



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

**DATE:** June 1, 2021

**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Bryan J. Hill  
County Executive *J. Hill*

**SUBJECT:** Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan: Sixth Update

This memorandum provides an update on activities related to the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) since the last update on January 21, 2021, and presents anticipated next steps for the conclusion of the CECAP planning process.

### **Background**

#### *Working Group Activities*

Since the last update in January, the members of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) Working Group have concluded the goal setting for the CECAP. In September of 2020, the first goal for the overall CECAP was set at carbon neutrality by 2050 with an 87 percent total reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. At the same time, the Working Group determined that interim goals of 2030 and 2040 would be appropriate and set the 2030 goal at a 50 percent reduction of GHG emissions from 2005 levels. Finally, in the most recent Working Group meetings in May 2021, the interim goal level for 2040 was set at 75 percent reduction of GHG emissions from 2005 levels.

In the May meetings, the Working Group members also set the sector-based goals, focusing on green building, retrofitting existing housing with energy efficiency measures, increasing transit and non-motorized commuting, increasing the use of electric vehicles, and natural resources. The sectors selected for sector-based goals were chosen by the Working Group based on whether the proposed CECAP strategies adequately addressed progress tracking in the sector. Many sectors were determined to not need sector-specific goals, such as renewable energy.

In addition to setting goals, the Working Group has been developing strategies and actions to reduce GHG emissions for inclusion in the final CECAP report. The January 27<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> Task Force meetings continued the brainstorming on the strategies and actions that were first held during the December 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Working Group meetings. The Task Force meetings on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>, and 31<sup>st</sup> focused on prioritizing these strategies and actions, and examining the potential impact criteria that could affect how well each strategy and action could be implemented. The Working Group met on May 10<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> to begin review of the initial draft of the CECAP report. The final Working Group meetings are scheduled for June 8<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss feedback from two May public information sessions and to complete the review of the CECAP report.

### *Public Feedback Opportunities*

Public feedback is an important component of the CECAP planning process, as it is a community-driven plan. The third and final round of public feedback sessions, following those held in August/September of 2020, and in February/March of 2021, was held in late May 2021. These sessions are held to receive public feedback on the progress of the CECAP plan, and on specific Working Group recommendations, such as the goals, strategies, and actions.

The two facilitated public feedback sessions held on February 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> focused on the proposed strategies and associated actions to reduce GHG emissions which were generated by the Working Group. Several community surveys, in addition to targeted business roundtables, were conducted in March. The final two facilitated public feedback meetings were held May 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> to present and discuss the CECAP planning process as well as the Working Group's recommendations for goals and strategies to be included in the CECAP report. Public reception of both the Working Group's efforts and the goals, strategies, and actions for the CECAP have been positive.

### *Transitioning from Planning to Implementation*

Following the June Working Group meetings, a draft CECAP report will be produced and presented to the Board of Supervisors at the July 20<sup>th</sup> Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting, and it is anticipated for the final version to be presented at a September Board of Supervisors meeting. At that time, the CECAP process begins to transition from a planning focus to implementation. Staff is in the process of planning for this transition and is identifying initial steps for implementation.

As directed by the Board in June 2019, the final CECAP report will have information on the GHG emissions in Fairfax County, models showing potential reductions dependent on selected actions, the Working Group-derived goals, and strategies and associated actions to address the GHG emissions, as described in the background section of this memo. Additionally, the CECAP report will have information on the Working Group's prioritization of these strategies and actions, based on a variety of impact categories that identify and assess factors such as cost to implement, expected potential of GHG emission reduction, public health impacts, equity concerns, and barriers to implementation. It should be noted that the final CECAP report will not have a detailed implementation component. Staff believes that Board direction is necessary to develop a comprehensive implementation strategy that includes prioritized projects, costs, timelines, and dedicated funding sources.

### *Initial Implementation*

One of the major themes identified by both the public and the CECAP Working Group members is the need for extensive public education on issues surrounding climate change. To that end, staff will initiate the CECAP implementation phase with a public outreach and education campaign. The community briefings detailed in the fifth CECAP update will form the basis of the initial public outreach effort. Staff is also planning a public survey to determine appropriate next steps for the implementation planning effort. The information gained from the survey effort will allow for effective and targeted planning for, and initiation of, the implementation of the CECAP. The implementation of CECAP will be phased, which allows efforts to be responsive to current conditions, as well as community and Board priorities.

Additionally, staff has identified existing County policies, programs, and efforts that complement the proposed CECAP strategies and actions. These existing efforts have been detailed in the CECAP

report. Staff will work to develop recommendations to build on these existing efforts while working to create an implementation plan to encompass the entirety of the CECAP recommendations.

**Next Steps for the CECAP process**

Staff will bring the CECAP report to the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee meeting for discussion on July 20<sup>th</sup>. At that time, staff will be requesting Board direction regarding acceptance of the CECAP report and priorities for next steps for CECAP implementation. It is anticipated that the Board will consider adoption of the final report at a September Board of Supervisors meeting and direct staff to return to future environmental Committee meetings with one or more proposed action plans.

Staff will continue to periodically update the Board of Supervisors on the CECAP process. Supervisors who have any questions about this update or the CECAP should contact Kambiz Agazi at 703-324-1788 [or at Kambiz.Agazi@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kambiz.Agazi@fairfaxcounty.gov). Between updates, Supervisors and their staff can monitor CECAP progress and review documents at the [OEEC CECAP website](#).

cc: Joseph M. Mondoro, Chief Financial Officer  
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