



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 12, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

THROUGH: Rachel Flynn, AIA  
Deputy County Executive

FROM: Kambiz Agazi, Director  
Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

SUBJECT: Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan Implementation Update

### Background

On September 14, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) accepted the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) Report. The overarching goals of CECAP are to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The CECAP Report describes specific strategies, actions, and conceptual recommendations across sectors: buildings and energy efficiency, energy supply, transportation, waste, and natural resources. The County will continue to work with residents, organizations, and government entities to meet these goals.

The Board Matter, which accepted the CECAP Report, directed staff to work with relevant County agencies to prepare a CECAP implementation Master Plan (Master Plan), to guide the short-term and long-term strategies, actions and recommendations described in the Report. At the Board's February 15, 2022, Environmental Committee meeting, the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) briefed the Board on OEEC's short-term actions to ensure progress on CECAP implementation. These included education and outreach campaigns under the Carbon-Free Fairfax umbrella, the development of proposals for the 2023 legislative session, and work on community-based programs. At the May 17, 2022 Board Environmental Committee, OEEC will present 1) an update on short-term implementation activities and 2) progress on the Master Plan.

### CECAP 2022/2023 Implementation Activities

Public Education and Outreach: The OEEC launched [Carbon-Free Fairfax](#) in January 2022 to advance and fulfill CECAP's interim and long-term emissions reduction goals. Between February 2022 and June 2023, Carbon-Free Fairfax will launch eight education and outreach campaigns intended to create opportunities for emissions-reducing action within the community, with five already underway. These campaigns are focused on energy use, on-site renewable energy, electric vehicles (EVs), and transportation. To maximize exposure, OEEC is developing and working with promotional partners including Board members, nonprofits, businesses, and organizations working on related issues.

Community-Based Programs to Support CECAP: With the Board's September 2021 acceptance of CECAP, OEEC began building on [HomeWise](#), [Energy Action Fairfax](#), [Green Business Partners](#), and other existing OEEC initiatives to encourage community members to reduce their energy consumption and associated GHG emissions. OEEC began developing additional content and engagement opportunities with County residents, businesses, nonprofit organizations, and other stakeholders. Each of these existing initiatives are in different stages of development.

Legislative Concepts and Proposals: Two CECAP-related legislative items that the County supported were passed in the 2022 General Assembly session. HB 396 expands a statutory pilot program establishing municipal (virtual) net metering in the service area of Dominion Energy Virginia; among other things, HB 396 eliminates a requirement that barred participation by municipalities procuring solar energy via power purchase agreements. HB 443 authorizes retail fee-based electric vehicle charging service by the Fairfax County Park Authority. Staff is currently exploring CECAP-related legislative concepts for the 2023 General Assembly session and will present them at the July 2022 Environmental Committee meeting.

Additional Implementation Activities: Several additional CECAP implementation activities are underway, including those summarized below.

- Charge Up Fairfax: Because convenient, at-home charging is essential to more widespread deployment of electric vehicles (EVs), OEEC is working on developing a multi-faceted program to help facilitate and address barriers to EV charging in homeowner associations and other common-interest communities throughout the County. The program will include 1) educational materials and toolkits on the benefits of on-site EV charging stations, and 2) outreach to address specific questions and needs. As resources and staffing allow, OEEC will engage with common-interest communities on EV charging issues.
- Solarize 2022: OEEC is promoting the 2022 Solarize program, managed by the Local Energy Alliance Program, that offers discounted prices, vetted installers, and ongoing customer support and education for solar installations at homes and businesses. In the first month of this year's campaign, the program has had 796 sign ups, with 310 of those from Fairfax County. Sign-ups do not equate to contracts signed, but do serve as a barometer of a community's receptivity to solar.
- Green Bank: With consultant support, OEEC is assessing opportunities that could be provided through the creation of a local clean energy financing entity, or Green Bank. Such an entity could stimulate greater use of emissions reduction strategies including energy efficiency, renewable energy, and energy storage in the residential, commercial, and institutional sectors of the county. Results of the market assessment and options will be presented to the Environmental Committee in July 2022.
- Carbon Neutral Energy Innovation Challenge Pitch and Pilot: The Department of Economic Initiatives (DEI), in collaboration with OEEC, Smart City Works, and university and technology partners, is planning this Pitch and Pilot challenge for Fall 2022, with a focus on innovative technology-enabled solutions, to help Fairfax County migrate from a carbon-based to a carbon-neutral economy.

### CECAP 2023 and Beyond

OEEC is leading development of a long-term CECAP Master Plan by working with County agencies and soliciting feedback from community partners and others. The Master Plan will include our GHG emissions reduction goals along with prioritized opportunities in multiple sectors. The specific steps in the planning process are described in Attachment 1. A key component of OEEC’s efforts is the creation of an associated annual Work Plan. Details of the entire timeline can be seen below in Figure 1.

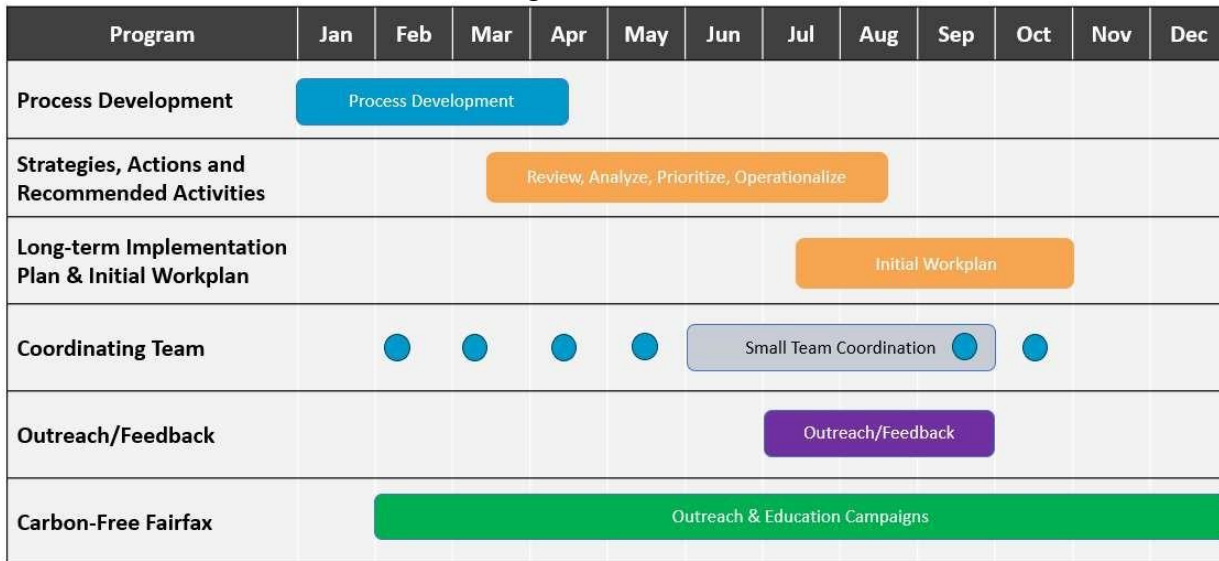


Figure 1. Proposed Implementation Master Plan Development Schedule

To realize CECAP’s ambitious goal of carbon neutrality by 2050, OEEC anticipates that implementation will focus initially on sectors with the greatest potential for GHG emission reduction, namely building energy use and transportation, which account for approximately 93 percent of the County’s GHG emissions. This fall, at the Board Environmental Committee, OEEC will present the final CECAP Master Plan and the associated annual Work Plan. The Work Plan will be updated each year in coordination with the annual budget process and the Countywide Strategic Plan.

### Conclusion

At the May 2022 Board Environmental Committee, staff will present 1) an update on CECAP 2022/2023 implementation activities and 2) progress to date on the development of the Master Plan. Unless otherwise directed by the Board, OEEC will proceed with the Master Plan development process described in this memorandum and Attachment 1.

Please direct questions or comments to Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, at (703)-324-7188 or at [Kambiz.Agazi@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:Kambiz.Agazi@fairfaxcounty.gov).

cc: Bryan J. Hill, County Executive  
Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

## ATTACHMENT 1: DEVELOPING THE MASTER PLAN

### 1. *Form a Coordinating Team (CT) and identify agency points of contact (Jan-Feb 2022)*

The Coordinating Team was formed in January 2022, and currently includes representatives from eleven county agencies: the Departments of Housing and Community Development (HCD), Planning and Development (DPD), Procurement and Material Management (DPMM), Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES), Transportation (DOT), Vehicle Services (DVS), and Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA), Facilities Management Department (FMD), Health and Human Services (HHS), Land Development Services (LDS), and One Fairfax.

### 2. *Create the process for developing the long-term Master Plan (Feb-May 2022)*

In early 2022, OEEC introduced the draft Master Plan review process to the CT including a timeline. The CT's feedback was incorporated in the final version of the timeline.

### 3. *Review, operationalize, and prioritize the CECAP recommendations (March-August 2022)*

In anticipation of CT member review, OEEC created a database of CECAP's 12 strategies, 37 actions and 270+ recommendations, developed prioritization criteria, and completed other tasks. Beginning in April 2022, CT members began to assess recommendations relevant to their agencies, suggest ways to strengthen them and align them with current agency workload and planned work. These efforts will continue through Summer 2022.

### 4. *Conduct outreach and solicit feedback (Summer 2022)*

Targeted outreach will take place during the summer of 2022, with presentations to environmentally-focused Boards, Authorities, and Commissions, such as the Tree Commission, the Environmental Quality Advisory Council, and the Planning Commission. Outreach also will be coordinated with applicable OEEC initiatives and promotional partners, both to help inform the community and to identify community partners and champions that can support or lead Master Plan activities. This outreach will begin to establish and foster relationships with community champions.

### 5. *Develop the first annual Work Plan (July - Oct 2022)*

OEEC will work with CT members and their agencies to complete the CECAP recommendations for inclusion in the first annual Work Plan. It will identify and prioritize items and will identify lead agencies as well as community partners to support or lead implementation activities.

### 6. *Create and develop initiatives and programs (August-Oct 2022)*

Once prioritized recommendations have been selected for inclusion in the annual Work Plan, OEEC and agency staff will develop specific initiatives to achieve the recommendations.

### 7. *Monitor implementation progress (Jan 2023 - ongoing)*

With CT input, OEEC will develop processes and tools to monitor, track and report on CECAP goals and key performance indicators, i.e., a publicly-accessible dashboard. OEEC also will coordinate with the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (COG) as they update regional GHG inventories.

8. *Update the recommendation priority list for the second annual Work Plan (Summer 2024)*

Each annual Work Plan will be developed in coordination with the annual budget process and the Countywide Strategic Plan. As part of this process, CT members will review agency-relevant strategies to update or reprioritize them.