

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

December 13, 2022

1:30 P.M.

Government Center Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:

Board Chair Jeffrey C. McKay

Committee Chair Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District

Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District

Supervisor John W. Foust, Dranesville District

Supervisor Penelope A. Gross, Mason District

Supervisor Pat Herrity, Springfield District (Participated Remotely)

Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District

Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District

Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, Sully District

Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District

Others Present:

Bryan J. Hill, County Executive

Beth Teare, County Attorney

Kambiz Agazi, OEEC Director

December 13, 2022, Meeting Agenda:

[dec13-environmental-agenda.pdf \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

December 13, 2022, Meeting Materials:

[Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee Meeting: Dec. 13, 2022 | Board Of Supervisors \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

The following is a summary of the discussion from the December 13, 2022, Environmental Committee meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 1:30 P.M.

Chairman McKay made a motion to approve Supervisor Herrity's remote participation from the Springfield district due to medical reasons. Chairman McKay moved that the Environmental Committee of the Board of Supervisors certify that Supervisor Herrity could be heard by all persons assembled in Conference Room 11 of the Government Center and further moved that the committee confirm that such remote participation by Supervisor Herrity fully conforms with the Board's policy for remote meetings.

Supervisor Penny Gross seconded the motion and asked if there was discussion on the motion. Hearing none, the motion was set to a vote and passed unanimously.

Item I Opening Remarks

After a brief introduction from Supervisor Storck, Committee Chair, the Environmental Committee was asked if there were any changes to the meeting summary of October 4, 2022. With no changes, the meeting summary was accepted.

Supervisor Storck asked if there were any updates or outstanding items that were owed to the Board members. Hearing none, he moved to the next item.

Item II Presentation on the County's CECAP Implementation Plan

Supervisor Storck gave a brief introduction of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). County staff and the community spent more than a year putting together CECAP, which was then approved by the Board. The CECAP Implementation Plan addresses how to move forward and make progress to achieve identified goals and subgoals set out in CECAP and how to get community members deeply engaged in adopting and achieving these carbon neutrality goals. Supervisor Storck asked fellow Board members to consider how their offices can help support the goals in the business, education, and industrial sectors.

The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination's (OEEC) Director Kambiz Agazi, Division Manager Matt Meyers, Community Specialist Neely Law and Division Manager John Morrill presented the CECAP Implementation Plan.

Mr. Meyers, OEEC Division Manager, introduced the CECAP Implementation Plan. The presentation was broken into two parts, the community-based approach for implementation and implementation itself.

Mr. Meyers began by explaining CECAP as the first-ever greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction plan developed by and for the Fairfax County community. He said implementation is a shared responsibility to achieve the ambitious carbon neutrality goals. He explained that once CECAP was approved, the Board directed staff to work with a multi-agency team to review the goals, strategies and implementation actions and recommendations and develop a short and long-term implementation plan.

Mr. Meyers said that the climate action plan reflects the Board's Environmental Vision, Strategic Plan, Fairfax Green Initiatives and other Board-adopted plans and policies.

Mr. Meyers explained that the overall goal of CECAP is to be carbon neutral by 2050, with an 87 percent reduction in total GHG emissions from 2005 levels. He continued, CECAP also contains interim and sector-specific goals. For example, the sector goal for transportation is to increase electric vehicles (EVs) registered in the county to 15 percent by 2030 and to 42 percent by 2050.

Mr. Meyers mentioned that we are making progress in reducing GHG emissions even with population and economic growth. Data shows continued reduction in overall energy use in the county, increased EV registrations, and increases in green and energy efficient buildings. For example, since 2010, electricity consumption has been in a downward trend in Fairfax County.

Neely Law, OEEC Community Specialist, then presented the community-based approach to implementation. Ms. Law explained that given these aggressive but achievable goals for GHG emission reduction goals, the CECAP Implementation Plan provides a roadmap to activate the county's full potential to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Reaching these goals, she further explained, requires robust collaboration and meaningful climate action using a community-based approach to implementation. Ms. Law described the three key ways the implementation plan

proposes in which to make this happen, including the actions of Climate Champions, community programs and partnerships, and county government operations. Ms. Law continued, the role of county is to identify, support and celebrate those who take meaningful climate action. Further, the county's role with community programs and partnerships is to nurture, cultivate, and catalyze climate action. Finally, Ms. Law expressed that, through county operations, the county leads by example, working towards carbon neutrality for county government buildings and operations, as guided by the Carbon Neutral Counties Declaration and the Operational Energy Strategy.

Ms. Law explained that the Climate Champions program contains two pilots: the Faith-Based and Non-Profit Community Based Organizations Pilot and the Business/Industry Sector Pilot. She noted the goal of the Faith-Based and Non-Profit Community Pilot is to accelerate climate actions through increased energy efficiency, electrification, renewable energy use, and natural resource enhancements on properties owned by places of worship. Ms. Law shared that the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) will take the lead on this pilot. She explained that the county's role in working with FACS is to provide guidance to support and help prioritize projects for implementation, identify potential additional partners, provide resources, and assist in the contracting process. This pilot is set to begin in early 2023. As work begins towards building this pilot as a model, the outcome is to develop and disseminate guidance for others to replicate in the community, possibly convening a roundtable with other non-profits in the county to identify service gaps.

Ms. Law explained that the Business/Industry Sector Pilot will create a best practice guide for emissions reduction in specific industries. This pilot will be led by peers in lieu of government incentives. Ms. Law provided an example; the hospitality sector is already underway in adopting climate-friendly actions and policies. This sector can share lessons learned and will be able to translate their success to a broader audience. The county plans to leverage the Green Business Partners program and business associations to disseminate guidance to other sectors and convene other industry-specific roundtables.

A third example of Climate Champions are individuals, Ms. Law continued. An individual outreach campaign is planned to connect community members inspiring others to adopt climate-friendly behaviors. Ms. Law explained that these Climate Champions can be individuals, homeowner associations or others. The county will create a platform to identify and showcase Climate Champions through the existing

Carbon-Free Fairfax educational outreach campaign. Ms. Law said these actions are already happening in our community, so providing a platform to accelerate implementation is necessary.

Ms. Law concluded by mentioning that the other methods encouraged through the implementation plan are through community programs and partnerships, and government operations. There are numerous programs currently, she explained, or will be in the next two years, operating in the county to support the reduction of the 95 percent GHG sources in the community and the remaining 5 percent through government operations and schools. These emissions are notably through building use efficiency and transportation. Ms. Law shared that there are programs to reduce GHG in each of the five sectors and emerging technologies. Key to this plan is the necessary recognition of short and mid-term implementation actions, and the ability to adapt and be flexible to adopt emerging technologies. She stated that there are programs to support residents and businesses across all sectors operated through a variety of county government departments or external partners. CECAP includes actions to lead by example to inspire and achieve the goal of carbon neutrality by 2050. Ms. Law elaborated on the strategies included in the CECAP Implementation Plan to combat the remaining 5 percent of GHG emissions, allowing the county to lead by example while working toward the county's operational goal of carbon neutrality by 2040.

Supervisor Storck asked how we get the community to join in the implementation to emphasize the point of where we've been and where we need to head.

Mr. Meyers explained what is in the plan. He mentioned that the plan does not go away but rather lives within the implementation actions, with a multi-agency team to identify and move actions forward. Mr. Meyers said the plan focuses on the five sectors. He explained how the implementation actions tie back to the original CECAP and the recommendations within. Mr. Meyers said there are 12 strategies, 37 actions and over 260 recommended activities for implementation, 145 were of which are directed to the county.

Mr. Meyers expressed that the CECAP Implementation Plan is a living document using an adaptive management approach to adjust for emerging technology. The CECAP Implementation Plan rolls up the original 260 plus recommendations into 99 implementation actions, organized by sector, action, status, steps, timeframe for implementation, and priority; the plan also includes interim goals to revisit and adjust. Milestone check-ins will allow for evaluation and the development of

updated goals. Mr. Meyers further explained the other components in the CECAP Implementation Plan (appendices, fact sheets, etc.).

John Morrill, Division Manager, OEEC, noted the specific targeted programs underway and planned for CECAP implementation. Umbrella plans that involve multiple sector participation include the Fairfax County Green Bank, Climate Champions, Green Business Partners, Carbon Neutral Innovation Challenge, and Carbon-Free Fairfax.

Mr. Morrill continued, improving energy efficiency in existing buildings is imperative in achieving CECAP goals. The Fairfax County Green Bank will leverage funds to entice eligible buildings to become energy efficient. He mentioned the need for a strong visible marketing campaign. He said the Green Bank will implement targeted plans, especially to low- and moderate-income households. He added that county operations will improve efficiency through upgrades to county buildings and through modern, low energy construction in new buildings.

Mr. Morrill explained that the Virginia Clean Economy Act set a baseline for growing renewable energy by utilities across the state. The Fairfax County Green Bank and Green Business Partners programs will raise the profile for energy saving options for citizens and businesses. This will help citizens understand the programs offered by the county, as well as using federal incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act. Solarize will be amplified as well as shared solar and large-scale renewables procurement. Mr. Morrill continued, the Inflation Reduction Act can be utilized to install solar on existing county buildings and facilities including affordable housing.

Mr. Meyers presented information on the transportation sector from the CECAP Implementation Plan. He noted this has the largest potential to reduce GHG emissions. Transportation and development planning efforts can reduce vehicle miles travelled and lower GHG emissions. He included other examples of programs to lower transportation like Active Fairfax, and Safe Streets for All. He added that the county has their own internal Operational Energy Strategy that sets targets that all fleet vehicles be all electric (EV) or a non-carbon emitting alternative by 2035.

Mr. Meyers next presented information on the waste sector, noting that the county continues to educate and provide outreach programs. The county's own Zero

Waste Plan, and sustainable procurement plans and policies help us reduce GHG emissions in the county and beyond.

Mr. Meyers presented information on the natural resources sector, mentioning the numerous existing tree programs in Fairfax County, as well as existing educational programs, and canopy tracking, evaluation, and plan reviews. This will allow for measurement of tree sequestration and impact with tree canopy loss over time. He added the importance of protecting and restoring natural resources and including natural resources and native plants in development.

Mr. Meyers then spoke on the next steps for CECAP implementation. Implementation will continue with building on the programs that are proposed within the plan, with over 60 percent ongoing or in action for the 2023-2024 period. Residents can navigate to the link for Carbon-Free Fairfax to find information, incentives and instructions on how they can become involved. The upcoming Climate Action Dashboard will provide data and track key performance indicators.

Board Discussion:

Supervisor Storck thanked Mr. Meyers for the presentation and reemphasized the points made, noting the unprecedented nature of the plan. He said staff and the CECAP team have identified what the climate action goals should be and how to put the elements into place to achieve the goals. He mentioned the opportunity to use our resources to activate residents and different sectors of the community, led by the county, and relying on members of the community to help find a way to reduce or be more effective in reducing GHG emissions. The objective is to harness, facilitate and support as many as we can to move the community forward.

Chairman McKay thanked the team and staff and noted that community ownership will take everyone working together to move the CECAP Implementation Plan forward within the sectors. He expressed the need to help people understand how to help make a difference conveniently. Chairman McKay said that the CECAP Implementation Plan will require constant review and growth of the document. He cautioned that with over 262 recommendations it is hard to see the prioritizations. The plan will be going for a long time, so citizens need to be able to measure the progress. He advised that we need to understand what has been done and how things change as the society has changing abilities. He requested the CECAP Implementation Plan be readable, implementable, and often updated. He restated

that we need to see the prioritization. He called the plan excellent but restated the need to rethink some things. He appreciated the tools mentioned, specifically the upcoming dashboard and fact sheets.

Supervisor Storck asked how we can get to the goals through community involvement and prioritization.

OEEC Director Kambiz Agazi, answered that it is not an easy process. Achieving the county operations will be easier but bringing the services and packages to the community will be more challenging. He said the community wants better solar options, energy efficiency audits, EV charging, and better recycling programs. He expressed the need to package these elements for the owners and bring them opportunities to meet the needs of the community. By making these packaged critical elements for achieving goals with incentives to the community easy, the county achieves the goals of CECAP, and community members save money by becoming more energy efficient.

Supervisor Alcorn appreciated the efforts to distribute and help homeowners. He said having common interest community zones as a part of the plan is a big step in its success. He mentioned that showing where emissions stem from provides us the ability to easily prioritize. As more information become available, we can look to see where emissions are coming from.

Supervisor Gross said the plan was unprecedented and requested the items on it be prioritized on a spreadsheet. She said the community can do this but asked not to lose sight of the need for staff and budget resources to reach the goals. Volunteers are helpful, but someone needs to be able to solve the problems and needs to be funded. She continued; we need to make the process as easy as possible. She gave the example of the successful Purple Can program and how easy it is for citizens. For example, in the waste sector, the expansion of glass recycling, composting, and donation bins will create the need to address the lack of public dumpsters. She mentioned that the fact sheets have a lot of good information but are too wordy and will not capture the community the way we need it to. She requested the facts sheets be colorful, with pictures, and simple communication to capture the community's attention.

Supervisor Foust stated that merging county operations, community actions and state and federal responsibilities into one document creates issues. He said he wants to see clearly what we expect the community to do and delineate the

community actions from the county/state/federal actions. He asked how much responsibility schools and the county have and how much are we asking of the community and businesses to reduce carbon usage and to get us to our goals. He mentioned the large scale of the plan with big goals to accomplish and stated that they are not equal actions. He asked how we are going to get to net zero. He requested ownership for the CECAP Implementation Plan. He said with leadership provided by Fairfax County Government, we will achieve this by knowing what we need to get to zero and stated that OEEC is responsible.

Supervisor Smith shared the history of her service as it relates to climate change and expressed urgency in the climate crisis. She said we need to show people how they can act, but this document is not for the people and not meeting people where they live. She explained that the fact sheets should be easy to follow, not just for advocates and professionals but for all people. She said climate action needs to be made now, and the climate action on buildings and transportation should be done now. She questioned what the benefit of this approach is rather than a more focused one. She asked what are the most achievable goals that can be done now and then how do we get to the 2030 goal. She worried that much of our time is spent tracking but not acting. She inquired if the actions thus far have had an effect and how do we expand the reach.

Supervisor Walkinshaw asked about the timing for the Green Bank. Mr. Morrill replied that there is a steering committee working out the options and staff will be coming to the Board in the spring with an ordinance and to provide additional information and explain the identified federal resources for it. He explained that the Green Bank should be in action in mid-2024. County Executive Bryan Hill explained that it is not finalized. Supervisor Walkinshaw expressed that the Fairfax County Green Bank may be a better value proposition than before due to the increases in inflation and interest rates. He said there has been positive action on the transportation sector goal, with 30 percent of people teleworking. He expanded on the effort to meet people where they are in their carbon footprint reduction journey. He mentioned the EPA.gov carbon footprint calculator where citizens can learn their carbon footprint drivers, ways to impact their carbon footprint and how to really make an impact each year. The calculator is available for homeowners and includes the simple actions they can take, like thermostat upgrades, EVs, etc. He said getting people to take that first step would be beneficial in addition to the other programs.

Supervisor Palchik agreed with a lot of what was said previously. She mentioned that the CECAP Implementation Plan is a huge undertaking and that the material is overwhelming. She stated that we need to focus on the community areas getting attention, like leaf collection, trash removal, and parking. She mentioned the frustrations in finding a sustainable way to address the problem. Supervisor Palchik spoke about metrics and determining which ones to use to recognize and highlight those who are achieving the goals. She asked how the project can be led effectively by the county and the need for strategies to see progress and empower communities. She asked what gets us excited and how to champion the efforts. She suggested digestible and strategic goals to meet groups where they are and to be the partners. She expressed excitement to be getting there and the need for action items from the information and data.

Supervisor Storck mentioned that the team looked at other areas of the country to see what they have done.

Dr. Agazi responded that there is no one way to solve the problem. He expanded, this is a different approach than what is already out there and different than what we normally see. This is a concerted effort of government staff working to solve climate change. The OEEC staff has a lot of experience, but fundamentally county staff will never have the resources needed to solve the climate change crisis. So, this CECAP Implementation Plan approach includes some new actions like Charge Up Fairfax, some old actions, and some borrowed actions. However, working with the community and other sectors is a new approach. He mentioned the importance of messaging to deliver services and programs to help the community. We want to work with sectors to provide information and have the mutual sharing of goals and measures. The county will work with the sectors to develop solutions, but there are responsibilities outside of county government.

Supervisor Lusk appreciated the information. He commented on the many recommendations but explained that the CECAP Implementation Plan is overwhelming. He shared that the public safety plan included short-, mid- and long-term perspectives for prioritizations and asked to consider that approach. He acknowledged the Carbon Neutral Pitch and Pilot opportunity to showcase emerging technologies in the community and demonstrate the application in our community. Supervisor Lusk said he values this program as a component to the CECAP Implementation Plan and expressed the enjoyment he had by participating. Finally, he mentioned a discussion with Dominion Energy and asked if we have a

method to work with them on smart metering and a smart metering pilot as a way for us to reduce energy use.

Mr. Morrill replied that Dominion Energy is deploying the smart metering systemwide. As the program spreads through the county, we can work with them to help residents to maximize the utility of it. Supervisor Lusk inquired if we could approach Dominion Energy to advance it in the county.

County Executive Bryan Hill answered that we have an open dialog with Dominion Energy on various topics including the smart metering and Charge Up Fairfax. We are working with them to advance Fairfax first.

Supervisor Lusk expressed his intention to help and to be supportive of these ideas. He offered to assist in the conversations, if necessary.

Supervisor Storck said the core issue is how do we connect with individuals to provide resources and support and motivate individuals to take action. He then asked if there were any further questions or comments. Hearing none, he thanked Dr. Agazi, Ms. Law, Mr. Meyers, Mr. Morrill and the OEEC team for all the hard work that went into the CECAP Implementation Plan. He said we have more work to do. Assisting citizens in the implementation, the marketing of the plan and connecting the different levels will be the challenge.

Item III

Presentation on EQAC's 2022 Annual Report on the Environment

Supervisor Storck introduced the next presentation, EQAC's 2022 Annual Report on the Environment (ARE).

Dr. Agazi thanked Supervisor Storck and continued by explaining that for the past 24 years, staff has been providing a comprehensive response to EQAC recommendations. This year, we want to work with EQAC on some top priority measures and see how they fit with other goals. OEEC will elevate the high priority recommendations and bring them back to the committee to review and approve.

Larry Zaragoza, EQAC Vice-Chairman, expressed EQAC's appreciation for the opportunity to present and highlight the work on the ARE. EQAC puts a lot of

effort into it each year. EQAC developed the ARE by taking a broad look at Fairfax County. The process involved looking at citizen comment, researching literature, and working with staff to prepare chapters in land use, transportation, water, waste management, parks, ecological resources, climate and energy, air quality, wildlife management, and technology. The chapters in the ARE align with the Board's Environmental Vision, except for the three chapters that fall outside of the Vision document (air quality, technology, and wildlife management).

Mr. Zargoza continued, in the 2022 report, EQAC highlighted four specific recommendations. First, it asked to set the fee rate collected for wastewater treatment to meet documented needs of the necessary upgrades and maintenance requirements. Second, it requested that the county institute recycling data collection and reporting. Data is important to knowing we are making progress. The third recommendation was to seek more stable funding for Fairfax County Park Authority initiatives and finally, Mr. Zargoza asked to incorporate adequate funding for both CECAP implementation and Resilient Fairfax in the approved FY 2024 budget.

Mr. Zargoza noted that it has been a pleasure to work with county staff this year. He said EQAC has had discussions on how to improve the process and agree there are opportunities to be more efficient and make more progress. He finished by saying he would be happy to answer any questions.

Board Discussion:

Supervisor Alcorn thanked Mr. Zargoza and the entire EQAC team for putting together the ARE. He said there are other environmental issues that are important in addition to climate and emissions reductions and thanked EQAC for reminding the committee to keep them in mind as well.

Chairman McKay said the county is making progress with a few areas stalled, specifically dumpster complaints (which went from one in 2019 to 40 through June of 2022). We need to find out from DPWES what the nature of those are. He asked if those complaints are because collection has decreased or if they are because we have given the public more opportunity to submit official complaints. He requested a metric to understand so the county can address the issue.

Supervisor Storck said there were no additional questions, so he thanked EQAC for their work and efforts on the ARE and offered thanks to Larry and Stella for their

dedication and expertise in service to the county. He concluded by saying he was looking forward to collaboration with county staff.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:54 P.M.