

Environmental Vision Update

Public Meeting 3

July 28, 2016, 7:30pm-9:30pm

South Lakes High School, 11400 South Lakes Drive, Reston

Facilitator: Fred Rose

Group A

Question 1

1. Climate change
2. Climate change
3. Climate change
4. Climate change
5. Lead by example
6. Redevelopment to follow new stormwater ordinance
7. Promote newer stormwater practices
8. Fuel and energy efficiency
9. Waste management and recycling
10. Stormwater pollution management in cost effective way
11. Education of citizens
12. Education of citizens
13. Trees preservation and restoration
14. Stream bank erosion
15. Opportunity for neighborhood communication
16. Be the greenest county in the country
17. Resilience
18. Built environment as core
19. Establish office of sustainability with budget
20. Renewable resource use
21. Natural areas restoration
22. Transportation and traffic management
23. Healthy wildlife habitat
24. White-tailed deer management
25. Private landowners and public lands forest management
26. Public health
27. Use of pesticides and herbicides

Question 1

Team 1

- Climate Change III
- Lead By Example
- Redevelopment to follow new stormwater ordinance
- Promote newer stormwater practices
- Fuel & energy efficiency
- Waste management & recycling
- Stormwater Pollution Management in cost effective way
- Education of Citizens I
- Trees Preservation & Restoration
- Stream Bank erosion
- Education Opportunity for neighborhood communication

Page 1

Question 1

Team 1

- Be the greenest county in the country
- Resilience
- Built environment as core
- Establish Office of Sustainability with budget
- Renewable Resource Use
- Natural Areas Restoration
- Transportation & Traffic Management
- Healthy Wildlife Habitat
- White-tailed Deer Management
- Private Landowners & Public Lands Forest Management
- Public Health
- Use of Pesticides & Herbicides

Page 2

Question 2

1. Connecting all the environmental programs
2. Ambitious goals
3. Easy to access environmental information
4. Accountability for whole county
5. Over-arching or new section on climate change
6. See D.C., Arlington, Washington State, Seattle sustainability webpage as example
7. Educate communities with neighborhood focus
8. Aggressive legislative agenda
9. Regional coordination
10. Incentives for businesses and homeowners

Question 2

Team 1

- Connecting all the environmental programs
- Ambitious goals - Office with responsibility, ^{sta} _{budget}
- Easy to access env. information
- Accountability for whole county
- Over-arching or new section on climate change
- See D.C. Sustainability webpage as example
Arlington, Washington State, Seattle
- Educate communities with neighborhood focus
- Aggressive Legislative Agenda
- Regional Coordination
- Incentives for businesses & homeowners Page 1

Question 3

1. Integrate all environmental efforts
2. Focus on protection and preservation
3. Environmental impact assessment process
4. Ensure that the vision is followed
5. Goal statements that are quantitative

Question 3

Team 1

- Integrate all environmental efforts
- Focus on Protection & Preservation
- Environmental Impact Assessment Process
- Ensure that the vision is followed
- Goal Statements that are quantitative

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Group B

Facilitator: Fred Rose

Note Takers: Takisha Cannon, Pam Gratton

| What do you think are the top three environmental concerns facing the county? |
|--|
| Climate change + <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reducing dependence on fossil fuels• Emphasize reduction in the use of vehicles |
| Growth and land use planning + |
| Transportation +++ |
| Stormwater management – need more or better |
| Resiliency and adaptability for climate change |
| Air quality + |
| Open space, conservation of existing lands+ |
| More recycling |
| Lack of sufficient coordination with regional jurisdictions and regional approaches |
| Transportation <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Lack of public transportation• Promote more public transportation• Air quality• Dependence on fossil fuels |
| Habitat loss <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Save trees/forests, save <u>existing</u> trees• Biodiversity |
| Unsustainable practices <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Current levels of natural resources consumption is a problem |
| Waste minimization <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate the public on the benefits of• Include county operations, not just residents |
| Increase education on benefits of conserving trees is needed |
| Increase public awareness on environmental issues is needed |
| Energy efficiency practices need to be promoted |
| Biodiversity, lack of <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Education about native species (of plants), start making use of requirement (for development) |
| Composting of food waste |
| Organic waste collection promotion <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Can be a problem for those in apartment setting |

What do you think are the top three environmental concerns facing the county?

More Green building design

- Beneficial for cooling down urban heat islands/sinks
- Encourage architects
- Issue Tax incentives for solar equipment
- Where are we 20 years later?

Do you feel that this document is complete? If not, what do you think is missing?

Accountability missing

Displacement of communities due to development

- Need to look at the economic impacts including higher housing costs
- Plan for growth before it happens
- Get communities ready for change
- Promote more mixed use communities for housing

Environmental justice missing

- Provide resources and opportunities
- Make it a priority
- Benefits for low income

Climate change missing

Eliminating dependence on fossil fuels

- Recognition of impacts of climate change on other issues such as:
 - Temperature
 - Water level

An Energy portfolio – Where is our energy coming from?

- Adopting/maximizing renewables in the county and the region
- Also look at county vehicle fleet for using alternative energy

Can “tiny houses” be allowed? Where can they be located/zoned?

- Use of Zoning to promote smaller sustainable homes

What are county regulations on urban agriculture?

Permitting process and new residents – take opportunity to do more outreach and education during this process

Jobs/environmental jobs - train and cultivate residents for them

Regional cooperation efforts not well developed or understood

Managing resources

- Transitioning to less resource intensive lifestyle
- Encourage community resilience

Measurable goals are not set, need to be specific

Should be a listing of “green” contractors as a resource for residents

A Challenge/need to move away from “lawns”

- Reducing need for water
- Reducing the use of pesticides

Use government sites in County as places to demonstrate “green” practices, native plantings, green roofs

- Work with schools
- Take advantage of high visibility projects (e.g., beltway project)

Do you feel that this document is complete? If not, what do you think is missing?

Need energy and sustainability office in county government

Are there any other changes you would suggest to the Environmental Vision? If so, please elaborate.

Focus on schools

- To transform communities
- FCPS to communicate green schools initiative, create dashboard (for public)

Outreach

- Rec-Centers
- Libraries
- Metro
- VRE

Involve youth in what county is doing (on climate change)

Involve private businesses

- Chambers of commerce

Give Tax rebates/incentives for renewable energy, green projects

Focus more on Vulnerable populations +

- Ensure their needs met (power, cooling)
- (Utility) companies must be involved in process
- Set a process to monitor
- ADA accessibility

More boldness in looking at what science is saying

- Be more proactive, need more leadership on environmental issues
- Mentioned Maryland and European recognition of pesticide impacts

Measurable goals from Cool Counties Initiative

- Can't easily find program information or implementation status
- Include (Cool Counties) in this environmental vision document

Air conditioning – its use is counterproductive to addressing climate change

- Need to Educate on it
- Need to Break old ways of thinking
- Encourage power companies to support vulnerable populations financially
- Establish Metrics on Cool Counties
- People need to allow body temperature to adjust to reduce AC use

Periodic updates of plans are good but need more frequent reporting to public

Government Website “clunky”

- Need simple landing page
- Shouldn't have to dig through so deep to find info
- Want to see more on environmental vision up front
- Focus on projects, project level detailed information
- Highlight What's new
- Need Better search capabilities
- Don't organize by department divisions, it's not how residents think – use subject area

Vulnerable populations – make assistance available at public meetings (e.g., translators, sign language interpreters)

| Are there any other changes you would suggest to the Environmental Vision? If so, please elaborate. |
|---|
| Prioritize what we can do, politically or technologically <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can you get done quickly now, low-hanging fruit • Be informed by what is attainable |
| Inspirational narratives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Want people to get involved • Better marketing, telling the story better |
| Categorize measurable goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at short-term goals, 5-, 10-, 20-year goals • Make progress on short- and long-term goals |
| Has Outstanding recycling programs |
| Look at impacts (of actions), feasibility and include in plan |
| Pass on ideas (that don't fit here) to those who can implement them, don't just discard |
| Get federal money to help, find out what is available |
| Waste of rich communities – encourage recycling of electronics |
| Convince BOS that addressing climate change is worth doing |

“+” means another participant agreed with the statement.