

PUBLIC COMMENT SUMMARY

Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan

Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

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Fairfax, VA 22035

A Fairfax County, Virginia Publication

To request this information in an alternate format, contact the Fairfax County Office of
Environmental and Energy Coordination at 703-325-7136 TTY 711

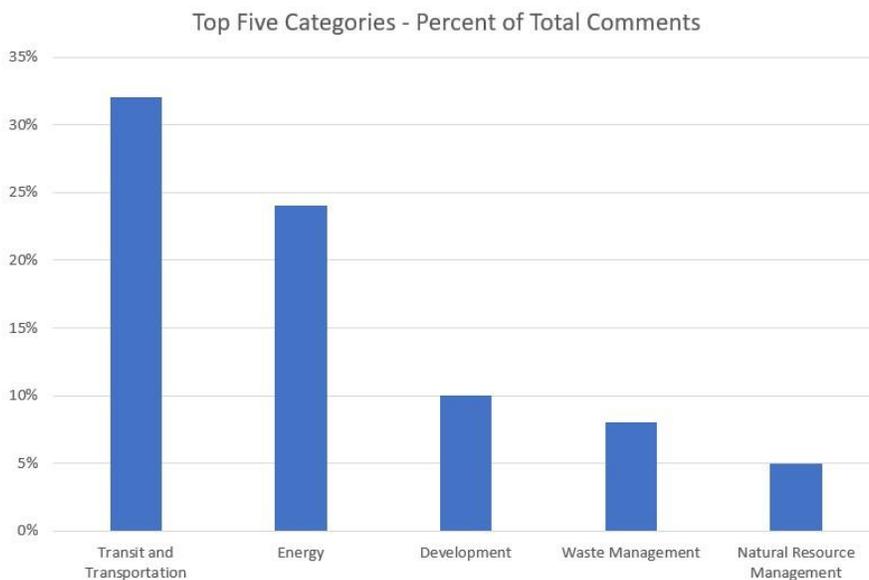
Overview of Public Comments

Public comments on the Fairfax County Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) were received between August 27 and September 13, 2020 in connection with the first round of public engagement in the planning process. Members of the public were able to comment via an open text box in the public survey, via the online chat function in each of three virtual public meetings, and via the public facing CECAP email inbox.

All told, 835 individual comments were recorded and catalogued. Many members of the public shared opinions on specific greenhouse gas mitigation strategies. A number of people shared their desire that the Fairfax County government refrain from engaging in climate planning and action. This report summarizes the topics mentioned by members of the public in their comments and offers a high-level view of the community's climate planning priorities.

TOP FIVE COMMENT CATEGORIES

Of the hundreds of comments received, the top five topics mentioned by members of the public were transit or transportation issues, energy concerns, development issues, waste management matters, and natural resource topics.



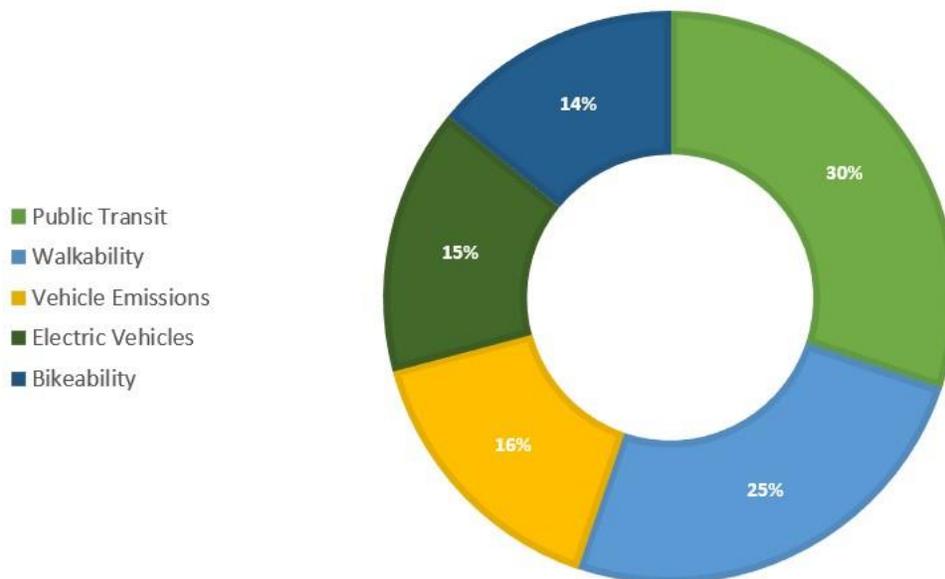
TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION-RELATED COMMENTS

Among the comments provided by the public, transit and transportation-related topics were mentioned more than 260 times. Reliability of and access to public transit was the principal area of concern, followed closely by walkability.

Comments reflected a desire to see more integrated, connected communities where driving is not the only or the best way to take care of daily needs or to commute. A number of comments mentioned bike path upgrades and expansions and called for greater attention to bike path safety and accessibility.

Comments also focused on the need to reduce traffic congestion and vehicle emissions on Fairfax County roads. Many comments called for more electric vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives for the purchase of electric vehicles by county residents.

TRANSIT AND TRANSPORTATION-RELATED COMMENTS

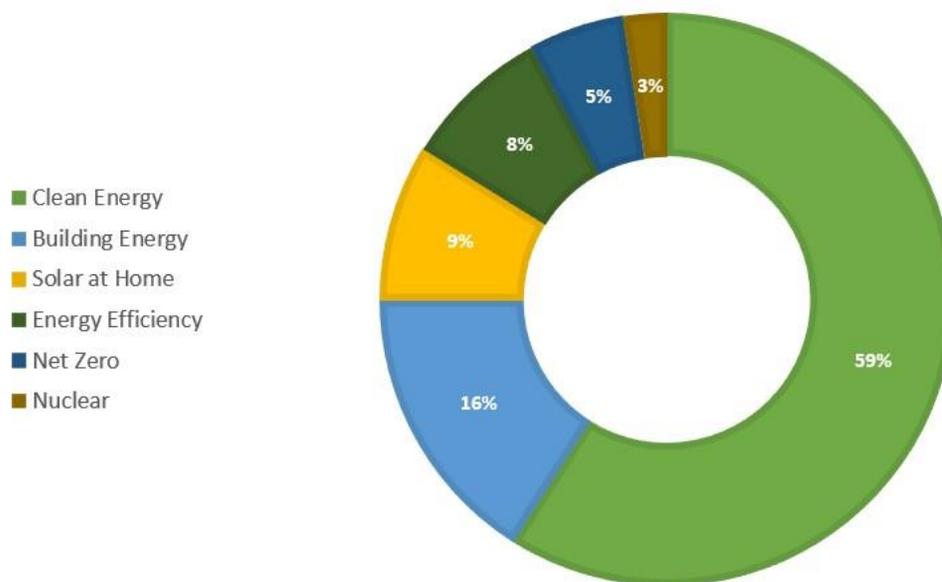


ENERGY-RELATED COMMENTS

Of the more than 200 comments mentioning energy-related concerns, nearly 60 percent were tied to clean energy and the desire to see Fairfax County embrace renewable energy sources for municipal, commercial, and residential needs. A number of comments pertained to the need to increase accessibility and affordability for residential solar installations in the county.

Other topics of interest to the public included building energy use and efficiency, and nuclear power as a source of electricity. Several comments called for net zero energy and carbon goals for the community in the coming years.

ENERGY-RELATED COMMENTS

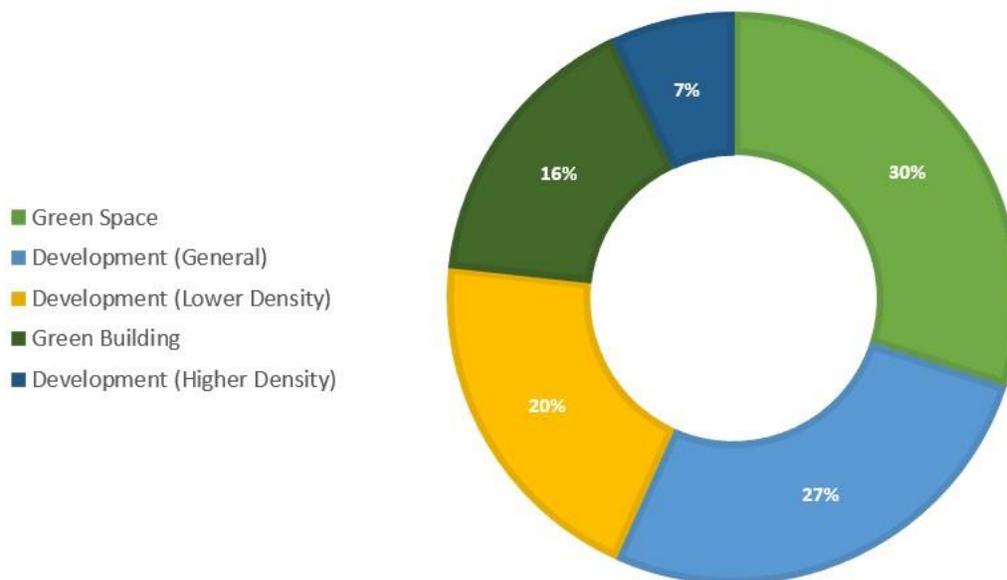


DEVELOPMENT-RELATED COMMENTS

The third-most frequent topic mentioned in the public comments was development. Many comments mentioned a desire for lower density development - individuals felt that the county is overcrowded, and that dense development is impacting quality of life. Some comments called for higher density, citing the need for more walkable, connected communities that incorporate multifamily buildings with access to amenities such as grocery stores, parks, transit, and other daily essentials.

Several dozen comments mentioned a need to create and maintain green space throughout the county, and a handful of comments noted the need for stronger green building policies and practices in Fairfax County.

DEVELOPMENT-RELATED COMMENTS

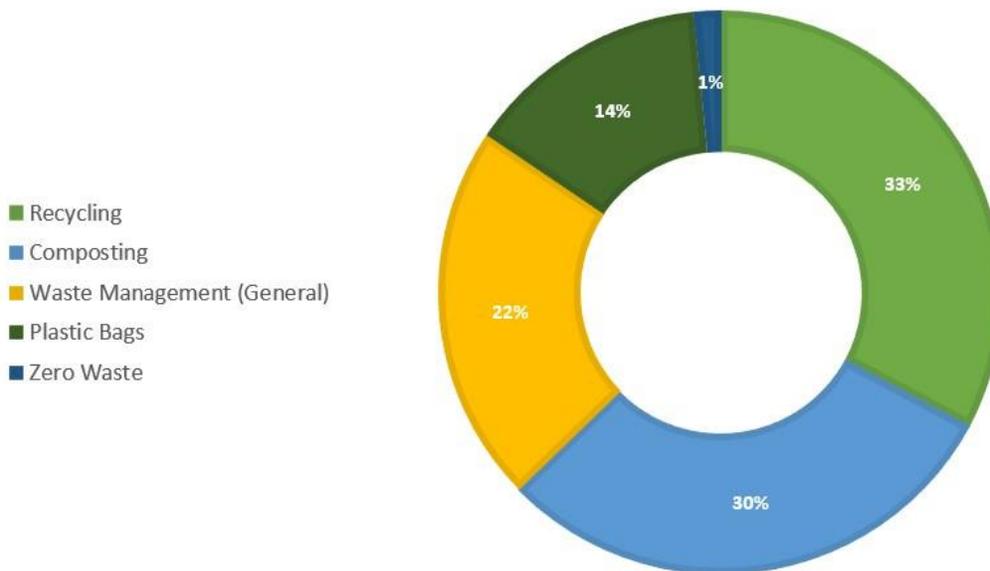


WASTE MANAGEMENT-RELATED COMMENTS

Of the comments received pertaining to waste management practices in the county, 33 percent focused on recycling while another 30 percent were concerned with composting issues. Many comments expressed a desire for a more robust county residential recycling program, while others called for a countywide composting program or a community engagement campaign to encourage composting among residents and businesses.

Some comments mentioned a need for retail businesses to reduce their use of plastic bags. Not all comments drew a connection between waste management issues and climate concerns, though some did mention the energy and carbon implications of waste transportation and processing.

WASTE MANAGEMENT-RELATED COMMENTS

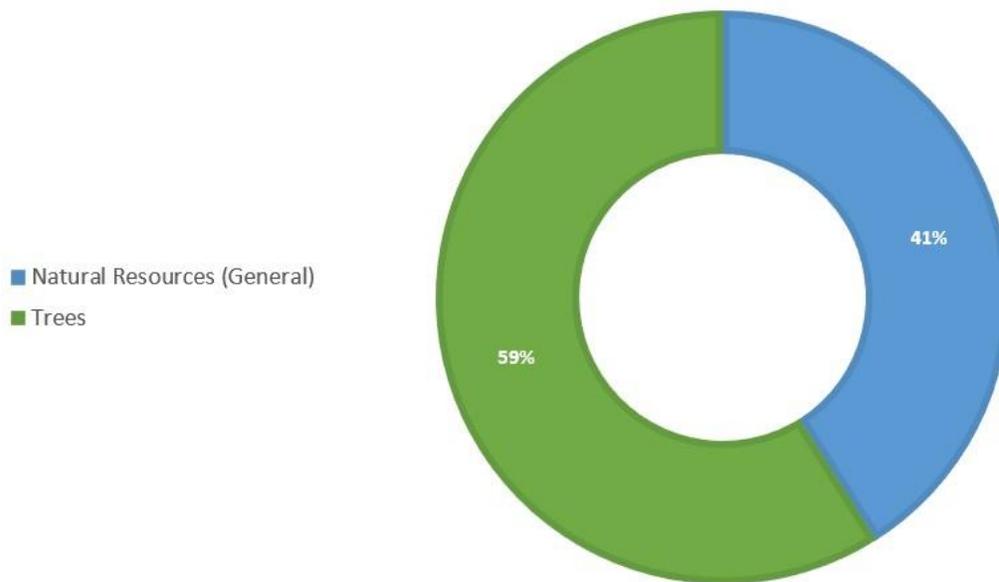


NATURAL RESOURCE-RELATED COMMENTS

Comments received on natural resource management were largely focused on tree cover in the county. Some comments mentioned a desire for developers and residents to take more care with existing trees, while others recommended planting new tree cover on public land.

Other natural resource issues of interest included the use of pesticides and the protection of native flora and fauna. Comments included mention of the need to protect our waterways and preserve our wild spaces.

NATURAL RESOURCE-RELATED COMMENTS



OTHER COMMENTS RECEIVED

In addition to the comments summarized by topic in the previous pages, many comments also mentioned areas of concern such as the need for increased community education and engagement around climate issues, or a desire to see the county government take the lead on issues such as building energy efficiency and electric vehicle purchasing. Several dozen comments made note of the need for any climate plan to address social equity considerations.

Members of the public also expressed either their support for climate planning at the local level, or their desire to see the Fairfax County government allocate resources to different projects and programs.

