

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

July 18, 2023

3:00 P.M.

Government Center Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Board Chair Jeffrey C. McKay
Committee Chair Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District
Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District
Supervisor John W. Foust, Dranesville District
Supervisor Penelope A. Gross, Mason District
Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District
Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District
Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District
Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, Sully District
Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District

Others Present:

Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Beth Teare, County Attorney

July 18, 2023, Meeting Agenda:

[BOSEC July 18, 2023 Agenda \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

July 18, 2023, Meeting Materials:

[Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee Meeting: July 18, 2023 | Board Of Supervisors \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

The following is a summary of the discussion from the July 18, 2023, Environmental Committee meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 P.M.

Item I Opening Remarks

After a brief introduction from Supervisor Storck, Committee Chair, he acknowledged that the environmental aides from each Board office met earlier in the day to discuss countywide environmental issues and ways to ensure that Fairfax County is an environmental leader. The environmental aides are planning to meet during Environmental Committee days going forward.

Supervisor Storck then asked the Environmental Committee if there were any changes to the meeting summary from April 25, 2023. There was a change to page six, and with that edit the summary was accepted. Supervisor Storck asked if there were any updates or outstanding items that were owed to Board members. With nothing outstanding, he moved on to the next item.

Item II Public Information and Outreach in Support of Climate Action

John Silcox, Public Information Officer, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, (OEEC) presented on the department's public information and outreach efforts in Fairfax County in support of climate action. He began by explaining the OEEC's goals for public information and outreach, which are to educate all stakeholders, explain the need for climate action, provide clear, accessible information, support decision making, and prioritize with an equity lens. Education and outreach will be conducted through web content and tools, videos, informational resources in multiple languages, in-person and virtual events, social media, e-newsletters, and programs and partnerships. He explained the "one message, many voices" approach where OEEC, the Board of Supervisors, Climate Champions, Green Business Partners, advocacy organizations and faith-based communities share the same message to promote climate action within the community.

Mr. Silcox then shared the progress made by OEEC in Fiscal Year 2023. Some noted achievements include publishing the Climate Action Dashboard, developing a Personal Climate Action Planning presentation for the community, providing hands-on demonstrations of residential energy and water efficiency improvements, giving out home energy efficiency kits, putting on the Green Business Partners

Forum and webinar, and publishing a suite of multilingual educational and outreach materials.

Mr. Silcox next highlighted the informational resources OEEC has available that highlight the importance of solar power, electric vehicles (EVs), more sustainable forms of transportation and small actions the public can take for a big climate impact. Information on cost savings and the environmental impact of climate actions is provided to the community to help the public identify ways they can reduce their home energy use, curb emissions, and save money. The OEEC is also promoting the incentives and tax credits that are available to help people reduce the upfronts costs of certain technologies.

Mr. Silcox shared that the OEEC is providing the community with informational resources to encourage the use of solar energy, including the educational basics of solar power, how to assess a home's solar potential and take advantage of incentives and tax credits, and the weather and maintenance considerations involved with solar energy. The OEEC is spotlighting county residents who have installed solar energy systems on their homes to encourage other homeowners to learn from their example and install solar. Mr. Silcox then shared a brief video testimony, prepared by OEEC, featuring a Fairfax County resident as he explained his personal experience with residential solar installation.

The OEEC is also promoting EV adoption to curb greenhouse gas emissions, Mr. Silcox explained. These actions include sharing the educational basics of EVs, and how the community can select an EV and take advantage of incentives and tax credits. The OEEC is addressing questions on range anxiety and charging options. In addition, OEEC is spotlighting county residents and employees who have adopted EVs for their personal use. Mr. Silcox shared a brief segment of a video, prepared by OEEC, featuring a Fairfax County employee and resident discussing their adoption of EVs.

Transportation accounts for nearly 40 percent of the greenhouse gas emissions in Fairfax County, Mr. Silcox said. He added that the OEEC wants to provide the community with information and resources so that they can evaluate their public transit options and other, more sustainable forms of transportation. The OEEC has a suite of materials including infographics, fact sheets, and social media content that offers information on commuting, public transit options, and ridesharing while emphasizing the cost savings and environmental impacts of driving less and

walking and biking more. He explained that the OEEC has worked with partners at the Fairfax County Department of Transportation in developing these materials.

Mr. Silcox then shared the department's next steps and timeline for public education and outreach around climate action. This summer the OEEC will continue to promote the Capital Area Solar Switch/Solarize NOVA campaigns. It will begin informational campaigns for EV adoption and Charge Up Fairfax, home energy retrofits, Climate Champions, and Resilient Fairfax this autumn/winter. He concluded by sharing the OEEC website, Twitter, and Facebook links, and how to subscribe to the department's newsletter.

Board Discussion:

Supervisor Storck thanked Mr. Silcox and explained that sharing the information provided by Mr. Silcox is providing the community with simple ways to access the data, information, and resources they need to become and stay engaged. He requested that OEEC staff come back in October with some ways the Supervisor districts can be involved through a friendly competition. The competition would provide a sense of how the county is doing and provide more energy around climate action, allowing us to more effectively move the county forward. He mentioned that he receives a monthly newsletter from the OEEC with information that his office adds to their newsletter; recirculating the information adds to the success of the county's climate action educational campaigns.

Supervisor Alcorn asked for confirmation that weatherization was included in the outreach items. He also asked if information on tax credits through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) were going to be included in outreach materials.

Mr. Silcox confirmed that OEEC had some information on the IRA tax credits for electrification projects and home energy upgrades. He added that the OEEC will continue to build out more resources over time as we continue to grow our suite of materials. He said that OEEC's Personal Climate Action Presentation also talks about electrification and is shared with the community.

Supervisor Herrity had a few questions about metrics. He asked if the video views for the solar and EV testimonials were being tracked. Mr. Silcox answered that the OEEC will be tracking views. He explained that the OEEC website is being updated, and the intention is to refine and improve the approach to how information is being presented; as part of this effort, OEEC will be looking at metrics. He was unsure of the current views on YouTube for the videos but said he

could provide that information to the Committee. Supervisor Herrity then noted that it is important to make sure the information was getting out to the community and that resources like the carbon footprint calculator were being used.

Supervisor Lusk appreciated the solar and EV testimonials. He said it would be helpful to have a video on weatherization as well. He then asked if the videos were translated into Spanish, or could be, and explained that the Board would love to push them out into the non-English speaking community. Mr. Silcox answered that OEEC is working on several translations for materials, and developing multilingual educational videos is something OEEC is working towards. Supervisor Lusk asked Mr. Silcox to let the Committee know when such translations are available so that they can assist in pushing out the information.

Supervisor Palchik thanked Mr. Silcox for the presentation. She expressed her appreciation for OEEC's focus and the creation of these programs. She asked how the Green Business Partners program was being publicized and how to incentivize enrollment among the business community. Mr. Silcox answered that the Green Business Partners was an ongoing outreach effort from the OEEC. He mentioned the great turnout for the Green Business Partners Forum in early 2023 and that several applications have been received. He said that the OEEC is utilizing all digital channels to increase awareness of the program and working with economic partners to reach the business community more. Supervisor Palchik then stated that the first steps have been taken with the Green Business Partners program and now it is time to think about growing the program and begin to offer incentives to increase membership. She then commented that the green vehicles program is great and provides a lot of information about EVs. She noted that the Capital Bikeshare e-bike program is a great program and requested its inclusion on informational materials. Mr. Silcox added that the OEEC recently published information about e-bikes in a recent article and will continue to promote that.

Supervisor Storck confirmed the priorities of OEEC communication which are to champion and drive forward both passive and active education. He added that the Committee is expecting those efforts to be intensified over the coming months to help Fairfax County be a leader on the East Coast in climate action.

Item III

Introducing the Charge@Work Campaign for Fairfax County

John Morrill, Acting Director of OEEC, presented an introduction to and recommendation of the Charge@Work campaign, an initiative of the U.S. Department of Energy to stimulate EV charging in workplaces around the country. He began by noting that Charge@Work staffers have contacted several members of the Board of Supervisors. He said that many of the Committee members' staff have contacted OEEC to inquire about the Charge@Work campaign.

Mr. Morrill said that, as noted in the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), there is no one solution to achieve the county's goal of carbon neutrality. Increasing building energy efficiency, growing the widespread use of renewable energy, and contributing to sharp reductions in transportation emissions, are all critical to that goal. He added that a strong, rapid increase in the use of EVs in place of gasoline and diesel can be the single largest contributor in achieving carbon neutrality. He shared a CECAP report chart showing the role of the twelve key strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Fairfax County with EV adoptions providing 19 percent of the needed reduction. Mr. Morrill said that the county vehicle fleet is moving toward greater use of EVs, as was outlined in the staff report distributed with this meeting's materials. He said that the county has 94 charging ports in place at county facilities, with many of those available for public use. While there are many challenges to EV charging station installations, the county is redoubling efforts to locate and power EV charging infrastructure.

Mr. Morrill continued by stating that the Charge@Work campaign offers outreach, education, and technical assistance to employers to help support increased employee EV usage. The program provides tools and advisory services to help businesses navigate the EV installation process at existing facilities. He explained that since the program is operated by the U.S. Department of Energy, it is free but does not offer financial incentives. The OEEC is interested in leveraging the Charge@Work campaign for use by members of the Green Business Partners Program. In June 2023, the OEEC offered an informational webinar featuring outstanding commuter services for our Green Business Partners; Mr. Morrill explained that the Charge@Work campaign would offer referrals to EV charging technical assistance, offering another benefit to those members.

Mr. Morrill said that the Charge@Work campaign asks employers and public officials to pledge to consider action. He provided an example of this by sharing

that the county could use Charge@Work's best practices to inform our own workplace charging and share their informational resources with employees. Charge@Work and their outreach partners can support "Ride and Drive" events to promote EVs. Such "Ride and Drive" events have been shown to boost interest in EVs among skeptics.

Mr. Morrill recommended the county join the program for two reasons. First, the county can promote use and awareness of EVs among employees and improve air quality for all. Second, county staff can collaborate with Charge@Work to share their resources to businesses, help demystify EVs and spur their use among employees and accelerate workplace charging. He explained that joining the Charge@Work campaign is a small step on our carbon reduction journey but one that complements our existing efforts such as Charge Up Fairfax, Green Business Partners, and our own EV infrastructure investments.

Mr. Morrill shared that the OEEC led county participation in a regional grant seeking effort organized by the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). Last month, MWCOG submitted a joint application for EV charging infrastructure to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) including 25 proposed EV charging sites at Fairfax County facilities for public use in vulnerable and historically disadvantaged communities. Award decisions are not expected before the end of the calendar year.

Board Discussion:

Supervisor Alcorn asked how Charge Up Fairfax was progressing. Mr. Morrill answered that the OEEC is in the pilot stage and is in discussion with four communities. Supervisor Alcorn said he is looking forward to an update on the program soon.

Supervisor Palchik asked about EV car sharing companies in the area as an option to limiting cars on the road and asked for data on the benefits of car sharing to reduce car ownership reliance. Mr. Morrill replied that he had no data on car sharing but that is something he could follow up on.

Supervisor Storck expressed that there was interest in moving forward with this program and would look forward to bringing a Board Matter to have the county be a part of the program. He then moved to the next item on the agenda.

Item IV Green Bank Update

John Morrill, Acting Director of OEEC, provided an update on activity toward establishment of the Fairfax County Green Bank. Staff continue to meet with community representatives and potential collaborators both locally and regionally. Staff are involved with existing and emerging green bank networks around the country and participate in weekly calls about developments. Last week, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released its notice of funding opportunity for the \$20 billion intended for funding for green bank-style operations. OEEC staff are in contact with the large entities expected to be among the primary recipients and administrators of those awards. The OEEC is confident in Fairfax County's ability to be a subrecipient of funds once the Fairfax entity is established.

Mr. Morrill explained that the focus of this presentation is the draft ordinance and related documents needed to establish the Fairfax County Green Bank as a 501c3 organization. He said there are several key questions requiring Board guidance, as the answers will inform the final proposed ordinance, bylaws, and articles of incorporation, as well as the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that will outline many of the roles and responsibilities in the relationship between the county and the Green Bank.

Mr. Morrill then reviewed the rationale for the green bank effort. As a matter of public policy, to avoid the worst-case climate change scenarios, the nation and Fairfax County require a tremendous reinvestment in energy efficiency, widespread deployment of renewable energy technologies, and rapid transition to EVs. Decades of experience in the promotion of energy efficiency and renewable energy technology by manufacturers, states, utilities, and the federal government have shown us that financial incentives alone, including the availability of funds, is not sufficient to achieve change. Energy costs remain a low priority for consumers and businesses and once a customer is interested, they find a crowded market with competing claims often resulting in uncertainty and inaction. To address this challenge, the green bank model has emerged as a trusted broker between potential customers of clean energy improvements and contractors, service providers, and

financial lenders. A green bank can stimulate market demand by both promoting clean energy projects and actively working with customers to implement those projects through technical and financial assistance.

Mr. Morrill explained that the mission of the Fairfax County Green Bank is to leverage relationships and private capital to develop a clean energy economy. The definitions of clean energy were provided in the enabling legislation signed by Governor Northam in 2021. The mission includes a commitment to access clean energy technologies for all with intentional, focused efforts to provide clean energy solutions in vulnerable communities.

In its early stage, the Green Bank will work on stimulating local market demand. The initial startup funds from the county, largely from a formula grant from the U.S. Department of Energy, will be used to establish the entity, promote federal and state rebates, tax credits, and other programs, and perhaps administer clean energy programs on behalf of the county. OEEC staff are in frequent contact with Virginia Energy and that state office is watching our Green Bank development with great interest. The OEEC has identified to state staff the forthcoming Green Bank as a collaborator and potential administrator for some state programs including the federal Solar for All initiative in anticipation of the state's allocation from that \$7 billion dollar program. Over time, as Green Bank staff obtain additional federal or state funding and develop relationships with private capital lenders, the entity could provide credit support for more significant energy efficiency and renewable projects and programs. The extent of financial assistance will depend on the balance sheet of the nonprofit and direct loans to residential or commercial projects are unlikely to be made immediately.

The enabling legislation allows for a locality to establish a green bank as either an agency of the government, a quasi-governmental agency, a depository bank, or a nonprofit corporation. Our feasibility consultant recommended a nonprofit corporation as the most suitable entity. An internal working group with staff from multiple agencies, including finance and legal, concurred with that recommendation. A 501c3 will be less constrained by county procedures that might hinder its agility or creativity in program development. However due to its origin and initial funding, the Green Bank will be a public body subject to Virginia FOIA. The draft ordinance and bylaws also provide an initial focus on Fairfax County without preventing future regional collaboration. The documents protect the county against risk while also allowing initial county support and flexibility in activity and future operations.

Mr. Morrill explained that the long-term goal of the Green Bank was to become independent and self-supporting but initial support needs to come from the county and that support offers county control to manage risk. However, county control over this entity provides risks of its own as the entity's finances will be reflected in county financial statements and long-term county control presents some questions about corporate governance. The vision for the entity is that county control decreases over time as the Green Bank matures and the balance sheet grows.

Guidance is needed on the following policy questions as the answers will inform either the ordinance, bylaws, articles of incorporation, or the MOU between the county and the Green Bank, and these questions cannot be deferred because the implications are contained within those documents.

First, what is the role in the selection of the Green Bank's Board of Directors? The recommendation is that initial appointments are made by the County Executive, voting members are self-perpetuating thereafter, and non-voting members are always appointed by the County Executive.

Second, what is the composition of the Board of Directors? The recommendation is that there is a minimum of five voting members, a maximum of nine voting members with diverse experience, and two (or more) members are non-voting county staff.

Third, should "Fairfax County" be required in the legal name of the Green Bank? The recommendation is not to require the entity to have Fairfax County in the name when incorporated and that the Board of Directors may amend the organization name.

Fourth, what should the role regarding review or approval of amendments to articles of incorporation or bylaws be? The recommendation is for the Board of Supervisors or County Executive to receive advance notification of amendments sixty days prior to occurrence.

Fifth, what is the extent of Board of Supervisors review of lending activity? The recommendation is to require the Green Bank to obtain an authorizing resolution from the Board of Supervisors prior to purchasing, guaranteeing, or incurring any indebtedness.

Sixth, could the Board of Supervisors have the ability to remove a member of the Board of Directors? The recommendation is that the Board of Directors be independent. After the initial appointment, the election and removal of voting directors is by the Board of Directors itself. The county will retain at least two non-voting directors (county employees) on the Board of Directors.

At the conclusion of his update, Mr. Morrill welcomed questions from the Board.

Board Discussion:

Supervisor Storck commented on the complexity of the formation of the Green Bank, the amount of effort put into the formation, and the potential impact on accelerating county and regional progress. He then offered Chairman McKay, one of the champions of this effort, time for questions.

Chairman McKay thanked Mr. Morrill for the presentation, noted the amount of development time, and the General Assembly's authorization of legislation for the creation of green banks in Virginia and noted the importance of acting on the opportunity. Chairman McKay had a question about initial county funding and the long-term goal of an independent entity and asked what a reasonable timeframe is for achieving that independence. Mr. Morrill answered that it was a difficult question to answer and reasoned that true financial independence could be five to ten years or longer and depended greatly on the availability of federal financial funds, which may not be awarded until mid-2024. He said it would be several years before the entity would be financially independent.

Chairman McKay said there is a window of opportunity where there is federal funding to support these types of initiatives and noted the importance of having the infrastructure in place to be able to act on opportunities. He said the Green Bank will need federal and outside funding. He also pointed out that initial investment to create the Green Bank could become an ongoing commitment and needs to be understood. He noted the importance of moving forward but urged a complete understanding of potential milestones so that initial funding to the program achieves the expected goals. He suggested looking at models from other jurisdictions for potential funding paths. He wanted to know what type of long-term commitment the county was accepting. He suggested that the entity's Board of Directors could be appointed by the County Executive with Board of Supervisors confirmation. He stressed the importance of the entity's independence.

He said the opportunity needed to be seized to position the county to be able to take advantage of some of the available funding opportunities.

Supervisor Storck reminded the Board that there were six questions needing feedback, and confirmed the members had the draft ordinance and draft bylaws for consideration.

Supervisor Walkinshaw thanked Mr. Morrill for the work put into the creation of the Green Bank and stressed the importance of meeting the timeline for an autumn public hearing. He said he was impressed by some of the payback periods within the consultant report, like a four-year payback for single family home energy efficiency equipment, three years for office equipment, and three years for multifamily EV charging. He agreed with Mr. Morrill that sometimes the barriers are technical knowledge, confusion, and contractor resistance. He said he did not have a strong view about Fairfax County being in the entity's name and asked Mr. Morrill to explain the mechanism by which other local governments in the region might participate and collaborate in this.

Mr. Morrill answered that the OEEC has heard from staff and residents on neighboring jurisdictions' commissions that there might be interest by some of our neighbors to pass their own ordinance to stand up their own green bank and point to the Fairfax County entity. Funding would be put into the entity to boost market development and potential financial programs in their jurisdictions. Several jurisdictions are interested in the Fairfax County Green Bank and curious if it could be an option for them to join in. Supervisor Walkinshaw inquired if there was any indication that including Fairfax County in the name would discourage other jurisdictions or if this was an intuitive concern. Mr. Morrill replied that it was intuition.

Supervisor Walkinshaw addressed questions four and five posed by Mr. Morrill, specifically about the county incurring any indebtedness and noted the significant role of the Board of Supervisors in that decision. He asked why the recommendation is only that the Board of Supervisors receive advance notice of amendments to the bylaws and/or articles of incorporation and why the recommendation is not that the Board of Supervisors approve amendments to the bylaws and/or articles of incorporation. He asked how to prevent the Board of Directors from changing the mission.

Mr. Morrill answered that the enabling ordinance that is up for consideration by the Board of Supervisors is the constitution, and the articles of incorporation and bylaws are aligned with that ordinance and the ordinance sets some guardrails consistent with the mission. He added that the MOU between the county and the entity, which has not yet been written, would lay out the details of that relationship, roles, and responsibilities. The MOU is a key controlling document. He explained that the inclusion of only advance notice of changes to the bylaws to the Board of Supervisors is because sometimes there are adjustments to the bylaws that are not material to the organization's operations and are largely administrative. Similarly, the articles of incorporation, which are sent to the state, might have an administrative change in the registrar and the intention is not to trouble the Board of Supervisors with administrative items.

Supervisor Walkinshaw asked the County Executive or County Attorney if there were other entities that the Board of Supervisors has created that have similar requirements, that the bylaws can be amended by the entity and the relationship with the Board of Supervisors is governed by the MOU.

Beth Teare, County Attorney, answered that the County Attorney's Office can take a careful look at this issue. She added that, in general, Board-appointed Boards, Authorities and Commissions (BACs) require Board approval in advance of making any bylaw changes. She explained that outside of those specific entities, there is no requirement for Board approval. She offered to follow up with Supervisor Walkinshaw via memo.

Supervisor Walkinshaw reiterated his concern for the risk in allowing bylaw and/or articles of incorporation changes without Board approval.

Supervisor Herrity addressed the questions posed by Mr. Morrill. He began with question one and said appointments should be made by the County Executive with Board concurrence. For question two, he said the most important thing is someone from business or with investment experience should be included on the Board of Directors as non-voting county staff. Their expertise in those fields would be more important to him than their county department. He added that he also has concerns about question number four and requested that the Board of Supervisors provide approval for major changes. In answer to question number five, he replied that the Board should provide authorization before incurring any indebtedness. He agreed with the other recommendations.

Supervisor Alcorn responded to the six questions and agreed that the Board of Supervisors should provide authorization before any indebtedness is incurred. He explained that when the county is the primary financial contributor to the entity, there should be control over changes to bylaws and/or articles of incorporation. However, he added, as the entity reaches independence, direct county oversight could lessen. He mentioned some concerns with gifting to a 501c3 and asked the County Attorney to review that. His final concern was with question three and the critical importance of the MOU. He mentioned the importance of keeping the county connection to the name in the future and that the initial county investment continues to benefit Fairfax County employees and residents. He stressed that the MOU is the key to confirm that.

Supervisor Gross referred to question six and stated that until the entity is independent, and as long as Fairfax County has any financial contribution to the entity, then the Board of Supervisors needs to be involved. She then asked who would be expected to provide legal advice to this new entity, as she did not see that addressed in either the articles of incorporation or the bylaws. Mr. Morrill replied that the new entity is envisioned to seek their own insurance and legal counsel. He said there would be considerable engagement and in-kind consultation with county staff but explained that insurance and counsel are required in setting up a 501c3. Based on Mr. Morrill's answer, Supervisor Gross asked if a template could be created that shows what the costs would be for an Executive Director, staffing, legal counsel, rent, and all the other associated costs to be incurred at the beginning of setting up an entirely new entity. She asked for a cost estimation for these initial costs before granting any awards.

Supervisor Lusk articulated that it might be helpful to know what Montgomery County, since they have already established a green bank, did in answer to the six questions posed by Mr. Morill. He suggested then looking to other jurisdictions with green banks for best practices and protocols. Supervisor Lusk agreed with his colleagues on the first question and that the County Executive can appoint members with Board of Supervisors approval.

Regarding the Board of Director's composition, Supervisor Lusk said that he has no issue with the non-voting county staff members from finance and environmental departments. He said the Board's voting members will need support from those with knowledge and experience in those fields. He said he is torn on whether Fairfax County should be included in the entity's name, but he would reserve judgement until later. He added that those who are selected should be allowed to

help in the naming of the organization. He said the naming responsibility should be reserved for the Board of Directors. He then said that he supported the recommendation on the articles of incorporation. On the review of the lending activity, Supervisor Lusk said he was appreciative that the Board of Supervisors would be provided with the opportunity to review prior to guaranteeing or incurring any indebtedness. He agreed that the removal of Board members should be the responsibility of the Board of Directors. He noted that he is excited about the Green Bank and appreciates the work done while acknowledging that there will be things to learn along the way and expects Mr. Morrill to advise as adjustments need to be made. He advised that flexibility needs to be expected and requested that help be asked for as the Board wants to be as supportive as possible in the success of this endeavor. He concluded by saying that this could have a regional focus to be successful and that he does not want to impede that development.

Supervisor Foust thanked staff, Supervisor Storck and Chairman McKay for moving this project forward. He suggested that the County Attorney, if she can, be the primary counsel for the Green Bank. He noted the advantages of having that type of counsel and stated that he was unsure if it was allowed but that it would be his preference for an organization that is advancing the county's mission. Ms. Teare replied that her office will investigate that. Supervisor Foust then said that the bylaws and other documents contained material items that the County Attorney could decide whether these are administrative and should not be held up by needing to bring before the Board of Supervisors. Ms. Teare promised to confer with staff and respond to the Committee.

Supervisor Foust then said he did not understand why the Board of Supervisors would not make the appointments to the Green Bank's Board of Directors like they do with all other BACs. He then asked Mr. Morrill to confirm if the entity's finances will be reflected in the county's financial statements. Mr. Morrill answered that initially that would be the case. Ms. Teare suggested that she follow up with the answer to that question in more detail. Supervisor Foust then asked for the pro forma, informed speculation of the entity's initial cash flow so the Board can ascertain when it is going to start and what the associated costs will be.

Supervisor Storck thanked Supervisor Foust for his comments and said that it was his expectation that there will likely be, over the next few months, conversations about putting together a plan and timeline.

Supervisor Palchik thanked Mr. Morrill and the staff for working on the project. She said she had two comments to follow up on the conversations so far. Her first was about the entity's Board makeup and establishing the right level of control. She wondered if the county might have a voting role before the entity becomes independent and stated that she would feel more comfortable if the county had more than just an ex officio role. She added that she looked at the Montgomery County Green Bank, their members and partners, and associated roles. She noted her interest in which individuals and organizations have been involved with efforts in Fairfax County. She expressed her hope that these partners and the Green Bank would help advance C-PACE in the county. She said the Board is very excited to go forward with the correct checks and balances in place.

Supervisor Storck said that the Committee has gained considerable information and provided feedback to the County Attorney and program development team who will then come back to the Committee in September/October with more information to move this process along. He explained that this will be the first green bank in Virginia; Fairfax can be a leader in this area and make a big difference.

Item V Review of Staff Reports

Supervisor Storck mentioned the excellent updates provided by OEEC staff including the answer to Supervisor Gross's question about the compatibility of electric bus charging equipment for the Fairfax Connector electric fleet and Fairfax County Public Schools' electric buses. The staff report confirmed that the connectors are not compatible. Supervisor Storck said that the Environmental Committee will have to pay attention to those changes over time but expects that, over time, there will be some resolution to charging compatibility.

Supervisor Storck concluded by mentioning his quarterly meeting with OEEC staff where they discuss environmental actions, including implementation of the Operational Energy Strategy, the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, and Resilient Fairfax. He said that at the last meeting with staff, he had an excellent report that he wished to share with the Environmental Committee and requested the Committee review their Board package to find the attached report with updates on Operational Energy Strategy projects, as well as updates on energy efficiency projects, solar installations, and EV charging station installations,

particularly at the Government Center. There are also updates on community programs like Charge Up Fairfax and the Green Business Partners Program, which needs a lot of attention. He stressed the need for champions to help build that program. Other program updates cover resilience hubs, solar sanctuaries, the Resilient Fairfax strategy status, and interagency climate teams for implementation of all climate plans. The key to that is champions; we need community champions for these different initiatives.

Supervisor Smith asked if the Environmental Committee could be provided with more information on the twenty-six homeowners associations that were invited to apply to the Charge Up Fairfax pilot program.

Supervisor Storck highlighted the excellent graphs within the staff report about what the county has been doing and hopes to do environmentally that are useful for engaging the community. He encouraged his colleagues to add these to their newsletters to increase understanding of the county's direction.

Supervisor Storck adjourned the meeting at 4:29 P.M.