

# Fairfax County Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP)

Working Group Meeting

Votes on Sector-Specific Goals & CECAP Report Draft Discussion

Thursday, May 13, 2021

6:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Held Electronically via WebEx

# Welcome & Meeting Overview

Michelle Paul Heelan, Ph.D. – ICF Facilitator



# Agenda

Sector-Based Goals Discussion & Verbal Vote

Feedback on Remaining Sections of the Draft of  
Part I of CECAP

Wrap Up and Meeting Feedback

# Meeting Objectives

- **Discuss and vote** on sector-based goal(s).
- **Discuss remaining feedback** on the remaining sections of the draft of Part I of CECAP.

# What are our ground rules today?

- We have a large group and our time today is finite. Please:
  - Use the WebEx chat where feasible to respect our time today.
  - Remember to type in SPEAK to speak up.
- We will have dedicated time for open discussion.

# CECAP Process Timeline



# Takeaways from Last Meeting's Chat Discussion

- May 10<sup>th</sup> chat is available to read, posted on CECAP website and in chat
- Questions about part 2 of the report – focusing on strategies
- Equity concerns in goal setting / meeting other policies and programs
- Questions about four levels of responsibility – “voluntary”
- Interest in implementation of the CECAP

# How does Implementation Fit In?

- We are in the planning process
- Need to complete planning to turn to implementation
- Next steps:
  - Presenting CECAP to the Board of Supervisors
  - BOS will determine next steps
  - Prepare workplan, develop funding strategies
  - Over time, adjust implementation approaches as needed

# Sector Goal Discussion & Vote

Michelle Paul Heelan, Ph.D. – ICF Facilitator

Adam Agalloco - ICF



# Framing Today's Discussion

Through the planning process so far, the following goals have been established:

- **2050 Long-term goal:** Carbon neutrality by 2050, with at least 87% coming from emissions reductions from a 2005 base year.
- **2030 Interim goal:** 50% reduction by 2030 from a 2005 base year.
- **2040 Interim goal:** 75% reduction by 2040 from a 2005 base year.

# Framing Today's Discussion

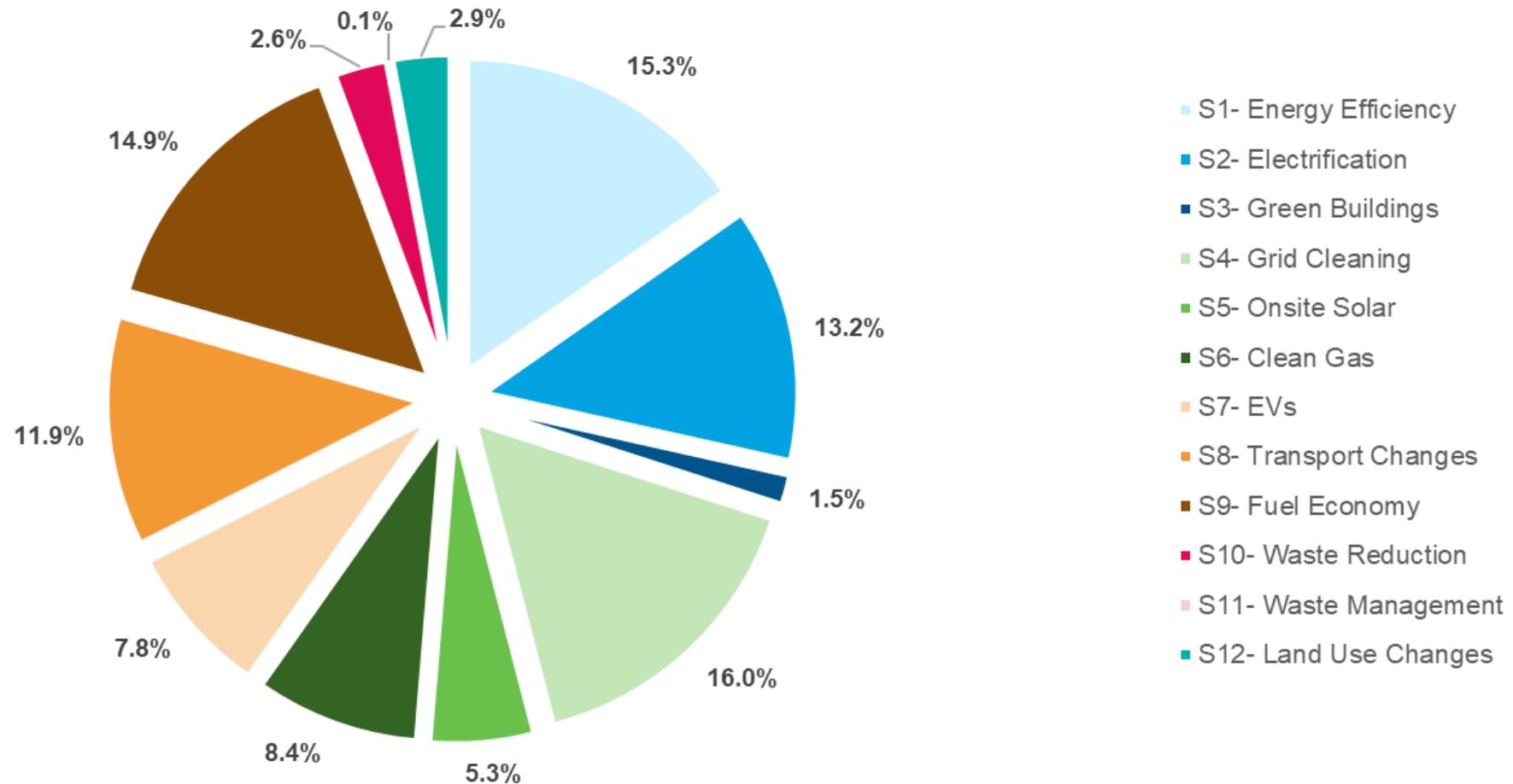
- On Monday, the Working Group expressed preference for the following sector-specific goals:
  - Energy efficiency sector-based goal
    - Commercial
    - Residential
  - Transportation sector-based goal
  - Natural Resources & Development (formerly Forestry/Land use) sector-based goal
- When voting on sector-specific goals today, you are not binding your organization to the vote.

# Sector goals should be SMART:

- **Specific:**
  - Be specific to **the community's priorities** and **ability to influence** the emissions reduction strategy or action (but not limiting); and
  - Be set for **specific metrics** that are **understood by the public** and would contribute to the overall goal (generally, not specified with a GHG emission reduction target)
- **Measurable:** Be **measurable** based on **available data**
- **Attainable:** Be **attainable** if in the short term
- **Results-Oriented:** Support **target** year goal & focus on **larger sectors** (not strategies)
- **Time-Bound:** Set a specific **timeframe** to achieve the goal

# GHG Modeling Results

Reductions compared to BAU by Percentage 2050



# Framing Today's Goals Discussion

- Feedback received on sector-based goals and how we addressed them:
  - Strong interest in a sector-based goal for commercial buildings
  - Concerns on the land use goal
    - We have proposed combining these into one goal.
  - Changed Forestry and Land Use naming convention to Natural Resources & Development
  - Will add recommendation for county review of county priorities for transportation, including fleet electrification, as an Implementation Best Practice

# Natural Resources & Development

**New eligible buildings will have a commitment to green building and natural resource preservation and expansion**

**Why this goal:**

- Way to address preferences for a goal supporting natural resources, new development and commercial building energy efficiency.
- Applies to any building that triggers the green building policy in the Comprehensive Plan.
- The term “green building” includes various certifications (LEED, EarthCraft, NGBS) and proprietary systems.

**Proposed goal during the meeting:**

**All new, eligible buildings will have a commitment to green building**

# Buildings and Energy Efficiency

## **Retrofit at least 100,000 housing units with energy efficiency measures by 2030**

**Currently:** Fairfax County currently does not track this measure and would need to create either new methods and/or partnerships to track progress in this sector. This will be a significant challenge to track and will require additional work and partnerships.

### **Why this goal:**

- Focuses progress in a high emitting sector
- Equivalent to roughly one-fourth (1/4) of existing housing units being retrofitting
- Builds capacity (contractor and programs) for deeper work
- During implementation, programs and resources could focus on low-moderate income homeowners and equity considerations.

**Context on Numbers:** Fairfax County currently has 415,000 housing units, a number that is projected to grow to over 550,000 housing units by 2050.

# Transportation

## **Increase transit and non-motorized commuting to 30% (including telework) by 2030**

**Currently:** 14% with telework (2018)

### **Why this goal:**

- Commuting patterns are readily tracked and it will be easy to understand progress.
- Fairfax County has significant transit infrastructure in place to build from.
- Reducing emissions from single occupancy vehicles is key to lowering emissions from the transportation sector.

### **Context on Numbers:**

- As of 2018, about 8% of commuters were taking public transit (metro, bus, rail), slightly above the U.S. average; another 0.3% commuted by bike and 1.4% by walking.
- While modeling the strategy, ICF assumed that commuting by biking could triple and transit use could double by 2030, yielding a total increase in commuting by transit and non-motorized options to 20%. Doubling telework (from 4% to 8%) would raise this number to almost 30%.
- ICF's work with other localities tells us that 30% would be a very aggressive target, while 20% is more in line with what could be expected with moderate actions carried out within the existing infrastructure and policies, and the expected population growth of more than 100,000 people by 2030.
- COVID-19 has depressed transit ridership considerably and the impacts on future service and ridership are highly uncertain through at least 2023.

# Transportation

## **Increase plug-in electric vehicles (PHEVs) and battery electric vehicles (BEVs) to at least 9% of all light-duty vehicle registrations by 2030**

**Currently:** 0.8% (2019)

### **Why this goal:**

- Data on electric vehicle (EV) registrations for light-duty vehicles are readily available for tracking progress.
- Vehicle electrification greatly improves local air quality and advances carbon neutrality goals.
- EVs already have a lower carbon footprint per mile than internal combustion engines in Virginia and the gap will continue to grow as more clean electricity is brought on through the VCEA.
- Virginia is near adoption of a stringent clean car standard, similar to those in California and to become the next zero-emission vehicle (ZEV) state. Consequently, EVs will be more readily available at local dealerships.

### **Context on Numbers:**

- Light-duty vehicles consist of all passenger vehicles, SUVs and most pickup trucks, and currently make up over 83% of travel in Fairfax County.
- Fairfax County currently has 7,400 vehicles that are either PHEV or BEV (less than 1% of the on-road passenger vehicles). Reaching the goal of 7.5% of all light-duty vehicles being EV in Fairfax County by 2030 would equate to about 66,000 EVs on the road.
- Increasing EV registrations may require a variety of different strategies including installation of new EV charging equipment, incentives, and educational campaigns.

# Sector-Based Goals Discussed Tonight

- All new, eligible buildings will have a commitment to green building
- Retrofit at least 100,000 housing units with energy efficiency measures by 2030
- Increase transit and non-motorized commuting to 30% (including telework) by 2030
- Increase plug-in electric vehicles (PHEVs) and battery electric vehicles (BEVs) to at least 9% of all light-duty vehicle registrations by 2030
- Natural resources goal - TBD

# Natural Resources & Development

## **Grow Fairfax County's tree canopy and expand the percent of the population with access to parks**

**Currently:** 57% Tree Canopy (2017) and 56% of residents living within a half mile of a park entrance

### **Why this goal:**

- Aligns with the existing Tree Action Plan (2019) and implementation strategies outlined in the plan.
- Aligns with Fairfax County Park Authority park access indicator

### **Context on Numbers:**

- In the longer term, Fairfax County will need to grow its tree canopy, however trends current activity is focused on reducing canopy losses, rather than making gains.
- Fairfax County's tree canopy is estimated to save \$34.3 million in energy use costs each year through shade and wind speed reductions.
- Fairfax County's trees have 7.5 million tons of carbon within their tree biomass.

# Feedback on Draft of Part I of the CECAP

Michelle Paul Heelan, Ph.D. – ICF Facilitator



# Framing Today's Discussion

- We will discuss the remaining sections of the first half of CECAP.
- We'll be taking notes on the feedback we receive, and you will see changes reflected in the second draft, along with the second half of the report.
- There will be an opportunity to comment on the second half at the June meeting.
- We'll once again take that feedback in June and incorporate it into the final report that goes to the Board.

# Framing Today's Discussion

## What will we discuss today?

1. Does the report **accurately reflect the process, the discussions, and the decisions** of the Task Force/Working Group?
2. Are there any areas that need **additional emphasis or explanation**?
3. Was **anything important left out**?
4. Are there any areas that could be **cut or deemphasized**?

**Focus on the content and not the design or editing**, as after the Working Group has finalized their changes the entire report will be professionally reviewed and produced.

# Part I includes:

Section	Materials come from:
Section 3: Introduction	Fairfax County policies and website
Section 4: CECAP Process & Methodology	Discussed at the January 2020 Task Force kickoff meeting
Section 5: Greenhouse Gas Emissions	Presented at the virtual March 2020 Task Force meeting
<b>Section 6: GHG Reduction Goals</b>	<b>Discussed at the July 28 and September 30, 2020 Task Force meetings; Additional sector- and interim-goal discussions held at the March 30 and 31, 2021 Working Group meetings</b>
<b>Section 7: Emission Reduction Strategies</b>	<b>Result of brainstorming sub-group meetings on Dec 1/Dec 2, Jan 27/Jan 28, Mar 24/25, and Mar 30/31</b>

# Section 6: GHG Reduction Goals (starting on pg. 28)

1. Does the report **accurately reflect the process, the discussions, and the decisions** of the Task Force/Working Group?
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3. Was **anything important left out**?
4. Are there any areas that could be **cut or deemphasized**?

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# Section 7: Emission Reduction Strategies (starting on pg. 31)

**Important note:** This draft includes two examples of a Strategy section and an Action section to give an idea of the content of these sections. The final layout of these sections is in progress, and the full suite of strategies and actions will be included in the next draft.

1. Does the report **accurately reflect the process, the discussions, and the decisions** of the Task Force/Working Group?
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# Wrap-up and Next Steps

Michelle Paul Heelan, Ph.D. – ICF Facilitator



# Review of Meeting Objectives

- **Discussed and voted** on sector-based goal(s).
- **Discussed feedback** on Part I of CECAP.

# What's Next?



Save the Date: Tuesday, June 8  
(and Thursday, June 10 if needed) at 6:00pm

# Feedback

How are we doing with...

- Communications?
- Meeting information?
- Meeting length?
- Ability for everyone to participate?

Please provide your feedback in the WebEx chat box or the [CECAP email](#).

# Stay Informed

[CECAP Homepage](#)

[Office of Environmental & Energy  
Coordination \(OEEC\) Climate Action  
News Blog](#)

**Twitter:** @ffxgreen / #ffxCECAP

**Follow for updates on the CECAP process**, as well as information on climate and energy science, policy, and best practices.

**Learn** about the topics and trends driving the climate conversation in Fairfax County.

# Thank You!

For further questions, please contact:

[Maya Dhavale](#)

Fairfax County

Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

12000 Government Center Parkway

Suite 533

Fairfax, VA 22035

703-324-7165 (W), 571-373-1758 (C)

[CECAP email](#)

[CECAP website](#)