan Reservoir around Sandy Run. New trash cans were installed at Fountainhead and the W&OD Trail to prevent tipping and foraging by wildlife.

Environmental stewardship opportunities for volunteers are available at Meadowlark Botanical Gardens, Potomac Overlook Regional Park, Upton Hill Regional Park, Pohick Bay Regional Park and various other parks on occasion. NVRPA implemented a program that allows youth to access its fee-based park facilities through volunteer service. It has a wide variety of community partnerships in place that encourage groups to take advantage of the regional parks for environmental and historic education and service projects.

2. FAIRFAX COUNTY PARK AUTHORITY

The Fairfax County Park Authority offers a number of opportunities for volunteers, and EQAC encourages county residents to take advantage of these opportunities. Information about these opportunities is available at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/volunteer/>. More information about FCPA and its programs is available at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/parks/resources>.

Many of the stewardship activities that occur on parkland could not take place without the efforts of many volunteers and partners. Groups and individuals participate in a wide range of volunteer opportunities in environmental stewardship on parkland, from becoming a permanent volunteer for the Park Authority to one-off events. In FY13, volunteers contributed over 26,000 hours to natural resource stewardship activities on parkland.

Specifically, volunteers engage in programming, leading walks and tours, writing fliers or brochures, answering the phone when a resident calls with an environmental question and/or hands-on resource management. FCPA partners with local agencies and nonprofits in two different annual stream clean-up events, although many individuals and friends groups participate in more regular clean-ups along certain sections of stream throughout the year. FCPA also has habitat restoration events, including invasive plant removal and native species planting that attract day participants and more committed volunteers, e.g. the IMA Volunteer Leaders. Wildlife monitors work on birds and salamanders and everything in between, often in coordination with a long-term wildlife monitoring program such as the Virginia Bluebird Society. The Fairfax Master Naturalists have taken on some of

these projects or created new opportunities to contribute hundreds of hours to Park Authority sites. FCPA continues to offer many of its environmental stewardship opportunities for youth to get involved in their local parks to include as permanent volunteers, as students for their community service hours and scouts for Eagle and Gold Award projects. FCPA encourages its volunteers, be they individuals, groups, students or scouts, to propose ideas of how they can help steward the parks.

3. NORTHERN VIRGINIA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District supports numerous opportunities throughout the year to participate in stream cleanups, storm drain labeling, volunteer water quality monitoring and tree planting projects. Interested parties can send an e-mail to NVSWCD at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/mailform.aspx?ref=9990> or call 703-324-1460. It is also a good resource for advice to homeowners on problems with ponds, eroding streams, drainage, problem soils and other natural resource concerns. More information about managing land for a healthier watershed is available from the NVSWCD publications "You and Your Land, a Homeowner's Guide for the Potomac River Watershed" (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/youyourland/>) and the "Water Quality Stewardship Guide" (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/waterqualitybk.htm>). NVSWCD can assess the problems and advise on possible solutions.

4. FAIRFAX COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

There are numerous opportunities throughout the year to participate in stream cleanups, storm drain labeling, volunteer water quality monitoring and tree planting projects. Interested parties can send an e-mail to NVSWCD at <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/contact/mailform.aspx?ref=9990> or call 703-324-1460. Additionally, DPWES-Stormwater Management provides links to information about these popular volunteer programs on its website at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/stormwater/>. For a list of common household hazardous materials and how to dispose of them, go to <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/trash/disphhw.htm>.

5. ENERGY ACTION FAIRFAX PILOT PROGRAM

Fairfax County has implemented the Energy Action Fairfax pilot program to provide ways for residents to learn about their energy consumption and how to reduce it through improved energy efficiency. The program has been narrowly focused and aimed at homeowners in Fairfax County, particularly those occupying single-family homes and townhouses. The program's direct outreach has included presentations at homeowner association meetings, small "audit parties" within selected communities and the distribution of informative brochures at events and fairs. The program also generated stories for local media and created a multi-faceted presence on the county

website (www.fairfaxcounty.gov/energyactionfairfax/) that includes tips sheets, checklists and short how-to videos. Groups or individuals may want to contact Energy Action Fairfax to discuss ways to support their educational efforts within a specific community.

6. THE NORTHERN VIRGINIA CLEAN WATER PARTNERS EFFORTS TO MANAGE PET WASTE

Examples of activity of this group include its Dog Blog and Facebook pages for dog owners. During 2012, the blog and Facebook pages had more than 88,000 views, up from about 24,000 views in 2011. Based on the success of the 2010 and 2011 contests, the organization held the Third Annual Dog Blog Essay Contest. Eleven nonprofit organizations submitted an entry into the “Bark Your Piece” contest, which resulted in 10,360 votes. The three winning organizations received \$5,000 in grants to use toward veterinary care, spaying and neutering, dog food and pet owner education. Find out more about this organization at its website at <http://www.onlyrain.org>.

7. CLEAN FAIRFAX

Clean Fairfax Council, now known as Clean Fairfax, is a private, nonprofit (501(c)(3)) corporation dedicated to educating residents, students and businesses in Fairfax County about litter prevention and recycling. Clean Fairfax focuses on environmental education provided to students and adults throughout the county. Clean Fairfax continues efforts of updating the educational and interactive programs for students, community service opportunities for students (i.e., support at the council’s office or organizing clean ups), classroom presentations and presentations to homeowner associations and other groups.

A key effort of the council is the sponsorship of spring and fall cleanups. These cleanups rely on volunteers who desire to clean up a certain area of the county. The council asks volunteers to plan their cleanup by selecting a site, gathering volunteers and setting a date and time. Clean Fairfax supplies all the necessary tools provided (gloves, trash bags, recycling bags, vests and safety tips) for a successful cleanup. A follow-up form is available on the Clean Fairfax website to track progress, tally volunteer hours and trash pickup tonnage. Last year, Clean Fairfax worked with over 1,200 volunteers at 85 assisted clean ups, picking up over 67,000 pounds of trash, on and around Fairfax County’s roads, parks and side streets. Clean Fairfax also organizes periodic clean-up projects around the Government Center, with Fairfax County employees and area businesses.

Clean Fairfax continues to organize and lead the Earth Day/Arbor Day event, now called SpringFest Fairfax, in partnership with the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, the Fairfax County Park Authority, Fairfax Water, Fairfax Connector and Lorton Arts Foundation. Clean Fairfax now combines workshops and community service elements with this event. This past year at its new location at the

Workhouse Arts Center in Lorton, over 3,000 children and families attended this all day event. Other major projects for the upcoming year include outreach on reducing residents' compliance on plastic grocery bags, promoting small scale, backyard composting and providing services and workshops at Fairfax County Farmers Markets.

Clean Fairfax reaches Fairfax County residents by e-newsletters, Facebook and Twitter as well as an environmental blog updated twice weekly at www.cleanfairfax.org.

There are many other programs offered by Clean Fairfax, including programs beyond litter prevention and control. For more information, please visit the website at www.cleanfairfax.org or the SpringFest Fairfax website at www.springfestfairfax.org

8. ALICE FERGUSON FOUNDATION

The nonprofit Alice Ferguson Foundation was established in 1954. While chartered in Maryland, it has implemented programs throughout the Potomac River watershed, with benefits to the main stem of the river as well as tributaries in Washington, D.C., Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia and Virginia. As stated on its website, the foundation's mission is "to provide experiences that encourage connections between people, the natural environment, farming and the cultural heritage of the Potomac River Watershed, which lead to personal environmental responsibility."

In April 2013, the foundation held its 25th annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. A total of 14,586 volunteers removed 312 tons of trash and debris from the region at 633 cleanup sites throughout Washington, D.C., Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Pennsylvania. The 312 tons of trash collected during the cleanup included 1,314 tires, 193,800 beverage containers, 27,200 plastic bags and 27,400 cigarette butts.

Other programs implemented by the foundation include:

- **Trash Free Potomac Watershed Initiative:** This is a program to reduce trash, increase recycling and provide education regarding trash issues in the watershed.
- **Potomac Watershed Trash Treaty:** As of summer 2012, this treaty commits 112 signers to achieving a "Trash Free Potomac by 2013" and to: support and implement regional strategies aimed at reducing trash and increasing recycling; increase education and awareness of the trash issue throughout the Potomac watershed; and reconvene annually to discuss and evaluate measures and actions addressing trash reduction. Fairfax County was one of the founding signers of the treaty in 2005.
- **Potomac Watershed Trash Summit:** The foundation convenes this meeting annually to provide a venue for key stakeholders to collaborate on strategies to eliminate trash from waterways, communities, streets and public lands, including

regional public policy, model best management practices, business actions and public education.

- Enforcement: The foundation worked in partnership with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ Police Chief Committee on “Litter Enforcement Month,” which provided a focus on litter-related crimes and raised awareness of the harmful effects trash has on communities and the environment.

There are numerous other programs and initiatives that are implemented by the foundation; the reader is encouraged to visit the foundation’s website at www.fergusonfoundation.org.

<u>HOW TO REPORT ENVIRONMENTAL CRIMES OR CONCERNS IN FAIRFAX COUNTY</u>	
Type of Incident	<u>Phone Number</u>
<p><u>RELEASE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT</u> To report the dumping of any materials into a stream, manhole, storm sewer or onto the ground, call 9-1-1. When calling, be prepared to provide specific information about the location of the incident. County inspectors will investigate complaints within the county; Cities of Fairfax and Falls Church; and the Towns of Clifton, Herndon and Vienna.</p>	<p>911 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>LAND CLEARING; TREE REMOVAL; DUMPING OF FILL</u> To report the suspected illegal removal of trees, clearing of land, digging or dumping of fill dirt, contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p>703-324-1300 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>SOIL EROSION</u> To report soil erosion from private properties or construction sites, contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p>703-324-1300 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>GENERATION OF DUST FROM CONSTRUCTION, GRADING OR LAND CLEARING</u> Contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p>703-324-1300 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>CONSTRUCTION NOISE</u> To report construction noise outside between 9 p.m. and 7 a.m. or before 9 a.m. on Sundays and federal holidays, contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p>703-324-1300 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>TRASH COLLECTION BETWEEN 9:00 P.M. AND 6:00 A.M.</u> Call the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services. If possible, provide descriptive information about the truck, such as color, truck number, and license plate number.</p>	<p>703-324-5230 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>SIGNS ON ROADS AND MEDIANS</u> If a sign on a road or median poses a safety hazard, call the Virginia Department of Transportation to have it removed. The County of Fairfax performs monthly collections of illegal roadway signs on certain designated roads. More information at www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code/signs.</p>	<p>1-800-367-7623 TTY 711</p>

Type of Incident	<u>Phone Number</u>
<p><u>SIGNS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY</u> There are restrictions for signs on private property. For more information contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p><u>703-324-1300</u> <u>TTY 711</u></p>
<p><u>POORLY MAINTAINED HOMES</u> To report problems including broken windows and gutters, junk or debris in yards and tall, uncut grass, contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p>703-324-1300 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>OUTDOOR LIGHTING CONCERNS</u> To report problems with glare, overlighting or other issues, contact the Department of Code Compliance, or visit www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code.</p>	<p>703-324-1300 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>AIR POLLUTANTS</u> Air pollutants are emitted by stationary sources, such as power plants, gasoline service stations, and dry cleaners, as well as by mobile and area sources, such as from automobiles, trucks and other highway activities. This phone number is for the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality Northern Regional Office.</p>	<p>703-583-3800 After hours, call 1-800-468-8892 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>NO RECYCLING IN SCHOOLS</u> Section IX of the Fairfax County School Board’s Policy 8542 states that “Schools and centers will have mandatory recycling programs for paper products, cans, and bottles. Construction waste materials will be separated and recycled.” To report schools that are not recycling in accordance with this policy, contact the Fairfax County Public Schools Office of Facilities Management, Plant Operations Section. More information is available at: http://www.fcps.edu/fts/facmanagement/recycle.shtml</p>	<p>703-764-2459 TTY 711</p>
<p><u>HEALTH HAZARDS</u> For information and guidance on a suspected environmental hazard that may pose a public health risk, call the Health Department’s Division of Environmental Health. These hazards include unsanitary storage or disposal of waste; unburied dead animals; medical waste; insect infestations; and mosquito breeding sites.</p>	<p>703-246-2444 TTY 711</p>