

Fairfax Green Initiatives #2 (FGI #2)

On February 5, 2019, at a regularly scheduled meeting, the Board of Supervisors unanimously adopted my Fairfax Green Initiatives (FGI) Joint Board Matter with Supervisors Jeff McKay and John Foust. The FGI took a decisive step forward to take action to mitigate climate change impacts on our community. Many of those actions have been initiated, with some even complete. FGI #2 is a follow-on initiative for discussion and consideration that proposes additional targets and actions the County can take to advance critical environmental issues even more quickly.

FGI #2 is based upon a draft of this document that I discussed individually with each of you over the last two months and additional initiatives in which you indicated interest. During our conversations most of you were largely supportive of the items contained in this document, which is why I am presenting them for discussion at this meeting. Based on our discussion today, I will present a Board Matter at the July 28 meeting to advance the initiatives the Board supports.

1. Direct DPWES to:
 - A. Research and report to the Environment Committee on the options for expanding our existing internal County compost pilot to the community as part of our trash/recycling services or drop off locations. Options to be considered could include partnering with Arlington or Prince William, like with our purple bins – placing “green” compost bins beside purple bins; collections at Farmers Markets or FCPS locations; collecting, selling and/or giving away compost materials at the I-95 Landfill Complex & I-66 Transfer Station.
Background: Arlington collects at a recycling yard and farmers market. Compost goes to Parks & REC. DC collects at farmers markets and has a plan to do curbside by 2022. Montgomery County gives away backyard compost bins. Alexandria – farmers markets.
 - B. Research and report to the Environment Committee on potential initiatives to reduce or discourage food waste.
2. Direct County Executive to update the vehicle purchasing policy to accelerate purchases of County electric vehicles to 50% of eligible fleet purchases as electric vehicles in FY 2021 and 90% of eligible fleet purchases starting in FY 2022; and to implement this purchasing goal across County departments. Direct Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) to find immediate solutions to charging infrastructure, such as existing outlets in County garages, and to adapt purchasing practices to new goal.
3. Direct County Attorney report to the Environment Committee on whether the County can provide incentives for consumer EV purchases, vehicles and charging stations; or what legislative changes might be necessary to do so.
Background: 9 states offer EV purchase incentives to consumers.

4. Direct the OEEC to report to the Environment Committee on the implementation of a 5-cent plastic bag fee in 2021, as now allowed by law.
5. Direct the Facilities Management Department to report to the Environment Committee regarding cost of a plan to phase out all existing hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) refrigerators, refrigerant cases and air conditioners from all County facilities and equipment purchases as soon as practical but no later than 2030, including ensuring proper disposal and recovery of gasses and materials. Where comparably performing non-HFC products are available, effective in 2021 all new purchases would not contain HFC.

Background:

- *Through an amendment to the Montreal Protocol, the world will begin phasing HFCs out of use, starting with high-income countries in 2019 and then expanding to low-income countries – some in 2024, others in 2028.*
 - *HFC substitutes are already on the market, including natural refrigerants such as propane and ammonia.*
6. Refer to the Land Use Policy Committee for consideration:
 - A. Requiring energy use disclosures on residential home sales. Direct County Attorney to provide legal review for considerations.
 - *Montgomery County - <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/green/Resources/Files/energy/Home-Sales-Disclosure.pdf>*
 - *Minneapolis, MN; Portland, OR; Austin, TX*
 - *Disclosing energy use may depress sales - <https://www.greenbuildingadvisor.com/article/researchers-study-impact-energy-disclosures-home-sales>*
 - *Guide for Policymakers - <https://aceee.org/sector/local-policy/toolkit/residential-disclosure>*
 - B. Directing Department of Planning and Development to evaluate and report to the Land Use Policy Committee on strengthening the County's Comprehensive Plan policy regarding provisions for EV ready or EV infrastructure during the rezoning process in private parking facilities.

Background:

 - *Boston has parking freeze zones. In those zones, 25% of spaces must be equipped with EV chargers, 100% remaining spaces must be EV-ready, to the maximum extent practicable.*
 - *Seattle requires new construction with parking to have EV infrastructure in place.*
 - *Oregon requires new buildings be EV ready.*
 - *New York City requires 20% of future parking lots be EV ready.*
 - *Missouri incentivizes EV charging stations.*

- C. Analyzing requirements and impediments for new commercial and incentives for new residential construction to implement community solar and/or geothermal systems.

Background:

- *California requires rooftop solar panels on new residential and commercial construction. Massachusetts looking at similar legislation.*
 - *Identify incentives to encourage developers to preserve existing trees, as opposed to cutting down and replacing.*
 - *An incentive could be a property tax reduction.*
- D. Consider incentivizing developers and builders in the County to adhere to residential and commercial green building practices. Consider creating a green building profile and publicizing developers, builders and projects score based on achieving certain benchmarks.
7. Direct County Executive to report to the Environment Committee on the feasibility of creating a Consolidated Community Funding Pool (CCFP) pilot and potential public private partnership (PPP) to provide a competitive grants process for funding local businesses to provide workforce energy efficiency and weatherization (green jobs) training opportunities while upgrading the energy efficiency on eligible low-income and seniors homes.
8. Direct County Executive and County Attorney to report to the Board on the feasibility and legality of providing guidance to Fairfax County retirement fund managers to increase support for non-greenhouse gas emitting energy investments and decreasing those in fossil fuels.