

**Joint Environmental Taskforce**  
**Meeting Notes**  
7/1/2020

**Committee Members in Attendance:** School Board Members Elaine Tholen and Karl Frisch, Supervisors Dan Storck and Penny Gross, Greg Ulses, Ire Kim, Karen Campblin, Meg Mall, Richard Aiken, Rick Clayton, Smita Chandra Thomas, Susan Stillman, and Wendy Gao

**WELCOME/UPDATES**

- Goal to get reports from each subcommittee by September. Will be compiled into report for respective boards.
- Supervisor Storck reminder that committees must meet in public format such as Webex.
- **Energy Update from Supervisor Storck**
  - Core of energy update work is looking at target date for when schools and government should be carbon neutral. Sub areas of focus include energy use of vehicles, lighting from street lights and other sources, energy for transportation, carbon footprint of overall energy use. Expect report to be done by August.
- **Waste/Recycling Update from Supervisor Gross**
  - Plan to address numerical goals related to waste. A lot of conversation so far has centered around waste audit – Eric Forbes provided subcommittee with information on cost and process of audit that would show what is being recycled at schools and from private sector. Liked Green Flag program in schools and agreed that each school needs ambassador. High priority to look at single use plastics and find freebies to publicize recycling activity in schools. Want to get water bottle refill stations into all schools – interested in potential opportunities for business partnerships to sponsor installations.
- **Workforce Development Update from School Board Member Tholen (4 areas)**
  - Looking at high school programs to help students engage in green jobs (LEED, sustainable landscaping, electric vehicles, etc.) through training, job shadowing, and internships. Could be completed through new or existing courses. Rachael Domer is meeting with subcommittee to discuss ways to move this forward and determine timeline. Other subcommittees should keep workforce connections in mind when making their recommendations. Looking at ways to engage guidance counselors and career center staff to have conversations with students about green careers. David Corsar from the National Wildlife Federation (NWF) provided career kit materials for universities at March meeting. Ire Kim collected information about how high school career centers currently communicate these opportunities to students. Hope to work across county to implement more net zero/sustainable building practices and use buildings as teaching opportunities for students. Had preliminary conversations at last meeting with solar installers to discuss possibility of them hiring FCPS graduates. For September, will prioritize focus areas and determine steps that can be accomplished.
- **Transportation Update from School Board Member Karl Frisch**
  - Discussing bus and fleet electrification, biking/walking infrastructure, FCPS Safe Routes to School, multimodal trails, carpooling. Primary focus so far has been on county and school buses. Plan on interim meeting before next full JET meeting to start putting specific recommendations (including benchmarks, carbon goals) on paper and be ready

for broader conversation in August. Recommends each committee identify distractions to avoid.

- Supervisor Gross requested School Board Member Frisch get copy of transportation slides presented to Board of Supervisors on June 30.

#### **SUBCOMMITTEE WORK SESSION** – Subcommittees took their own notes

- a. Ensure understanding of current practices and plans
- b. Once understanding is achieved, begin high-level discussions to determine what targets/goal areas are appropriate for your subject area. (March/May/June) (i.e. conversion to electric vehicles)
- c. Report back to JET draft list of targets/goal areas that are appropriate for your subject area
- d. Draft aspirational and practical targets/goals for recommendations to county/schools i.e. All electric fleet by 2050. (July)
- e. Draft actions to recommend in support of targets/goals i.e. Convert 10% of fleet annually. (July/August)
- f. Next Steps

#### **OTHER NOTES**

Next: August 5, 2020

## **Subcommittee Meeting Notes**

#### **WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT**

Subcommittee members in attendance: School Board Member Elaine Tholen, Greg Ulses and Ire Kim

- Subcommittee members discussed 4 draft goals and to-dos. Goals are listed in order of potential implementation, but members note goals 3-4 are harder to implement with schools closed due to COVID-19.
- Goal one: Equip our guidance counselors and career center staff with tool kits for talking with students about the range of green careers and the background necessary to enter those careers. Ensure the presence of green career professionals in career days and student interview days.
  - Actionable tasks (Ire Kim, Lead):
    - View the NWF career tool kit materials.
      - The NWF Career Services Toolkit can be found at: <http://www.nwfecoleaders.org/career-services-toolkit>
      - NWF hasn't officially rolled out the toolkit, and it will receive some updates in the next couple of weeks. They will be having a YouTube live event on June 25<sup>th</sup> to discuss career services plans for the upcoming academic year with partners at SUNY, which is when it will officially be launched. Here's the registration link via Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/connecting-students-to-careers-during-uncertain-times-tickets-107228535436>. Note that registration isn't actually necessary but will give you an opportunity to get updates about the event and sign up for calendar reminders. The event will be

streaming from our Eco-Schools YouTube channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC3R9EC54Ai-hIZfuyU9p3zQ>

- Use information that Ire Kim collected re: what is available now in the high school, Elaine will check with FCPS on best central office staff to contact for this. Elaine to email FCPA and DPWES--what county materials may be available? County staff to participate in career days?
- Ire--listened to the NWF webinar--can download info. Will review the tool kit and see what can be used.
- Goal two: Work with local solar installers (**INSUN, MDV-SEIA (Solar Energy Industry Assn)**) to discuss the possibility of them hiring high school graduates, Fairfax county job program grads, etc. Determine what training is needed for job entry and how jobs can be advertised to the potential employees.
  - Actionable tasks (Greg Ulses, Lead):
    - Need to coordinate with the Energy group and solar installation members for contacts at the solar installation companies.
    - Research other renewable energy career possibilities and contacts.
- Goal three: Develop a comprehensive plan to offer one or more green career/economy-related programs for high school students to encourage participation in this emerging job market. Opportunities could include specialized training, job shadowing, internships, and real-world workforce experience in fields such as electric vehicle maintenance, solar panel installation, LEED Green Associate Certification, sustainable landscaping, and more. This could be done as a module to an existing course, an afterschool program, curriculum substituted as appropriate in an existing course or program, a new course, etc.
  - Actionable tasks (Elaine Tholen, Lead):
    - Coordinate with Rachael Domer, FCPS CTE.
    - Discuss with DPWES and FCPA (sent email July 28, 2020).
- Goal four: Develop a plan to utilize our buildings as learning tools as we install solar panels and begin to utilize Net Zero building practices and continue our use of sustainable building and architecture.
  - Actionable tasks (Elaine Tholen, Lead):
    - Talk to Eric Brunner, Ali Culhane and Rachael Domer about this to begin next step definition.
- Other possible resources:
  - Sustainability Leadership—NWF—implement a project and submit report to get certification
  - Landscaping—Chesapeake Bay Land Professional
  - Sun Tribe partnership-internship, apprenticeship

## ENERGY

Subcommittee members in attendance: Supervisor Dan Storck, Smita Chandra Thomas, Richard Aiken.

Staff in attendance included Camela Speer (Director of Communications, Board of Supervisors, Mount Vernon District), Kambiz Agazi (Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination) and John Lord (Energy Management Coordinator, FCPS).

- The JET Energy Subcommittee broke out from the main JET meeting, but due to technical difficulties, very little discussion was held.
- There was brief discussion regarding:
  - Impact of refrigerants on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
  - The Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) GHG inventory that will be presented at the end of July.
  - Setting a carbon neutral or net zero energy goal/s.
  - The county's proposed new green building policy and an inventory of existing and planned buildings and their energy efficiency and green building ratings.
- An additional meeting of the subcommittee in coming weeks was agreed to.

## **RECYCLING/WASTE REDUCTION**

Subcommittee members in attendance: Supervisor Penny Gross, Meg Mall and Wendy Gao.

Others in attendance included School Board member Melanie Merin and two others, Elizabeth and Ellie.

- The subcommittee had completed much of its work prior to the pandemic, and developed a laundry list of recommendations:
  - Set time frame for setting aspirational goals.
  - Simple messaging campaign.
  - Do recycling and trash audits.
  - Find an advocate for recycling/reduction in schools (may need to delay until schools re-open).
  - Explore Green Flag program of National Wildlife Federation (may need to delay until schools re-open).
  - Seek business sponsorships (may need to delay until schools re-open).
  - Find a model for sharing school supplies (may depend on schools re-opening).
- Meg suggested that we needed to move to the top 3 or 4 recommendations. She suggested that we set an aspirational goal of zero waste by?? Other policy goal examples could be single use plastics and composting.
- Elizabeth asked about the trash audit that Eric Forbes had provided. Could we push an idea to use less paper when schools go back into session? For instance, the Student Rights and Responsibilities document is many pages in paper. Could it be online instead?
- Meg noted that a trash audit can lead to setting goals. \* Plan development to achieve a waste goal and put a time frame on that.
- Wendy said that teachers are going paperless. A lot of schoolwork used to be paper, but with work on one-to-one laptops, very little printing is needed.
- Melanie said that reducing single use plastics in the cafeteria would be a tangible achievement, but a question was posed as to whether COVID-19 would curtail that. Supervisor Gross will check with Libby Garvey in Arlington about its ban on plastic water bottles at board meetings.

- Meg urged a focus on goals and policies, not operations. Get to Green is an avenue to get to goals.
- Reducing paper use in government offices would be an aspirational goal; a suggestion was made to audit paper purchases for district offices. Supervisor Gross noted that, over the years, there has been a deep decline in paper in her office. Years ago, a lot of communication was on paper; today most is by email. Her e-newsletter, which had about 300 subscribers who asked for the newsletter on paper, has been reduced to 48 copies on paper. The other 3 – 4,000 is electronic.
- Supervisor Gross reminded the group that we probably should look at short term, medium term, and long term recommendations, and how to do that. She also noted that the recommendations need to be made to the two boards and let them determine which recommendations to move forward.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

Subcommittee members in attendance: School Board Member Karl Frisch, Karen Campblin, Rick Clayton and Susan Stillman.

Staff in attendance included Tom Biesiadny (Director, Department of Transportation) and Marguerite Guarino (Deputy Director of Administration, Department of Vehicle Services).

- The transportation subcommittee had a short meeting during the July JET meeting and discussed the following:
  - Status report on county transportation fleet -- with updated data from the county.
  - Status report on school transportation fleet -- with an update on electric bus launch.
  - Update from county on the effort to update bicycle master plan and incorporate walking, scooters, and other non-vehicle transit.
  - We decided to hold another meeting in between the July and August JET meetings -- that will be scheduled soon.
  - We will be dividing the work for our recommendation between the four of us and then melding them together for submission.