

## Response to Questions on the FY 2011 Budget

**Request By:** Supervisor Cook

**Question:** What is the County's annual cost for environmental programs that go beyond meeting current state and federal obligations?

**Response:** An amount of \$180,000 is included in the FY 2010 Adopted Budget Plan, to provide funding for initiatives that directly support the Board of Supervisors' Environmental Agenda. The Environmental Excellence 20-year Vision Plan (Environmental Agenda) includes six topic areas: Growth and Land Use; Air Quality and Transportation; Water Quality; Solid Waste; Parks, Trails and Open Space; and Environmental Stewardship. FY 2010 prioritized initiatives include: \$30,000 to continued outreach materials for air quality awareness in order to fulfill the County's commitment to the State Implementation Plan (SIP) for Clean Air Partners and \$150,000 for additional requirements including final connections and equipment, associated with infrastructure to use landfill gas from the closed landfill at the I-66 Complex as a source of renewable energy to heat the West Ox Bus Operations Center. It is anticipated that savings of approximately \$50,000 annually will be realized in utility expenses at the West Ox Bus Operations Center. In addition, an amount of \$108,000 was provided in Fund 119, Contributory Fund, to continue partnering with three non-profit agencies to expand tree planting throughout the County.

Beginning at the *FY 2004 Carryover Review*, the Board of Supervisors has annually approved funding for several environmental initiatives in direct support of the Environmental Agenda. Project funding has included: efforts to remove invasive plants at park properties, remote household hazardous waste events, energy efficiency and renewable energy initiatives at County and park facilities, lighting retrofits, natural resource development, low impact development projects, tree planting initiatives, conversion of Fairfax Connector buses to ultra-low sulfur fuel vehicles, community clean up and blight abatement events, pedestrian improvements in the Richmond Highway area, and the creation of a landfill gas pipeline to provide renewable energy at the West Ox Vehicle Services Garage and Bus Operations Center. The total approved funding for the Environmental Initiatives Program since the *FY 2004 Carryover Review* is \$5,087,120.

Included in the \$5,087,120 funding level are projects that directly support the County's commitment to the State Implementation Plan (SIP). On February 26, 2007, the Board of Supervisors approved a letter to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality indicating Fairfax County's commitment to the implementation of various voluntary control measures for inclusion into the Virginia portion of the Washington metropolitan region's State Implementation Plan (SIP). There is a legal requirement for the County to implement projects in the State's approved SIP. Projects in the Approved SIP include:

- Purchase of 5,800 Megawatt hours (MWh) of wind energy, April 2005 – April 2007 (\$185,600)
- Purchase of 24,650 MWh of wind energy, April 2007 – March 2010 (\$554,750)

- Tree Canopy Requirements and Tree Planting Initiatives FY 2005- FY 2010 (\$827,800)
- Air Quality Awareness Campaign and the Air Quality Partners initiative FY 2004- FY 2010 (\$90,000).

In addition, the County is involved in a variety of other efforts that support the Board's Environmental Agenda including stormwater management, tree planting initiatives, waste water environmental initiatives and others.

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