

Response to Questions on the FY 2010 County Lines of Business & Schools Program Review Processes Fall 2008

Request By: Supervisor Foust

Question: Please estimate the energy cost savings that the County would realize if it filled the Energy Manager position that was funded in the 2009 budget but has yet to be filled? Are there any other cost savings the County might realize by filling this position?

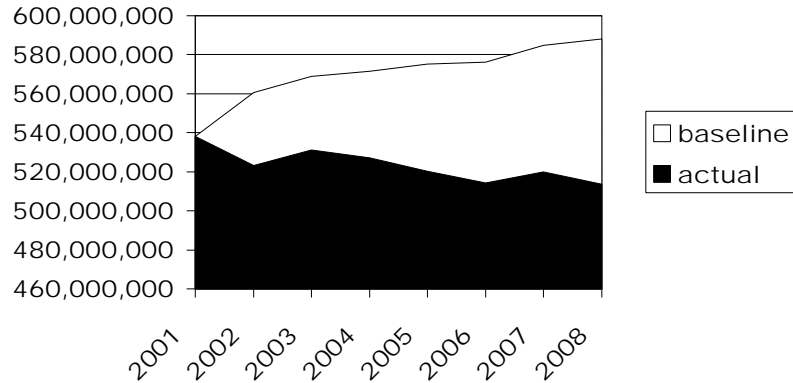
Response: The dollar savings or cost-avoidances associated with this position are entirely dependent on its role. This position was originally not intended to be a full-time energy manager, but rather a coordinator. One of the duties of the position was to develop energy policy and programs to allow the County energy managers to more effectively achieve savings.

If the focus were to be on the regional climate change/coordination efforts, it is very difficult to quantify what the savings would be to the County, and any savings may not occur in the first year. If the focus is on outreach, the savings would not be for the County, but would be for the citizens or area businesses (savings as defined by cost-avoidance to the County and not “other” benefits such as quality of life or environmental).

If the focus is on energy efficiency and conservation in County facilities and/or operations and the County is able to support the position with an annual energy efficiency and conservation budget of at least \$100,000 in year one, then based on previous experience and efforts, it is likely that the County would realize cost avoidance savings beginning in year three. Additional cost avoidance savings could be realized, but a lot of variables would need to fall in place quickly, and agencies and staff would need to respond appropriately to new policies and actions. As an example of previous efforts and experience please see the following “Results” power point slide. In this slide, the y- (or vertical) axis shows what the County’s energy consumption would have been based on 2001 usage levels (based on kBtu or kilo British Thermal Units). The x- (or horizontal) axis is the County’s actual usage. The portion between the two lines is the resulting cost-avoidance savings, estimated at \$5.6 million in cost avoidance since 2001.



Consumption and cost savings per year



Total cost avoidance since 2001 exceeds \$5.6 million

VRA

It is quite evident that the need for energy management in the County is more critical now than ever because the County's projected energy usage for 2010 is greater than it was in 2001. In a recent memo from the County Executive to the Board of Supervisors, dated November 17, 2008, regarding the Energy Manager position, the County Executive recognized the critical need for continuing to support energy efficiency and conservation efforts in the County. In the memo, he noted that while the current fiscal crisis had created a significant impediment to filling the Energy Coordinator position, he believed that a viable alternative was to establish an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee (EECCC), which would serve as an interagency forum for cross-organizational collaboration and coordination of energy efficiency and conservation efforts. The EECCC would be tasked with developing cross-organizational strategies designed to reduce the County's demand for energy. This would serve to reduce electricity costs as well as the associated emissions. Please see the attached memo dated November 17, 2008 regarding the Energy Manager for more details on the future of the County's energy management efforts.




County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: NOV 17 2008

TO: Gerald E. Connolly, Chairman
Board of Supervisors

FROM: Anthony H. Griffin 
County Executive

SUBJECT: Energy Manager

This memo is in response to your October 10, 2008 memorandum inquiring as to the establishment of a full time energy manager. Specifically, you referenced a Board of Supervisors' directive for staff to identify a full time energy manager last spring. This memorandum briefly summarizes the county's response and approach to this directive.

At the direction of the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Committee in October 2007, I included within the fiscal year (FY) 2009 advertised budget an Energy Coordinator position. In April of 2008 the Board of Supervisors adopted the FY 2009 budget with the Energy Coordinator position authorized in the budget. The position was to be established through the abolishment of a vacant assistant to the County Executive position. Although I had every intention of filling the position, due to the worsening fiscal crisis in the County, which includes a FY 2010 projected deficit that is over \$500 million, and FY 2009 revenues that are projected to be down \$58.2 million, I have concluded that filling the vacant Energy Coordinator position would not be fiscally prudent at this time.

While the current fiscal crisis has created a significant impediment to filling the Energy Coordinator position, after consulting with appropriate staff, I believe that a viable alternative would be to formally establish an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee (EECCC), which would serve as an interagency forum for cross-organizational collaboration and coordination of energy efficiency and conservation efforts. The EECCC would be tasked to develop cross-organizational strategies designed to reduce the County's demand for energy. This would serve to reduce electricity costs as well as the associated emissions.

Currently, county staff participates in an interagency energy committee that meets quarterly for the purpose of information exchange and presentation of current technology and efforts. I am proposing to charter and formalize this committee and establish the EECCC to function in a similar capacity as the County's Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC), which is interwoven into the county's strategic plan as it relates to the environment. As you know, the ECC, among its many other accomplishments, produces the award-winning Environmental Improvement Program (EIP) that supports implementation of actions to support the Board's Environmental Agenda.

The EECCC would be a collaborative interagency management committee chaired by Deputy County Executive David Molchany. While the EECCC would not constitute the County's Energy Management program, in that it is anticipated that energy management will need to be developed within a number of agencies, it is anticipated that this committee would ensure an appropriate level of coordination and review of the County's energy efficiency policies and initiatives and establish priorities and manage capacity to create opportunities for implementation of cost and emissions-avoidance actions.

The EECCC will consist of members of various agencies that have a significant role with energy consumption in their respective agency. Some examples of agencies that will likely participate in the EECCC include: Department of Cable Communications and Consumer Protection, Department of Public Works and Environmental Services, Park Authority, Department of Housing and Community Development, Facilities Management Department, Department of Vehicle Services, Public Schools, Department of Information and Technology, Department of Purchasing and Supply Management, Department of Management and Budget, Department of Planning and Zoning and the Environmental Coordinator.

I strongly believe that the EECCC will enhance the County's existing energy efficiency efforts by providing a more focused process for the integration and implementation of energy management efforts countywide.

Thank you for your attention.

cc: Board of Supervisors
David J. Molchany, Deputy County Executive
Robert A. Stalzer, Deputy County Executive
Kambiz Agazi, Fairfax County Environmental Coordinator