



County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 10, 2022

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rachel Flynn, AIA
Deputy County Executive

SUBJECT: Agency Responses to the Recommendations in EQAC's 2021 Annual Report on the Environment

Annual Report on the Environment

In December 2021, Fairfax County's Environmental Quality Advisory Council (EQAC) released its 2021 [Annual Report on the Environment](#). Each year, EQAC reports on the state of the environment in Fairfax County and develops a number of recommendations it believes would support the Board of Supervisors' [Environmental Vision](#) or related environmental considerations.

The report includes nine chapters and is structured, in part, to reflect the core service areas within the Environmental Vision, including Land Use, Transportation, Water, Waste Management, Parks and Ecological Resources, and Climate and Energy; EQAC also includes chapters to address Air Quality, Wildlife Management, and Technology, which are not core service areas in the Environmental Vision. Within each chapter, EQAC provides an overview of the service area, recommendations for the Board, and additional comments and concerns. Finally, the report includes three appendices to spotlight Fairfax County Public Schools, address environmental stewardship opportunities in the County and inform residents on ways to report environmental concerns.

Agency Response Process

At its December 7, 2021 meeting, the Board directed the County Executive to charge the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), with support from relevant County agencies, to prepare a response to EQAC's 2021 Annual Report on the Environment.

As in previous years, staff response efforts are focused solely on the service area recommendations provided in the EQAC report. The 2021 report includes 31 recommendations. A complete set of staff responses to EQAC's recommendations is enclosed as Attachment 1.

The following County agencies were asked to respond to EQAC's recommendations:

- Department of Information Technology – Geographic Information Systems (DIT - GIS)
- Department of Planning and Development (DPD)
- Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES)
- Department of Procurement and Material Management (DPMM)
- Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT)
- Fairfax County Health Department (FCHD)
- Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA)
- Fairfax County Police Department – Animal Services Division (FCPD)
- Land Development Services (LDS)
- Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

In addition, the Department of Management and Budget (DMB), Department of Tax Administration (DTA), Office of the County Attorney (OCA), and the Office of the County Executive – Legislative Director, were asked to review. The Clean Fairfax Council and Fairfax Water were also asked to review and contribute to relevant responses.

EQAC's Priority Recommendations

EQAC has prioritized eighteen (18) of its recommendations. A brief status is included below and is addressed in greater detail in Attachment 1. Two of the priority recommendations have fiscal implications that are reflected in the FY 2023 Budget and are identified with a "\$" notation.

- **Improve Processes to Minimize Ecological Degradation from Development Pressure (Land Use #3):** EQAC recommends the adoption of a policy that all future development provide a net environmental benefit to the county and that the ecological function of existing land be a consideration when new development is proposed on open space. Staff concurs with the intent of the recommendation, but finds that it is already being achieved. While the "net environmental benefit" language of the Comprehensive Plan is specific to Environmental Quality Corridors (EQC), staff takes advantage of opportunities to apply the current language to redevelopment scenarios.
- **Private Sector Green Building Standards (Land Use #4):** EQAC recommends the adoption of Comprehensive Plan and zoning regulations to encourage private sector land use to achieve the goal to be net-zero by 2050, as included in the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). Actions are currently underway to review existing policies and identify areas for CECAP implementation. As part of a future Plan or Zoning Ordinance Amendment, research and study will be required to determine anticipated growth, estimated energy consumption, and what measures should be implemented to attain net-zero emissions. All actions necessary to address EQAC's recommendation would be conducted during a future Plan or Zoning Ordinance Amendment, if authorized. There would be long-term fiscal implications, as more staff would be needed to accommodate the development and construction industry with

regards to enforcement of adopted green building and energy standards. Costs associated with obtaining technology to support enforcement are also anticipated.

- **Electric Vehicles (Transportation #1):** EQAC recommends that the County develop a formal plan to increase light-duty electric vehicle (EV) registrations to at least 15 percent of total registrations by 2030. Staff concurs with this recommendation and is taking steps to address it through short- and long-term CECAP implementation plans, and the development of EV-centric outreach and educational materials. Implementing this goal may have long-range fiscal implications, depending on the extent to which county funds are the source of any incentives provided to prospective EV owners.
- **Increase Transit and Non-Motorized Commuting (Transportation #2):** EQAC recommends that the County develop a formal plan to increase transit and non-motorized commuting to at least 30 percent by 2030, with interim goals to be established for 2024 and 2027. FCDOT has a number of related initiatives underway, including the development of the Centreville/Chantilly/Vienna/Tysons (CCVT) Route Optimization Study and implementation of a micro-transit pilot in the Tysons area. Both projects will require grant funding in FY 2023.
- **Continue or Enhance Policies and Ordinances Protecting Streams, Floodplains and EQCs (Water #5):** This recommendation supports County policies and ordinances that are routinely applied and implemented; no amendments to these policies are under consideration, although the county is engaged in efforts to further strengthen protection of streams, floodplains and EQCs at the local and regional levels.
- **Stormwater Funding Increase (Water #6):** EQAC recommended that the funding for the Stormwater Program be increased either by an increase in the Stormwater Service District rate in FY 2023 by at least one-quarter penny, or that the increase occur through a change in the Real Estate tax rate. Staff anticipates that additional increases in the Stormwater Service District rate will be needed in future budget cycles to support investments in stormwater infrastructure, but EQAC's recommended district rate increase was not included in the FY 2023 Budget. However, based on the increase in real estate assessment throughout the County, the Stormwater fund is anticipated to receive up to an additional \$7.2 million in FY 2023. It should be noted that Real Estate tax revenue has not been used to support Stormwater services since the establishment of the Stormwater tax district.
- **Institute Recycling Data Collection and Reporting (Waste Management #1):** Staff concurs with EQAC's recommendation that collectors report to their customers on their recycling rate but believes it will need to first undertake a significant upgrade in emphasizing to collectors the importance that recycling reports be accurate. Staff is developing new requirements for collectors to ensure more accurate reporting.
- **Institute Litter Control (Waste Management #2):** EQAC recommends three goals pertaining to litter control: To allow the Litter Control Task Force to complete its work, support a statewide bottle bill, and enforce litter control requirements on waste haulers. Staff notes that the first goal is complete; the Litter Task Force submitted its final

report to the Board in December 2021. Implementation of Task Force recommendations, as well as other litter enforcement functions, would require additional resources and staff within the Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP). Staff supports the second component of EQAC's recommendation, although notes efforts to enact a bottle bill are stalled at the state level. Staff does not concur with the third component of the recommendation, as it believes requiring waste collectors to clean up dumpster litter is not an appropriate application of the County Code Chapter 109.1, and is unlikely to address the root cause of the issue.

- **(\$ Establish Environmental Purchasing Numeric Targets (Waste Management #3):** EQAC recommends the establishment of environmental purchasing numeric targets to assess the county's investment in environmental purchasing. Staff continues to develop sustainable purchasing programs and metrics for each. Three such programs include implementation of the Zero Waste Plan, the Supply Chain Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative, and Supplier Diversity and Equity strategies. The FY 2023 Budget includes additional funding and 2/2.0 FTE positions to support the Sustainable Procurement Program, and 1/1.0 FTE position to support the implementation of the County's Zero Waste Plan.
- **Work with Covanta to Reduce Local Air Pollution Impacts (Waste Management #4):** EQAC recommends the county work with Covanta to reduce nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions from its waste-to-energy facility. This recommendation is currently being addressed. The Solid Waste Management Program has contracted with technical experts to evaluate available technologies that can reduce emissions from the Covanta facility. Minimal budgetary impacts (less than \$25,000) are anticipated to fund research on suitable technologies in FY 2023. If technology is identified and Covanta agrees to installation, substantial future fiscal impacts are expected.
- **Consider Environmental and Safety Benefits of Sanitary District Petitions (Waste Management #5):** EQAC notes that there are many environmental and safety benefits of having a single hauler for a neighborhood. Staff does not concur with the recommendation as it believes the Sanitary District is not the appropriate means by which to create single-collector service areas countywide. However, should the recommendation be implemented, staff notes the significant long-range fiscal implications it would require, including additional staff and resources.
- **Increase Capacity for Environmental Review of Development Plans (Parks and Ecological Resources #1):** This recommendation has been addressed. A memorandum of understanding (MOU) between LDS and DPWES-Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) allows for a recalibration of effort each year between the departments pertaining to infill application reviews.
- **Improve the Land Development Process by Prioritizing Trees (Parks and Ecological Resources #2):** EQAC supports six recommendations put forward by the Tree Commission to prioritize trees in the land development process. One of the six recommendations is to analyze the effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy

requirement. To begin a study of this level would require dedicated funding and would likely require the assistance of a consultant. This and other recommendations, including the identification of high priority tree planting areas using an equity lens, and the approval of a Natural Resources and Tree Inventory with a Conceptual Site Plan, would have long-range staffing and resource requirements.

- **(\$ Strengthen Authority to Address Management of Invasive Species Throughout the County (Parks and Ecological Resources #4):** FCPA applied for Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) funding for two programs that address invasive species. The first is the long-standing Invasive Management Area (IMA) program; the second is a water chestnut management partnership program with DPWES and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD). An increase of \$50,000 for a total of \$350,000 has been included in the FY 2023 Budget for the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program; funding of \$102,927 has been included in the FY 2023 Budget for the water chestnut management program; Over the long-term, any additional programs intended to manage, educate, and control invasive species in the county will result in a greater need for staff and operational funding.
- **Adopt Climate and Energy-Related Recommendations from Other Chapters (Climate and Energy #1):** EQAC suggests the recommendations from nine other chapters pertaining to climate and energy be adopted. Staff does not concur with this recommendation as it is incompatible with the established process for responding to EQAC's recommendations. Staff instead suggests that appropriate action be taken to each of the nine individual recommendations, as described in the applicable staff responses to those recommendations.
- **Undertake a Major Outreach and Educational Campaign on the Actions Businesses and Residents Can Take to Reduce GHG Emissions (Climate and Energy #3):** Staff concurs with this recommendation and is already taking steps to address it. Earlier this year, the OEEC launched Carbon-Free Fairfax to enable community members to reduce their emissions through education, outreach and engagement efforts. Initial efforts will be funded using a portion of the \$2.2 million approved by the Board as part of *FY 2021 Carryover Review*, but additional long-range fiscal implications are expected.
- **Encourage Telework, Public Transit and Alternative Forms of Transit (Air Quality #1):** This recommendation is in the process of being addressed through several existing County programs that promote sustainable transportation modes. Staff plans to continue existing efforts and consider what new programs or efforts may be beneficial.
- **GIS Staffing (Technology #2):** EQAC recommends the county prepare a plan for fully staffing GIS support positions in FY 2022, with particular attention given to Spatial Analyst IV positions. Staff is addressing this recommendation, in part, by evaluating the possibility of agencies having Spatial Analyst IV positions in circumstances where these positions manage a broader agency GIS program serving the particular businesses needs of the agency. DIT is also engaged in workforce planning efforts with DMB.

Meeting EQAC's recommendation would have significant, long-term budget implications, as any new positions or reclassified positions would require additional funding on an ongoing basis.

Additional Fiscal Implications of EQAC Recommendations

Although not identified as priorities, an additional five recommendations would have short- or long-term fiscal implications. The recommendations and their fiscal impacts are summarized below:

- **(\$) Wastewater Treatment Fee Rates (Water #3):** EQAC recommends that the County set the fee rate collected for wastewater treatment to meet the upgrade and maintenance requirements for all plants that serve the county and their respective wastewater collection systems. Staff concurs with this recommendation and has included a proposed increase to wastewater service charges as part of the FY 2023 Budget. Staff also anticipates increases to wastewater service charges over the next three years to provide for proper operation and maintenance of the county's aging sewer system.
- **Seek More Stable Funding Sources for FCPA Initiatives (Parks and Ecological Resources #3):** EQAC recommends ideas to provide steady revenue, including expanding the Integrated Pest Management Program or establishing funding for an ecologist maintenance program. Both initiatives are being evaluated by FCPA and DPWES-UFMD and both, if implemented, would require long-term funding.
- **Take Actions in the CECAP Report That the County Can Take Immediately (Climate and Energy #6):** This recommendation is being addressed through the development of short- and long-term implementation plans for CECAP that staff anticipates presenting to the Board during Environmental Committee meetings in 2022. Implementation of the strategies and actions in CECAP is expected to have long-range fiscal implications. Staff anticipates preparing annual CECAP implementation workplans in FY 2023 and beyond that will address future funding needs.
- **Hire a Part-Time Wildlife Assistance (Wildlife Management #1):** EQAC recommends increasing staff capacity in FCPD or another county agency for the hiring of a part-time wildlife assistant. Staff notes an ongoing need for sustained staffing and funding for the Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist Office. FCPD has been able to increase staff capacity in recent years and successfully absorb costs for staffing and operations for the wildlife program.
- **(\$) LiDAR Capture (Technology #1):** EQAC recommends that the county fund recapture of LiDAR data in CY 2022 to provide ongoing data for metrics on tree cover and stream erosion. Funding of \$183,000 was included as part of the *FY 2022 Third Quarter Review* in project IT00028 in Fund 10040, Information Technology Projects.

Staff intends to discuss approaches to addressing those recommendations that are not otherwise being implemented and that may require future funding, recognizing that funding decisions by the Board of Supervisors in a future fiscal year budget may be needed for implementation.

If you have questions about this memo, please feel free to contact me at kambiz.agazi@fairfaxcounty.gov or (703) 324-1788.

Attachment 1: Agency Responses to EQAC's 2021 Annual Report on the Environment

cc: Environmental Quality Advisory Council
Bryan J. Hill, County Executive
Christina Jackson, Chief Financial Officer
Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental & Energy Coordination (OEEC)

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Land Use #1

(Pages I-4 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Update the State of the Plan and Concept for Future Development Map

EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize an update to the State of the Plan document. The last State of the Plan covered 2000 to 2010. Since then, the county has seen significant growth and changes in process and technology. The plan transitioned from APR to Fairfax Forward with holistic and in-depth reviews, and now to SSPA. A review of the plan and the effects of the processes is timely.

EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the development of a Concept for Future Transportation, Development, and Green Infrastructure. The 1992 Concept for Future Development map has evolved into the Comprehensive Plan - Special Planning Areas¹ and is used within the Countywide Transit Network Study to design the proposed High Quality Transit Network. These reflect the reality that the 1992 future has largely been realized and that a new future map that looks out 20 to 50 years is needed.

LEAD AGENCY: DPD

COORDINATING AGENCY: FCDOT, DPWES, LDS

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Meghan Van Dam, DPD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is being addressed. Work on the State of the Plan document is ongoing and is planned to be published in 2022.

The county is moving towards greater use of interactive mapping applications, rather than static maps, including the JADE mapping tool that allows users to display multiple layers of data and dynamically turn on and off information and data. These data layers include such information as the Comprehensive Plan Map, development centers as designated on the county's Concept for Future Development, Transportation Plan Map, stormwater infrastructure including green roofs, infiltration landscaping and other water quality facilities both public and private that are required to be inspected by the county, Resource Protection Areas and more. These layers are updated on a regular basis in real time when changes to plans and policies are made. Greater use of online interactive mapping applications in the future has advantages over static maps, which are updated less frequently.

¹ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-development/comprehensive-plan/special-planning-areas>

Land Use #1

Continued

In addition to the JADE application, the Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT) is currently in the process of updating the Fairfax County Bicycle Master Plan and Countywide Trails Plan maps. They will be combined into the new Active Fairfax Transportation Plan, that is currently under development. Elements of this new plan will be available in GIS format, as well, for use by citizens and stakeholders.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

This recommendation is being addressed.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

DPD and FCDOT are addressing the recommendation.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications for the recommended actions.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There are no long-range fiscal implications for the recommended actions.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Land Use #2

(Page I-4 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Land Development Applications and Information

EQAC commends the release of the PLUS system to create a single system of record for land development. With PLUS complete, the next step is to develop analytical reporting tools for land use planning. This includes supporting the Comprehensive Plan Potential report as well as tracking mixed-use development at a more granular level beyond the residential and commercial categories. At any given point in time, there should be accurate information about the existing development as well as the development that can be expected in the next five to 20 years, based on the development pipeline from the PLUS system.

LEAD AGENCY: LDS

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: DPD, DIT

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Jill Huff, LDS

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is being addressed. The project to design, configure and implement the Planning Land Use System (PLUS) is underway. PLUS has completed three of four planned releases to deliver a new central platform to modernize the county's planning and land use infrastructure. The new central platform will be fully functional in fall 2022 with the last release.

- Release One was conducted in October 2020 and established a one-stop shop customer service portal to unite unconnected and outdated systems. Using PLUS, residents and businesses can conduct online transactions, submit applications and plans online, pay fees, track application status, receive electronic notifications and conduct searches under Planning and Development, Land Development Services, Environmental Health, Fire and Rescue and Code Compliance.
- Release Two was conducted in July 2021 and included more than 25 applications for Planning and Development services for rezoning requests, special exceptions, special permits, and other planning services.
- Release Three was conducted in January 2021 and included Fire Prevention Code permits, renewable permits, amendments, and inspections, Planning and Development applications for Architectural Review Board, minor variations, interpretations of approved zoning and various types of zoning permits.
- Release Four will be conducted in October 2022 and will incorporate more than 125 remaining plans, permits and transactions for commercial and residential construction building permits, plans and site-related plans, water supply system permits process,

Land Use #2 Continued

sprinkler systems, sign permits, zoning ordinance amendments, proffers, code compliance, and enforcement. Electronic plan review tasks will be incorporated into all PLUS record types.

PLUS provides a centralized platform that facilitates staff work in analyzing Comprehensive Plan potential during the Plan review process and after amendments are adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Further, the PLUS system collects data for approved zoning applications and site plans. This feature of the PLUS system is relatively new and will facilitate pipeline development research. This information will be used to create reports or a series of special queries to address the need for pipeline development reports. The system, as is, does not produce a synthesis of the data. Staff analysis of the data from multiple systems will be needed to produce a comprehensive report that estimates new development over the next twenty years.

The best source of data about Fairfax County existing development is available from the Department of Tax Administration. Existing development data is important to understand how it compares to future development estimates and forecasts.

Fairfax County participates in Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOC) Cooperative Forecasting. These long-range employment, household and population forecasts provide data about anticipated future growth that is used to analyze the effect of this growth and provision of public facilities.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Staff agrees with this recommendation.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

County staff has worked with the system implementer to design a solution in PLUS to capture and quantify development throughout each stage of development activity. In addition, reporting, data analysis and GIS tools have been incorporated into PLUS. With this data and tools, county staff will be able to conduct development pipeline analysis.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Fund 10040, Information Technology Projects, includes funds to acquire and implement the solution to address development pipeline analysis and reporting requirements.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

The Department of Information Technology, Land Development Services and Department of Planning and Development are jointly managing the PLUS project, including any cost implications, and staffing resources to undertake the actions listed above.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Land Use #3

(Page I-5 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Improve Processes to Minimize Ecological Degradation from Development Pressure

As the county addresses build-out, it is important to prioritize environmental protection of increasingly valuable open space. EQAC recommends that the county adopt a policy that all future development provides a net environmental benefit to the county. EQAC also recommends that the ecological function of existing land be a consideration when new development is proposed on open space.

This recommendation applies to development in mixed-use centers with dense growth potential, as well as infill development where fragile lands that are unsuitable for development are under development pressure.

LEAD AGENCY: DPD

COORDINATING AGENCIES: DPWES-Stormwater, FCPA, LDS, OEEC

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Katie Hermann, DPD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is discussed through Comprehensive Plan policies, which address the identification, preservation, protection, and enhancement of plant and animal life and the creation of an integrated network of ecologically valuable land and surface waters. The county seeks to balance the protection and enhancement of these resources while planning for the orderly development and redevelopment of the county. The intent is to conserve or restore appropriate examples of the county's natural landscape, to protect and manage its ecological resources, and to provide visual relief in the form of natural vegetation between adjacent and sometimes incompatible land uses. These efforts have focused primarily on Environmental Quality Corridors (EQCs), Resource Protection Areas (RPAs), floodplains, and steep slopes and tree preservation and tree cover. These areas contain valuable ecological resources and help create an ecological network. Resources within these areas are considered on a site-by-site basis as land use applications are reviewed by staff and evaluated by the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors.

The term “net environmental benefit” is used specifically in the Comprehensive Plan in the context of EQCs, which are intended as an integrated network of ecologically valuable land and surface waters for present and future residents. The purposes of EQCs include the following:

- Habitat Quality;
- Connectivity;

Land Use #3

Continued

- Hydrology/Stream Buffering/Stream Protection; &
- Pollution Reduction Capabilities.

The following efforts within EQCs support the EQC policy and are encouraged:

- *Stream stabilization and restoration efforts where such efforts are needed to improve the ecological conditions of degraded streams;*
- *Replanting efforts in EQCs that would restore or enhance the environmental values of areas that have been subject to clearing;*
- *Wetland and floodplain restoration efforts; &*
- *Removal of non-native invasive species of vegetation from EQCs.*

Other disturbances to EQCs should only be considered in extraordinary circumstances and only where mitigation/compensation measures are provided that will result in a clear and substantial net environmental benefit. Proposed disturbances should result in net benefits relating to most, if not all, of the EQC purposes listed above (Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, 2017 Edition, Policy Plan, Environment, Amended through 11-9-2021, Pages 14-17).

Several policy plan amendments and site-specific plan amendments have recently been adopted that are related to environmental enhancements or specifically attempt to correct past stormwater management deficiencies. These include:

- 2017 P-09: Natural Landscaping at County Facilities (2018-CW-2CP);
- 2017 P-12: Coastal Resource Management/Tidal Shoreline Erosion Control (2013-CW-9CP);
- 2017-32: McLean Community Business Center Study (2018-II-M1);
- 2017-38: 7700 Leesburg Pike (2020-II-M1); and
- 2017-39: 7501 Loisdale Road (2020-IV-S1).

Staff strives to ensure that all new developments address environmental impacts, and, oftentimes this results in a net environmental benefit, such as when applicants undertake stream restoration on their properties. However, the ability to require that all future development provide a net environmental benefit to the county and that the ecological function of existing land be a consideration when new development is proposed on open space is limited by code and enabling legislation as well as the need to be considered in the context of achieving overall county goals in addition to those related to the environment. Several existing regulations administered by LDS do provide environmental protections during development. The Erosion and Sedimentation Control Ordinance requires preventative measures to limit sediment pollution. The Floodplain Regulations of the Zoning Ordinance recognize the natural value of floodplains and restrict development. The Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance requires exceptions granted in Resource Protection Areas are “not of substantial detriment to water quality” and such applications lead to revegetation of riparian areas previously disrupted by development. Land disturbing activities subject to the Stormwater Management Ordinance improve water quality by using the Virginia Runoff Reduction Method and reducing nutrient runoff to the Chesapeake

Land Use #3

Continued

Bay. The Tree Conservation Ordinance provides minimum tree coverage requirements for development sites. LDS will continue to enforce these provisions during the land development process along with any additional requirements from proffers and development conditions that may result from these recommendations.

The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) is leading the development of a comprehensive Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan through the Resilient Fairfax initiative, which will evaluate climate impacts, risks, and resilience to the county. DPD, DPWES-Stormwater, FCPA and LDS are part of the Planning Team, which is involved in the creation of strategies and actions, some of which may recommend enhancements to stream protection policies. As an ongoing effort, DPWES deploys projects as recommended through the Watershed Management Plans. These plans identify both structural and non-structural improvement projects such as stream restorations, stormwater facility retrofits, community education and stewardship, streamside buffer enhancements and installation of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to help preserve and protect the watersheds in the county.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Staff concurs with the intent of the recommendation. While the “net environmental benefit” language of the Comprehensive Plan is specific to EQCs, staff takes advantage of opportunities to apply the current language to redevelopment scenarios. As a result, staff finds that the intent of this recommendation is being achieved.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC’s recommendation?

Through both the legislative and administrative development review processes, the county strives to incorporate environmental resources, features, and facilities into each site, tailored to each site’s unique circumstances, with the recognition that each site may contribute to the development of a larger, well-connected, and cohesive community. As seen through the redevelopment of previously-developed areas as mixed-use centers, net environmental benefits are being achieved through the thoughtful integration of ecological resources and functions into the community.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

No.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

No.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Land Use #4

(Page I-5 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Private Sector Green Building Standards

EQAC commends the county for adopting strong green building standards for public facilities. With the recently accepted CECAP goal of net-zero by 2050, it is necessary to begin adopting Comprehensive Plan language and zoning regulations to encourage private sector land use to achieve the net-zero goals.

LEAD AGENCY: DPD, OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: LDS

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Corinne Bebek, DPD and Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is in the process of being addressed. Green building and sustainable building design have been a priority for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors with the adoption of the first Green Building policy in 2007. This policy addressed green building practices that should be incorporated into development proposals; identified areas based on the Concept Map for Future Development that should attain formal third-party green building certification and set a baseline goal for energy designations for residential development proposals. This policy has been amended twice to strengthen the expectation for private development and to focus on energy efficiency and conservation. This has had a significant impact on development in Fairfax County. Based on data from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, as of January 2020, Fairfax County has approximately 20 percent of the regional population and emissions but 30 percent of the certified green buildings in the Metropolitan Washington Region. The green building policy is implemented through proffers and development conditions as part of the entitlement process.

In 2020 the Board updated the Board of Supervisor's Sustainable Development Policy for Capital Projects to increase the expectation to LEED Gold. In 2021, the Board adopted the Operational Energy Strategy which adds net-zero targets for county facilities. There are currently three projects that are piloting the higher standards for capital projects. As in the past, staff is coordinating and tracking the progress of these projects and ability to meet these new standards prior to updating the Comprehensive Plan guidance or the Zoning Ordinance.

Additionally, in 2021, the Board accepted the CECAP report; planning for implementation of the recommendations in CECAP is ongoing and the Department of Planning and Development is involved as a coordinating agency. Potential CECAP implementation recommendations include identifying county policies that should be updated as part of a future amendment to the

Land Use #4

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Comprehensive Plan, including green building policy guidance. Any future Comprehensive Plan amendment or any potential amendment to the Zoning Ordinance would require authorization by the Board of Supervisors and research and study to determine specific guidance that will need to be adopted to ensure that this goal will be reached.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Fairfax County is currently addressing this recommendation and will continue to monitor the county's environmental initiatives and update the Comprehensive Plan as needed and authorized.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Actions are currently underway to review existing policies and identify areas for CECAP implementation. As part of a future Plan or Zoning Ordinance Amendment, research and study will be required to determine anticipated growth, estimated energy consumption, and what measures should be recommended to attain net-zero energy. All actions necessary to address EQAC's recommendation would be conducted during a future Plan or Zoning Ordinance Amendment if authorized; staff does not anticipate any additional actions are needed at this time.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Budget implications are anticipated for LDS as more staff will be needed to ensure the proffered and conditioned green building commitments are being met.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Long-range fiscal implications are anticipated for LDS as more staff will be needed to accommodate the development and construction industry with regards to enforcement of adopted green building and energy standards. Costs associated with obtaining technology to support the enforcement are also anticipated.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Transportation #1

(Page II-13-14 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Electric Vehicles

EQAC recommends that the county develop a formal plan to increase light-duty electric vehicle (EV) registrations to at least 15 percent of total registrations by 2030.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: FCDOT, OCA, DTA

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) concurs with this EQAC recommendation and is already taking steps to address it.

With this recommendation, EQAC expresses its support for one of the goals included in the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), accepted by the Board of Supervisors (Board) in September 2021. This goal, which is specific to the transportation sector, is to increase electric vehicles (EVs), whether plug-in hybrid or battery EVs, to at least 15 percent of all light-duty vehicle registrations by 2030. Specifically, EQAC recommends that county staff develop a formal plan to increase EV adoption among private citizens, describing both programs and initiatives to be undertaken and specifying interim goals for at least 2024 and 2027 to ensure that progress can be measured.

The OEEC is developing short-term and long-term CECAP implementation plans that it anticipates presenting to the Board during Environmental Committee meetings in 2022 and beyond. Given the significance of EVs to the achievement of carbon emissions reduction goals, these plans will include education, outreach and public engagement initiatives regarding EVs that will begin in 2022 and continue thereafter.

OEEC recognizes that increasing EV registrations in Fairfax County is an issue that needs to be tackled from multiple angles. OEEC not only needs to reach consumers and drivers, but also those with the power to decide whether, where, and when to install charging infrastructure around the county, such as those who live in or manage common interest communities, multi-family dwelling units, and businesses. In addition to identifying and targeting multiple audiences, the EV initiatives will need to address multiple topics, and those topics will evolve over time. A critical topic that OEEC plans to address from the beginning is existing and potential incentive programs, including mechanisms for providing financial support or encouragement to those interested in purchasing and registering an EV in the county. Further consideration will be given to coordinating with the electric

Transportation #1

Continued

service providers (utilities) and ensuring that access to EVs and EV charging infrastructure is universal and consistent with the objectives of One Fairfax.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Because its plans are still in development, at this time OEEC cannot fully describe the scope of its EV education, outreach and public engagement initiatives or the specific actions that should be taken. However, OEEC anticipates making use of multiple tools and avenues including web content, social media mini-campaigns, webinars and seminars, short-form videos, downloadable decision-making kits specific to purchasing and owning an electric vehicle, "My EV Story" case studies, and links to interactive maps showing the locations of EV charging stations in the area.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Preparing a plan for 15 percent EV registrations in the county should not have budget implications for FY 2023.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Implementing the plan for achieving 15 percent EV registrations in the county may have long-range fiscal implications, depending on the extent to which county funds are the source of any incentives provided to prospective EV owners. Federal and state resources are anticipated for incentives today, but the nature and extent of those funds are uncertain.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Transportation #2

(Page II-14 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Increase Transit and Non-Motorized Commuting

EQAC recommends that the county develop a formal plan to increase transit and non-motorized commuting (including teleworking) to at least 30 percent by 2030, including setting interim target goals to be achieved by 2024 and 2027.

EQAC supports the CECAP goal of increasing transit and non-motorized commuting to 30 percent (including teleworking) by 2030. The county needs to develop a formal plan to demonstrate how the CECAP goal will be met, and to ensure a coherent and thoughtful approach is being proactively implemented. Setting interim target goals to be achieved by 2024 and 2027 will provide for greater accountability in its implementation. Specific activities that should be included in this plan include the following:

- Continued efforts to provide dedicated funding for Metrorail and Metrobus services.
- Integration of innovative approaches into first-mile/last-mile solutions in areas around existing and new Metro stations to address concerns about secondary road traffic congestion.
- The timely completion and implementation of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan, including providing the resources necessary to complete Phase Two of the plan. The ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan includes updating and combining the Bicycle Master Plan and the Countywide Trails Plan.
- A program be adopted to assess the impacts of past and future implementation of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan, including the establishment of performance measures that can be tracked over time and made available to the public. This would include regular bicycle facility counts or other monitoring for usage of bike lanes and trails. The results of such an assessment will provide valuable information of the efficacy of the plan in reducing SOV trips in favor of increased biking and will allow county staff to identify needed changes to the plan.

LEAD AGENCY: FCDOT

COORDINATING AGENCY: DPD, OEEC

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Zachary Krohmal, FCDOT

Transportation #2

Continued

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is partially in the process of being addressed. FCDOT does not have a formal plan to demonstrate how the CECAP goal will be met, although FCDOT is part of the Coordinating Team, an internal team being headed by the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) that includes representatives from relevant county agencies to develop a long-term implementation plan for CECAP. The OEEC will present its process for developing the long-term plan at the Board's May 2022 Environmental Committee meeting; the OEEC is expected to return to the Environmental Committee in December 2022 with the long-term implementation plan.

Actions undertaken by FCDOT in response to this recommendation include the following:

- Implementation of the Transit Development Plan (TDP)

Transit Development Plan - FCDOT continues to implement the Transit Development Plan (TDP) through service changes and transit planning studies. In 2021, the Transit Services Division (TSD) of FCDOT completed an Alternative Service Feasibility Study for Fairfax County. Among other objectives, the study identified innovative service options utilizing emerging technologies, potential modes that could be implemented (such as autonomous vehicles) and proposed a pilot to test these new services and service partnerships. The study addresses a portion of this EQAC recommendation as it examines first-mile and last-mile connectivity to bus transit, Metrorail, and commuter rail services within Fairfax County. A follow-up recommendation of this study was to implement a micro-transit service pilot in one of the candidate areas identified in the study. TSD staff is currently working on development of a Transportation Network Company (TNC) based micro-transit service pilot in the McLean/Tysons area. Implementation of the pilot is subject to Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation (DRPT) grant funding.

- Development of the Centreville/Chantilly/Vienna/Tysons (CCVT) Route Optimization Study

CCVT Route Optimization Study – As part of the five-year update of the TDP, FCDOT has undertaken a series of subarea route optimization studies that are looking at a substantial restructuring of existing Fairfax Connector bus services in response to multiple rounds of public outreach using both in-person and virtual outreach tools (social media, online surveys, video conferencing, etc.). These route optimization studies serve as inputs to the Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) which will supersede the existing TDP. The CCVT redefines Fairfax Connector bus services in Tysons, as well as refines the micro-transit recommendations of the TDP.

- Implementation of Reston-Herndon Bus Plan in support of WMATA's Silver Line Phase 2 expansion

Reston-Herndon Bus Plan – the bus plan was defined during the Reston-Herndon Route Optimization Study and represents a major restructuring of existing Fairfax Connector Bus

Transportation #2

Continued

Service in response to the anticipated 2022 opening of Metrorail's Silver Line Expansion. The bus plan reflects three rounds of public engagement that identified residents' travel priorities (i.e., more direct and frequent transit service).

- Development of the Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) which will update the existing TDP.

Transit Strategic Plan (TSP) – this study will update and replace the existing Fairfax County TDP. The TSP will identify specific transit investments and their projected year of implementation within Fairfax County. These include the Fairfax Connector and micro-transit investments identified in the CCVT as they apply to the Tysons area.

- Implementation of a micro-transit service pilot in Tysons, Great Falls and McLean

Micro-transit Pilot – FCDOT is seeking grant funding to implement a 12-month pilot of micro-transit service in the Tysons area. This pilot will utilize a TNC to provide single and shared ride first-mile/last-mile connections within Tysons, McLean, and Great Falls. Lessons learned in the initial pilot will allow FCDOT to develop a TNC model that can be implemented in Tysons and other eligible locations within Fairfax County to provide first-mile/last-mile connectivity for existing and future transit riders.

- Expansion of Capital Bike Share

Bike Share – Expansion of bicycle infrastructure in Reston, Tysons, Vienna, Richmond Highway and Springfield. These investments include secure bike storage at new transit centers/park & rides and construction of the I-66 cross county trail as part of the Express Lanes Project. The Richmond Highway Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project design will also include a parallel multi-use path linking Fort Belvoir with Huntington Metro Station. Expansion of Capital Bike Share is also being pursued in various areas of the county.

- Full funding for Active Fairfax Plan, Phase 2

The Board of Supervisors has provided funding for Phase II of the ActiveFairfax Transportation Plan. This Phase will result in a Comprehensive Plan update that reconciles, updates, and combines the Bicycle Master Plan and the Countywide Trails Plan.

- More bicycle and pedestrian data collection

FCDOT is in the process of installing its first permanent bicycle and pedestrian counter and plans on installing additional counters by 2025. VDOT is also installing multiple counters along the I-66 Parallel Trail.

FCDOT collects pedestrian and bicycle data irregularly as part of multimodal transportation studies. VDOT regularly counts bicycle and pedestrian volume with mobile counters throughout Fairfax County and has made Streetlight multimodal transportation data, which can be used for year-over-year comparisons, available to FCDOT.

Transportation #2

Continued

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

FCDOT concurs that commuting (and non-commuting) mode share is a key metric of effectiveness for Fairfax County's transportation system. It is appropriate to track that metric and for elected officials to set concrete goals.

However, staff has several concerns about writing a formal plan to reach those goals:

- Required staff or financial resources,
- Unclear benefits of formal plan compared to current programmatic approach,
- Extreme uncertainty around commuting mode behavior – the recent increase in telework mode share *may* achieve the 30 percent goal without further action.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

FCDOT will continue to implement the TDP/TSP and consider alternative and emerging transportation alternatives as part of future transit studies.

In addition, the OEEC has convened an internal Coordinating Team for implementation of CECAP. Coordinating Team members will review, prioritize, and incorporate relevant CECAP recommendations into a long-term implementation plan. FCDOT is one of several county agencies participating on the Coordinating Team. As previously mentioned, the OEEC will present the process for developing the CECAP long-term implementation plan at the Board's May 2022 Environmental Committee meeting, and expects to return to the committee in December 2022 with the long-term plan.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

The CCVT and micro-transit projects will require grant funding, which has already been included in the budget request for FY 2023.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

EQAC proposed ideas that "might require additional funding." Depending on which of these ideas are implemented and at what scale, the impacts could range from minor to significant. In terms of the long-term CECAP implementation plan, development of the plan should not have long-range fiscal implications, however *implementation* of the plan likely will. Annual fiscal implications are currently unknown.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Water #1

(Page III-23-24 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Continue and Enhance Protection of the Occoquan Reservoir

EQAC recommends that the county continue and enhance as needed the protection of the Occoquan Reservoir. The studies and actions listed below have reaffirmed over the last 50 years the need for continued protection of the waters of the Occoquan Reservoir that provide part of our drinking water supply.

During the latter part of the 1960s, the Occoquan Reservoir exhibited signs of advanced eutrophication, such as frequent and intense algal blooms (including cyanobacteria), periodic fish kills and taste and odor problems. All these issues threatened the health of the reservoir as a water supply source. Although the reservoir is only partially drained by Fairfax County streams (about 17 percent of the watershed is located in Fairfax County), the county has provided leadership in the region for land use modifications to protect water quality:

- Occoquan Policy (1971) and Upper Occoquan Service Authority (1978).
<https://www.uosa.org>
- Fairfax County's "Downzoning" Action and Best Management Practice Requirement (Initially 1982).
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/facility-fact-sheets>
- Fairfax Water Shoreline Easement Policy (2004).
<https://www.fairfaxwater.org/shoreline-easement-policy>
- Fairfax County New Millennium Occoquan Watershed Task Force Report (2003).
<https://www.novaregion.org/DocumentCenter/View/247/OTFFinalReport12703>

LEAD AGENCY: DPD

COORDINATING AGENCY: LDS, DPWES, Fairfax Water

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Joe Gorney, DPD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Occoquan Reservoir is a major source of drinking water for the county and other jurisdictions, an environmentally important feature, and source of recreation for the public. The Occoquan Basin contains some of the most extensive remaining wildlife habitat and rural landscape in the county.

Water #1 Continued

However, in the 1960s, the water quality in the Reservoir was severely degraded with frequent algal blooms, fish kills, and low dissolved oxygen concentrations. The Occoquan Policy (9 VAC 25-410) was implemented in 1971 as a special water quality standard for the Occoquan Basin by the Virginia State Water Control Board to improve the water quality of the reservoir. The Policy was successful in reversing the degradation of water quality in the Reservoir, which has been able to avoid significant algal blooms and persistent low dissolved oxygen levels despite significant growth in the watershed. The Policy has also been effective in regulating the treatment of wastewater that enters upstream of drinking water intakes of the Occoquan Reservoir by setting high performance standards for wastewater treatment plants in the Occoquan Watershed. The monitoring of water quality in the watershed and in the reservoir by the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Laboratory (OWML), as required under the Policy, has guided and confirmed the effectiveness of the Policy, which has been effective in protecting and enhancing the public health, safety, and welfare of residents in Northern Virginia and, in turn, the economic viability, growth, and prosperity of the region.

The protection of the Occoquan Watershed also included a downzoning of nearly 41,000 acres of land to the R-C (Residential-Conservation) District, or one dwelling unit per five acres, on July 26, 1982 (RZ 82-W-054) by the Board of Supervisors. In addition to the downzoning, the Board created a Water Supply Protection Overlay District (WSPOD), that requires water quality controls for new development on approximately 63,000 acres (RZ 82-W-051).

The Comprehensive Plan contains guidance regarding land use within the Occoquan Watershed. Much of the area is zoned to the R-C District, in which low-density uses are anticipated in order to protect the Occoquan Reservoir. Very low-density development (0.1 to 0.2 dwelling units per acres) and undisturbed contiguous open space are identified in the Comprehensive Plan as key practices for the protection of the Occoquan Reservoir. When used in conjunction with stormwater management facilities, the water that ultimately enters the Occoquan Reservoir can be managed in a way that positively contributes to the quality of water in the reservoir. Low densities, limited expansion of public facilities, and development designs that encourage preservation of water features and other sensitive lands contribute to water quality protection within the Occoquan Basin, create corridors of open space, and provide recreational opportunities.

During the Board's consideration of the Agritourism zoning ordinance amendment (adopted by the Board in June 2021) concerns were raised about potential impacts associated with agritourism activities that could potentially impact the R-C District. To respond to those concerns, staff conducted a high-level review of the special exception, special permit and 2232 applications that were received and processed over the last 20 years. Anecdotal evidence from this review indicates that the county has indeed been good stewards of the Occoquan Watershed. Most of these applications are along arterial highways and provide the recommended amount of undisturbed open space (target minimum of 50 percent) to meet the Water Supply Protection Overlay District (WSPOD) regulations to ensure protection of the watershed.

This recommendation supports county policies and ordinances that are routinely applied/implemented through the development review and site/subdivision review processes.

Water #1 Continued

The recommendation highlights the need to retain or enhance policies and requirements that serve to protect environmentally sensitive lands.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

The recommendation requests that these policies remain unchanged or enhanced. No amendments to the applicable policies are under consideration, as these policies have been and continue to be effective in protecting the Occoquan watershed.

High water quality is critical in the Occoquan Basin, given that the Occoquan Reservoir is a key drinking water supply for Fairfax Water and its customers. Fairfax Water is the largest water utility in Virginia, serving one of every four citizens who obtain their water from public utilities. The Occoquan Reservoir, which supplies nearly 40 percent of Fairfax Water's water supply source, is a vital and valuable water resource and, along with the Potomac River, is part of an interconnected water supply system serving nearly two million people.

Fairfax Water makes available grants within the watershed to qualified organizations that undertake water supply education, water quality monitoring, or watershed protection projects, including shoreline stabilization and restoration. The Northern Virginia Conservation Trust has several initiatives funded through this program to promote and encourage conservation easements in the Occoquan watershed (see: <https://www.fairfaxwater.org/grants>). Fairfax Water also approved a Shoreline Easement Policy in 2004 for the land adjacent to the water's edge to protect water quality through the preservation of a vegetative buffer around the Occoquan Reservoir.

The Commonwealth of Virginia has conducted periodic regulatory reviews of the Occoquan Policy to determine if the regulation should be continued without change, amended, or repealed. The most recent review was in 2019. During that time, Fairfax County, Fairfax Water, the Upper Occoquan Service Authority (UOSA), and the OWML all voiced support for the continuation of the Occoquan Policy, which remains one of the most significant and successful regulatory actions undertaken to protect the quality of water in the Occoquan Reservoir. In the face of periodic regulatory reviews by the State and other annual legislative actions, continued regional support is necessary to ensure that this source water protection Policy remains intact to maintain water quality in the Reservoir, protect public health, and ensure the future of the Reservoir as a water supply source.

The 2003 Report of the New Millennium Occoquan Watershed Task Force presented recommendations to maintain high water quality in the Occoquan Reservoir and throughout the Watershed. These recommendations could be reassessed and used to inform future updates to Comprehensive Plan policies to reaffirm the importance of this down-zoned area to water quality, the drinking water supply, recreation, habitat, and the regional economy.

Preservation of water quality in the reservoir is of significant value to public health and welfare. A land use approach to maintaining water quality could be continued and broadened throughout the basin, to include the maintenance of very low density and cluster development; and the

Water #1
Continued

continued identification, protection, and enhancement of environmentally-sensitive areas, including wetlands and Environmental Quality Corridors.

The regulation of point source pollution under the Occoquan Policy, the regulation of non-point source pollution in the watershed, and down zoning within the Occoquan Basin have protected water quality in the Occoquan Reservoir for more than 50 years. These and other actions are needed to continue to protect the reservoir, enhance its ecological integrity, preserve its recreational value, and support the economic vitality of the region.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

No actions are recommended.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

No.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

No.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Water #2

(Page III-24-25 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Emerging Contaminants in the Occoquan Reservoir

EQAC recommends that the county fund monitoring of emerging contaminants and the rising sodium levels in the Occoquan Reservoir.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: Fairfax Water

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Craig Carinci, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The recommendation is being addressed. Monitoring of the Occoquan Reservoir system by the Virginia Tech Occoquan Monitoring Laboratory (OWML) is funded by Fairfax County through two separate mechanisms: the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Program and the Synthetic Organic Compound (SOC) monitoring contract. The former is a regional stakeholder-funded cooperative with funding contributions dictated by the Occoquan Policy ([9VAC25-410-40](#)). Full funding for the program was restored in 2018. Fairfax County's contributions are pre-defined, as are the general operational parameters of the program. The ongoing SOC monitoring is funded through an annual contract between the OWML and Fairfax County, which has been in place since the early 1980s. Unlike the Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Program, this funding is discretionary and, more importantly, the monitoring parameters of this contract work can be modified as deemed necessary. This monitoring has shown over several decades that the watershed SOC levels are generally very low and not of major concern. With EQAC's noted concerns over contaminants of emerging concern (e.g., endocrine disrupting compounds), OWML and county staff are currently exploring the possibility of shifting this work from SOC to evaluate other potential contaminants of emerging concern in the Occoquan watershed.

Rising sodium levels in the reservoir have generated significant attention over the last five years. The monitoring of sodium within the reservoir and its major watershed inputs already occurs through the existing Occoquan Watershed Monitoring Program, to which Fairfax County contributes. In response to the concerns of increasing sodium trends, the Virginia Tech OWML recently secured a multi-year grant from the National Science Foundation which established a new trans-disciplinary project seeking to catalyze innovative solutions to inland freshwater salinization, in partnership with stakeholders. Additional salinization monitoring and study is occurring as part of this work. Fairfax County and Fairfax Water participate on the project's executive stakeholder committee.

Water #2
Continued

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

County staff and Virginia Tech OWML are currently exploring the possibility of modifying the SOC contract work to evaluate other potential emerging contaminants in the Occoquan watershed.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Not at this time, since any new work would be done under the existing annual contract budget.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

County staff believes the actions recommended will not have any long-range fiscal implications.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Water #3

(Page III-31 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Wastewater Treatment Fee Rates

EQAC recommends that the county set the fee rate collected for wastewater treatment to meet the upgrade and maintenance requirements for all plants that serve the county and their respective wastewater collection systems.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Shahram Mohsenin, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

DPWES agrees with this recommendation, although the Board of Supervisors has not consistently approved wastewater rates over time due to economic conditions, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Properly funding the operation, maintenance and reinvestment in the wastewater system is critical for protection of public and environmental health, uninterrupted sewer service, compliance with all regulatory requirements, and avoidance of regulatory interventions from the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and associated penalties. Proactive maintenance and reinvestment in the sewer system avoids the higher costs associated with emergency repairs after failures and reduces the likelihood of sanitary sewer overflows to our community. With the county's aging wastewater system driving increased needs for maintenance and replacement, enhancements to the existing system to accommodate projected future growth, and potential new regulations on the horizon, systematic adjustments of the sewer charges are a necessity.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

DPWES concurs with this recommendation.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

The county is proposing an increase in wastewater service charges as part of the FY 2023 budget proposal to the Board of Supervisors.

Water #3
Continued

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

No. Although sewer rates will need to be adjusted over time to implement this recommendation, DPWES was already planning to propose an increase to wastewater service charges as part of the FY 2023 proposed budget. There is no impact on the General Fund budget, as the Sewer Fund is an enterprise fund and is supported by the fees paid by customers of the sewer system.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Yes, although DPWES was already planning to propose an increase to wastewater service charges as part of the FY 2024, FY 2025, and FY 2026 proposed budgets. In the long range, proper implementation of the recommended action will avoid the need for larger sewer rate adjustments to address potential damage to the public health and the environment, violation of the regulatory requirements and associated penalties, and higher costs for emergency repairs. The recommended action will provide for proper operation and maintenance of the county's aging sewer system.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Water #4

(Page III-31-32 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Continue Education and Monitoring of New Alternate Septic Systems Performance

EQAC recommends that the county continue aggressive education and monitoring of the new alternate septic systems performance. Areas of the county with marginal or highly variable soils that have been deemed unbuildable in the past are now being considered for development using alternative onsite sewage disposal technology. These alternative systems are also becoming the norm for developers who want to maximize lot yield from properties. Alternative systems require more aggressive maintenance on a regular schedule for the systems to function properly. Some require maintenance contracts as part of the permitting process. Homeowners may not be aware of their responsibilities for maintaining these systems. Education from the private sector and government sector, including both Fairfax County Department of Public Works and Environmental Services and the Health Department, is essential to prevent a high failure rate of the new more complex systems.

LEAD AGENCY: FCHD

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: DPWES, LDS, DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Pieter Sheehan, FCHD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Health Department has addressed this recommendation in several ways. First, all construction permits issued by the Health Department for new alternative onsite sewage systems are required to be recorded in land records. This requirement provides transparency and ensures that future landowners are made aware of the alternative nature of the sewage disposal system serving their property. Second, the Health Department requires the designer of all alternative systems to provide an Operation and Maintenance Manual to the property owner. This manual describes all operational and maintenance requirements deemed necessary by the designer to ensure the system functions properly. Health Department regulations require alternative onsite system operators to report the results of annual inspections and maintenance performed on these systems. This information is used to remind property owners of annual requirements as well as confirm that any issues identified during annual inspections are corrected. Third, the Health Department utilizes the county website and social media to provide relevant information regarding alternative onsite sewage systems to residents. Last, the Health Department promotes and participates in the annual EPA Septic Smart Week outreach program as well as other educational events where the public is engaged. These outreach programs seek to inform homeowners and communities on proper septic system care and maintenance.

Water #4
Continued

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

The Health Department will continue to work with county partners to provide outreach and education to owners of alternative systems. There are also plans to implement an online reporting system to facilitate easier submission of inspection reports by maintenance provider

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no anticipated budget implications for FY 2023.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There are no anticipated long-range fiscal implications.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Water #5

(Page III-40-42 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Continue or Enhance Policies and Ordinances Protecting Streams, Floodplains and EQCs

EQAC recommends that those policies and ordinances protecting streams, floodplains and designated Environmental Quality Corridors (EQCs) should remain unchanged or be enhanced. The protection of environmental assets is an essential part of resiliency planning in the face of climate change.

LEAD AGENCY: DPD, LDS

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: DPWES - Stormwater, OEEC

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Katie Hermann, DPD and Brandy Mueller, LDS

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation supports county policies and ordinances that are routinely applied/implemented through the development review and site/subdivision review processes. The recommendation highlights the need to retain or enhance policies and requirements that serve to protect environmentally sensitive lands.

Ordinance requirements such as those in the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and the Floodplain Regulations in the Zoning Ordinance are administered/implemented by Land Development Services.

Recent Initiatives

The Zoning Ordinance Modernization (zMOD) project, which was adopted in March 2021 by the Board of Supervisors, included an update to the floodplain setback requirement. This update provided a clarification to clearly state that the required 15-foot setback from a floodplain applies even if there is a property line between the floodplain and a structure, which is reflective of previous practice. Additionally, it was clarified that the requirement for an 18-inch vertical separation (freeboard) between the lowest part of a structure and the water-surface elevation of the 100-year floodplain applies not only to development within a floodplain, but also on any lot where a floodplain is located or on a lot abutting a floodplain. This clarification was also consistent with the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) and long-standing practice.

Additionally in November 2021, the Board of Supervisors adopted the Comprehensive Plan amendment which updated the Plan guidance based on state code changes so that tidal shoreline erosion measures reference living shoreline approaches and the related guidance that references best available science and resources. Concurrent with this plan amendment, an update to Chapter

Water #5

Continued

116 (Wetlands Zoning Ordinance) of the Fairfax County Code was also adopted. Both updates include references to how living shorelines enhance coastal resilience by using nature-based solutions to stabilize shorelines.

At the direction of the Board, county staff has been involved in a multi-year review of stormwater requirements. Specific actions that were taken in 2021 include the following:

- The Board adopted amendments to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance and Public Facilities Manual (PFM) to provide more comprehensive planting requirements for the establishment and restoration of Resource Protection Areas (RPAs). The updated planting densities are based on local experience with county stream restoration projects and state requirements. The updated requirements include additional planting options and a reduction in the number of shrubs required that will result in significant cost savings.
- As an ongoing effort, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) also employs projects as recommended through the Watershed Management Plans. These plans identify both structural and non-structural improvement projects such as stream restorations, stormwater facility retrofits, community education and stewardship, streamside buffer enhancements and installation of green stormwater infrastructure (GSI) to help preserve and protect the watersheds in the county.

Conclusion and Future Initiatives

The recommendation requests that these policies remain unchanged or enhanced. At this time, there are no amendments to the Environmental Quality Corridor policy under consideration. However, the following activities are anticipated.

- The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has completed a multi-year project to reexamine Fairfax County's flood zones and prepared revised digital flood hazard maps. Updated Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) have been released for public review and reflect the current flood risk based on the latest data and a more accurate understanding of our area's topography. As a result, property owners throughout the county will have up-to-date, internet-accessible information about flood risk to their properties for FEMA designated floodplains. It is anticipated that the Board will adopt the updated FIRMs in 2022.
- Changes to the state's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations, 9VAC25-830, require that local ordinances be amended by September 24, 2024, to add criteria for coastal resilience, adaptation to sea level rise and climate change, preservation of mature trees, and planting of trees to the extent practical in establishing vegetation in RPAs. Staff have been participating in a Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) to develop guidance for implementation of the regulations. This guidance should be available in the first half of 2022; afterwards, staff will begin the process of amending the county's Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance.
- The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) is leading the development of a comprehensive Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan through the Resilient Fairfax initiative, which is evaluating climate hazard projections, vulnerabilities, risks, and

Water #5
Continued

resilience strategies for the county. DPD, DPWES and LDS are among the 20 departments and agencies on the Resilient Fairfax Planning Team. Resilient Fairfax strategies may include updates to ordinances and programs protecting streams, floodplains and other environmental assets.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

See the response above, many of the efforts are ongoing or have been completed.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Continued identification, protection and enhancement of environmentally-sensitive areas identified by EQAC through the policy and regulatory mechanisms.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There are no longer-range fiscal implications.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Water #6

(Page III-42-43 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Stormwater Funding Increase

EQAC recommends that the funding for the Stormwater Program be increased either by an increase in the Stormwater Service District rate in FY 2023 by at least one-quarter penny, from a rate of 3.25 cents per \$100 assessed real estate value to 3.50 cents per \$100 or that the increase occur through a change in the tax rate.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES - Stormwater

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Craig Carinci, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The FY 2023 Budget includes no increase to the stormwater tax rate of \$0.325 per \$100 of assessed real estate value; however, based on the increase in real estate assessment throughout the County, the Stormwater fund is anticipated to receive up to an additional \$7.2 million in FY 2023.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

In FY 2010, the Board of Supervisors (Board) established a Stormwater Service District to provide a dedicated funding source for stormwater management. A service district levy of \$0.010 (one cent) per \$100 of assessed real estate value was implemented. In FY 2011 and FY 2013, the Board approved increases of the levy to \$0.015 (one and a half cents) per \$100 of assessed real estate value and \$0.02 (two cents) per \$100 of assessed real estate value respectively. The Board approved \$0.0025 per \$100 assessed real estate value increases in FY 2015, FY 2016, FY 2017, FY 2018, and FY 2019. The FY 2022 rate of \$0.0325 (three and a quarter cents) per \$100 of assessed real estate value has remained unchanged since FY 2019. The increased rates have supported the re-establishment of a capital program for stormwater management providing for infrastructure reinvestment of existing failing facilities and implementation of critical capital projects to address other health and safety issues, improve stormwater quality, and reduce the impacts of stormwater flooding. Moreover, the county is responsible for the maintenance of a growing inventory of storm sewers and stormwater management facilities, valued at more than \$1 billion and \$550 million, respectively, as well as 20 state-regulated dams. The increased funding was needed to continue to demonstrate to state and federal regulatory agencies the county's commitment to maintaining previous levels of effort to comply with our Municipal Separate Storm

Water #6
Continued

Sewer System (MS4) permit as well as to address dam safety regulatory compliance requirements. Federal and state regulations associated with the Chesapeake Bay Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and the MS4 permit are placing unprecedented implementation requirements on the county.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Monitor future funding needs.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

The recommendation would require an approval by the Board of Supervisors for a rate increase.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Performing routine maintenance and infrastructure reinvestment and implementing water quality, flood mitigation and dam safety projects will result in extended infrastructure life expectancy, reduced expenses and liability attributable to public safety, flooding and MS4 permit violations. In addition, an adequately funded stormwater program will result in long-term economic benefits to the county. It is anticipated that increases in the Stormwater Service District rate will be needed in future budgets to support these investments.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Waste Management #1

(Page IV-49 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Institute Recycling Data Collection and Reporting

Data indicate that countywide residential curbside recycling is low. To obtain the cultural change needed to meet the Board's goals, the county is encouraged to continue improving outreach, but also to require private haulers to report to their customers their annual percentage of curbside collection that is recycled. In addition, institute outreach requirements and accurate data reporting policies on private waste haulers that result in increased recycling.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES – Solid Waste

COORDINATING AGENCY: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Eric Forbes, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

For many years, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) has assisted private collectors with outreach content suggestions and will continue to offer support in the way of educational and informative content. Collectors will be encouraged to use phone-based digital waste and recycling communication tools for outreach to customers, such as Recycle Coach or ReCollect. SWMP is now working to procure a phone-based digital waste and recycling communication tool.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

SWMP concurs with the recommendation that collectors report to their customers on their recycling rate, as there are many anticipated benefits from this change. However, collectors already report on their curbside recycling tonnages to SWMP via the annual recycling report process each year. The processes used to generate these reports have historically tended to be inaccurate estimates. Thus, the collector reported tonnages provide qualitative information on performance. SWMP uses compiled data from the Materials Recovery Facilities serving the region as that information is more accurate.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

In response to EQAC's recommendation, SWMP will undertake a significant upgrade in emphasizing to collectors the importance that recycling reports be accurate. SWMP will institute a new requirement to evaluate more closely the adequacy of recycling outreach and education being performed by collectors. During the annual license renewal process (called a Certificate-

Waste Management #1 Continued

to-Operate or CTO), SWMP will begin requiring collectors to provide specific details on the previous year's recycling rate, outreach to their customers, and require a summary of planned education and outreach that the collector will commit to performing in the year ahead. Specific areas of emphasis in the review will include provisions for planned information updates on webpages and social media sites, as well as a detailed information in the Statement of Service on recycling and waste reduction, to ensure that information is being distributed to customers in an effective and timely manner.

A new minimum standard will be imposed on collector outreach/education, requiring them to generate at least four "touch points" of recycling outreach annually. Touch points could include activities such as:

- Distributing flyers as bill inserts, by bulk mailings, or by mass electronic marketing;
- Providing the collector's individual recycling rate report, showing the reported rate for the previous year;
- Providing "real-time" feedback on customer performance/participation (e.g., "oops" or similar informational tags);
- Providing customers with tips on various recycling/waste reduction topics;
- Providing the already-required annual Statement of Service; and
- Regularly updating social media and website information.

In addition, SWMP will commit to a program of regular check-ins with material recycling facilities serving the county to gauge recovered material quality, the composition of process residuals, and related operational concerns.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

No budget impacts are anticipated.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

No long-range fiscal implications are anticipated.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Waste Management #2

(Page IV-49 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Institute Litter Control

EQAC recommends the following:

- Allow the Litter Control Task Force to complete their work *NEW*
- Support Virginia law changes for a container redemption fee (“bottle bill”) *Stalled*
- Enforce litter control requirements on Waste Haulers *NEW*

County streams and public land continue to be impacted by illegal dumping and litter. A multi-agency Litter Task Force has been commissioned to develop recommendations for the Board on changes and improvements to the county’s current system for investigating, addressing, and remediating litter. However, the Task Force has been directed to suspend activity pending further direction.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES – Solid Waste

COORDINATING AGENCIES: Clean Fairfax Council, County Executive – Legislative Director

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Charlie Forbes, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The first of the three recommendations in this section has already been addressed. The Litter Task Force completed its assignment and submitted a final report to the Board’s Environmental Committee on December 14, 2021.

SWMP supports the second element of EQAC’s recommendation, which calls for support of a bottle bill. However, SWMP is prohibited from lobbying.

SWMP does not concur with the third component of EQAC’s recommendation.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

SWMP does not concur with the third component of EQAC’s recommendation. For the purposes of this response, litter is a piece of waste or rubbish that has been disposed of improperly, without consent and at the wrong location (e.g., a cigarette butt or a candy wrapper thrown on the ground). Analysis performed by member organizations of the Litter Task Force showed that the majority of litter originates from two sources:

Waste Management #2 Continued

- Under-capacity or under-served waste and recycling systems at multi-family residences; and
- Failure to use rigid containers with lids for storage and set out of trash.

As noted to EQAC at the December 2021 meeting, requiring waste collectors to clean up dumpster litter is not an appropriate application of the County Code Chapter 109.1. Moreover, SWMP does not believe that this proposed solution would effectively address the root cause of the problem.

Additionally, implementing a more proactive enforcement approach to litter in this manner will move the SWMP enforcement focus and resources away from responding to the majority of current complaints, which are related to curbside collection service deficiencies (e.g., collection before 06:00, missed collections, mixing recyclables with refuse).

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

SWMP will evaluate the possibility of assigning enforcement and outreach resources to proactively address litter issues at their major source - multifamily residential properties. The management entities operating these properties are directly responsible for the waste management systems serving their residents. County Code Chapter 109.1 clearly states those responsibilities and provides the statutory authority to enforce them as summarized below.

Section 109.1-3-1 of the County Code requires managers of multi-family properties to provide to their community a recycling system such that:

- The size, design, and proper care of the containers shall be sufficient to provide for secure and sanitary storage for all refuse and recyclables generated by the residents for a seven-day period;
- Refuse and recyclables shall be collected on a frequency adequate to prevent overfilling or spilling of refuse or recyclables from storage containers, and in no case less than weekly; and
- Storage facilities shall be actively managed such that loose refuse, spillage, and litter is minimized and any spillage is removed from the ground within 24 hours. Outside storage containers shall be checked for proper closure daily to ensure litter is not blown around.

Failure to meet these requirements are routinely addressed by SWMP enforcement staff with property owners/operators, albeit in response to litter complaints rather than through a program of proactive inspections. These interactions with SWMP enforcement tend to be informal (i.e., the inspector will visit the problematic property, advise the property manager of their duties under the law, and return at a later time to ensure that an adequate response has been implemented). Anecdotally, repeat complaints and repeat violators have been rare.

Waste Management #2

Continued

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Additional SWMP resources and new positions would be required to increase levels of service for litter enforcement functions. SWMP is working to implement the recommendation from the Litter Task Force that the county create a dedicated unit to address the flow of waste entering our communities and waterways.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

The creation of additional positions and support resources to target litter will have long-range fiscal implications in the form of additional costs. As SWMP is a revenue-funded agency, these costs would need to be covered by an increase in system user fees.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Waste Management #3

(Page IV-50 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Establish Environmental Purchasing Numeric Targets

The county has expanded staff to improve environmental purchasing. However, without specific goals and reporting, it is difficult to assess how successful and worthwhile this investment is.

LEAD AGENCY: DPMM

COORDINATING AGENCY: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Nathalie Owen, DPMM

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Department of Procurement and Material Management (DPMM) remains committed to reducing the environmental and social impacts of the county's purchasing decisions and concurs with EQAC on the importance of data-driven programs. As previously shared with EQAC, the Sustainable Procurement Team is responsible for advancing not only greener procurement but also socially responsible procurement. As such, it has three areas of focus which are described below along with explanations of how their success is measured.

Note: As part of *FY 2021 Carryover Review*, DPMM received funding for one additional sustainable procurement position. The FY 2023 Budget includes additional funding and 2/2.0 FTE positions to support the Sustainable Procurement Program, and 1/1.0 FTE position to support the implementation of the County's Zero Waste Plan, with the hope of eventually growing this team from two to six full-time employees. As this program continues to expand and evolve, additional metrics will be developed.

- 1) Zero Waste and Green Purchasing: DPMM led a multi-department Zero Waste Team to create a [Zero Waste Plan](#) for county and school operations to achieve Zero Waste by 2030, and is now coordinating its implementation. The Plan emphasizes the importance of procurement and other system-wide reduction and reuse strategies as the most impactful solutions to reducing waste. The Zero Waste Team is now preparing the implementation structure to measure the county and schools' progress annually (both in terms of actions: steps taken by each department and school, and results: waste diversion and reduction data). This will include annual goal setting and reporting for all departments and schools.

In leading this Board-sponsored effort, DPMM will take advantage of Zero Waste strategies to also build on other areas of green purchasing. For example, a new Sustainable

Waste Management #3

Continued

Procurement Policy, part of Zero Waste implementation, will also address other environmental criteria such as energy efficiency and clean energy.

Measures of success include:

- a) Achieve 90 percent diversion from incinerators/landfills by 2030
 - b) Achieve 25 percent reduction in total waste reduction by 2030
 - c) Coordinate successful launch of Zero Waste program in 2022
 - d) More specific green purchasing goals are being developed as part of Zero Waste implementation
- 2) Corporate Social Responsibility: The Supply Chain Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiative, a pilot program which DPMM presented to EQAC on March 10, 2021. Through this initiative DPMM seeks to learn and address *how* products and services are produced (e.g. are they produced using responsible environmental practices such as renewable energy? Are they produced using fair labor practices and ethical decision-making?). The magnitude of such “upstream” impacts tends to be much larger than that of the products or services themselves. For example, on average across industries, supply chain carbon emissions are over five times greater than direct carbon emissions.² Thus, *who* we partner with matters. And with a \$700 million supply chain spanning thousands of types of commodities, CSR assessments may be the only comprehensive way to report on sustainability performance. With additional staffing resources, DPMM will integrate CSR more formally into the procurement process and develop sustainability performance protocols for its suppliers.

Pending approval of aforementioned requested staffing resources, measures of success will include:

- a) Integration of CSR program into existing procurement processes
 - b) Gradual improvements to supply chain’s sustainability performance (see [Annual CSR Snapshot](#)).
- 3) Supplier Diversity and Equity: This includes developing strategies for more equitable procurement processes and providing training and individual support to thousands of potential suppliers to make procurement opportunities more accessible to Small, Women-Owned, Minority-Owned, and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned businesses. This work includes supplier-facing strategies such as hosting workshops to educate potential suppliers on the county’s procurement processes and liaising with community partners that support diverse businesses, and internal strategies to make our procurement policies and processes fairer and more equitable. As an example of the latter, the Sustainable Procurement Team partnered with other staff from DPMM’s Equity Team to develop a step-by-step process to review draft procurement policies with an equity lens and recommend changes accordingly. Another example is a new requirement for county staff to request quotes from [Small, Woman-owned, and Minority-owned](#) (SWaM) vendors for informal procurement opportunities.

Measures of success include:

² Carbon Disclosure Project

Waste Management #3
Continued

- a) [Procurement participation and spend on Small, Women-owned, and Minority-owned businesses](#) (see past annual reports on DPMM's [Supplier Diversity webpage](#))
- b) Annual Equity Impact Plan and active Equity Team; tracking of DPMM's actions and accomplishments toward fairer and more equitable procurement policies and processes
- c) Numbers of attendees at Selling to Fairfax workshops

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

As explained above, DPMM continues to build its sustainable procurement program to align with county priorities including Zero Waste, the Operational Energy Strategy, One Fairfax, and more. Goals and reporting will continue to evolve as the program matures, however EQAC is invited to share what kinds of goals and reporting it would be particularly interested in seeing addressed.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Yes, the FY 2023 Budget includes 3/3.0 FTE positions to support the Sustainable Procurement Program and Zero Waste Plan in DPMM.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Waste Management #4

(Page IV-50 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Work with Covanta to Reduce Local Air Pollution Impacts

Studies conducted for the county indicate that the Covanta method of addressing waste is generally superior to landfilling with respect to GHG. However, there is increased NO_x and SO₂ emissions from Covanta relative to landfilling. Covanta is proceeding with controls to address NO_x and reduce local air quality impacts. GHG is a global issue. NO_x and SO₂ are local air pollution contributors that potentially impact Fairfax County residents' health.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES-Solid Waste

COORDINATING AGENCY: FCHD

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Eric Forbes, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is in the process of being addressed. The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) has worked with Covanta for many years to improve local air pollution impacts. Specifically, SWMP worked with Covanta to identify and fund improvements to the nitrogen oxides (NO_x) reduction technology at the facility. Covanta began the installation of Covanta LNTM (Low NO_x technology) in 2019. Currently, three out of the four boilers at the plant have been retrofitted and are in operation. The final boiler retrofit will be operational by July 1, 2022. The Covanta LNTM retrofit will result in more than 50 percent NO_x reduction when compared to 2018 levels. Retrofitted boilers are operating at 80-90 ppm NO_x versus the pre-retrofit levels of 195-200 ppm. Concurrently with the Covanta LNTM installation, SWMP has contracted with technical experts to evaluate available technologies that can further reduce NO_x and sulfur dioxide (SO₂) generation from the facility.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

SWMP concurs with the recommendation to work with Covanta to reduce local air quality impacts. Through analysis, there will be monetary and physical constraints that will be important considerations on any additional air quality improvements at the facility.

Further reduction in Covanta's NO_x and SO₂ emissions are possible. For example, the 2017 Reasonably Available Control Technology analysis outlined NO_x reductions to <50 ppm using Selective Catalytic Reduction but with significant increased operating costs and an initial capital cost of more than \$30 million. Retrofits of the dry scrubbing process to a wet or circulating

Waste Management #4

Continued

scrubber (to reduce SO₂) may be possible as well, but with significant investment required. The county will need to consider the current ambient air quality, potential reductions, and pollutants from other local sources to prioritize funding to achieve the best environmental benefit.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

SWMP will continue to evaluate applicable technologies that can improve local air quality impacts from the facility. Waste-to-energy technology evolves over time, and technologies may become more suitable and cost effective in the future.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Minimal budgetary impacts (less than \$25,000) are anticipated to fund research on suitable technologies for FY2023.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

If a technology is identified, and Covanta agrees to installation, substantial future fiscal impacts are anticipated.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Waste Management #5

(Page IV-50 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Consider Environmental and Safety Benefits of Sanitary Districts Petitions

There are environmental and safety benefits of having a single hauler for a neighborhood.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES-Solid Waste

COORDINATING AGENCY: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Eric Forbes, DPWES

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation has been evaluated by the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services' Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP), but SWMP does not concur with the recommendation.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

SWMP does not concur with the recommendation as it believes the Sanitary District process is not the appropriate instrument by which to implement a countywide "one neighborhood-one collector" scheme.

The Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Solid Waste Management Program (SWMP) concurs with EQAC's assessment that there are potential environmental and safety benefits to having a single collector service each community as that potentially limits the number of collection vehicles operating within neighborhoods, which could reduce air pollutant emissions and reduce the potential for vehicle accidents.

However, SWMP finds that the Sanitary District process is not the appropriate means by which to create single-collector service areas countywide. The Sanitary District process is regulated by Virginia statutes 15.2-858, 21-117.1, and 21-113, which grant residents the ability to petition the elected body (in this case, the Board of Supervisors) for the local government to provide waste collection services to their community. The process is regulated by Virginia statute and must be initiated by the residents. SWMP is not aware of any statutory authority by which it could unilaterally create Sanitary Districts. Were that authority to exist, SWMP does not currently have adequate infrastructure, personnel, or equipment to provide collection services countywide.

Waste Management #5

Continued

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

SWMP has evaluated establishing franchise collections, a practice found in other parts of the country, whereby the local government engages in a competitive process that assigns discreet areas of the jurisdiction to a single private-sector collector. Unfortunately, such a scheme would be very challenging to implement in Virginia, as the Commonwealth promulgated a statute several years ago which sets a very high bar for any community wishing to establish a franchised collection system.

Specifically, Section 15.2-934 of the Code of Virginia ("Displacement of Private Waste Companies") states that in order to create a franchise, the county must make a written finding that one or more of the following conditions are true:

- Privately-owned refuse disposal services are not available;
- Use of privately-owned services has endangered public health;
- Privately owned companies are not cost-efficient; or
- Displacement is necessary to provide service for two or more localities.

Even if one or more of the above conditions can be met, the county must either give a five-year notice to every company being displaced before trash and recycling services can be carried out by the county (or its franchised collector), or, if the county does not want to wait five years, it can pay the other displaced collectors serving the franchised area the equivalent of one year of receipts that the displaced collector would have earned, had they been allowed to continue collecting in the designated area.

Further, by whatever means or process that the county might use to award franchises, principal concerns expressed by the public and several Board members has been that such a process could have unintended consequences that would diminish the quality of the current system, including:

- A franchising process that would most likely favor large, corporate service providers, and thus would serve to displace many of the small, minority-owned firms.
- Having multiple collectors available as choices for the community promotes higher levels of service and lower costs to residents. Collections by a single county-franchised firm could eliminate or reduce those benefits.
- With a chronic national labor shortage and an ongoing pandemic, even the most successful and largest collectors are struggling to reliably service the residential customers that they have now. Expanding the customer base for only a handful of firms may ask more than any firm can currently provide.

Waste Management #5

Continued

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Implementing EQAC's recommendation at this time would not have significant budget implications in FY 2023 as the implementation cycle for such a shift would extend beyond the next fiscal year, with the likely budget implications taking effect in FY 2024 and beyond.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Implementing EQAC's recommendation would have significant long-range fiscal implications, including the addition of staff and support resources.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Parks and Ecological Resources #1

(Page V-57 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Increase Capacity for Environmental Review of Development Plans

EQAC appreciates that an MOU between Land Development Services and Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) is updated each year to ensure that the workload and demand of plan reviews are in sync. Nonetheless, the continued increase in infill applications combined with the ongoing challenge of sufficient review capacity has at times resulted in a lower quality review of the incoming applications than for which UFMD strives.

LEAD AGENCY: DPWES

COORDINATING AGENCY/AGENCIES: LDS, DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Brian Keightley, DPWES-UFMD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation has been addressed. The MOU between LDS and DPWES-Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) allows for a recalibration of level of effort each year between the departments. The increased number of infill application reviews over the past three years has been demanding on staff resources, but on average UFMD has been able to meet deadlines of review periods while maintaining and providing high quality review.

Though year-over-year plan review has continued to grow, UFMD has also had issues with employee attrition due to retirements and voluntary resignations. At one point in calendar year 2021, the Forest Conservation Branch, responsible for plan review, had four of its 13 positions vacant (a 31 percent vacancy rate). While the quality of review of incoming applications may have been affected on occasion by these challenges, UFMD provided high quality review of applications on a consistent basis. In addition, efficiencies have been gained by the new electronic plan review systems and the forthcoming PLUS system.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

LDS and DPWES will continue to meet annually to review overall level of efforts of UFMD plan review.

Parks and Ecological Resources #1

Continued

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

An additional Urban Forester II position is under review for possible inclusion in the FY 2024 or FY 2025 budget request.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

No.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Parks and Ecological Resources #2

(Page V-57 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Improve the Land Development Process by Prioritizing Trees

The way land is developed can either improve or degrade the ecologic function of an area. Processes and incentives can help ensure good ecological choices are made which can ensure longer term sustainability of our natural resources, improve climate resiliency, and help to mitigate the impacts of the current climate crisis. EQAC recommends the Board seek state authority, as needed, to improve this process. The September 2, 2021, Tree Commission letter to the Board of Supervisors detailed a clear set of six recommendations with which EQAC concurs:

- *A Natural Resources and Tree Inventory with a Conceptual Site Plan should be approved prior to submittal of the Site Plan.*
- *Increase property boundary setbacks for infill development and rezonings to provide adequate space for preservation of mature trees and planting of large shade trees.*
- *In areas with building height limitations, provide developers the option to build higher, thereby achieving more density, with a concurrent development condition that the building footprint must be reduced to allow for tree preservation or large shade tree plantings.*
- *Raise the fee in lieu to reflect appraised value.*
- *Analyze effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement.*
- *Identify high priority tree planting areas using an equity lens and vulnerability index.*

LEAD AGENCY: DPD, DPWES - UFMD

COORDINATING AGENCY: LDS, DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Joe Gorney, DPD and Brian Keightley, DPWES-UFMD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

A Natural Resources and Tree Inventory with a Conceptual Site Plan should be approved prior to submittal of the Site Plan.

DPD currently requires an Existing Vegetation Map (EVM) with submission of an entitlement application and with a site or subdivision plan. At time of site and subdivision plan (either by right or implementing a zoning action), there is a requirement to submit a Tree Inventory and Condition Analysis. The EVM delineates the different land cover types on the site, generally showing locations of existing tree canopy, developed land, open fields, and maintained grassland, among other land types. Existing tree canopy is further delineated and identified as

Parks and Ecological Resources #2

Continued

upland forest, early successional forest, bottomland forest, or landscaped tree canopy. A general description of the health and condition of the different forest types is provided, as well as the predominant species and the successional stage of each. The percentage of existing tree canopy covering the site is identified and, from this, the minimum Tree Preservation Target is calculated.

Increase property boundary setbacks for infill development and rezonings to provide adequate space for preservation of mature trees and planting of large shade trees.

The intent of this recommendation is addressed as follows. It should be noted that increasing setbacks from property lines would not necessarily result in preservation of mature trees because not all lots have healthy trees located at or near the property lines and it may be desirable to incorporate space for the retention of or the planting of large shade trees in other areas of a site. Tree preservation is a major issue during the entitlement process in order to ensure that quality trees are protected. During the zoning process, staff from the various disciplines work to maximize tree preservation of quality trees as well as planting of new trees on the site. By-right developments are also required to meet tree canopy requirements unless waivers are accepted due to site and/or tree conditions.

In areas with building height limitations, provide developers the option to build higher, thereby achieving more density, with a concurrent development condition that the building footprint must be reduced to allow for tree preservation or large shade tree plantings.

During the development review process, where appropriate, staff recommends increased heights to accommodate larger tree preservation and planting areas, subject to the limitations of the maximum heights anticipated by the Comprehensive Plan and those permitted by the Zoning Ordinance. These maximum heights are adopted by the Board of Supervisors and are developed with consideration of the heights of the surrounding uses and community input. The provisions of Chapter 122 of the County Code (Tree Preservation ordinance) are also evaluated during the development review process.

Raise the fee [to be paid into the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund] in lieu [of required tree planting] to reflect appraised value.

The recommendation has not been addressed as it is generally preferred that the required tree canopy be provided on site. However, where that is not possible, a contribution to the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund can be accepted. Currently the fee in lieu is based on the county's Unit Price Schedule which is updated annually and reflects the cost of materials and installation. The concern is that the prices for landscaping, including tree planting, do not provide full compensation for the loss of mature trees cleared to open space for approved construction activities on development sites. The appraised value of trees uses methods described in the Guide for Plant Appraisal, developed by the Council of Tree and Landscape Appraisers, and published by the International Society of Arboriculture. There are several different methods of appraisal that consider factors that can include species, size, condition rating, and location on the site. Appraised value has been used to calculate the bond held by the county specifically for trees to be preserved on a site. Appraisal methods have not been used to calculate the fee to be paid in lieu of tree planting to meet the 10-year tree canopy requirement for the site.

Parks and Ecological Resources #2

Continued

Analyze effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement.

No, this exact request has not been addressed directly. Indirectly, the Fairfax County Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) has previously undertaken an extensive baseline data collection effort to assess the tree and forest resources countywide and maintains tree cover data from 1990 to the present. UFMD also commissioned a study in 2016 to analyze changes in the county's land cover between 2011 and 2015 using satellite imagery. This effort will be repeated within the next two years using 2020 data.

Identify high priority tree planting areas using an equity lens and vulnerability index.

Yes, the recommendation is already being developed by staff in the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services (DPWES) and the Department of Planning and Development (DPD). In alignment with One Fairfax and the countywide strategic plan, staff applied a social equity lens to evaluate its service delivery methods and decision-making processes relative to tree planting in the county. DPWES worked with partnering agencies to identify GIS resources related to social equity and to identify best practices in evaluating service delivery effectiveness and informing decision-making processes. The resulting analysis led to the creation of a bi-variate map, which used a Vulnerability Index and Land Cover to highlight potential high-impact service delivery areas, in which existing tree canopy coverage is low and social vulnerability is high. As a result of this analysis, the Urban Forest Management Division (UFMD) worked with DPD to start a pilot project with a non-profit organization (NGO) to plant trees in areas identified as vulnerable along the Richmond Highway Corridor. Preliminary results from this pilot project have been extremely successful and staff is working to continue to expand this pilot into a full program with the support of the Board of Supervisors.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

A Natural Resources and Tree Inventory with a Conceptual Site Plan should be approved prior to submittal of the Site Plan.

The concern is that the EVM does not provide enough detailed information nor are there explicit requirements to use the information in the EVM to guide the project design. The EVM does not delineate areas where the most valuable trees for preservation are located. Layout and preliminary engineering may be done without serious consideration of the environmental resources on the site. The EQAC recommendation would place more emphasis on the value of existing resources and their integration into the proposed project design to preserve those resources, provide environmental services, and add value to the project.

Staff concurs with the intent of the recommendation to consider valuable trees during the site design process. This intent is already met for zoning application cases by review of an existing vegetation map during review of zoning applications. This recommendation would change the system of regulating tree preservation during by-right development, requiring additional fees and staff resources. Staff does not agree with the recommendation to require an additional plan submittal in by-right cases.

Parks and Ecological Resources #2

Continued

Increase property boundary setbacks for infill development and rezonings to provide adequate space for preservation of mature trees and planting of large shade trees.

Preservation of quality vegetation is prioritized during the zoning process, thus addressing a portion of this recommendation. For the reason set forth above it is not recommended that setbacks for infill development be increased as doing so would not necessarily result in increased tree preservation.

In areas with building height limitations, provide developers the option to build higher, thereby achieving more density, with a concurrent development condition that the building footprint must be reduced to allow for tree preservation or large shade tree plantings.

Zoning districts each include maximum heights, which, when considered in conjunction with setbacks, help promote compatibility between adjacent uses. An increase in heights might not be desired by neighboring properties, particularly residential properties, even with an increase in setbacks.

Much of the new development within the county is entitled through the public hearing process, during which issues such as the balance between increased height and tree preservation are considered.

Regarding height increases for by-right development, public support for such a provision might be limited, especially in consideration of views, aesthetics, and shadow effect.

Raise the fee [to be paid into the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund] in lieu [of required tree planting] to reflect appraised value.

While appraisal could establish a more accurate value in terms of the actual tree resources on the site, it seems inappropriate to attempt to recoup full compensation for the value of tree resources and not consider the value of improvements to the site provided by development for which the trees were removed. Granted, landscape costs in the county's Unit Price Schedule could be raised to reflect price of material, delivery to the planting site, installation, warranty, maintenance during the establishment period including irrigation and pruning to improve structure, and a reasonable profit.

Analyze effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement.

Staff concurs with this recommendation but acknowledges that this type of geo-statistical analysis is outside of the capabilities of current program areas within the county. Staff agrees that there would be value in determining the effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement.

Identify high priority tree planting areas using an equity lens and vulnerability index.

N/A

Parks and Ecological Resources #2

Continued

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

A Natural Resources and Tree Inventory with a Conceptual Site Plan should be approved prior to submittal of the Site Plan.

Additional information could be required with the EVM, to include an analysis of the benefits of each forest cover type in terms of environmental services and value to the project as well as identification of valuable trees for preservation. An environmental services analysis could include energy conservation, stormwater mitigation, air quality, and carbon storage benefits.

In cases of entitlement applications, the EVM and the associated environmental services provided by those resources could be submitted with the proposed concept plan to better inform the development review process. For impacts to identified resources, the applicant could be required to state how any proposed alternative better provides those services.

In cases of by-right development, in addition to quantifying the environmental services provided by on-site resources, the EVM would be compared to the proposed structures and site disturbance as part of the site review process. As with entitlement applications, for impacts to identified resources, the applicant could be required to state how any proposed alternative better provides those services. If requested, a Natural Resources and Tree Inventory Plan could be required with the site plan.

Increase property boundary setbacks for infill development and re-zonings to provide adequate space for preservation of mature trees and planting of large shade trees.

For the reasons stated previously, no action is recommended to amend minimum setback requirements. However, the Public Facilities Manual provides for soil quality enhancements to soils impacted by the construction process. Consideration could be given to enhanced soil preparation for all pervious areas where planting occurs, to ensure that construction activities, particularly grading, the loss of topsoil, and compaction, are remediated.

In areas with building height limitations, provide developers the option to build higher, thereby achieving more density, with a concurrent development condition that the building footprint must be reduced to allow for tree preservation or large shade tree plantings.

No action is recommended.

Raise the fee [to be paid into the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund] in lieu [of required tree planting] to reflect appraised value.

Continue to base the fee in lieu of required tree planting on the county's Unit Price Schedule. Ensure that landscaping prices reflect the full cost of planting material and maintaining plants through the establishment period. UFMD should be consulted in the establishment of prices for landscaping.

Parks and Ecological Resources #2

Continued

Analyze effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement.

In addition to a landscape-level analysis of 10-year tree canopy, individual case studies would be useful to highlight changes within redevelopment areas, including tree preservation, canopy loss, and the survivability and growth of tree plantings.

Identify high priority tree planting areas using an equity lens and vulnerability index.

N/A

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Yes, to analyze the effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement. To begin a study of this level would require dedicated funding. This level of analysis would likely require the assistance of a consultant.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

A Natural Resources and Tree Inventory with a Conceptual Site Plan should be approved prior to submittal of the Site Plan.

Yes. Adding complexity to the submission requirements may increase staff time required for each review and ultimately require additional staffing to accommodate application volume.

Analyze effectiveness of the 10-year tree canopy requirement

Yes, the recommendation above would have long-range fiscal implications depending on if this would be a one-time or reoccurring study.

Identify high priority tree planting areas using an equity lens and vulnerability index

Yes, as the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund is utilized more for this type of effort, there may be a need for supplemental funding from the Board of Supervisors.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Parks and Ecological Resources #3

(Page V-57 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Seek More Stable Funding Sources for Fairfax County Park Authority (FCPA) Initiatives

Budgeting challenges for FCPA result in instability over the long-term, particularly in terms of maintenance for and management of the parks' natural resources. EQAC recommends the Board work with staff to seek additional means of stable, long-term funding for FCPA's natural resources maintenance activities. Ideas include, but are not limited to, the creation of a new natural resources management tax district to provide steady revenue each year, expanding the Fund 40080, Integrated Pest Management Program definition to include invasive plants and perhaps even deer, or establish funding through the budget process to support an FCPA ecologist maintenance program with additional staff positions to address long-term natural resource management needs across FCPA's approximately 17,000 acres of natural area.

LEAD AGENCY: FCPA

COORDINATING AGENCY: DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: John Burke, FCPA

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

Yes, a budget proposal for long-term FCPA ecological maintenance as well as an expansion of Fund 40080, Integrated Pest Management Program have been proposed by FCPA and DPWES-UFMD, respectively. These proposals address invasive plant control and other ecological maintenance activities on county and FCPA properties. FCPA continues to apply for and receive funding for the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program through Fairfax County's Environmental Improvement Program. IMA works with hundreds of volunteers throughout the county to control and educate the public on invasive plant management, a key component of ecological maintenance. The IMA program was awarded \$300,000 in funding in FY 2022 to continue its mission and seeks to expand its staffing and funding in future fiscal years. An increase of \$50,000 for total funding to \$350,000 is included in the FY 2023 Budget. The efforts of IMA volunteers and staff continue to work toward ecological maintenance on FPCA property.

Ecological maintenance activities have also been undertaken on parkland and public land by Operation Stream Shield, an employment program for county residents experiencing homelessness. Operation Stream Shield is managed by DPWES-Stormwater and has supported numerous restoration efforts on FCPA property by providing funding, transportation, and training for maintenance work teams. Operation Stream Shield has proven extremely beneficial and additional funding for this effort would directly benefit FCPA as well as the nonprofits and employees associated with the program.

Parks and Ecological Resources #3 Continued

FCPA's Natural Resources Branch continues to apply and receive ecological maintenance funding through Fairfax County's Environmental Improvement Program (EIP), grants, donations, and proffers. When applicable, the Natural Resources Branch prioritized the use of the funding for ecological maintenance and protection activities on its property.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

FCPA concurs with this recommendation. FCPA recognize that there is a pressing need for protection and maintenance of Fairfax County's natural resources and a dearth of staff and funding currently available for ecological maintenance activities.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

The Board should continue to work with staff to seek additional means of stable, long-term funding for FCPA's natural resources maintenance activities to include program budget proposals, grant opportunities, proffers, and other funding avenues for natural resources maintenance.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Yes. If implemented, funding for a FCPA ecological maintenance program would likely require county budget funding which would draw funding otherwise allocated to other county programs or be generated through expansion of existing taxes or service districts. Initiating a new ecological maintenance program would require startup funding for staff, tools, and supplies.

While the expansion of Fund 40080 Integrated Pest Management Program could ultimately result in an increase of available funding for ecological maintenance on FCPA property, administration of the fund may result in the need for more staff.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

The recommendation of stable funding for maintenance and management of parks' natural resources would have long-range fiscal implication. Funding would need to be allocated to multiple full-time, Ecologist class positions to guide ecological maintenance and oversee the activities of contractors and consultants. Further, continuing operational funding would be necessary for supplies, tools, and equipment to support in-house maintenance activities. With 17,000 acres of undeveloped land, restoration and protection activities would need increasing levels of support as stewardship activities grow.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Parks and Ecological Resources #4

(Page V-58 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Strengthen Authority to Address Management of Invasive Species Throughout the County

EQAC supports the current exploration into what the county can do to provide further support in the management of all invasive plant species. While state authority provides for allowing penalties for landowners not controlling running bamboo, this could introduce potential equity issues. As such, EQAC appreciates staff's broader exploration into a more holistic and equitable solution to the growing problem of invasive plants, such as the possible creation of a special tax district to assist with funding invasive removal on private property. Additional ideas include:

- Seeking ways to work with developers to avoid the use of non-native invasive plants in landscaping and to include a ban on homeowner use of non-native invasive plants, similar to the Reston Association, in initial covenants of new developments.
- Seeking authority to fund matching grants through the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District to treat invasive plants.
- Supplementing any additional programmatic solutions with additional resources for public outreach and education about using native plants and avoiding non-native invasives.

LEAD AGENCY: FCPA

COORDINATING AGENCY: DPWES-UFMD, DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: John Burke, FCPA

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is in the process of being addressed. Invasive plants remain a major concern for land managers in Fairfax County. To reduce the use of invasive plants in new developments in the county and reduce the proliferation of invasive plants overall, FCPA staff represented FCPA and Fairfax County at the Virginia Invasive Plant Workgroup, a state-led effort to assemble stakeholders in invasive plant management to discuss strategies for mitigation and control. The Virginia Invasive Plant Workgroup provided recommendations to the state legislature for invasive plant management including establishing point-of-sale labeling, defining sunset periods for banned plants, providing outreach to consumers and homeowners, and clarifying key terms in the definition of the state's noxious weed law.

Additionally, FCPA, DPWES-Stormwater Planning Division (SWPD), and the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD) have proposed a joint effort to the Fairfax County Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) to manage an invasive water chestnut (*trapa bispinosa*) on public property and provide funding for control of water chestnut on HOA and

Parks and Ecological Resources #4 Continued

house of worship properties. Funding of \$102,927 has been included in the FY 2023 Budget to provide support and guidance for private land owners on water chestnut management and introduce public private partnerships for the purposes on invasive plant control in Fairfax County.

In addition, an increase of \$50,000 for a total of \$350,000 has been included in the FY 2023 Budget for the Invasive Management Area (IMA) program. IMA works with over 60 site leaders and hundreds of volunteers throughout the county to control and educate the public on invasive plant management. The IMA program was awarded \$300,000 in FY 2022 funding to continue these efforts and seeks to expand its staffing and funding as interest in invasive management grows. IMA seeks to establish volunteer worksites throughout the county, distributing the efforts of FCPA staff and site leaders to equitably serve Fairfax County. IMA also partnered last year with NVSWCD to implement tree planting and revegetation efforts at park invasive removal sites in underserved regions of Fairfax. IMA looks to foster this partnership and utilize surplus supplies from the NVSWCD annual seedling sale, to support its mission.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Yes, FCPA and DPWES-UFMD concur with the recommendation and continue to explore grants, budget proposals, and other funding avenues for managing invasive plants. FCPA, UFMD, SWPD, and NVSWCD continue to coordinate closely on the issue of invasive plant management and work together to identify funding for management on public property as well as grant opportunities for private property, countywide.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

The county and FCPA should continue to explore equitable funding solutions for invasive plant management, to include the possibility of an additional tax district to assist with funding invasive removal on private property, public private partnerships for invasive plant management, expanded EIP funding, grants, and other options. Currently funded invasive management efforts, such as IMA, play a critical role in private outreach and invasive management and should be supported.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Funding for both the IMA and water chestnut program have been included in the FY 2023 Budget. If supported, expansion of the pest management service district to include invasive plant control would also require funding for staff to administer.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Any additional programs intended to manage, educate, and control invasive plants in Fairfax County will ultimately result in a greater need for staff and operational funding. Invasive plant

Parks and Ecological Resources #4
Continued

management programs require professional class employees with the ability to educate on, identify, and manage invasive plants. As these programs grow and are created, funding for merit Ecologist and Urban Forester classes must be considered.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Climate and Energy #1

(Page VI-66-67 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Adopt Climate and Energy-Related Recommendations from Other Chapters

These recommendations from other chapters all share the goal of addressing key climate and energy issues identified by EQAC:

- Land Use 1: Update the State of the Plan and Concept for Future Development Map.
- Land Use 2: Advance land development applications and information.
- Land Use 3: Improve processes to minimize ecological degradation from development pressure.
- Land Use 4: Private sector green building standards.
- Transportation 1: Develop a formal plan to increase light-duty electric vehicle (EV) registrations to at least 15 percent of total registrations by 2030.
- Transportation 2: Develop a formal plan to increase transit and non-motorized commuting (including teleworking) to at least 30 percent by 2030, including setting interim target goals to be achieved by 2024 and 2027.
- Water 1: EQAC recommends that those policies and ordinances protecting streams, floodplains and designated Environmental Quality Corridors (EQCs) should remain unchanged or be enhanced. The protection of environmental assets is an essential part of resiliency planning in the face of climate change.
- Parks and Ecological Resources 1: Increase capacity for environmental review of development plans.
- Parks and Ecological Resources 2: Improve the land development process by prioritizing trees.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The recommendation, which lists nine specific recommendations from four different chapters of EQAC's 2021 Annual Report and urges their adoption, has not already been addressed by the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), nor is the OEEC in the process of addressing it.

Climate and Energy #1

Continued

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

OEEC does not concur with this recommendation. OEEC also considers this recommendation ambiguous. For example, it is unclear in what context, when, or by whom adoption would occur.

A recommendation to adopt nine listed recommendations from different chapters of the Annual Report on the Environment is incompatible with the established process for responding to EQAC's recommendations. This long-standing process contemplates that each EQAC recommendation is addressed individually by a lead agency and typically one or more coordinating agencies. Blanket adoption incorrectly assumes that it is appropriate and reasonable to accept EQAC's recommendations – in this case, nine recommendations in the areas of transportation, stormwater, parks and ecological resources, and land use – without considering the expert analysis and input provided by staff, including concerns that they may raise.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

For the reasons explained above, no action should be taken pursuant to this EQAC recommendation. Action can be taken in response to each of the nine individual recommendations, as described in the applicable staff responses to those recommendations.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications if action is not taken.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There are no long-range fiscal implications if action is not taken.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Climate and Energy #2

(Page VI-67 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Establish Plans and Milestones and Assess the Progress Made by Fairfax County Efforts and Virginia's Implementation of the Virginia Clean Economy Act.

Given that the GHG emissions associated with electricity should be addressed by the power providers, additional plans with milestones would be helpful to gauge our ability to meet the county's net-zero goal for transportation, off-road emissions, and commercial operation emissions associated with fossil fuel combustion.

There are multiple activities that will contribute to GHG emission reductions, and it is important to see that these activities are working as intended. Moreover, it is important to seek out additional opportunities to reduce GHG emissions as new opportunities will likely arise in the future due to technological or other changes that might not have been considered viable today.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli and John Morrill, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) is addressing that portion of the EQAC recommendation that pertains to Fairfax County action. In particular, OEEC is tracking energy use and GHG emissions associated with all aspects of county operations in accordance with the goals and targets of the Operational Energy Strategy (OES) as revised in 2021.

In addition, OEEC is building capacity to track energy use and GHG emissions in aggregate from the community. Monitoring annual aggregate energy use in buildings is a useful method of gauging the overall performance of community effort to reduce GHG emission, whether due to county programs, utility programs, energy prices or other factors.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

OEEC does not concur with that portion of the recommendation that pertains to the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA), because the VCEA is a state, not county, matter. The development

Climate and Energy #2

Continued

of VCEA plans and milestones and the assessment of progress on VCEA implementation are activities that are being done at the state level.

The Virginia State Corporation Commission (SCC) has been very active in developing plans and milestones regarding VCEA implementation, particularly as the VCEA affects Virginia's two largest state-regulated electric utilities, Dominion Energy Virginia (Dominion) and Appalachian Power Company (APCo). The SCC also has a role in assessing progress on VCEA implementation. For example, the SCC's September 1, 2021 annual report to the Virginia General Assembly, [Status Report on the Implementation of the Virginia Electric Utility Regulation Act pursuant to Section 56-596 B of the Code of Virginia](#), includes information on VCEA implementation.

The Virginia Department of Energy (VDOE) (formerly the Virginia Department of Mines Minerals and Energy) is also involved in VCEA implementation, including assessing progress. The VDOE maintains a dashboard entitled "Virginia's Progress Towards a Cleaner Electric Grid" at <http://cleanenergyva.dmme.virginia.gov/>. As explained on the VDOE's website, the dashboard is designed to enable state policy makers, other stakeholders, and the general public to track Virginia's progress towards the realization of the state's clean energy goals, including those found in the VCEA. For each of several quantitative measures, the dashboard displays data on current progress, in the context of historic experience and legislated future targets. The dashboard is designed to be updated as new data become available. According to VDOE, "it is hoped that the dashboard will assist all stakeholders by providing accountability towards realization of Virginia's clean economy goals."

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

OEEC will continue to develop internal capacity to track energy use throughout the community to quantify GHG emissions on an annual basis.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications for this work for FY 2023.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

The task of tracking progress toward OES and Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) goals does not have long-range fiscal implications. However, the development and use of programs in the community and investments in county operations to achieve those goals has continuing fiscal implications that will be addressed in annual budget requests.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Climate and Energy #3

(Page VI-67 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Undertake a Major Outreach and Educational Campaign on the Actions Businesses and Residents Can Take to Reduce GHG Emissions

Efforts to address climate change are critical to the future and community support is important. County residents and businesses need good information about ways that they can reduce their carbon footprint. Areas to be highlighted in the outreach and educational campaign include:

- Promoting the importance of vehicles, buses, and large transport vehicles that will reduce GHG emissions, especially electronic vehicles.
- Promoting the importance of reducing energy consumption through energy efficiency and reducing the use of energy.
- Promoting the use of battery-powered lawn mowers and other tools that rely on battery power.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: FCDOT, FCPA, DPWES

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli and Ali Althen, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) concurs with this EQAC recommendation and is already taking steps to address it.

On September 14, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) accepted the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, or CECAP, setting in motion an implementation effort to reduce local greenhouse gas emissions dramatically by 2050. The long-term goal of CECAP is to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 within the community, with 87 percent of emission reductions coming from local sources as opposed to carbon offsets. In addition, CECAP sets interim goals of reducing local emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and by 75 percent by 2040 along with a series of ambitious sector-specific goals. Two of those sector-specific goals have been identified by EQAC as its first and second transportation recommendations.

Achieving the ambitious CECAP goals will require a host of actions and activities, including federal and state legislative and regulatory changes and the development and marketing of innovative technologies and products by the private sector. Achieving these goals also will require that individual members of the community assume responsibility for reducing their

Climate and Energy #3

Continued

emissions. To this end, CECAP identifies and encourages voluntary action by members of the community.

Because much of CECAP is predicated on voluntary action by community members, public education and outreach is a critical component of the county's implementation efforts. As used by OEEC:

- *Public education* encompasses activities meant to inform individuals about the nature of the problem and possible solutions. Public education also includes the dissemination of messaging and materials designed to drive people to take action individually or collectively. Educational activities and tactics may include the development and deployment of web content, social media campaigns, video, audio and other multimedia content, webinars, seminars, ad campaigns, PSAs, presentations, briefings, and more.
- *Public outreach* includes activities meant to engage individuals in solutions and to involve stakeholders in activities to address our local greenhouse gas emissions. Outreach takes a step beyond education and provides opportunities for action. Outreach activities may provide people with a means of learning and practicing a new skill that will carry over into their daily lives. Outreach activities and tactics may include workshops, competitions and challenges, incentive programs, demonstrations, public/private partnerships, office hours or personal planning sessions, and more.

The OEEC is launching its “Carbon-Free Fairfax” initiative, which draws inspiration from CECAP to provide opportunities for county residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to take meaningful action to reduce their own GHG emissions. Carbon-Free Fairfax will include multiple education and outreach campaigns designed to reach specific audience segments within the county with messaging, materials, and opportunities for action and involvement.

The OEEC is developing short-term and long-term CECAP implementation plans that it anticipates presenting to the Board during Environmental Committee meetings in 2022 and beyond. In lieu of a single “major” campaign, as stated in the EQAC recommendation, these plans will include multiple education and outreach campaigns targeting specific audience segments within the county. Each plan will involve numerous elements designed to reach targeted audiences with messaging, materials, and opportunities for action and involvement.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Through Carbon-Free Fairfax, the OEEC will be conducting eight public education and outreach campaigns through June 2023. These campaigns cover topics including no- and low-cost energy efficient improvements and behavior modifications, electric vehicles and charging infrastructure, solar installations and battery options, energy audits or assessments, electrification of buildings and equipment, efficient maintenance of an HVAC system, evaluation of alternate forms of transportation, and the financial implications of specific climate actions. Articles, social media

Climate and Energy #3

Continued

content, webinars, downloadable decision-making toolkits, and other resources are being developed under these campaigns. Additional campaigns will be developed and undertaken over time.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are unlikely to be budget implications for FY 2023, because initial education and outreach efforts, including those undertaken in FY 2023, will be funded using a portion of the \$2.2 million approved by the Board as part of *FY 2021 Carryover Review* to implement the CECAP and Zero Waste initiatives.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

The public education and outreach campaigns are expected to have long-range fiscal implications, but total resource needs are unknown at this time. Fiscal implications depend in part on factors including the need for contract services and the establishment of incentive or other financial assistance programs to bolster the education and outreach programs.

Additional staff support will be needed to carry out climate and energy-related education and outreach initiatives, including Carbon-Free Fairfax. The OEEC anticipates a need for two new community outreach positions to help staff oversee these initiatives. These two new positions would require funding of \$303,226 for salaries, operational expenses, equipment, and fringe benefits.

Additional staff and funding needs may be identified in future fiscal years.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Climate and Energy #4

(Pages VI-67-68 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Appoint a Group of Business Leaders to Advise the Board on Climate and Energy Issues

EQAC recommends that the Board of Supervisors appoint this group. The ideas, creativity and actions of the business community should be recognized, and they could add significantly to the tools used to reduce GHG emissions. This kind of leadership is important to promote climate and energy interests with the business community in Fairfax County.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is directed to the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors (Board). Consequently, it has not already been addressed by the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), nor is the OEEC in the process of addressing it. OEEC, however, is in the process of revitalizing its [Green Business Partners](#) program, and this revitalized program could provide outcomes similar to those EQAC seeks with this recommendation.

As a preliminary matter, OEEC notes that the recommendation is potentially ambiguous. OEEC construes it as EQAC's support for the creation of a new Board, Authority or Commission (BAC) to advise the Board, even though the recommendation does not use this terminology. Please see [Procedural Memorandum 01-02](#) (2004) for more information regarding BACs.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Especially over the last several years, the Board has been at the forefront of climate and energy matters, as evidenced by its 2021 adoption of both the Carbon Neutral Counties Declaration and an Operational Energy Strategy with ambitious goals and targets intended to achieve energy carbon neutrality by 2040. In making the recommendation for an advisory board, EQAC does not point to any need on the part of the Board for additional input on climate and energy issues. Rather, based on the Justification and Background discussion, it appears that EQAC's recommendation is intended to increase the recognition and the input of the business community:

[t]he ideas, creativity and actions of the business community should be recognized, and they could add significantly to the tools used to reduce GHG

Climate and Energy #4

Continued

emissions. This kind of leadership is important to promote climate and energy interests with the business community in Fairfax County.

While OEEC agrees with EQAC with respect to the creativity and potential influence and leadership of the business community, it believes that the county's [Green Business Partners](#) (GBP) initiative, which OEEC plans to revitalize and relaunch in 2022, can more effectively provide the recognition, input and leadership opportunities that EQAC seeks than an advisory body. As shown by the Partner Profiles in the [GBP Directory](#), participating businesses actively engage in and share their sustainable practices and demonstrate their leadership with both quantitative and qualitative results. The planned addition of new GBP elements in 2022 and beyond, including mentoring opportunities, workshops, and success stories highlighting members' ideas, creativity, and actions, should provide the outcomes that EQAC seeks with this recommendation.

If EQAC is committed to the establishment of an advisory body, OEEC believes that EQAC can take at least three preliminary actions before renewing its recommendation.

First, it would be helpful for EQAC to address whether one or more of the 84 [Boards, Authorities and Commissions \(BACs\)](#) that currently advise the Board of Supervisors could fill some or all of the role(s) that EQAC envisions for its proposed advisory board.

Second, as a BAC with an interest in climate and energy issues, EQAC may have a role to play soliciting the input of business leaders on these topics over an extended period of time – a trial period of perhaps a year or so – and relaying that input to the Board, whether in the form of resolutions or as part of its annual recommendation process. As a result of this trial period, EQAC may find that it can play a valuable role in identifying the input it believes is needed from the business community and in serving as an effective conduit for that input to the Board. EQAC also may find that its efforts in this area obviate the perceived need for a separate advisory council whose responsibilities may overlap with its own.

Third, if EQAC finds after this trial period ends that it still supports the establishment of a new advisory body, then it should renew its recommendation but provide sufficient detail to guide the creation of the body it envisions. Initial items for EQAC consideration could include:

- Definitions of the key terms “business leaders” and “climate and energy issues;”
- The purposes and responsibilities of the advisory body;
- Whether the duration of the recommended advisory body is time-limited or perpetual and, if perpetual, how the purpose(s) of the advisory board should evolve and be memorialized over time;
- The number of members and their terms;
- Member selection criteria;
- The type of input that the advisory body is expected to provide and to whom, and the frequency of that input; and
- The role of staff support, if any.

Climate and Energy #4
Continued

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

For the reasons explained above, no action should be taken pursuant to this EQAC recommendation.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications if action is not taken.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There are no long-range fiscal implications if action is not taken

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Climate and Energy #5

(Pages VI-68 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Work with VACo and NVRC to Explore, Promote, and Provide Incentives for Visitors to Have Access to EV Charging

EQAC recommends that the county work with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) to explore, promote, and possibly provide incentives so that visitors to Fairfax County and other areas in Virginia and neighboring states will have access to efficient (i.e. quick) charging for electric vehicles.

Just as cars need to refuel with gasoline, electric vehicles will require charging stations. Electric vehicles typically have a range of about 200 to 300 miles before they need to recharge. Therefore, travelers going to destinations longer than this distance will require charging stations to continue on their journey.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: FCDOT, DPD, OCA, LDS

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) has not addressed this recommendation, nor is it in the process of doing so. As explained below, since EQAC developed and released this recommendation, circumstances have changed significantly with respect to the development and funding of electric vehicle (EV) charging networks. Among other things, the White House has pledged to commit \$7.5 billion from a bipartisan infrastructure law towards improving and expanding a national EV charging network. The federal plan, which is expected to create new public chargers both for local commuting and longer-distance traveling, will be implemented by states working with their local governments. According to a [White House fact sheet](#), as a result of federal infrastructure investments, Virginia is likely to receive approximately \$106 million over five years to support the expansion of its charging network and will have the opportunity to apply for an estimated \$2.5 billion in grant funding. Fairfax County anticipates participating in the expansive state effort, possibly in conjunction with the Virginia Association of Counties (VACo) and/or the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC).

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Climate and Energy #5

Continued

OEEC has a number of reservations and concerns regarding the recommendation as stated by EQAC. However, there is no need for OEEC to take a position regarding concurrence given that it intends to participate in the state's efforts to increase and expand the EV charging network in Virginia.

OEEC finds that EV drivers have a variety of tools at their disposal to find EV charging infrastructure, and it appears that drivers of EVs in Virginia have better-than-average access to EV charging stations. As of March 2021, Virginia ranked [11th nationwide](#) in terms of accessibility to EV charging stations. According to the online [EV Charging Station Locator](#) maintained by the U.S. Department of Energy's Alternative Fuels Data Center (AFDC), as of December 2021 there were 988 publicly-available Level 2 and Level 3 charging stations with a total of 2,675 charging ports located in Virginia. And numerous resources allow EV drivers to readily locate these EV charging stations. For example:

- Information about nearby charging stations is typically available via the in-dash screens of the EVs themselves, particularly if the driver is a member of or has a subscription to a commercial charging network.
- A driver can enter a search term such as "EV charging station location" into a browser like Google to obtain numerous relevant results, including locators operated by commercial entities ChargePoint, Electrify America, EVgo, SemaConnect, and Volta. Station locators operated by commercial providers typically provide address and phone number information as well as directions and mapping.
- The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) provides an [EV charging station feature via its 511 Virginia program](#). This feature assists drivers in locating an EV charging station when traveling in Virginia by enabling the "EV Charging Stations" layer within a mobile or web application. Using location data sourced from the AFDC site, the feature provides motorists with access to information for each station, including the station name, street address, phone number, EV connector types and EV charging network name.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

For the reasons explained above, no action should be taken pursuant to this EQAC recommendation.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications if action is not taken.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There are no long-range fiscal implications if action is not taken.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Climate and Energy #6

(Pages VI-68 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Take Actions in the CECAP Report that the County Can Take Immediately

If there is concern about implementing all of those labeled as immediate for the timeframe, prioritize those recommendations that will be needed to support charging for EV, such as Action 7C, Install EV Chargers in New Buildings.

LEAD AGENCY: OEEC

COORDINATING AGENCIES: None

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Susan Hafeli, OEEC

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) includes 37 specific “actions” across 12 different “strategies,” as these terms are used in the CECAP report, to achieve CECAP’s long-term, interim and sector-specific goals. These 37 actions include over 270 recommendations, or sub-actions. The most immediate action that the county, through the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), can take to implement the CECAP actions and sub-actions is to prioritize them, so that those with the most significant impact in terms of reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions can be designated as the highest priority.

To the extent this EQAC recommendation is understood as expressing support for staff prioritization of the CECAP actions and sub-actions, then OEEC is in the process of addressing it. Appropriately prioritizing the actions and sub-actions ensures that attention and resources are focused on those actions and sub-actions that are most likely to achieve meaningful reductions in GHG emissions. In addition to its prioritization efforts, OEEC is launching its “Carbon-Free Fairfax” initiative, which draws inspiration from CECAP to provide opportunities for county residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to take meaningful action to reduce their own GHG emissions. Carbon-Free Fairfax will include multiple education and outreach campaigns designed to reach specific audience segments within the county with messaging, materials, and opportunities for action and involvement.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

As explained above, this recommendation is being addressed as part of the OEEC’s process of developing CECAP implementation plans.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

No specific additional actions need to or should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation. The OEEC is in the process of developing short-term and long-term CECAP implementation plans that it anticipates presenting to the Board during Environmental Committee meetings in 2022. Particularly with respect to long-term planning, OEEC is coordinating with relevant agencies to prioritize the CECAP strategies, actions and sub-actions and operationalize them for implementation. OEEC's long-term implementation plan will include a roadmap for implementation as well as an annual workplan.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

Preparing the short- and long-term CECAP implementation plans should not have budget implications for FY 2023.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

OEEC anticipates preparing annual CECAP implementation workplans in FY 2023 and beyond. While development of these workplans should not have long-range fiscal implications, the implementation of those plans is expected to have long-range fiscal implications. Annual fiscal implications are currently unknown but likely will be addressed when developing annual workplans.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Air Quality #1

(Pages VII-74 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Encourage Telework, Public Transit and Alternative Forms of Transit

As Fairfax County and the Washington Metropolitan region recover from the COVID-19 pandemic, county officials should strongly encourage people to telework where possible, take public transit, and use alternative forms of transit.

One of the key issues related to ozone nonattainment and other air quality concerns in Northern Virginia is the use of motorized vehicles and their emissions. Implementing this recommendation is consistent with the recommendations of the Fairfax County Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and the Board's Environmental Vision for Transportation. Many air quality issues are tied to federal and state actions over which the county has little or no control. This is one area where the county can take an active role to reduce single vehicle trips within the county and thus enhance air quality through a decrease in vehicle emissions, which are a major contributor to ground-level ozone formation and greenhouse gas emissions in the county.

LEAD AGENCY: FCDOT

COORDINATING AGENCIES: OEEC, FCHD

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Zachary Krohmal, FCDOT

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is in the process of being addressed. Fairfax County currently has several programs to promote sustainable transportation modes that pre-date the COVID-19 pandemic. These include:

- Funding and operating Connector bus service
- Local funding for WMATA transit service
- Active Transportation program
- Operating Park & Ride lots
- Development-based Transportation Demand Management program³
- Partner with VDOT to plan and operate HOV and HOT lanes
- Partner with MWCOG on Commuter Connections⁴

³ [Transportation Demand Management \(TDM\) | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

⁴ [About Us – Commuter Connections](#)

Air Quality #1

Continued

- Support telework for private employers⁵

Based on Census Data from 2019, Fairfax County achieved a sustainable commuting mode share of nearly 30 percent.

Total Commuters (2019)	623,841
Drove Alone	70%
Carpooled	10%
Public Transportation	9%
Worked from Home	7%
Walked	2%
Biked	0.3%
Other	2%
Census - Table Results	

There is considerable uncertainty both about current commuting patterns in 2022 and about what commuting patterns will emerge after the pandemic. As an employer, Fairfax County has already approved hybrid telework for many of its 12,000 employees. Fairfax County will continue to use the listed strategies to encourage more sustainable transportation behavior and meet its environmental and climate goals.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

N/A

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Continue existing efforts and consider what new efforts or programs may be beneficial.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

No.

Do the actions recommended above have any long-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

Any additional programs would increase staff work hours, which could increase fiscal needs over the long term.

⁵ [Telework | Transportation \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Wildlife Management #1

(Pages VIII-77 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

Hire a Part-Time Wildlife Assistant

To assess the need and feasibility of funding or otherwise increasing staff capacity in the Fairfax County Police Department or other county agency for the hiring of a part-time wildlife assistant. EQAC commends the county for its effort to support staffing needs of the Wildlife Management Specialist office within FY 2020. Despite staffing increases granted in FY 2020, the Fairfax County Deer Management Program and Canada Geese Management Program still require additional support for public outreach and education efforts. Public interests in wild animal-borne diseases such as chronic wasting disease and the West Nile virus continue to increase. Additional staff would help better facilitate the distribution of valuable information to the public to address public outreach and education needs.

LEAD AGENCY: Police Department-Animal Services Division

COORDINATING AGENCY: DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Katherine Edwards, FCPD

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This is a new recommendation for an additional part-time wildlife position that has not been previously addressed. Due to budget constraints and other critical public safety staffing needs within the Fairfax County Police Department (FCPD), an additional part-time wildlife position cannot be authorized for this next fiscal year. However, prior recommendations made by EQAC for increased staffing have been fulfilled by FCPD and Department of Management & Budget and this recommendation will be reconsidered for future budget cycles. Over the past few years, staffing hours for the wildlife program has been increased by 55 percent (equivalent to one full-time position). This includes the conversion of two part-time, non-merit positions to full-time, merit positions that serve as assistant wildlife biologists and the addition of two 900-hour seasonal positions to assist with deer and goose management activities.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

Although unable to fulfill the staffing request within the FCPD at this time, staff concurs that the Wildlife Management Office has been understaffed to meet the growing demands for services, education/outreach and operations related to the Deer Management Program, Canada Geese

Wildlife Management #1 Continued

Management Program, and other wildlife taxa. Increasing staff capacity within the FCPD would serve to meet growing customer needs for the wildlife program if resources were available.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

No action is needed at this time. There is currently no funding identified for this additional position within the FCPD; however, this recommendation for a part-time wildlife position will be considered for future budgetary cycles, beginning in FY 2024.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

There are no budget implications for FY 2023 associated with this recommendation. The recommended part-time wildlife assistant position has not been authorized by FCPD for FY 2023. Staff salaries and operational funds for the Wildlife Management Specialist Office come from the existing Police Department budget and are expected to remain stable for FY 2023. There is no specific line item for Wildlife/Deer Management in the FY 2023 Budget.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

There is an ongoing need for sustained staffing and funding for the Fairfax County Wildlife Management Specialist Office. The Police Department has been able to increase staff capacity in recent years and successfully absorb costs for staffing and operations for the wildlife program. If this position is approved in future years, additional salary costs would be incurred by the FCPD to support this position.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Technology #1

(Page IX-79-80 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

LiDAR Capture

The county should fund recapture of LiDAR data in 2022 to provide ongoing data for metrics on tree cover and stream erosion. LiDAR data continues to be a valuable asset in the county. The county's most recent LiDAR data acquisition was flown in December of 2018 at a resolution of 8 points per meter. The LiDAR dataset has already been incorporated into county operations. Fairfax County's Department of Public Works and Environmental Services Stormwater Planning Division (DPWES-SWPD) and Land Development Services (LDS) currently use the LiDAR derivatives for watershed delineation on a daily basis, to measure erosion, and stream bank subsidence. This work is conducted with the tools developed by the GIS Division and LDS staff.

LEAD AGENCY: DIT-GIS

COORDINATING AGENCY: DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Michael Liddle, DIT-GIS

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

The general fund portion of this recommendation has been funded. Additionally, the county has applied for a federal grant through the Department of Interior's (DOI) 3DEP program. If approved this joint funding agreement will cover two-thirds of the cost of the flight. The planned flight date is between Dec 2022-Jan 2023 for leaf off conditions. The product would be United States Geological Survey (USGS) QL1, the same resolution of 8 ppm as flown last time with tidal corrections and extents out to all contributing watersheds. This capture will also seek to produce a countywide building layer that would help fill the five-year gap from the last planimetric building update, providing new information for impervious surface analysis. The flight will produce a new two-foot contour of the entire flight extent as well.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

DIT concurs with this recommendation. LiDAR information and its derivatives inform several environmental and development business areas daily. For instance, this flight will give Fairfax County an apples to apples comparison of 2018 and 2023 to provide focus on streams with ongoing severe subsidence issues. This can help inform and guide the annual county stream restoration program. The addition of the building derivatives will enhance 3D capabilities and watershed impervious surface quantification.

Technology #1
Continued

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

Actions are already underway to obtain a new LiDAR acquisition as explained above.

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

This recommendation does have budget implications. Funding of \$183,000 has been included as part of the *FY 2022 Third Quarter Review* in project IT00028 in Fund 10040, Information Technology Projects.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

No.

Response to 2021 EQAC Recommendation

Recommendation: Technology #2

(Page IX-80 of the 2021 Annual Report on the Environment)

EQAC Recommendation:

GIS Staffing

The county should prepare a plan for fully staffing GIS support positions in FY 2022, with particular attention to Spatial Analyst IV positions.

GIS is a growing area and will see higher and more complex demands as time goes by. The county should ensure that the GIS Division and agencies are properly staffed with the personnel to bring GIS fully to bear. GIS positions should be retained and fully staffed if not expanded in FY 2022 in concert with the Enterprise Agreement, new architecture, and capabilities. The GIS Division should be staffed with its full 21-person contingent in FY 2022 and the county should add three additional Spatial Analyst IV positions to address web GIS growth, interagency coordination, and mobile technology implementations. Taking full advantage of the GIS investment is only possible when staff resources are available and are constituted of high functioning analysts and architects. Reclass of current positions should be considered to raise expectations of performance and to retain highly skilled staff to serve the environmental interests of the county.

LEAD AGENCY: DIT-GIS

COORDINATING AGENCY: DMB

Please identify a lead agency contact person: Michael Liddle, DIT-GIS

Has this recommendation already been addressed, or is it in the process of being addressed? If so, please provide details.

This recommendation is being addressed in part by opening the possibility of agencies having Spatial Analyst IV positions in circumstances where these positions manage a broader agency GIS program serving the particular business needs of the agency and supervising staff.

If this recommendation has not been (or is not being) addressed, do you concur with the recommendation? Why or why not?

DIT has not been able to address this recommendation in FY 2022 as the agency continues to be impacted by COVID-19 staffing issues, vacancies, and retirements across all divisions. Currently DIT has needs in many areas and is working with DMB to address this.

What, if any, actions should be taken pursuant to EQAC's recommendation?

DIT is currently engaged in workforce planning efforts with DMB.

Technology #2
Continued

Do the actions recommended above have any budget implications for FY 2023? If so, please explain.

These recommendations would have significant budget implications with reclasses and funding for positions. That funding is currently not available.

Do the actions recommended above have any longer-range fiscal implications? If so, please explain.

These recommendations would have long-term impacts on the personnel budget as any reclasses or additional positions would require additional funding on an ongoing basis.