

Joint Environmental Task Force (the JET)
Report of the Workforce Development Committee
September 2020

Members of the Workforce Development Committee are Elaine Tholen, Fairfax County School Board; Greg Ulses, Citizen; Ire Kim, Student. Others participating as presenters or advocates were Rachael Domer, FCPS Career and Technical Education; C. Flint Webb, Leidos, Inc.

The Workforce Development working group investigated career opportunities in the Fairfax County geographic area around renewable energy, energy conservation, green building, resource and wildlife management, stormwater management, wastewater management, sustainable landscaping and more. The subcommittee recognizes and addresses the need for additional resources for FCPS and Fairfax County adult learners to know about and to understand how to pursue “green” career paths.

In reaching out to Fairfax County for possible collaborations, discussions with the Fairfax County Park Authority, the Department of Vehicle Services and the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services resulted in several immediate ways to collaborate and many ideas for longer term joint work.

Four recommendations are proposed below. There are components of each goal that can be initiated immediately and some that will be easier to implement and work toward once COVID-19 is behind us and students are again meeting in-person in our school buildings.

Recommendation #1:

Equip FCPS guidance counselors and career center staff with a standardized tool kit 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.

Recommendation #2:

Work with local solar installers to investigate job opportunities for new high school graduates, those with a 2 year degree, and those graduating from Fairfax County job programs. Determine what training is needed for job entry and how jobs can be advertised to the potential employees.

Recommendation #3:

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 or certificate programs, 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.

Sample Certification List:

1. OSHA 10 https://www.oshaeducationcenter.com/osha-10-hour-training/?lgr=1ab49e8b-da37-4ec2-9c3f-489f4b168bd0&cmpcode=search&targetid=kwd-308216870556&qclid=EAlaIqobChMIiqTx3eXZ6wIVIOeGCh3TTAKBEAAYAiAAEgIPE_D_BwE
2. HAZWOPER--40 hour certif course for chemical sampling training, MSDS (Material Safety Data Sheets)
(https://www.osha.com/courses/hazwoper.html?qclid=EAlaIqobChMI1fD7sv-E6wIV7vzjBx2wqAw3EAAYASAAEqKrnPD_BwE)
3. National Green Infrastructure Certification Program <https://ngicp.org/>
4. Chesapeake Bay Landscaping Professional <https://cblpro.org>
5. LEED Green Associate <https://www.usgbc.org/credentials/leed-green-associate>
6. National American Board of Certified Energy Practitioners (NABCEP)
<https://www.nabcep.org/certifications/associate-program/>

Recommendation #4:

Develop a plan to utilize our county 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. Ensure building occupants have the opportunities to learn about all of the building's sustainable features through

educational tools such as signage, dashboards, and interactive models”

Timely Sub Tasks:

1. Utilize the next new school as a laboratory to explore these practices as the building is designed, built and utilized. (Silver Line, 2022-2026)
2. Utilize Cooper Middle School and Frost Middle School renovations as a pilot as the renovations are done (2020-2024).
3. CHPS verify upcoming new construction projects in FCPS starting with those in planning in 2021.

Note: The Workforce Development Committee has suggested sub tasks, summary information, contacts and additional detail for each recommendation.