

Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee Meeting Summary

**October 29, 2024, at 1:30 P.M.
Government Center Conference Room 11**

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District
Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr., Dranesville District
Supervisor Patrick S. Herrity, Springfield District
Supervisor Andres F. Jimenez, Mason District (Committee Vice-Chairman)
Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District
Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District
Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, Sully District
Supervisor Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District
Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District (Committee Chairman)

Others Present:

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

Link to agenda and meeting materials: [Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee Meeting: Oct. 29, 2024 | Board Of Supervisors](#)

Item I: Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 1:31 P.M and the July 23, 2024, summary was accepted.

Item II: The PFAS Challenge at Fairfax Water

Jamie Hedges, General Manager, Fairfax Water, presented on the organization's efforts to address PFAS in the drinking water. Ms. Hedges provided an overview of the Fairfax Water service area and source waters, a description of PFAS, how they enter the drinking water cycle, and key federal regulatory actions governing PFAS in drinking water. Ms. Hedges provided results from the latest PFAS monitoring cycle and noted that the region will not be able to comply with the EPA's latest regulations, due to take effect in 2029, unless additional treatment processes are put into effect. Ms. Hedges outlined Fairfax Water's roadmap to compliance and the associated costs. Fairfax Water, in coordination with regional and state actors, intends to further study PFAS occurrence and sources in the watershed. She identified some potential actions local government could take in support.

The Committee discussed the cost of compliance with the upcoming federal regulations, including costs associated with reducing PFAS at the source. Source reduction was mentioned as an important component to reducing long-term mitigation costs. Fairfax Water is trying to understand more about sources in the region, including the use of PFAS-containing foam at

regional airports and the application of biosolids on agricultural lands in surrounding counties. Another source is the use of PFAS-containing materials and foam by regional fire and rescue departments, although Fairfax County eliminated the use of PFAS-containing foam in its operations three years ago and is taking other steps to reduce the use of PFAS, as explained by John Walser, Assistant Fire Chief. Fairfax Water noted that identifying and mitigating other sources of PFAS in the watershed, particularly on private land, would require additional support from local and state government. However, Ms. Hedges also noted that Fairfax Water is on an accelerated timeline to comply with the upcoming federal regulations.

The Committee also discussed the importance of engaging with and informing the public on PFAS in the drinking water and the exposure risks through diet and food packaging. Ms. Hedges noted a potential opportunity to partner with the Fairfax County Health Department to inform the community about reducing exposure to PFAS.

Item III: 20-Year Solid Waste Management Plan Update

Matt Adams, Division Director, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), provided a third update on the 20-year Solid Waste Management Plan. DPWES conducted Focus Groups to discuss components of the plan. These groups stressed the importance of creating an equitable system, with convenient access to services, and noted that government oversight and regulation drives change in commercial and multi-family spaces. The collector community was largely opposed to the creation of commercial sanitary districts.

Mr. Adams summarized the results of a Public Input engagement campaign on the plan. A majority of survey participants supported the creation of unified sanitary districts, the formation of which would save the average resident \$140 per year. The majority of residents also indicated a willingness to pay a monthly Zero Waste fee, which would be used to fund initiatives such as a pay-as-you-throw program and Zero Waste Centers. On these specific initiatives, Mr. Adams highlighted the most referenced areas for support and concern in the survey results, including support for Zero Waste Centers and for expanded recycling and extended producer responsibility measures to address plastic waste. DPWES is using feedback from the community and Board to finalize the Solid Waste Management Plan before the April 2025 submission date to the state.

The Committee discussed the costs and community responses to specific initiatives that would be included in the Solid Waste Management Plan, such as pay-as-you-throw and the community's concerns around how it may be equitably and cost-effectively implemented. Supervisor Palchik requested additional study or implementation of a pilot program on the pay-as-you-throw model. The Committee expressed general support for the countywide collection model. Supervisor Alcorn requested an opt-out clause for homeowners' associations providing services, as long as the opt-out clause does not result in fewer services for residents. Supervisor Walkinshaw encouraged Committee members to meet with DPWES staff to discuss remaining questions and concerns. Chris Herrington, Director, DPWES, reiterated that staff is seeking additional feedback on the inclusion of the commercial and multi-family sectors in the countywide collection plan, the timeline on the creation of the unified sanitary districts, and options to achieve the county's diversion goals, including Zero Waste Centers and a pay-as-you-throw program.

Item IV: Operational Energy Strategy Implementation

Kevin Smith, Division Manager, OEEC, provided an update on the implementation of Fairfax County's Operational Energy Strategy (OES). He announced that the county is the subrecipient of a grant awarded to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) from the Federal Highway Administration. Under the Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant, the county is eligible for up to \$2.5 million to install electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at 25 county-owned properties, adding to the existing 118 EV charging ports at 15 county sites. Mr. Smith also highlighted energy efficiency and renewable energy projects at the Pender Building and Reston Community Center (RCC). The Pender Building is on pace to achieve a 41% energy reduction and avoided utility costs of \$44,000, while RCC expects to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 260 metric tons of carbon dioxide. Additional energy efficiency projects have been completed at 11 county facilities, with dozens more planned through 2025. A more in-depth OES update will be provided at the February 2025 Environmental Committee.

Supervisor Storck asked for an update from Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) and Fairfax County Redevelopment and Housing Authority (FCRHA) on operational energy goals. Byran Hill, County Executive, said that he would speak to the Superintendent of FCPS on this topic. He noted that FCPA and FCRHA are working well with the county on the OES. Cost of implementation continues to be a concern; the Board will see what may or may not be feasible through the upcoming Budget process.

Supervisor Lusk asked for additional information on the energy and cost savings of the 11 completed energy efficiency projects at the February 2025 Environmental Committee meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 2:59 P.M.