

Staff Report for the CECAP Implementation Plan

Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

Introduction

The Fairfax County [Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan](#) (CECAP) was the county's first-ever greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reduction plan developed by and for the community. As directed by the Board of Supervisors in 2019, the CECAP planning process was a community-driven process that encouraged community members to shape and take ownership of the plan. Community ownership was deemed critical, as only 5% of emissions in the county are attributable to government and school operations, and community action is needed to address and achieve meaningful reductions to the remaining 95% of emissions.

The CECAP planning process was completed in September 2021, when staff, on behalf of the community Working Group, presented the final CECAP Report to the Board. CECAP included an overall goal that the community achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, interim and sector-specific goals, and community-developed strategies and recommendations to achieve needed emissions reductions. The Board accepted CECAP on September 14, 2021.

In accepting the report, the Board directed staff to prepare a **CECAP Implementation Plan**. This staff report provides an overview of that CECAP Implementation Plan, which can be found attached in the Appendix. The proposed CECAP Implementation Plan translates CECAP's strategies and recommendations into specific, detailed, staff-vetted implementation actions needed to be taken by individuals, businesses, organizations, state and federal government, and Fairfax County government to achieve the community's emissions reduction goals. As a county of over 1.14 million people, successful reduction of GHG emissions will take collective action across the community. As described below, the proposed CECAP Implementation Plan provides a plan for a shared community implementation for each sector through climate champions, community programs and partners, and county operations.

Achieving CECAP's Emissions Reductions Goals is a Long-Term Shared Responsibility

The **CECAP Implementation Plan** seeks to activate the Fairfax County community's potential to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Reaching our goal requires meaningful and sustained action throughout the community, across all sectors. The implementation plan builds on existing actions being taken by businesses, individuals, and organizations as well as county operations and programs.

Climate Champions



Climate champions are local individuals, businesses, and organizations leading their own meaningful climate action (emissions reduction) initiatives, which may be independent from official county programs. **The Fairfax County government has a role in identifying, elevating, and supporting the work of these champions, acting as a collaborator where appropriate.** Networks of climate champions propel and empower collective action in all sectors, improving the energy efficiency of buildings, expanding renewable energy, supporting alternative and electrified transportation, reducing waste, and protecting and restoring natural resources that serve as "carbon sinks." To support these climate champions, Fairfax

County government plans in 2023 to conduct **Climate Champion pilots for targeted sectors** (the hospitality industry and the non-profit/faith communities). The purpose of these pilot projects is to develop a model for implementation that may be replicated across the broader community. Additionally, Fairfax County plans to conduct a **Climate Champions outreach campaign** through Carbon-Free Fairfax, and to release a **Climate Action Checklist and Resource Guide** for individuals to take specific emissions-reduction actions in their daily lives.



Programs and Partnerships

Fairfax County leads and supports numerous official programs to empower individuals, businesses, and organizations to take climate action throughout the community. For each sector of emissions reduction, there are county-affiliated programs either currently available or actively in development. These programs provide supplies, volunteer training, promotional materials, educational resources, and meaningful opportunities to act. County programs and partnerships nurture, cultivate, and catalyze climate action throughout the community.

- **Examples of existing programs include:** [Carbon Free Fairfax](#), [Conserve Kits](#), [C-PACE](#), [DPWES Tree Programs](#), [DPWES Waste Programs](#), [FCDOT Programs](#), [FCPA Programs](#), [Green Building Recognition](#), [HomeWise](#), [NVSWCD Programs](#), [Operation Stream Shield](#), the [Pitch and Pilot](#), [Solarize](#), [Solar education](#), [Solar Tax Incentives](#), [Solar Fee Relief](#), [Thermal Camera Loan Program](#), [Tree Preservation and Planting Fund](#), and more.
- **Examples of programs in development or redevelopment include:** [Charge Up Fairfax](#), the [Green Bank](#), [Green Business Partners](#), and the Tree Canopy Program for HOAs.








County Government Operations

Fairfax County government also leads by example, working towards carbon neutrality for county government buildings and operations. The County continually works to implement the [Operational Energy Strategy](#) and Sustainable Development Policy for Capital Projects, through LEED Gold Net-Zero Energy renovation and construction, solar installations on county buildings, electrification of transportation buses and fleets, installation of EV chargers, energy use and efficiency improvements, waste management and other operational actions.

CECAP Implementation Plan Actions

As directed by the Board of Supervisors, the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination proactively launched climate action initiatives while simultaneously writing the CECAP Implementation Plan, recognizing that the pursuit of CECAP goals could not wait for completion of the Implementation Plan. These proactive actions include the “existing programs,” listed above and summarized in Figure 1. The CECAP Implementation Plan includes information on both existing and new emissions reduction actions. These actions are organized into the CECAP sectors:

-  Buildings and Energy Efficiency
-  Energy Supply
-  Transportation
-  Waste
-  Natural Resources

The Implementation Plan is a living document that will be implemented using an adaptive management approach, in partnership with the community. The CECAP Implementation Plan actions and timeframes will be reviewed annually to align with the budget planning process and track progress. To guide these reviews, there are key periods for implementation. The Implementation Plan provides timeframes for the initiation of each action (2023-2024, 2025-2030, 2030), estimated durations (<5, 5-10, or 10+ years) to complete an action or achieve a goal, and the current status of each action (ongoing, new, and future).

To help ensure that CECAP implementation is achieving the community's emissions-reduction goals, it will be necessary to track progress over time. In addition to the annual reviews in alignment with the budgeting process, OEEC is developing and populating a Climate Action dashboard to provide metrics and reporting on the various climate action initiatives, including not only the emissions reduction efforts of CECAP and the county's OES, but also the county's resilience and adaptation efforts. The dashboard, which will be available on the OEEC's website, will evolve as the tracking and reporting of these climate initiatives evolves. Additionally, the county will evaluate progress in achieving the interim 2030 CECAP goal at the 2030 Milestone Assessment and recommend if additional actions are needed to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050.

Contact

If you have comments or questions on this report, please contact Kambiz Agazi, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, at (703)-324-7188 or at Kambiz.Agazi@fairfaxcounty.gov.

ATTACHMENTS

- Figure 1, Programs that Contribute to Carbon Neutrality
- CECAP Implementation Plan, December 2022

Figure 1: Programs and Operations that Contribute to Fairfax County's Goal of Carbon Neutrality

