

CECAP Update | Board of Supervisors Environment Meeting | 10/27/20

Since we last updated the Board in July, staff has:

- Held two facilitated Task Force meetings, on July 29th and September 30th, with associated Focus Group meetings. Final goals for the CECAP were determined:
 - Long-term goal of carbon neutrality by 2050 from a 2005 base year with an absolute reduction target of 87%
 - Two interim goals, one in 2030 and one in 2040
 - A determination on sector-based goals was held until a further meeting focusing on sector strategies
- Held three facilitated public meetings in late August and early September attended by approximately 150 people in total and conducted an online survey that received 1,957 responses.
- Added a public feedback series in February anticipated to be similar to the August/September series (three facilitated meetings and an online survey). This was in response to public feedback.
- Altered the scope of work with the consultants to recognize in-house capacity for community engagement and shifting efforts to strengthen that capacity for all OEEC programs.
- Continued working with the consultants to move ahead on the other Tasks of the CECAP, specifically the strategies that will help Fairfax County meet the goals for emissions reductions.

Process Change from Focus Group / Task Force model to Working Group model

In response to the ongoing effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the CECAP planning process, staff has prepared a plan to pivot to a new Working Group model. This change is an absolute necessity to keep the CECAP planning process on schedule, and to address many complications that have arisen during the last few months as we moved from an in-person, to virtual, to electronic format in response to the pandemic.

The Working Group model will consist of dissolving both the Task Force and Focus Group and forming a new group, the CECAP Working Group. All current Focus Group and Task Force members will be invited to take part. All members will have an identical role, rather than the current advisory role of the Focus Group members, and the decision-making role of the Task Force members. All meetings of the CECAP Working Group will be a member of the full group, however the Working Group will be divided into sector-specific subgroups. Each member will belong to and participate in only one subgroup. Subgroups will be formed based on number of people who wish to join the Working Group, as well as their sector interests. Once the strategies discussion has concluded, the Working Group will review the draft and final CECAP as a whole.

This pivot to the Working Group model is being done to make the process more efficient and effective and provide an equitable opportunity to hear all the voices participating in the process. Specifically:

- Efficiency - in determining and refining the strategies used to reach the CECAP goals, it is considered a best practice to examine strategies through sector-based subgroups.

- Equity and resource constraints - the Focus Groups have differing levels of resources available to them and it has been impossible to ensure equity for each district's representation and voice, and OEEC does not have the resources to equalize that disparity.
- Engagement - adding the Focus Group members to the Working Group and equalizing the ability to participate with Task Force members will ensure that the voices of the districts, the original purpose of the Focus Groups, remain in the Working Group while ensuring equity for participation of all the districts and allowing the individual knowledge and contributions of all members to inform the CECAP. The CECAP planning process and the implementation of the completed plan will be stronger with involvement of all the Task Force and Focus Group members.

Highlights of the upcoming schedule:

- Working Group subgroup meetings in November, January, March
- Working Group meetings in April and June
- Public outreach in February and May
- Updates to the Board after significant meetings or actions
- A final CECAP to come to the board after the final Task Force meeting, most likely in July of 2021