

Annual Report on the Environment

2024 Topics for EQAC Review



Purpose of the Annual Report on the Environment (ARE)

- EQAC prepares the ARE to provide advice to the Board of Supervisors
- We hope the ARE will both provide helpful recommendations and provide a useful reference for the Board of Supervisors and members of the community





ARE Top Recommendation

Update employee compensation policy for areas with critical staff shortages such as wastewater and solid waste to attract and retain employees.

- The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services reported vacancy rates of 16% to 22% (and higher, up to 32%, within major functions) within business areas.

Priorities Requiring Coordination with Staff

- Implement specific processes that minimize ecological degradation from development pressure.
- Budget and implement an accountable Zero Waste Plan for the public and private sector.
- Adopt a Climate Plan for public consumption that shows how CECAP, Resilient Fairfax and other climate related efforts, such as VCEA, are being implemented and the progress being made toward achieving goals.
- Plan and implement an EV charging network so that residents of buildings with EV charging and travelers will have options for charging their EVs.

Budget Priorities

- Set the fee rate collected for wastewater treatment to meet the documented needs of the necessary upgrades and maintenance requirements for all the plants that serve the county and their respective wastewater collection system.
- Increase funding for the stormwater program by either an increase in the Stormwater Service District rate in 2024 by at least one-quarter penny, from 3.25 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 3.50 cents per \$100 or fund the increase through a change in the base rate.



2024 Proposed Topics for EQAC Review

- CECAP
- Resilient Fairfax
- Data Centers
- Budget Recommendations
- Update to the Environmental Policy/Comprehensive Plan
- Smart Growth
- Lake Accotink
- Wastewater
- Solid Waste (including Get to Zero)
- Stream Restoration
- Addressing flood risks
- Water needs and availability
- Schools and Environment
- Park Authority
- Trash and the lack of tree plantings in the VDOT Right of Way

Discussion and Questions

- Is there anything we can do to make the ARE more useful to the Board or otherwise improve our work?

