



# Job Growth through the Green Economy

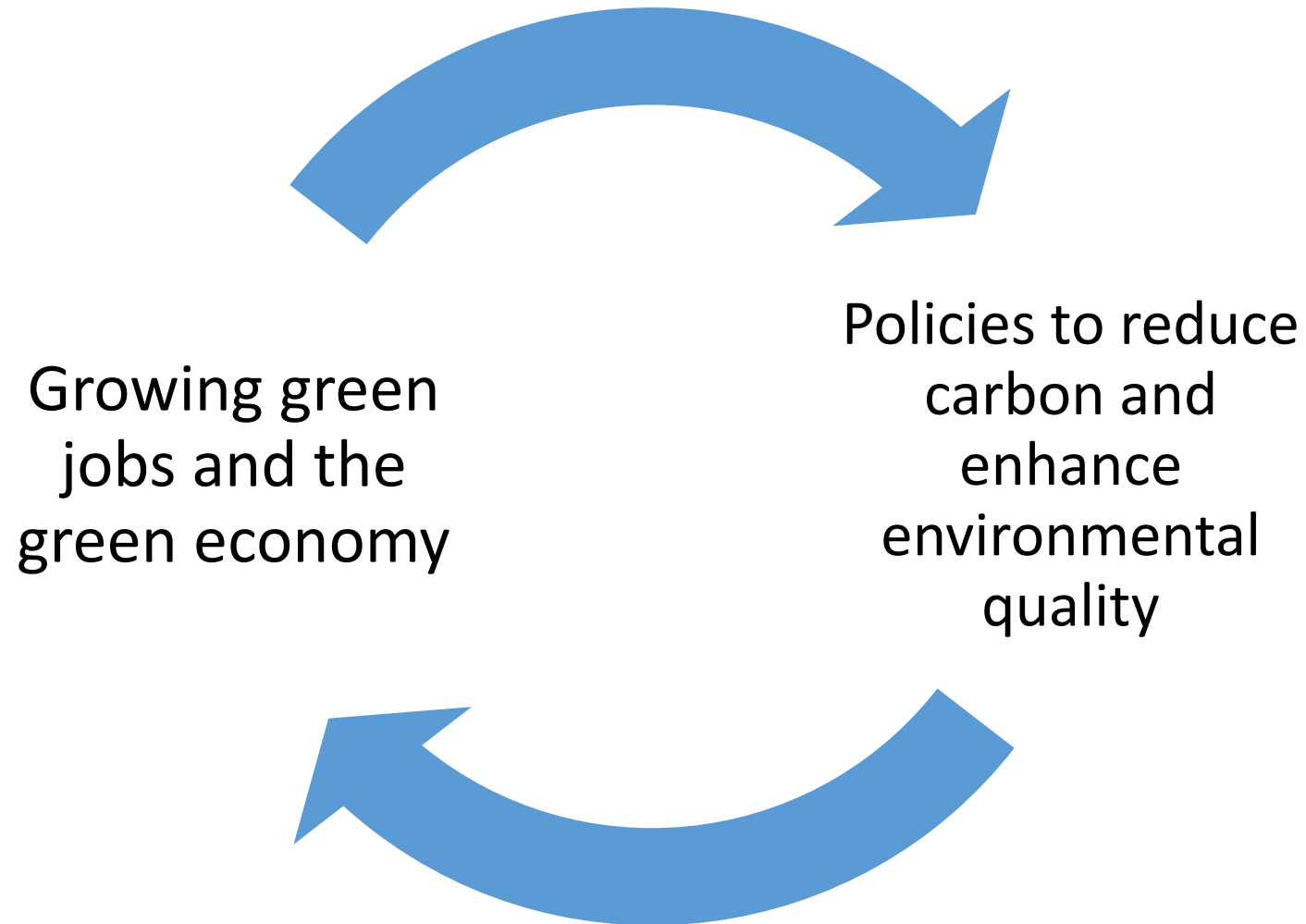
July 21, 2020

Environmental Committee

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# How can we create a greener and more competitive economy?

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# How do we define Green Jobs / Green Economy?

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## **No Universal Definitions** – *not just about reducing carbon emission*

- **Green Jobs**

International Labour Organization:

*“Green jobs are decent jobs in any economic sector which contribute to preserving, restoring and enhancing environmental quality”*

US Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS):

*Jobs that produce goods or provide services that benefit the environment or conserve natural resources, and jobs in which workers' duties involve making their establishment's production processes more environmentally friendly or use fewer natural resources.*

- **Green Economy**

- UN Environment Programme: “A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive.”

# Transitions to a Greener Economy

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## **Does a greener economy mean job losses?**

- The shift to a greener economy is and will continue creating employment across a range of sectors
- A transition between sectors means some job loss due to downsizing in emissions-intensive industries.

## **Size of the Green Economy**

- The US green economy is estimated to represent \$1.3 trillion in annual sales revenue and to employ nearly 9.5 million workers
- 20% jobs and value growth between 2013-2016
- The United States is currently competitive, but could easily lose status

# Green Jobs in Fairfax County

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- U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics methodology for categorizing Green economy:
  - Green Outputs: establishments that produce green goods and services
  - Green Processes: establishments that use environmentally friendly production processes and practices
- Industries:
  - Energy from renewable sources
  - Energy efficiency
  - Pollution reduction, greenhouse gas reduction, recycling
  - Natural resource conservation
  - Environmental compliance

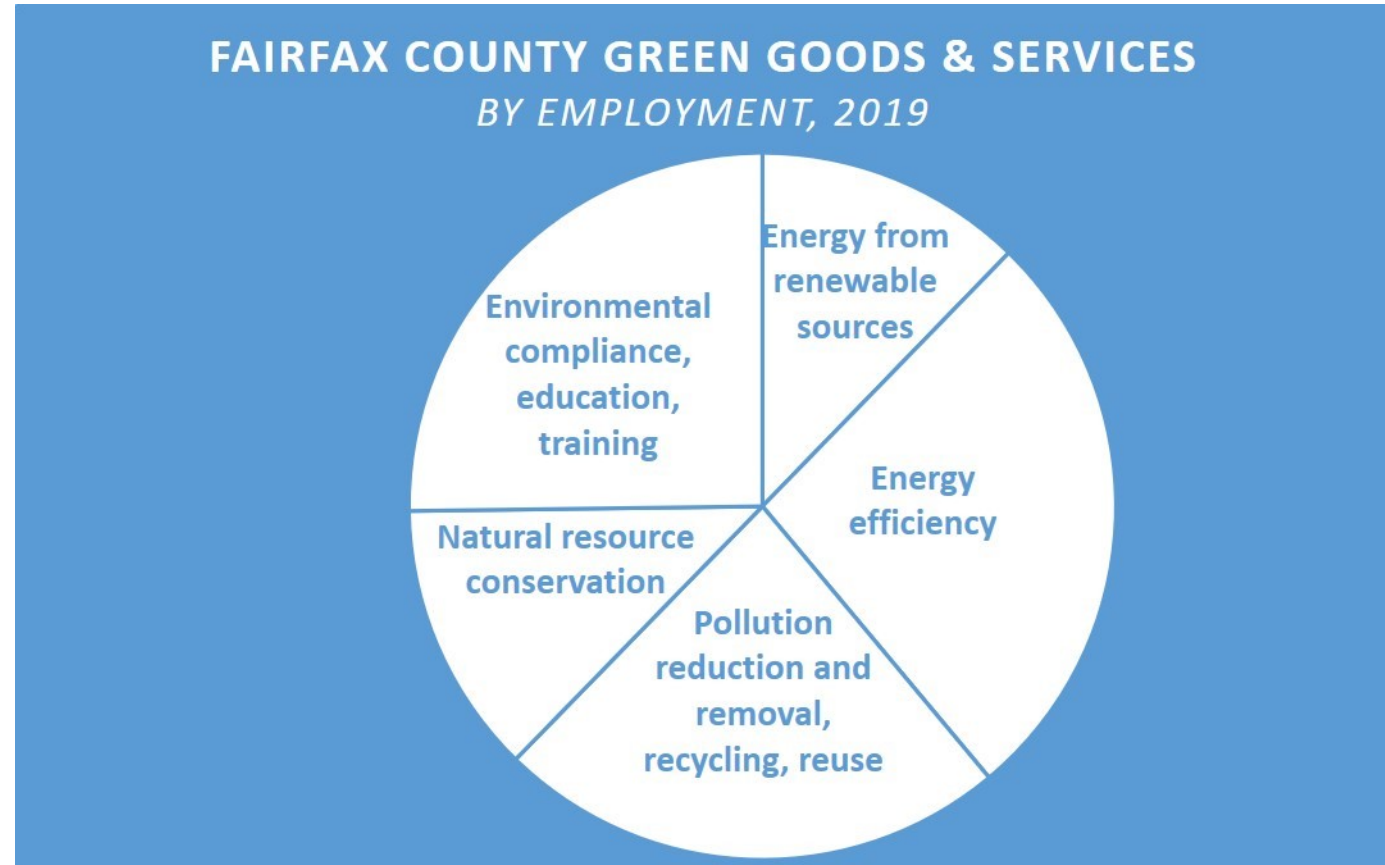
# Green Jobs in Fairfax County

**Fairfax County has  
(conservatively):**

**11,600 firms**






**172,000 workers**

**associated with the  
Green economy.**



Source: Bureau of Labor Statistics  
Analysis: FCEDA

# Examples of Green Businesses in Fairfax County

| Company Name           | Company Description   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
| <b>Hyperjet Fusion</b> | Exploring fusion energy reactor concept based on impact fusion technology (Environmentally Benign Form of Energy)                             |    |
| <b>BEM Controls</b>    | Software and IoT (Internet of Things) energy efficiency/ management solutions. Developing a transactive energy platform leveraging blockchain |    |
| <b>Beanstalk</b>       | Sustainable vertical farming utilizing hydroponics to conserve and recycle water  |    |
| <b>Azimuth1</b>        | Data analytics and machine learning to predict environmental site conditions / applications for remediation, infrastructure, public safety    |  |
| <b>HydroGeoLogic</b>   | Environmental remediation and compliance  |  |

# Green Economy Initiatives in Fairfax County

## Fairfax County Sustainability Initiatives Report - FY 2020

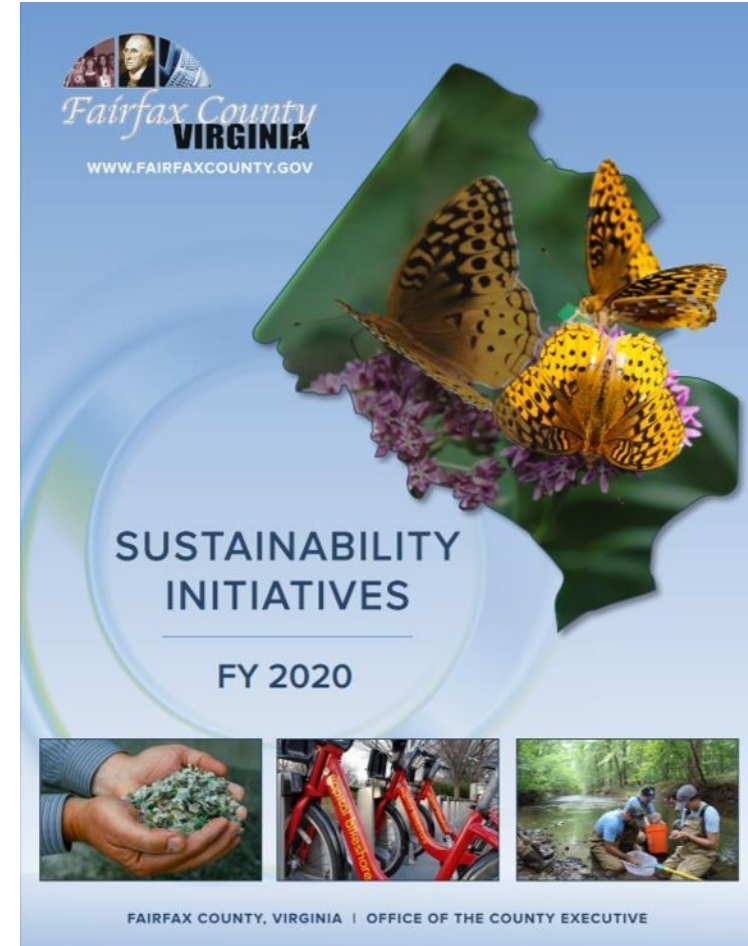
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/sustainability-initiatives>

## 2017 Environmental Vision

Two key principles:

1. Conserve limited natural resources
2. Commit to providing the resources needed to protect the environment

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment/environmental-vision>





# Economic Recovery Framework

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Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI) and FCEDA collaboration to engage an experienced economic development strategy organization to lead a post-pandemic recovery framework and action plan to:

- Support the retention of Fairfax County businesses and workers
- Understand impact scenarios and mitigate economic impacts
- Position the county for a just and resilient recovery through targeted and effective investments, regulatory or programmatic adjustment
- Highlight strategies that will support an environmentally sustainable and inclusive economy

# Green Jobs: Next Steps for Consideration

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- What is the complete picture of green jobs and the Green Economy in Fairfax County?
  - Define Green Jobs for Fairfax County
  - Conduct benchmark analysis
  - Determine if Fairfax County has a competitive advantage in a particular Green sector
- What are the best efforts to support and build those sectors and grow jobs?
  - Build and attract businesses
  - Train students and workers for in-demand green jobs
  - Identify partners



*Thank You*

Q & A