

# 2025 Climate Action Progress and Highlights

Fairfax County, Va.



# Foreword

Dear Fairfax County Community,

I am pleased to present the 2025 Climate Action Progress Highlights for the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), summarizing the gains Fairfax County has seen in our effort towards greater sustainability and climate resilience.



**John Morrill, Director  
OEEC**

To offer a few particular highlights:

- We are proud of our office's contributions to the revisions to the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan, adding policies supporting implementation of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan into this fundamental guidance for development in the county. In addition, we completed an Electric Vehicle (EV) Readiness Strategy, identifying opportunities to increase EV charging access throughout the county for all current and future EV drivers.
- Our work continued to improve the efficiency and use of clean energy in county operations. 2025 was the first full year of operation of the government's first geothermal project at Spring Hill Recreation Center, an award-winning project that has reduced energy use there by over 30%. Also, there are now 10 rooftop solar systems generating over 1.5 million kWh of carbon-free electricity per year on county buildings.
- The AC Rescue effort was launched as a full program in 2025, serving residents in need and building resilience to extreme heat. A Resilient Trees amendment to the Public Facilities Manual was prepared to help ensure our future tree canopy is more resilient to a warmer, wetter, and weirder climate.

As always, our work is the result of collaboration across many county departments as well as engagement with outstanding community organizations.

There have been challenges as well. The shift in federal policies and funding for climate action is an impediment to our work and efforts in the community. But we remain focused on the path ahead, emphasizing local opportunities for residents and businesses. We remain confident that by working together we will continue to move Fairfax forward on climate action.

Thank you for your support.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "John H. Morrill". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

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# Our Year in Numbers

**230**

households  
registered  
for  
Sustain Fairfax Challenge



**1**

EV Readiness  
Strategy to support  
more clean vehicles  
on county roads



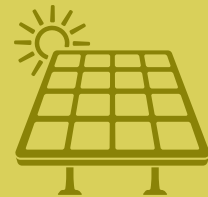
**1,900+**



trees planted  
at school and  
government  
sites

**1.8 MW**

of solar energy  
generated at  
county  
facilities



**\$178K+**

in grants to  
residents for flood  
mitigation assistance



**1,400+**

loan-outs of  
the Library's  
Thermal  
Cameras  
and Conserve Kits



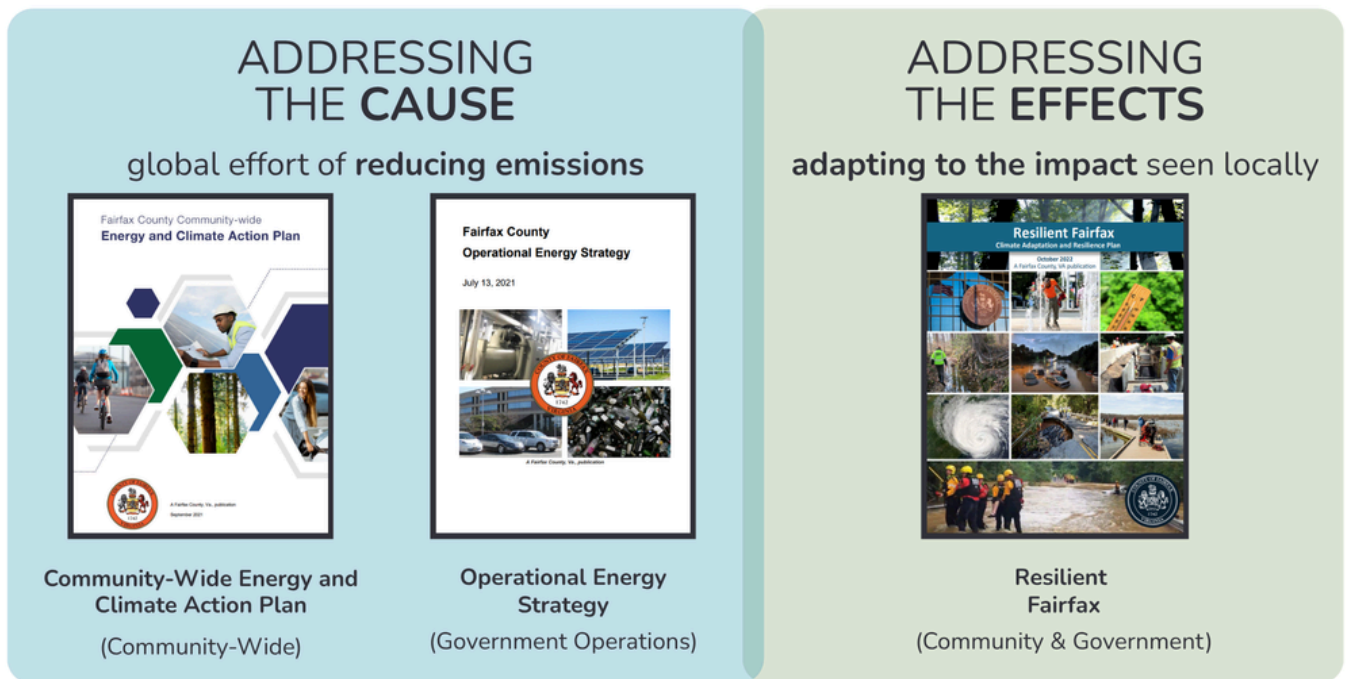
# Introduction

Fairfax County, Virginia is working to address both the cause and the effects of climate change. The county is implementing three plans to achieve the county’s climate goals: the [Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan](#) (CECAP), the [Operational Energy Strategy](#) (OES), and [Resilient Fairfax](#) (see Figure 1). The goals and strategies in these plans are implemented in alignment with [One Fairfax](#), the county’s equity policy.

We do our part in the global effort to address the **cause of climate change** by reducing greenhouse gas pollution that warms the planet (“emissions”). These gases include carbon dioxide and methane, among others. The CECAP and OES plans focus on reducing emissions from transportation, buildings, energy supply and waste. The difference between the two plans is that CECAP focuses on reducing emissions throughout the Fairfax County community, whereas OES focuses on reducing emissions from county government buildings and operations.

We address the **effects of climate change** by reducing vulnerabilities and adapting to climatic hazards that we experience locally, such as increasing extreme heat, severe storms, and flooding. The Resilient Fairfax plan guides us in this effort and applies to both the general population and county government.

## FAIRFAX COUNTY CLIMATE PLANS



*Figure 1. The three climate plans in Fairfax County.*

This report features highlights of progress on the implementation of all three climate plans in Fairfax County for Calendar Year 2025. It complements [OEEC's website](#), which provides data, resources for [residents](#), [organizations](#) and [businesses](#), as well as progress reports from past years. OEEC also publishes a [monthly e-newsletter](#) featuring highlights and success stories from the county’s climate action initiatives.

# Big Picture Data



OEEC tracks key metrics to measure progress towards the broad goals and targets of the three climate plans. Two dashboards expand on the data provided in this report, offering additional detail, visualizations and real-time updates. For a comprehensive view of ongoing trends, countywide performance and the measurable impact of our climate plans, please visit the [Climate Action Dashboard](#) and the [County Government Energy Data tool](#).

## Key Emissions Reduction Metrics

### Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory

The [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#) (MWCOC) performs greenhouse gas emissions inventories for the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia (DMV) region, including Fairfax County, every few years. Figure 2 presents the newly released [2023 inventory](#), which shows our greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by 4.2 million metric tons, or 28%, compared to 2005\*. The sources of emissions are predominantly transportation (49%) and buildings (42%).

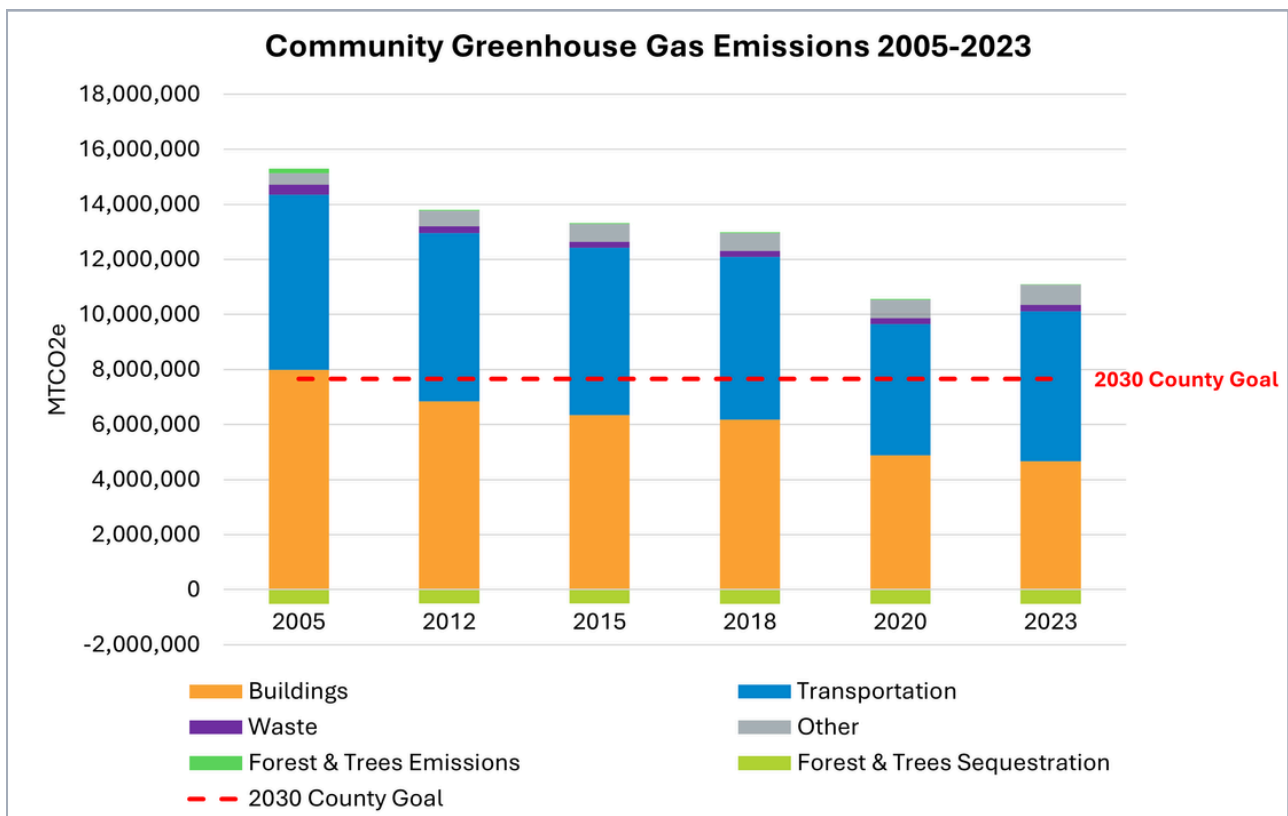
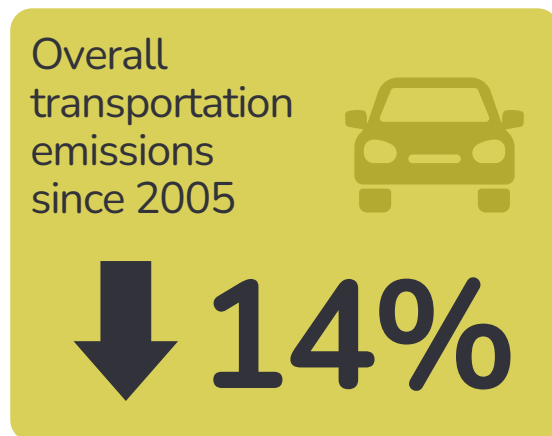
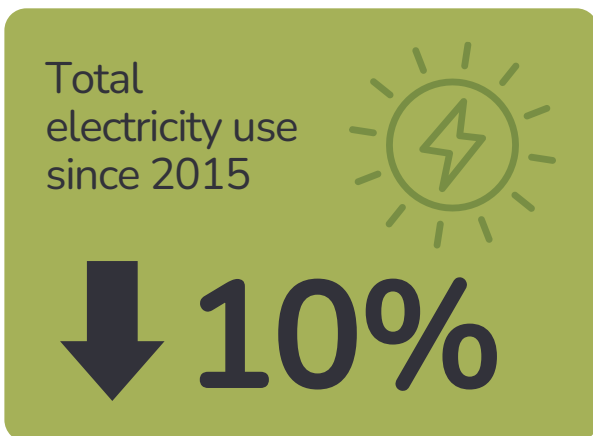
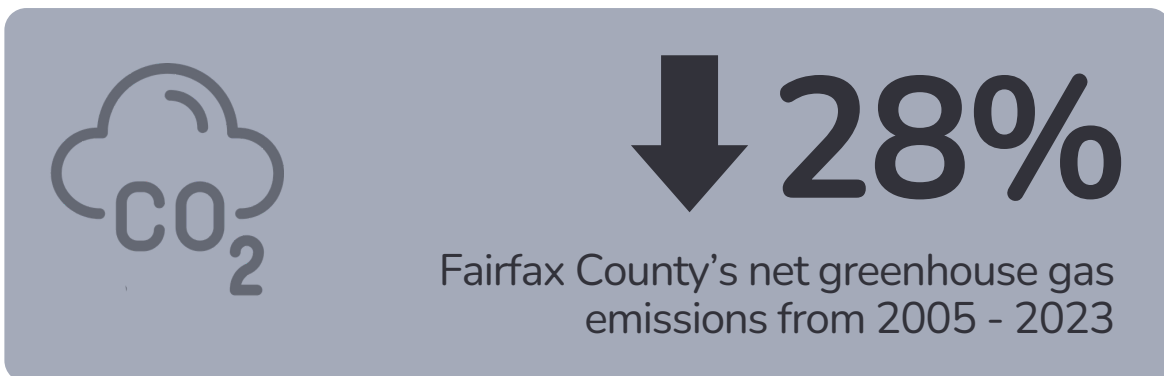


Figure 2. Community Greenhouse Gas Emissions 2005 - 2023.

While emissions have declined since 2005, emissions rose slightly between 2020 and 2023 as the transportation sector recovered from the COVID-19 pandemic. However, transportation emissions in 2023 remained lower than pre-pandemic levels. People in the county are driving 5% fewer miles in 2023 than in 2018, while vehicle emissions are down 10% over that same period, indicating increased vehicle efficiency and electrification of the transportation sector overall (e.g., EVs).

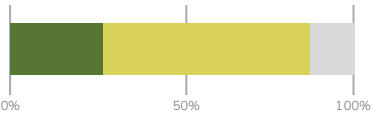
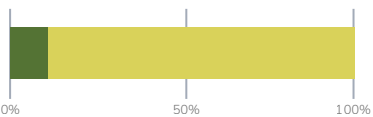
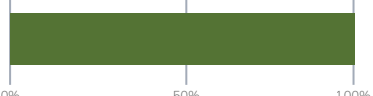
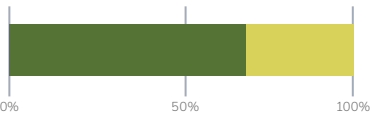
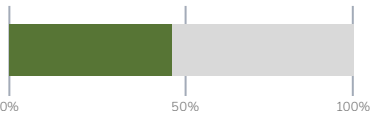
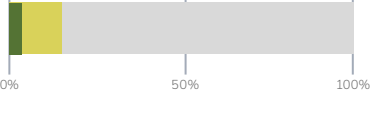
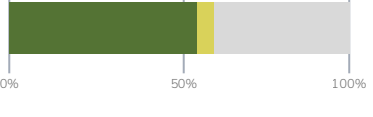
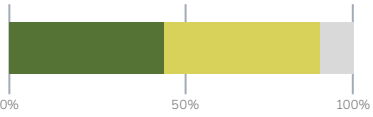
Residential and commercial building emissions continue to decline. Since 2005, commercial building emissions have decreased 43%, and residential building emissions are down 39%. This is attributable to multiple factors, including increases in the share of the electric grid powered by renewable resources and increases in energy efficiency in homes and businesses. Electricity use in the county was 10% lower in 2023 than in 2015 despite the county's growing population, economy, housing units and thousands of electric vehicles charged locally. This trend points to continued energy efficiency in Fairfax County, as thousands of residents and businesses make decisions, large and small, that reduce energy consumption.




For the first time, MWCOG estimated emissions and energy use by data centers in the county. Based on 2023 estimates, data centers are responsible for 2% of county greenhouse gas emissions and approximately 9% of total electricity use.



## Key Metrics for CECAP (Community-Wide)

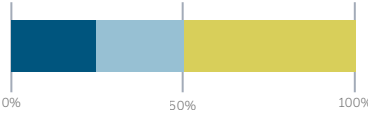
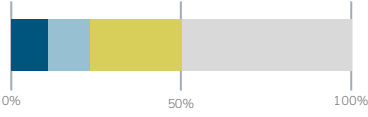
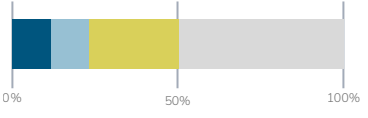
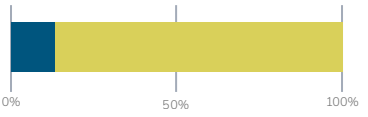
CECAP sets emissions reduction goals for the Fairfax County community overall and by sector. Detailed data and metrics on emissions reduction can be found on the [Climate Action Dashboard](#).

	<p><b>Emissions overall (2050 goal):</b> The main goal is to reduce 87% of emissions in Fairfax County by 2050, compared to 2005 emissions levels. So far, the Fairfax County population has reduced their emissions by 28%, based on the MWCOG 2023 emissions inventory.</p>
	<p><b>Grid Renewables (2045 goal):</b> Fairfax County does not directly control the energy supply grid and energy resources, but the Virginia Clean Economy Act sets a goal of 100% clean energy by 2045. The state has so far achieved 11% clean energy.</p>
	<p><b>Solar (2030 goal):</b> There are now over 5,600 solar installations in Fairfax County with capacity totaling 49 MW of electricity. This surpasses the CECAP goal of 46 MW by 2030.</p>
	<p><b>Building Energy Use (2030 goal):</b> CECAP sets a goal of retrofitting at least 100,000 existing housing units with energy efficiency improvements by 2030. To date, at least 68,890 known housing units have made energy efficiency improvements through various county, state, and utility programs.</p>
	<p><b>Transportation — Commuting (2030 goal):</b> Transit, non-motorized commuting (such as walking and biking), and teleworking now make up over 47% of commutes in the county, according to MWCOG’s 2025 State of the Commute Report. This exceeds the goal of 30% by 2030.</p>
	<p><b>Transportation — EVs (2030 goal):</b> 4.2% of all vehicle registrations in the county are for EVs (including plug-in hybrid EVs and battery EVs). CECAP sets a goal of increasing this percentage to 15% by 2030.</p>
	<p><b>Tree Canopy Coverage (2030 goal):</b> The county has 55% tree canopy coverage. CECAP sets goals of 60% canopy coverage in the county overall and at least 40% coverage within each census tract by 2030.</p>
	<p><b>Waste (2040 goal):</b> The county has a goal of achieving community Zero Waste by 2040. Zero Waste is defined as diversion of 90% of the waste stream from the landfill or incineration. Currently, an estimated 45% of waste in the community is recycled or otherwise diverted.</p>





Legend:  Green: Achieved  Dark Yellow: Total goal  Grey: Not applicable

## Key Metrics for OES (Government Operations)

The OES sets energy and emissions reduction goals for Fairfax County government buildings and operations. While these emissions are less than 5% of Fairfax County’s overall emissions, it is critical for the county government to lead by example and to save taxpayer money through energy savings. Detailed data on OES progress can be found on the [County Government Energy Data tool](#).

	<p><b>Government Emissions*:</b> The overarching target for the OES is to reduce county government emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality by 2040 compared to the FY2018 baseline. Government operations have achieved a 25% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in FY2025 compared to the FY2018 baseline.</p>
	<p><b>Government Renewables:</b> As of 2025, 11% of electricity for county government buildings comes from renewable sources. In 2025, 4 new rooftop solar arrays were installed on county facilities bringing the total to 13. OES has a 2030 target of 25% renewable electricity; and a 2040 target of 50% renewable electricity.</p>
	<p><b>Government Building Energy Use*:</b> Energy use in county government buildings has been reduced by 12% in FY2025 when compared with FY2018 values. The OES sets a target of decreasing energy use by 25% by 2030 and 50% by 2040.</p>
	<p><b>Government Fleet:</b> 13% of the county government fleet is comprised of electric or hybrid vehicles. The OES sets a target that county buses and fleet vehicles be electric or a non-carbon emitting alternative by 2035; and that 99% of Connector bus fleet miles traveled will be with non-carbon emitting vehicles by 2035.</p>

\* This goal is not a cumulative goal; it is a snapshot in time.

Legend:		Blue: Achieved		Grey: Not applicable
		Light Blue: Interim goal		
		Dark Yellow: Total goal		

# Key Adaptation and Resilience Metrics

## Climate Conditions

Fairfax County’s climate is becoming warmer, wetter, and weirder. “Climate” is defined as trends of 20 years or longer. While there is variation from year to year, on average, we are seeing statistically significant trends of rising temperatures, more intense flooding, and stronger storms. These intensifying climate conditions affect our neighborhoods, infrastructure, public services, and natural resources. More detailed information on each of these impacts can be found in the [Vulnerability and Risk Assessment](#).

Figure 3 below displays three examples of key climate metrics. The “warmer” graph shows a clear upward trend in average annual temperatures, which relates to an increase in extreme heat days. The “wetter” graph highlights a growing number of flood and flash flood events per year, driven by more intense precipitation. Lastly, the “weirder” graph illustrates rising storm and wind events per year with enough force to cause damages and disruptions. A warmer atmosphere can hold more moisture, strengthening the power of severe storms. These graphs are just three examples of long-term climate data tracked by OEEC and available on the [Resilience Metrics page](#) of the Climate Action Dashboard.

Tracking long-term climate data helps us understand broader patterns and contextualize the weather patterns we experience each year. In 2025, the average temperature (including all months) was 56.5°F, which exceeds the historical average of 54.2°F degrees. Our hottest year on record so far was 2024, with an average temperature of 58.8°F. A prolonged drought in 2024 and 2025 contributes to a misleading dip in flooding trends. However, in 2025, despite the drought, Fairfax County recorded 26 flash flooding and 4 flooding events, and 40 thunderstorm wind events. While these figures do not reach the elevated levels observed in non-drought years such as 2018 and 2020, the long-term trend of increasing intensity demonstrates the continued importance of enhancing flood and storm resilience in preparation for more active years. These year-to-year fluctuations are expected, and together they contribute to the longer-term climate trends we monitor over time.

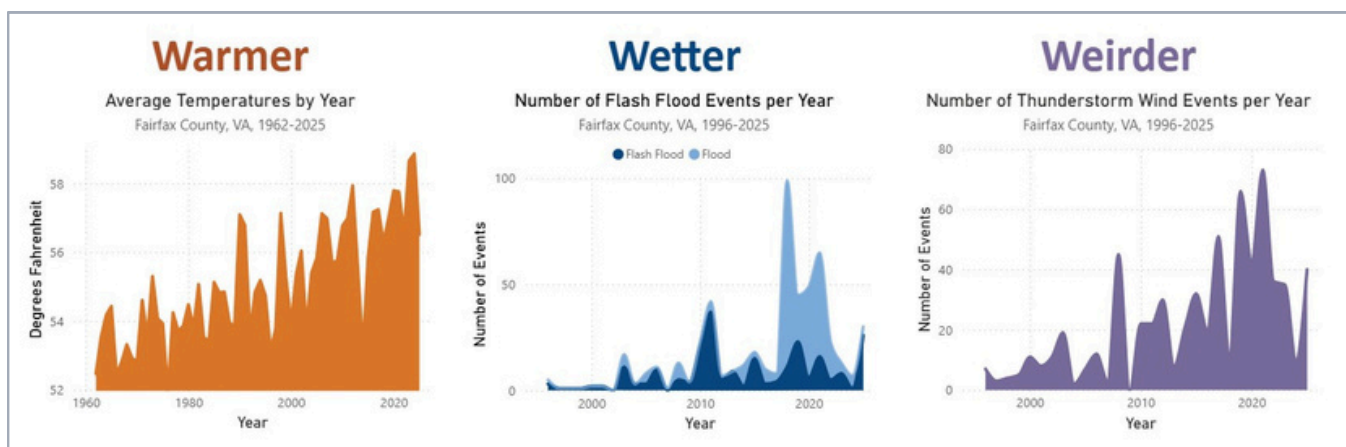


Figure 3. Charts showing warmer, wetter and weirder climate trends in Fairfax County.

Another way to view the “warmer” trend is by graphing years that were hotter or colder than average. Figure 4 below shows how yearly temperatures compare with the historical average of 54.25° F. Years that were warmer than average are shown in red (above the baseline) and years colder than average are shown in blue (below the baseline). This graph shows a clear increase in average temperatures. Of the past 21 years, 20 have been hotter than average.

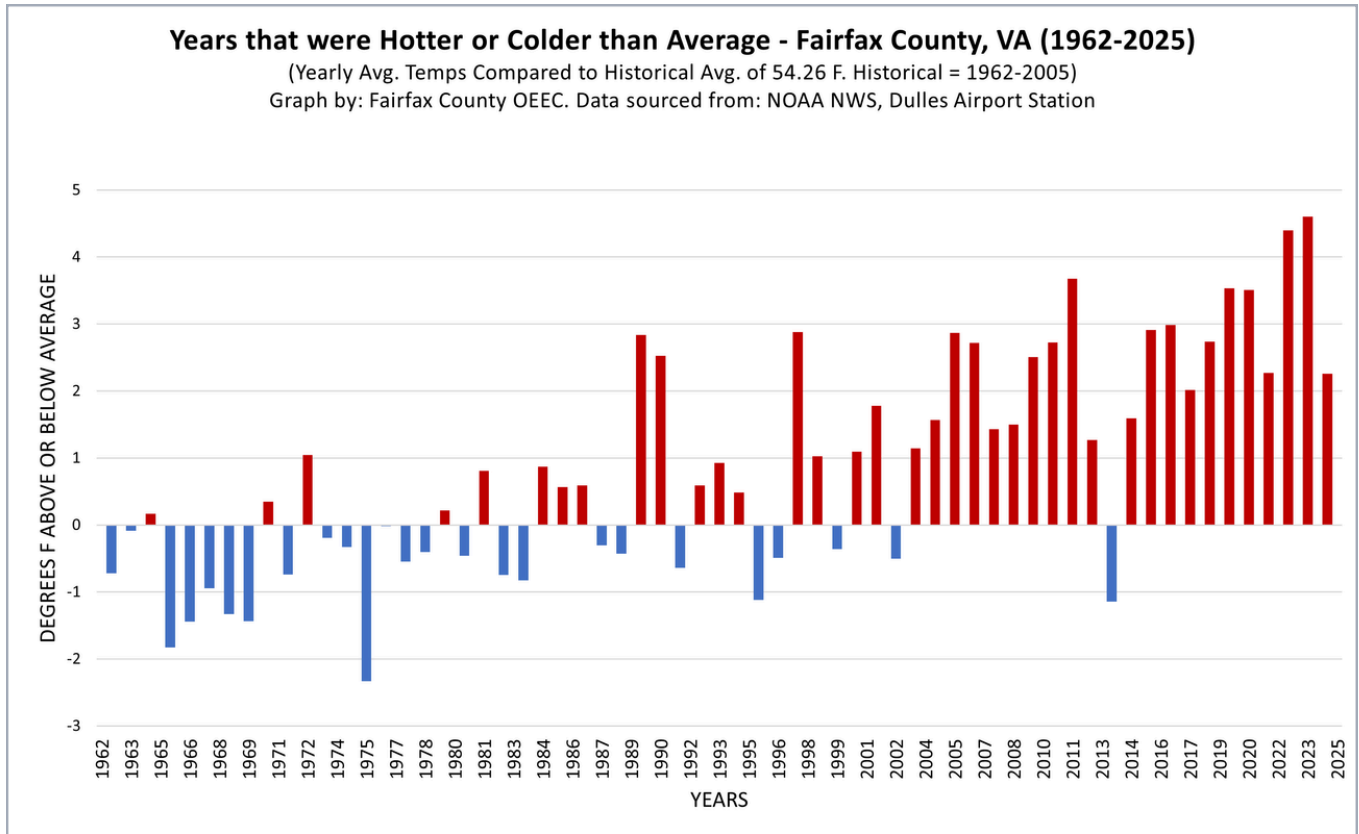


Figure 4. Years hotter or colder than average (1962-2025).

## Key Metrics for Resilient Fairfax

The Resilient Fairfax plan includes dozens of key performance indicators. These indicators show progress toward creating a more resilient county through the implementation of strategies and programs (compared to numerical goals for OES and CECAP).

Indicators related to programs discuss only progress in this section; more information on the programs can be found in the Group 3 section of the report. Detailed Resilient Fairfax data and metrics can be found on the [Climate Action Dashboard](#).

<p>A horizontal bar chart showing progress. The x-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 50% increments. A purple bar representing 'Achieved' extends to 0.9%. A dark yellow bar representing 'Total goal' extends to 99.1%.</p>	<p><b>Buildings located out of the 100-year floodplain:</b> Only 0.9% of buildings in Fairfax County are in FEMA 100-year floodplains, which means 99.1% of buildings are outside of floodplains. However, many buildings are vulnerable to other types of flooding (such as urban flooding) despite being located away from floodplains.</p>
<p>A horizontal bar chart showing progress. The x-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 50% increments. A purple bar representing 'Achieved' extends to 99%. A dark yellow bar representing 'Total goal' also extends to 99%.</p>	<p><b>Flood insurance among those located in a floodplain:</b> 99% of buildings in the FEMA 100-year floodplains have flood insurance, which is required for a federally-backed mortgage.</p>
<p>A horizontal bar chart showing progress. The x-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 50% increments. A purple bar representing 'Achieved' extends to 9.1%. A dark yellow bar representing 'Total goal' extends to 100%.</p>	<p><b>Repetitive loss property mitigation:</b> The county works to mitigate <a href="#">Repetitive Loss (RL) and Severe Repetitive Loss (SRL) properties</a> through buyouts and other measures. Out of 110 total RL properties, 10 (9.1%) have been mitigated. All SRL properties have been mitigated.</p>
<p>A horizontal bar chart showing progress. The x-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 50% increments. A purple bar representing 'Achieved' extends to 17%. A dark yellow bar representing 'Total goal' extends to 500.</p>	<p><b>Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMAP):</b> The county has a goal of serving 500 homes through the <a href="#">Flood Mitigation Assistance Program</a> (FMAP) by 2030. So far, 17% of the milestone has been achieved, with 88 projects approved for assistance through CY 2025.</p>
<p>A horizontal bar chart showing progress. The x-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 50% increments. A purple bar representing 'Achieved' extends to 11%. A dark yellow bar representing 'Total goal' extends to 2,460.</p>	<p><b>Cooling equipment:</b> OEEC estimates that 2,460 households in Fairfax County may need cooling equipment at home*. Since 2018, through the county's cooling programs (<a href="#">AC Rescue</a>, <a href="#">Cooling Assistance</a> and <a href="#">Senior Cool Care</a>), 274 households (11% of the estimated total need) have received air conditioning (AC) equipment help.</p>
<p>A horizontal bar chart showing progress. The x-axis is labeled from 0% to 100% in 50% increments. A purple bar representing 'Achieved' extends to 84%. A dark yellow bar representing 'Total goal' extends to 100%.</p>	<p><b>Urban Heat Islands with cooling centers:</b> The county aims to ensure that all residents living in Urban Heat Islands (UHIs) — our hottest, most developed areas — have convenient access to a cooling center during extreme heat. We are currently at 84% coverage, meaning that most UHI areas have a cooling center located within 1 mile.</p>

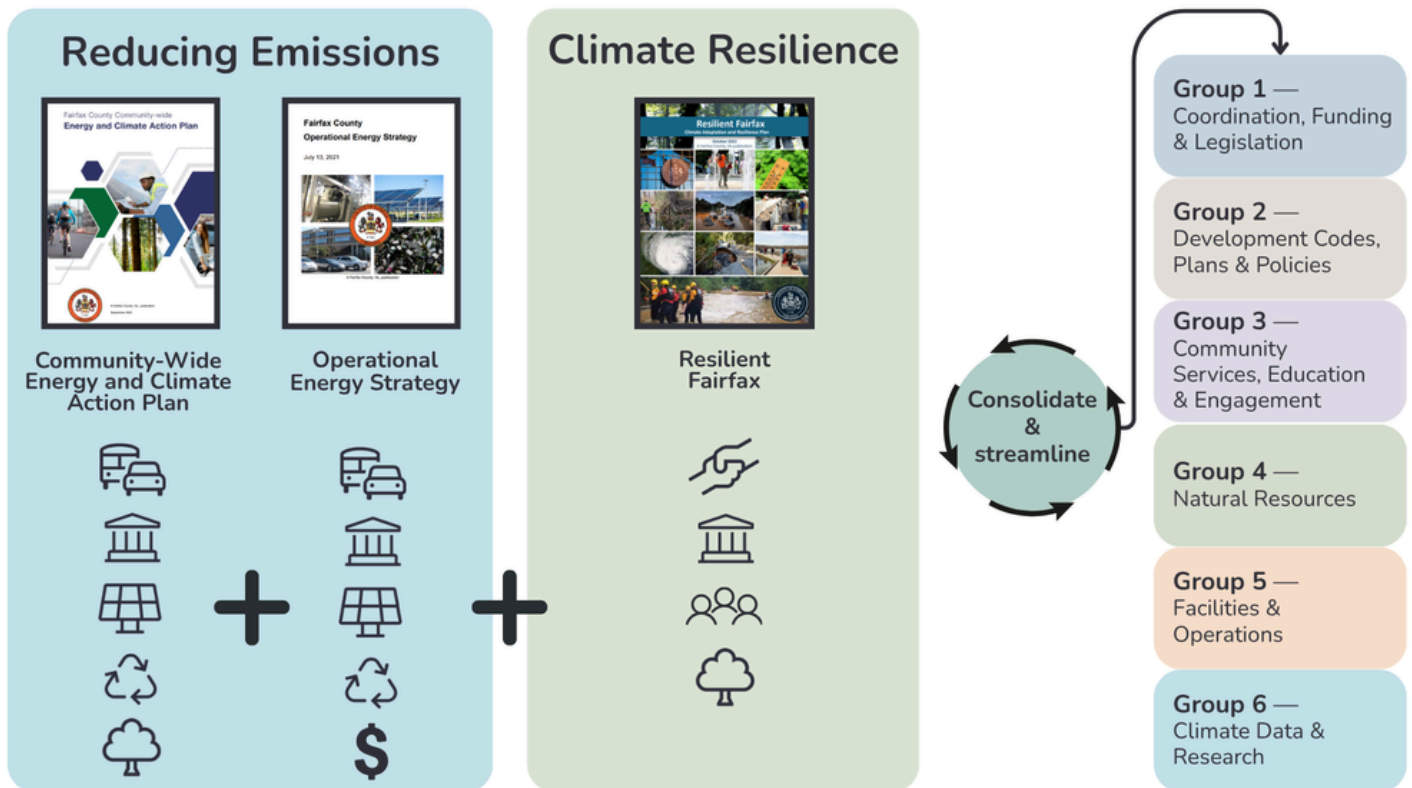
Legend:  Purple: Achieved  
 Dark Yellow: Total goal

\* The estimated total number of homes in need of cooling equipment was refined in 2025 through an analysis of Dept. of Tax Administration data. There are an estimated 2,460 households with non-functioning or no central HVAC equipment.

# Progress on Climate Plan Strategies

The previous section highlighted metrics on key outcomes or goals. Another way to measure progress is to track the completion of strategies and actions from the three climate plans. Strategies include policy updates, community program enhancements, incentives, facility upgrades and more.

Strategies from the climate plans were combined and sorted into six groups as shown in Figure 5 below. OEEC coordinates and supports implementation efforts across more than 25 agencies and 150 staff organized by the six groups. Many of the highlights listed in this progress report have been led by multiple agencies or agencies other than OEEC.



*Figure 5: Implementation of the three climate action plans*

Figure 6 shows a bird’s eye view of strategy progress made to date on the three climate plans. Each Group contains multiple Topic Areas. Each Topic Area is on average, composed of 3-4 strategies. Those strategies, in turn, are further broken down into implementation actions and programs. For simplicity, in this chart, progress is summarized at the Topic Area level.

These progress bars for each Topic Area are a sum of progress made on all underlying strategies and actions. The figure shows that while statuses vary, progress is being made across all topics.

Group	Topic Area	Progress Status	Status Bar
Group 1	Interagency Collaboration & Capacity Building Strategies	78%	
Group 1	Federal, State, Other Funding Opportunity Strategies	67%	
Group 1	Adaptation Action Area Implementation Strategies	75%	
Group 1	Legislative Proposals & Advocacy Strategies	35%	
Group 2	Flood Risk Reduction Plan Strategies	63%	
Group 2	Comprehensive Plan Update Strategies	88%	
Group 2	Urban Design Guideline Update Strategies	69%	
Group 2	County Code & Zoning Ordinance Update Strategies	68%	
Group 3	Community Incentive Strategies	59%	
Group 3	Aid & Risk Reduction Strategies	63%	
Group 3	Education & Workforce Development Strategies	50%	
Group 3	Community-Led Program, Partners & Champion Strategies	50%	
Group 4	Consolidated Natural Resource Management Plan Strategies	10%	
Group 4	Tree Programs & Related Strategies	58%	
Group 4	Natural Area Surveying & Protection Strategies	21%	
Group 4	Nature-Based Restorations & Green Infrastructure Strategies	46%	
Group 5	County Facility Energy, Water, Green Buildings, Utility Strategies	45%	
Group 5	County Facility & Infrastructure Resilience Strategies	10%	
Group 5	County Fleet & Transit Strategies	36%	
Group 5	Zero Waste & Sustainable Procurement Strategies	43%	
Group 6	Climate Data & Map Update Strategies	75%	
Group 6	Climate-Related Research Strategies	38%	

Figure 6. Progress status table, showing percentage of progress towards each Topic Area.

# Group 1 — Coordination, Funding & Legislation



*Staff from the Urban and Community Forestry Division distributing reusable bags*

Successful climate action is achieved through strong interagency and regional coordination, diverse funding sources for important projects and supportive state-level legislation. This section includes highlights related to these Group 1 strategies.

## Plastic Bag Tax

Fairfax County implemented a five-cent tax on disposable plastic bags on January 1, 2022. The tax is primarily intended to curb our collective use of plastic bags and reduce the amount of plastic waste in our local environment. In 2025, approximately 3.6 million fewer plastic bags were used than in 2023, resulting in a total reduction of 7 million plastic bags since the tax took effect. The plastic bag tax generated close to \$2.4 million in revenue in 2025 and has generated over \$9.5 million over the lifespan of the program. Revenue funds a wide range of environmental cleanup, litter mitigation and educational programs on waste reduction.

Notably, the tax helps fund both OES and community Zero Waste projects, including composting initiatives, waste diversion efforts for hard-to-recycle items, outreach and engagement projects, and the purchase and distribution of reusable foodware, bags and other items.

## Capacity Building through Interagency and Regional Coordination

Implementation of the county's climate plans is a whole-of-government effort. There are more than 25 county government agencies whose work contributes to our climate mitigation and

resilience goals. Hundreds of staff across county government coordinate with one another to ensure that work is streamlined, well-coordinated, and effective.

Fairfax County staff and elected officials continue to serve as regional leaders, stepping up for climate-related initiatives led by [MWCOG](#), [Northern Virginia Regional Commission](#) (NVRC), local military installations, Virginia Energy and Sustainability Peer Network (VESPN), [Southeast Sustainability Directors Network](#) (SSDN), [Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association](#) (VEPGA) and more.



## State-Level Legislative Proposals and Actions

Each year at the Virginia General Assembly, Fairfax County advocates for legislation and funding initiatives that promote environmental stewardship and increase local authority. The county tracked several bills during the 2025 legislative session that would have increased oversight of data centers through the development of siting and zoning restrictions, reporting requirements on energy and water use, and safeguards to ensure utility costs are not subsidized by other customers. All bills were either defeated or vetoed by Governor Youngkin. Likewise, the governor vetoed legislation that would have accelerated the deployment of EV charging infrastructure across the state, increased statewide targets for renewable energy storage and reduced barriers for local governments installing solar energy systems.

Fairfax County also advocated restoring Virginia’s participation in the [Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative](#) (RGGI), a cap-and-trade program designed to reduce power sector carbon dioxide emissions. The state participated in RGGI from 2021 to 2023 and generated over \$827 million in revenue. Of that, \$22 million supported community flood preparedness projects in Fairfax County while over \$6 million supported low-income energy efficiency programming for county residents.

## Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Grant

In 2025, Fairfax County was formally awarded \$2,520,000 in federal funding under the Federal Highway Administration's (FHWA) Charging and Fueling Infrastructure grant to design and install EV charging stations at 25 publicly accessible county-owned parking lots. The sites include government offices, parks, libraries, community centers and recreation centers.

In 2025, Fairfax County signed a subaward agreement with MWCOG (the primary awardee) and began the design phase of the grant program. By the end of 2025, design was underway at each site, with a target of completing all designs by September 2026 and submitting to the FHWA for review, before moving into the construction phase in 2027.



### Success



Reduced the use of disposable plastic bags by more than 3.6 million in 2025 through Fairfax County's five-cent plastic bag tax, while generating \$2.4 million to fund local zero waste, litter reduction, and environmental education programs.

# Group 2 — Development Codes, Plans & Policies



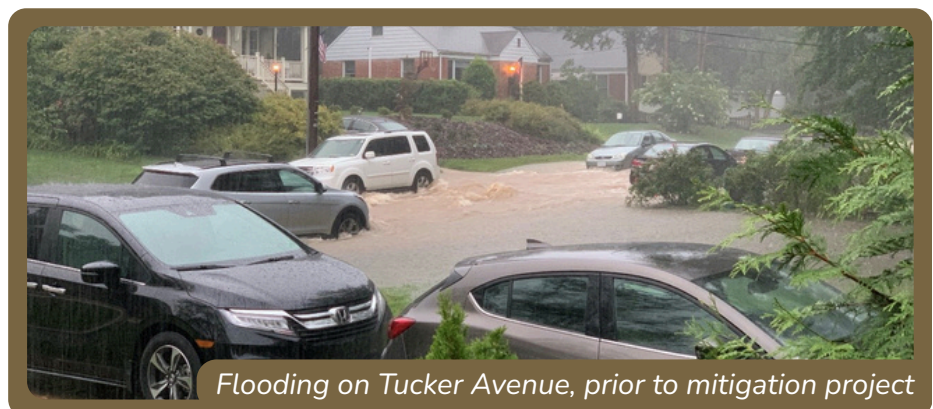
*Tucker Avenue Flood Mitigation Project*

The design and layout of our communities make a big difference in our ability to live in a sustainable and resilient way. Updating our development rules and guidelines helps us to create a community that is more flood-resilient, walkable and less polluted. This section highlights progress made on strategies in Group 2 that focus on climate-related updates to the county’s land development codes, plans and policies.

## Flood Risk Reduction Policy

County staff remain hard at work implementing flood risk reduction through several approaches. The county has prioritized programs, projects and regulations that conserve floodplains, manage stormwater and reduce flooding impacts on people and property. In 2025, the county adopted the [Flood Risk Reduction Policy](#), updating its framework for mitigating flood impacts and adapting to

more extreme climate conditions. The county also works to ensure all residents have equitable opportunities to manage flood risk through education and grant programs, like the [Flood Mitigation Assistance Program](#) (FMAP).



*Flooding on Tucker Avenue, prior to mitigation project*

## Comprehensive Plan Amendments

The Board of Supervisors (BOS) authorized staff, led by the Department of Planning and Development (DPD), to update the entire Policy Plan of the Comprehensive Plan. The [Environment Element of the Policy Plan](#) was reviewed and updated with significant coordination and input from the community, Planning Commission, BOS, Boards, Authorities, and Commissions (BACs), and partner agencies. On December 9, 2025, the BOS adopted Phase 1 of the Policy Plan amendment, which included revisions to the Environment Element, as well as updates to Land Use, Transportation, and Parks and Recreation and added a new Healthy Communities Element which include climate related topics.

The Environment Element updates guidance related to energy efficiency, green buildings, and climate and resilience goals. It raises the standard for green buildings in the county and continues to encourage commitments to formal certification for new development and redevelopment, as well as retrofit projects during the entitlement process. The updated Environment Element includes policies pertaining to Conservation Corridors by recommending the identification and establishment of a county-wide conservation corridor connectivity network plan for use in the review of new development and redevelopment projects. It also encourages site design approaches that prioritize tree preservation, natural landscaping, and the incorporation of green infrastructure and other environmental features within or adjacent to those project areas. Other revisions were made to guidance on tree cover, open space, native plant communities and soil health. In addition to the Environment Element, the Healthy Communities Element was updated with a new objective to encourage development that supports climate adaptation. The objective includes green infrastructure and healthy buildings to reduce the vulnerability of community members to the harmful effects of climate change. In conjunction with the review of current county environmental policies, the Policy Plan update provides guidance that strengthens and improves the integration of climate change and resilience.

## Zoning Ordinance and Other County Code Amendments

The county continues to pursue amendments to the Zoning Ordinance and other County Codes to facilitate more resilient and sustainable communities. One example from 2025 was the proposed amendment for battery energy storage systems (BESS). BESS can facilitate the use of renewable energy sources and provide resilient back-up power. The proposed amendment would redefine BESS, allow for larger-scale systems, alter use standards, and add new permissions while keeping in mind public safety and compatibility with the surrounding land uses. Throughout 2025, staff in DPD frequently presented information about the [BESS Zoning Ordinance Amendment](#) to the BOS, Planning Commission, BACs, and the public. Public hearings are anticipated for 2026.

## Design Guidance Updates

The county's [Urban Design Guidelines](#) include detailed guidance that enhances the vision of the Comprehensive Plan through innovative and sustainable design solutions. In 2025, an amendment to Volume I of the Urban Design Guidelines was completed. The updated volume lays out best

practices in urban design in alignment with CECAP and Resilient Fairfax as well as recreational goals set forth by Active Fairfax and the Parks, Recreation, Open Space, and Access (PROSA) Strategy. Updates to the Urban Design Guidelines that relate most closely to CECAP include bike-friendly and pedestrian-oriented design and the use of sustainable materials. Resilient Fairfax-related updates include pavement, street tree and biophilic design solutions to reduce stormwater runoff and the urban heat island effect.



### Success

Updated the Policy Plan to include climate adaptation and sustainability considerations in the county’s long-term vision for sustainable, resilient development.

# Group 3 — Community Services, Education & Engagement



OEEC staff speaking with residents at a community event

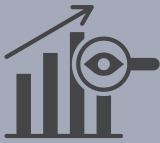
Successful climate progress in Fairfax County is powered by the collective actions of our community. It takes all of us working together to make meaningful change in a county that over 1.16 million residents call home. This section highlights progress on Group 3 strategies that focus on climate-related community services, education, engagement, and incentives.

## General Public Information and Outreach

Fairfax County staff had the privilege of engaging fellow community members in 2025 in many different formats, including in-person events and meetings, expos, presentations and webinars, social media campaigns, website updates, videos, podcasts, informational campaigns, and the production of a suite of new resources and toolkits for residents. Highlights of new or updated resources include the following:

- [Sustain Fairfax](#): Focused on environmental stewardship and sustainable practices, this public awareness campaign delivered over 11.1 million impressions, 19,500 clicks and over 102,000 video views across social and digital platforms. The campaign highlights key actions and promotes county resources and programs, such as Charge Up Fairfax and the Fairfax Energy Compass, to foster collective responsibility and community engagement. Complementing the broader campaign, the [Sustain Fairfax Challenge](#) offers a climate action tracking platform that engaged over 230 households in 2025.

- **Board of Supervisor Initiatives:** County elected officials sponsored proclamations for Earth Day, Air Quality Awareness Week and Energy Efficiency Week.
- [OEEC's Monthly E-Newsletter:](#) Featured highlights and success stories from the county's climate action initiatives.
- [Climate Matters Blog:](#) Published 27 blog posts written by staff and guests in 2025 that shared stories, insights and information related to climate change and environmental sustainability.

**11.1 million**   
impressions from Sustain Fairfax campaign

**1,800+**  
newsletter subscribers 

 **39**  
outreach events

**13**   
webinars, videos and podcasts

 **1,500+**  
social media posts across three platforms

## New Programs

### AC Rescue

Extreme heat is the most dangerous natural hazard in the United States\*. To help ensure that all residents have safe temperatures at home, the county formally launched the [AC Rescue](#) program in 2025. The program started in summer 2024 as a pilot project in the Harmony Place Mobile Home Park to fill a critical gap in air conditioning (AC) equipment needs during the hot summer.

In 2025, in partnership with the non-profit Rebuilding Together, OEEC launched AC Rescue as a year-round program open to residents across the county. AC Rescue provides small AC equipment to low- and moderate-income Fairfax County residents who are in need of safer temperatures at home and are unable to receive help from other cooling programs. Since the start of the program, 48 households received AC equipment installations, drop-offs, repairs, or replacements to help keep their homes cooler during the summer months, including 19 households in 2025. AC Rescue is administered as part of a broader Home Repair and Accessibility Modifications program, enabling many homes to receive additional essential home repairs from Rebuilding Together.



*Volunteer installing a window AC unit*

### Electric Vehicle Readiness Strategy

OEEC and the Department of Vehicle Services developed an [Electric Vehicle Readiness Strategy](#) to enable the widespread use of EVs in the Fairfax County community. This strategy includes recommendations on the number and approximate location of EV supply equipment (EVSE) throughout the community and provides recommendations to overcome obstacles in the deployment of EVSE. The strategy includes recommendations for increasing the availability and use of EVs in underserved communities to ensure equitable access.

### Energy Compass

OEEC launched [Fairfax Energy Compass](#) in fall 2025. The program provides individualized technical assistance to residents interested in increasing their home's energy efficiency or pursuing electrification. The pilot program was developed in response to community feedback that one of the barriers to making larger home energy upgrades (such as getting a heat pump, adding solar, or replacing windows and doors) was having enough information to feel confident in taking action. The concierge-style program provides residents with free, individual support from an Energy Navigator to answer technical questions, identify relevant incentives and a list of certified contractors to make it easier for residents to act.

After connecting with each resident, the Energy Navigator provides personalized recommendations to support the resident’s next steps and to help establish a long-term relationship with the program.

Staff are currently evaluating the pilot program and making changes in response to resident feedback, with a marketing campaign and additional outreach efforts planned for 2026.



## Continuing Programs

### Additional Extreme Heat Resources

The county maintains a wide array of [resources](#), ranging from publicly accessible cooling relief to programs to help with cooling at home. Many libraries, recreation centers, and human service centers act as [Cooling Centers](#). In Fairfax County, Cooling Centers go beyond providing air-conditioned spaces; they also have trained staff, protocols, and supplies for heat relief. In 2025, there were 1,113 visits to the county’s 47 cooling centers. In addition to the new AC Rescue program discussed in the “new programs” section, the county continues to administer the [Cooling Assistance](#) program, which provides financial and other assistance to those who cannot afford air conditioning. In 2025, 1,577 service requests were approved. Additionally, the Senior Cool Care program provides a limited supply of fans and small AC equipment to low-income seniors.

The county also maintains excellent heat-related safety protocols for school sports and provides heightened service to unhoused populations during extreme heat events. In 2025, the [Fairfax County Health Department’s](#) (FCHD) Homeless Healthcare Program continued the distribution of heat-related health information during its street outreach to provide healthcare services and prevention education to unhoused populations. FCHD also provided heat safety educational resources to outreach teams and community-based organizations for distribution to underserved high-risk populations.

## Charge Up Fairfax

[Charge Up Fairfax](#) supports common interest communities, as they transition toward more sustainable practices by installing EV charging infrastructure. OEEC continues to work with 19 communities who enrolled in the program since it was piloted in 2023. Six of these communities already have EV chargers installed, electrified and operational. Most recently, the Encore of McLean Condominium Unit Owners Association installed two dual chargers for 221 units in December 2025. Six other communities are in the process of installation, and the remainder are finalizing their contractor selection.



## Energy Conservation Assistance Program

The [Energy Conservation Assistance Program](#) (ECAP) is managed by OEEC and administered by the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District (NVSWCD). The program offers grants to support common interest communities installing energy upgrades or improving resilience. In 2025, funded projects included LED lighting upgrades, heat pump installation, and insulation replacement and enhancement. Recent projects included a significant increase in insulation at the community building for the Townes of Moorefield Community Association and the replacement of an aging heating system with a heat pump at Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

## Fairfax County Libraries Thermal Cameras and Conserve Energy Kits

The Fairfax County Library of Things [Conserve Energy Kit](#) and [Thermal Camera](#) loan programs continue to be successful. The libraries recently invested in a set of new thermal cameras compatible with both Apple and Android platforms, which were made available to residents to help identify hot and cold spots in their homes that might need additional weatherization. Residents can also reserve a Conserve Energy Kit filled with consumables like weatherstripping and caulk and sensors like thermometers and a moisture meter for up to two weeks to improve their home's energy efficiency. In 2025, the Conserve Kits were checked out by residents 709 times and the thermal cameras were checked out 693 times.



## Flood Risk Reduction and Stormwater Programs for Residents

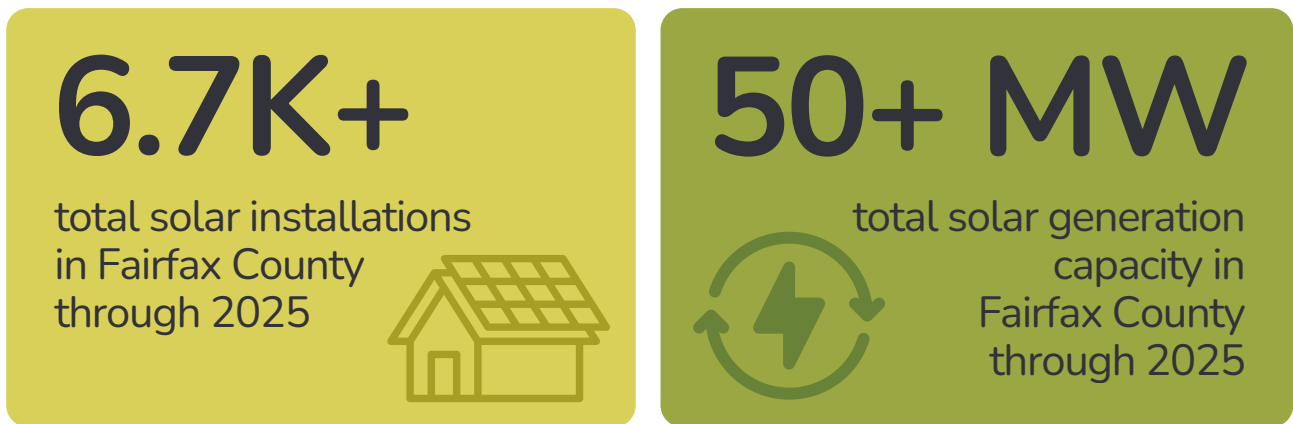
NVSWCD administers two programs to help property owners with stormwater management: the [Flood Mitigation Assistance Program \(FMAP\)](#), which helps fund floodproofing practices installed in and around homes; and the [Conservation Assistance Program \(CAP\)](#), which helps fund projects to reduce negative impacts from stormwater and erosion in yards. Projects available through FMAP can include floodproof windows, basement window covers, flood gates, sump pump back up batteries, HVAC elevation and more.

In 2025, the program's first full year, staff approved 53 applications and disbursed \$178,277 in reimbursement monies, averaging \$3,364 per applicant. Projects available through CAP include bioretention, rain gardens, impervious surface removal, and more. NVSWCD staff conduct site visits to provide technical assistance and recommend solutions. In 2025, staff approved 63 project applications and conducted 150 site visits. In total, 53 projects were installed in the community.

## Residential Solar Campaigns

Fairfax County continues to promote the [Switch Together](#) and [Solarize Virginia](#) campaigns that provide access to preapproved solar companies who install solar systems at a bulk discount for homes, non-profits, and businesses. In 2025, the campaigns had 848 sign-ups with 84 confirmed installations reported to date. Federal solar incentives expired at the end of December 2025, and county records indicate a spike in solar permit applications in the second half of 2025, with 771 applications submitted from July through December 2025, compared to 426 from January through June 2025.

## Cumulative Solar Capacity in Fairfax County



## Green Business Partners

The [Green Business Partners](#) program recognizes businesses that are actively engaging in or interested in sustainable business practices that advance climate action and help create a carbon neutral economy. As of 2025, there is a membership of 70 partners, including 14 Allies, 22 Leaders and 34 Members. OEEC provided multiple engagement, educational and recognition opportunities for members. These included adding new resources to the website, a Green Business Social networking event, two webinar events, two new Spotlight videos and bimonthly newsletters.

In 2025, the program launched two pilot efforts to support peer learning and program refinement. The hospitality pilot engaged major hotel brands and service providers to facilitate sector-specific discussions and assess implementation challenges related to sustainable practices. Another pilot brought together current program partners to discuss energy and emissions tracking and inform future technical resources. Both pilots continue to advance the program so it can best support business needs.



### Success



Launched new and expanded community-facing programs that equip residents with practical tools, technical support, and financial assistance to save energy, stay safe in extreme heat and reduce flood risk at home.

# Group 4 — Natural Resources



Dead Run Stream Valley Trail

Fairfax County is home to an impressive variety of natural resources that shape its character and support a healthy environment. This section shares initiatives to enhance our tree canopy, streams, wetlands, and shorelines, making strides on strategies in Group 4.

## Tree Planting and Programs

There are many hands at work when it comes to sustaining a healthy and adaptive tree canopy. More than 20 local tree planting programs account for thousands of tree plantings per year in the community. The Urban and Community Forestry Division (UCFD) leads the county’s tree-related work and is an active partner among existing organizations. In 2025, UCFD launched its new [Tree Distribution to Community Organizations](#) program, a partnership with Casey Trees to provide free, professionally grown, native trees to plant on private properties. During the fall of 2025, 152 trees were delivered to 9 organizations. When it comes to selecting public sites for planting, UCFD staff leverage vulnerability data and land surface temperature data to optimize tree coverage for heat island reduction. In 2025, more than two dozen county schools and government sites collectively received over 1,900 trees. Adding new trees to our tree canopy is not just a numbers game — the quality and traits of a tree species matter just as much for our urban forest. UCFD and its partners abide by the philosophy of “right tree, right place, for the right reasons.”



Tree planting at McNair Elementary

## Resilient Trees

Warmer, wetter, and weirder conditions in Fairfax County make it vital to consider climate adaptation and resilience when selecting the right tree. Downed trees can be caused by several factors, including the changing climate, especially an associated increase in storm severity. Downed trees in Fairfax County are now the most common reason for weather-related road closures in Fairfax County according to VDOT data. The good news is that we can select more climate-resilient and adaptive trees. There are tree species that are physically more resilient to climatic shocks and stressors, trees that can adapt to change over time, and trees that provide climate adaptation benefits to our community, such as exceptional stormwater absorption and cooling abilities.

Through the “Resilient Trees” initiative, the county is updating guidance on tree species recommended for planting in the Public Facilities Manual (PFM). The PFM guides developer decisions, which impact our landscape over time. The [Resilient Trees amendment to the PFM](#) is supported by substantial research and provides better and more tree options. The amendment is planned to go through the public hearing process in spring and summer 2026. There is also a new [public-facing guide to Resilient Trees](#) available.



## Wetland, Stream, and Floodplain Restorations

Beyond our tree canopy, county staff across multiple departments dedicate significant efforts to restoring wetlands, streams and floodplains. When our natural systems are healthy, they provide co-benefits like cleaner air and water, stormwater absorption and biodiverse habitats.

FCPA’s [Helping our Land Heal](#) program and DPWES’ [Stream Restoration](#) and [Stormwater Improvement](#) projects continue to make a tangible difference towards these goals. As of late 2025, FCPA had 10 active ecosystem restoration projects through the Helping Our Land Heal program. In 2025, DPWES completed 5 stream restoration projects – covering a length of 13,000 feet of streams. Restoring streams improves water quality, instream habitats and floodplain forests to help improve the overall health of our local streams, rivers and the Chesapeake Bay.

## Living Shorelines

Living shorelines are a water management practice that provide climate resilience, erosion control, and water quality benefits. Like other nature-based solutions, they both protect and enhance existing shoreline habitat, including tidal wetlands. In 2025, DPWES and FCPA developed a concept plan for the creation of a living shoreline along the Occoquan River within Old Colchester Park and Preserve. Additionally, LDS created a [Living Shoreline webpage](#) with guidance and resources for property owners undertaking projects involving these practices. Grant funding to assist with these projects is available through the NVSWCD [Conservation Assistance Programs](#).

## Water Quality

Clean water plays a vital role in a sustainable environment for human health and the ecological health of our local streams, rivers and Chesapeake Bay. Under the County's [Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System](#) (MS4) permit issued by the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the county is required to ensure a certain level of water quality by implementing policies, programs and projects to prevent and reduce pollution such as engine oil, fertilizer, sediment and trash from entering our local waterbodies from the stormwater management systems. In 2025, staff finalized water quality pollution reduction [action plans](#) for nutrients, bacteria, sediments, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). The four action plans went through public comment and were submitted to the Virginia DEQ. These action plans include implementation of best management practices such as green infrastructure, stream restorations, and protection of environmentally sensitive areas that promote cleaner water and provide co-benefits related to climate mitigation and resilience.

### Success



Released the Resilient Trees initiative to update county guidance so that developers and residents can choose climate-ready tree species that better withstand extreme weather, reduce storm impacts and strengthen Fairfax County's urban forest over time.

# Group 5 — Facilities & Operations



County staff and consultants conducting an energy audit at Bailey's Crossroads Volunteer Fire Department

In 2025, Fairfax County made significant progress in reducing electricity consumption, expanding solar installations, and improving the resilience of county facilities to climatic hazards. This section highlights progress made on strategies related to Group 5.

## Energy Audits and Retrofits

Since the OES was published in 2021, 47 energy audits have been conducted (12 of those in 2025), and 19 energy retrofits have been completed (10 in 2025). Projects completed under energy saving performance contracts at nine county facilities achieved over \$660,000 in avoided utility costs in 2025, exceeding the total savings target by 125%.

Fairfax County currently has 10 facilities enrolled to voluntarily purchase renewable energy through Dominion Energy. Four of those facilities purchased renewable energy for 100% of their electricity use while the others purchased a fixed amount of renewable energy monthly.



Energy retrofit work at Franconia Rec Center

## Green Buildings

As of 2025, 49 county government buildings are LEED certified. Of those, 21 are LEED Gold. Visit the [OES Green Buildings webpage](#) to see a full listing and map of these facilities.

## Streetlight LED Upgrades

As of March 2026, approximately 93% of the streetlights within the Dominion Energy served area in Fairfax County have been converted to LED, with another 2,400 streetlight conversions in Dominion's queue for estimating/construction. Total electricity use by streetlights has decreased by 56% between 2018 and 2025.

## Solar on County Buildings

The county continued to install solar on county government buildings. As of December 2025, there are 13 county buildings with rooftop solar, with 11 additional solar installations planned by the end of 2026. A total of 1.8 MW of solar capacity has been installed on county buildings to date. In May 2025, the DPWES energized its new 350-kilowatt solar photovoltaic array installed on the roof of the I-66 Transfer Station. The project's goal is to offset electricity use at the busy refuse center. The new solar array, the largest to date among DPWES facilities, generates enough energy to power 36 homes annually, and is expected to reduce the center's electricity needs by 24%.



*Solar installed at Spring Hill Rec Center*

## Electric and Hybrid Vehicles in the County Fleet

The county continues to make progress converting the government's gas-powered vehicle fleet to electric and hybrid vehicles. In 2025, nearly 13% of the fleet is electric or hybrid. In November 2025, staff reported to the BOS on the Fleet Transition Study, which examined the county's active fleet and existing replacement program. The study shows that transition of public safety and heavy-duty vehicles is not feasible today due to the lack of suitable replacement vehicles, making the 2035 OES target appear unattainable due to limited EV choices. Staff continue to monitor the market and will pursue suitable electric alternatives when available.

To enable this fleet conversion, the county has also installed 137 EV charging ports on county government property. Additional information on county fleet transition and community EV adoption is available in the 2025 [Electric Vehicle Readiness Strategy](#).

In 2024, Fairfax Connector initiated an electric bus pilot program to evaluate the performance and operational feasibility of fully zero-emission technology. The pilot began with the deployment of 12 all-electric New Flyer buses and resulted in several insights regarding recalls, operating range, and seasonal energy consumption.

Fairfax Connector is expanding the zero-emission pilot program and plans to introduce battery-electric buses (BEBs) from an additional manufacturer with increased battery capacity. In addition, Fairfax Connector will introduce 19 hybrid-electric buses equipped with next-generation hybrid technology. These buses are expected to enter service this spring and will be capable of operating limited distances within predefined zones using battery energy only in a fully zero-emission mode.

## Zero Waste in County Operations

The county continues to make progress towards its goal of Zero Waste by 2030 (90% of waste diverted by 2030). The county calculates its current diversion rate based on the best available data. However, changes in hauling service in CY24 reduced access to reliable data. With a new hauling contract to start in Spring 2026, the county will be able to calculate an updated diversion rate. In the meantime, we are sharing a set of interim metrics that highlight the significant work and progress the county is making toward its Zero Waste goals through a variety of programs, including reusable foodware party packs, the Surplus Program, and more. In addition, the third annual Action Plans and reports are in progress which gives detailed insight into how individual departments are making progress towards their Zero Waste goals.

To reduce waste at county-hosted events, the Zero Waste Team loans reusable foodware to departments through the Zero Waste Party Pack Program. In 2025, the party packs were used at 58 county events and eliminated the use of over 18,000 single-use foodware items from the waste stream. The Department of Procurement and Material Management's (DPMM's) Surplus Program redistributes excess county materials to agencies and schools, preventing usable items from becoming waste. Through targeted outreach and strategic promotion, the internal reuse rate more than doubled in just two years, rising from 25.4% in 2023 to 51.6% in 2024, and reaching an exceptional 68% in 2025. This supports the county's progress toward its Zero Waste goals while delivering measurable financial benefits, including an estimated \$475,000 in cost avoidance for the county and schools in 2025 alone.



*Zero waste party pack*

The Zero Waste Team continues to promote Zero Waste funding opportunities, such as the Plastic Bag Tax fund, which funded 12 projects in 2025. Projects ranged from funding composting programs at county facilities to purchasing sorting bins in support of the Fairfax County Public Library Thrift Books pilot, a project which gives unneeded books a second life by being resold or properly recycled, diverting thousands of hard-to-recycle books from the waste stream while generating revenue for new materials.

### **Sustainable Procurement (Scope 3)**

In addition to the Zero Waste program, the county continues to pursue Sustainable Procurement initiatives to ensure that the supplies and materials that the county purchases are sustainably, ethically and equitably sourced. To date, over 125 major suppliers have joined the Corporate Social Responsibility Program.

After completing a “Scope 3” Supply Chain Greenhouse Gas analysis in collaboration with OEEC, DPMM shared results with department heads and other leadership and hosted five sustainable procurement workshops with a total of 15 departments, based on priority purchasing categories. Using insights from the analysis, the workshops, county SMEs, the Zero Waste program and the One Fairfax policy, DPMM is developing a new Sustainable Procurement Policy, which will be shared with departments for review in 2026. While DPMM oversees the above programs, actual purchasing decisions and the implementation of sustainable procurement are at the department level.

### **Resilience of County Buildings and Facilities**

As Fairfax County works to decrease emissions from its facilities and operations, it is also critical to ensure that we are incorporating resilience to heat, floods and storms. This will ensure buildings can physically withstand increasingly severe climate conditions and prevent or reduce service disruptions.

The county evaluates facility vulnerabilities for both existing and planned facilities. As part of the Resilient Fairfax plan, staff developed a Climate Resilient Design Checklist for two types of facilities: resilient buildings, or buildings that have physical features that protect it against climate hazards; and resilience hubs, which are facilities that meet specific design criteria and offer services and education to increase community resilience. The checklist was first developed in 2024 and, in 2025, was piloted through the Embry Rucker Shelter design as a resilient building and the Willard-Sherwood Health and Community Center design as a resilience hub.



#### **Success**

Expanded solar energy on county facilities by reaching 1.8 MW of installed rooftop capacity in 2025, including a new 350-kilowatt array at the I-66 Transfer Station that is expected to cut the facility’s electricity use by 24%.

# Group 6 — Climate Data & Research



Dyke Marsh Wildlife Preserve (Credit: NPS)

Through internal coordination and external research partnerships, Fairfax County staff prioritize opportunities to streamline and enhance climate data resources. These efforts help us measure success, guide informed decisions, and ensure effective climate action. In this section we spotlight achievements made for Group 6.

## Wetland Migration Research Partnership

Professors and students at George Mason University collaborated with staff in 2025 to [study potential wetland migration](#) in the southern part of the county. Students conducted a cost-benefit analysis using GIS data and presented findings to staff and community members. University partnerships provide opportunities for students to examine real-world applications and provide staff the opportunity to examine well-researched local solutions.

## Interagency Climate Database

In 2025, OEEC advanced its climate plan tracking capabilities through a long-term collaboration with the Department of Information Technology (DIT) to create the Interagency Climate Database. This centralized platform serves as a one-stop resource for staff to view and update climate-related metrics, streamlining data management across agencies.

## Climate Data

Staff also collaborated with many partners to expand data resources and provide public tools for residents to access data.

- **Greenhouse gas emissions data:** MWCOG released data on its [2023 greenhouse gas emissions inventory](#). This data is essential for informing future emissions reductions strategies and assessing current progress.
- **Rainfall data:** Regional partners like the Northern Virginia Regional Commission introduced the [NOVA Flood Map](#), the first open-access, near-real time rain gauge platform in Virginia.
- **Vector-borne disease data:** The Fairfax County Health Department is expanding year-round mosquito surveillance to better understand and adapt to how climate change may alter local mosquito populations and disease risks.
- **Web dashboards:** In 2025, the [Environment and Energy dashboard](#) was published as part of the Countywide Strategic Plan. The [Climate Action Dashboard](#) is also regularly updated to serve as a comprehensive and centralized data hub for all things climate.

### Success



Developed a centralized Interagency Climate Database in 2025, giving county staff a single, streamlined platform to track climate metrics, improve data quality, and better coordinate progress across agencies. In addition, the Environment and Energy dashboard was published as part of the public-facing Countywide Strategic Plan.

# Awards and Recognitions in 2025

In 2025, Fairfax County received multiple recognitions for its climate action and energy efficiency initiatives, including awards from the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council and the League of American Bicyclists, as well as honors for outstanding individual and team contributions from the county. The section underscores Fairfax County's commitment to energy efficiency, climate action and community support through collaborative projects, innovative solutions, and dedicated staff efforts in 2025.

## Bicycle-Friendly Business Designation

- **Recipient:** Fairfax County Department of Transportation (FCDOT)
- **Level:** Silver
- **Awarding Body:** League of American Bicyclists

## Environmental Excellence Awards for Fairfax County Staff

- **Recipients:** Allison Homer, Michael McGrath and the Fairfax County Public Schools Get2Green Team.
- **Contributions:** Allison led a 2024 pilot project at Harmony Place Mobile Home Park to install air conditioning units for at-risk residents and, following the pilot, launched the innovative AC Rescue program to provide cooling assistance to underserved populations throughout the county. Michael served as the Wastewater Treatment Director at the Noman M. Cole Water Recycling Facility, earning peak performance awards for the facility and helping to restore Gunston Cove's aquatic ecosystems. The Get2Green Team drives environmental literacy and sustainability across 200 schools, leading to national recognition, reductions in waste by hundreds of thousands of pounds, and the creation of wildlife habitats, outdoor learning spaces, and edible gardens.

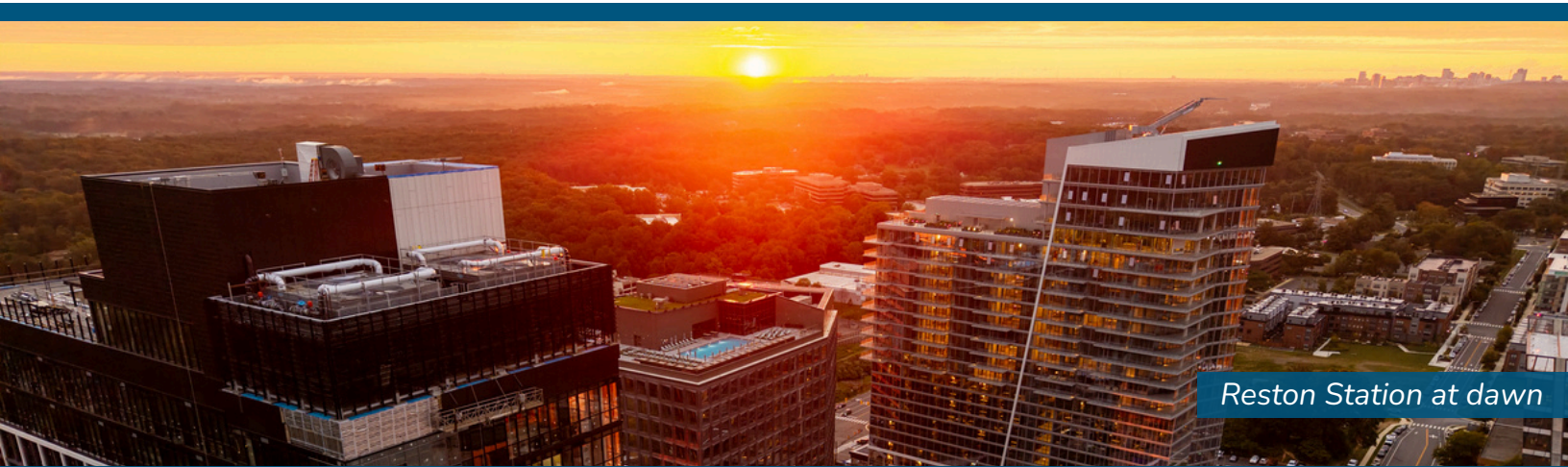
## Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC) Leadership Award and U.S. Department of Energy Better Project Award

- **Recipient:** Spring Hill Recreation Center
- **Details:** Recognized in the Government category of the Leadership Awards by VAEEC, and for a Better Project Award, which is part of the Better Buildings, Better Plants Initiative for efficiency upgrades and a new rooftop solar installation
- **Collaborators:** OEEC, Fairfax County Park Authority.



County staff accepting VAEEC Award

# Looking Ahead



In 2025, the county made strides in making Fairfax more sustainable and resilient for all. Fairfax County has established a strong foundation of climate plan implementation and is primed to build on this momentum in 2026 and beyond. As we move forward, staff continue to prioritize equity, ensuring that all residents, especially those most vulnerable to climate impacts, can benefit from county programs and resources.

Here's what to keep an eye out for in 2026 and beyond:

- Advocacy at the state, regional, and federal level for mechanisms that support clean energy, encourage energy efficiency and protect communities from climate hazards.
- Policy updates at the local level that guide future development that is greener, more sustainable, and resilient to flooding, heat, and storms.
- New and strengthened community programming to help make it easier for residents to access energy efficiency tools and air conditioning equipment assistance, increasing climate action and adaptation at home.
- Healthy natural resources and projects for nature-based solutions that protect our water quality, reduce pollutants, absorb stormwater and keep communities cooler.
- Multiple projects to implement green technology and resilient design for government buildings to increase energy efficiency and the longevity of county facilities.
- Improved climate data management to support internal decision-making and collaboration; Public facing data tools to enable residents to connect local actions with countywide progress.

As we look ahead, the county remains committed to community-centered climate strategies. We extend our sincere gratitude to our many partners for engaging in the whole community effort needed to achieve our climate goals.

# Acronyms

**BACs** - Boards, Authorities, Commissions

**BEBs** - Battery Electric Buses

**BESS** - Battery Energy Storage Systems

**BOS** - Board of Supervisors

**CAP** – Conservation Assistance Program

**CECAP** – Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan

**DEQ** - Department of Environmental Quality

**DIT** – Department of Information Technology

**DPD** - Department of Planning and Development

**DPMM** - Department of Procurement and Material Management

**DPWES** - Department of Public Works and Environmental Services

**ECAP** – Energy Conservation Assistance Program

**EV** - Electric Vehicle

**EVSE** - Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment

**FCDOT** – Fairfax County Department of Transportation

**FCHD** – Fairfax County Health Department

**FCPA** – Fairfax County Park Authority

**FCPL** – Fairfax County Public Library

**FCPS** – Fairfax County Public Schools

**FEMA** - Federal Emergency Management Agency

**FHWA** - Federal Highway Administration

**FMAP** - Flood Mitigation Assistance Program

**GIS** - Geographic Information System

**HVAC** - Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning

**kWh** - Kilowatt hours

**LDS** – Land Development Services

**MS4** - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

**MW** - Megawatt

**MWCOG** – Metropolitan Washington Council of Government

**NVRC** – Northern Virginia Regional Commission

**NVSWCD** – Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District

**OEEC** – Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

**OES** – Operational Energy Strategy

**PFM** - Public Facilities Manual

**PCBs** - Polychlorinated Biphenyls

**RF** – Resilient Fairfax

**RGGI** - Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative

**RL** - Repetitive Loss

**SME** - Subject Matter Expert

**SRL** - Severe Repetitive Loss

**SSDN** – Southeast Sustainability Directors Network

**UCFD** – Urban and Community Forestry Division

**UHI** - Urban Heat Island

**VAECC** – Virginia Energy Efficiency Council

**VDOT** - Virginia Department of Transportation

**VEPGA** – Virginia Energy Purchasing Governmental Association

**VESPN** – Virginia Energy and Sustainability Peer Network

## Further Reading

Explore these resources to learn more about Fairfax County's environmental efforts and how you can contribute!

- [Climate Action Dashboard](#)
- [Climate Plans, Policies and Initiatives](#)
- [Sustain Fairfax](#)
- [Environmental, Climate, and Energy Newsletter](#)

## Contact Us

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Spring 2026. A Fairfax County, Va., publication.

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