



Resilient Fairfax: Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan
Public Meeting # 3 : Strategies and Implementation Roadmap
February 1, 2022 | 6:30 P.M. | Via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

The third Resilient Fairfax public meeting was hosted by Fairfax County, and took place on February 1, 2022 at 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. It was open to all members of the Fairfax County community. The following meeting minutes summarize the presentation and discussion. In addition to the meeting minutes, this document also contains the original Zoom Chat transcript which can be found in the Appendix below.

Attendees:

122 people registered for the meeting and approximately 86 participated, including members of the Project Team, as listed below.

Project Team

- Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
 - o Matthew Meyers
 - o Allison Homer
 - o Aline Althen
- Consultants (the Cadmus Group)
 - o Julia Chase
 - o Julia Nassar
 - o Zack Wyman
 - o Lindsey Popken

Meeting Start: 6:30 p.m.

- I. **Welcome, Introduction, and Project Recap | 6:30 p.m. – 6:50 p.m.**
 - a. **Welcome:** Matthew Meyers from the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) provided opening remarks to welcome participants, introduced the project team, and overviewed the agenda topics.
 - b. **Difference between Resilient Fairfax and CECAP:** Allison Homer (OEEC) provided an overview of Resilient Fairfax and reviewed the difference between this plan and the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). CECAP focused on the community’s emissions reductions, to help address the cause of climate change. Resilient Fairfax focuses on making the county resilient to the effects of climate change, such as flooding, severe storms, and extreme heat.
 - c. **Concurrent plans, programs, and policy updates:** Allison Homer (OEEC) provided an overview of coordination between Resilient Fairfax and other related efforts, including

CECAP/Carbon Free Fairfax, the Virginia Coastal Resilience Master Plan, NOVA Hazard Mitigation Plan, Fairfax County Strategic Plan, the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Area Designation and Management Regulations Climate Adaptation Amendment, and other regional resilience activities being conducted by regional bodies such as MWCOG, NVRC, and WMATA.

- d. **Timeline:** Allison Homer previewed the project’s timeline, including the following points: Resilient Fairfax is just over halfway done. The Climate Projections Report, Vulnerability & Risk Assessment, and Audit of Existing Policies, Plans, and Programs documents are either final or near final and will be released to the public over the next two months. The strategy development process is in final stages, and the Implementation Roadmap is the next main deliverable.
- e. **Meeting Goals and Reminders:** Julia Chase (Cadmus) outlined the meeting objective of soliciting public feedback on draft adaptation & resilience strategies for Resilient Fairfax, and reviewed meeting ground rules.
- f. **Review of Preceding Reports:** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) provided a recap of the Resilient Fairfax project, outlining key takeaways from the following three technical reports:
 - i. **Climate Projections Report:** This report outlines the future climate conditions and hazards of Fairfax County. The following are six main takeaways from the report: warmer annual and seasonal temperatures, more extremely hot days, reduction in cold days, increase in annual and seasonal precipitation, increase in sea level and coastal flooding, and increase in heavy precipitation events.
 - ii. **Vulnerability & Risk Assessment:** This report outlines the assets, systems, and populations in Fairfax County that are vulnerable to climate threats. Vulnerability was calculated as a function of exposure, sensitivity, and adaptive capacity. The county’s top vulnerabilities were identified in the risk assessment, including: heavy precipitation causing inland flooding of communities, combined events impacting natural systems, storms & wind causing debris, damage, and unsafe conditions, storms & wind causing vulnerabilities due to power outages, extreme heat causing health related impacts, and coastal flooding impacts along the Potomac River. These top vulnerabilities were then evaluated for level of “risk,” which refers to likelihood of the vulnerability occurring and the severity of the consequences.
 - iii. **Audit of Existing Policies, Plans, and Programs:** This report reviews existing policies, plans, and programs in Fairfax County related to climate resilience. The Audit helps to identify 1) where Fairfax has already begun to implement best practices for increasing resiliency, 2) opportunities to expand, extend, or accelerate existing initiatives, and 3) gaps where new strategies or policy updates may be needed to address climate resiliency needs.

- g. **Strategy Goals, Development Process and Criteria:** Following the summary of the technical reports, Julia Chase (Cadmus) described the next step in the Resilient Fairfax process: strategy identification, development, and prioritization.

Julia Chase (Cadmus) outlined the goals of the strategies. Rather than prioritizing only low-cost strategies, or only one strategy type, the county has a goal of including a diverse and balanced mix of strategies that address the top risks, are within county control, and consider key next steps. Strategies should be a mix of short- and long-term actions, low- and high-cost strategies, and both new innovative programs and expansion of existing initiatives.

Julia Chase (Cadmus) then described the strategy development process and how the potential strategies have moved from an initial starter list (developed from the findings from the Vulnerability & Risk Assessment and Audit, input from stakeholders and the public, and national emerging best practices) to refinements with the Planning Team, Infrastructure Advisory Group, and Community Advisory Group. At this stage, the project team is working to apply prioritization criteria and build out the top strategies into implementation roadmaps.

Julia Chase (Cadmus) explained the strategy criteria for refining and filtering strategies. First, an initial “Prioritization Criteria” was applied to identify strategies that are 1) within county control, and 2) address a top risk. Then the strategies were assessed using implementation criteria: (i.e., does the county have capacity to act? Does the strategy address multiple hazards? Is the strategy technically feasible? Is the strategy in alignment with other county plans?) and co-benefits criteria (i.e., does the strategy provide co-benefits to any of the following areas: quality of life/public health, environmental quality, economic benefit, social equity).

Julia Chase (Cadmus) then overviewed the four strategy categories, to be discussed in further detail during the discussion sections. The four strategy categories include:

- i. Resilient Infrastructure & Buildings,
- ii. Climate Ready Communities,
- iii. Adaptive Environments, and
- iv. Integrated Action Planning.

h. Discussion on Strategies Overview:

- i. One participant noted that the prior slide implied that "low cost" options are better, but sometimes transformative improvements are more costly. The participant noted that high-cost options should not necessarily be deprioritized, particularly given the potential for new funding streams via IJJA, etc. Julia Nassar (Cadmus) noted that the

intent of that slide was to demonstrate the broad mix of strategies under examination (both low cost and larger capital improvement projects). Allison Homer (OEEC) further clarified that the county is not prioritizing only low-cost options. We are instead ensuring we have a mix of strategy types, costs, and scales.

- ii. The participant followed up to ask about explicitly factoring in barriers to implementation. Julia Nassar (Cadmus) responded that we are examining barriers to implementation in the "implementation criteria" (specifically "Capacity" and "Technical Feasibility").
- iii. Another participant noted that a major gap in the impact assessment is Fairfax County's dependence on external supply chains, particularly for essential goods such as Food. The participant noted that Fairfax County does not produce nearly as much food as we could using Edible Landscaping and other Urban Agriculture solutions.

II. **Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings** 6:50 p.m. – 7:10 p.m.

- a. ***Vision for Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings:*** Julia Chase (Cadmus) described the vision of Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings, specifically: infrastructure and buildings that can withstand climate impacts, keep residents safe, reduce service disruptions, and improve countywide resilience. Resilient infrastructure and buildings:
 - i. Can withstand heat, flooding, and severe storms
 - ii. Are built and prepared for future conditions
 - iii. Are energy-resilient, energy efficient, and leverage diverse & clean energy sources with backup power
 - iv. Support safe movement to jobs, home, and other points of interest
- b. ***Potential Strategies for Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings:*** Julia Chase (Cadmus) then presented three sample "Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings" strategies to the public:
 - i. ***County infrastructure decisions:*** 1) Revise Capital Improvement Program (CIP) evaluation process to advance capital projects that build resilience to climate hazards & impacts. 2) Integrate future climate projections into the county's stormwater infrastructure projects planning and design.
 - ii. ***County buildings and facility resiliency:*** Address county building vulnerabilities to flooding and storm hazards, especially critical service provider buildings.
 - iii. ***Advocacy for external infrastructure resiliency:*** Energy resiliency advocacy: Identify opportunities for distributed energy, coordinate with energy utilities, and develop an Energy Assurance Plan.

- c. **Discussion on Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings:** Julia Chase (Cadmus) facilitated a discussion for the public to share feedback on the sample strategies. The following are key takeaways from the discussion:
- i. One participant stated they are glad to see regenerative agriculture in the strategies (in a different category) but thought that supply chain disruptions to Fairfax's food system should also be highlighted. They noted Fairfax should expand urban agriculture and increase supply of locally sourced food to help mitigate potential supply chain disruptions. There is currently a limited number of community gardening plots for the demand from County citizens, which is a program that could be expanded. Another idea is edible landscaping. Julia Chase (Cadmus) responded that these are good ideas, and food supply is also a good youth engagement opportunity.
 - ii. Another participant shared that at the last public meeting, it seemed like there were so many different strategies on the table that it was overwhelming, but now it seems like the effort is more focused. However, it seems like there are a lot of different directions strategies could go; when they are presented at a high-level, like they have been, it is difficult to pinpoint what the project team has in mind as the end result. It is important that we identify specific actions and details will be key in gaining support of the Board, the community, etc. Allison Homer (OEEC): Responded that the county agrees, and the next step to this process (the development of Implementation Roadmaps) will include fully developed strategies with more detailed action items.
 - iii. A participant asked what weight is placed on access to solar energy for residents as part of the energy resilience aspect. Julia Chase (Cadmus): responded that we want to push for a focus on renewable energy, while also considering access to storage and potentially microgrid infrastructure integrated with renewable energy resources as well.
 - iv. Another participant noted it would be useful to call out synergies with CECAP's conclusions. This could put "wind in the sails" of measures that have benefits for both mitigation and adaptation. On cost, it'll be useful to identify both upfront and ongoing (O&M) costs. Another participant agreed calling out the benefit to help communities prioritize limited resources. Allison Homer (OEEC) noted that in the county's "Implementation Roadmap" we will have a checkbox to indicate which strategies provide greenhouse gas reduction "co-benefits," and synergies with CECAP.
 - v. One participant noted they support a group called Virginia Green Initiative, Inc., which helps any statewide business get started on conservation, waste mgmt., etc. Most of the businesses that participate are small businesses. The participant asked how we help small businesses reduce their costs to implement some of their own strategies. C-PACE is up to the building owner.

- vi. One participant asked about the inclusion of access to clean water and sanitation in the midst of climate change: there is a nexus between flooding/drought, sanitation treatment, and potable water. Flooding can actually reduce access to clean water and functioning sanitation/waste treatment, in the short and long term. OEEC notes that these concerns are indeed addressed in the Vulnerability and Risk Assessment.
- vii. Another participant agreed noting the conclusions of the ICPRB that the supply of freshwater needs to be increased for the County, given projected increases in demand, irrespective of climate change. The participant noted that the Reston Association is very keen to work with the county on implementation and move the ball on resilience. OEEC responded that the county agrees, and the ICPRB report findings were included in the Resilient Fairfax Climate Projections report. Fairfax Water is on the Resilient Fairfax Infrastructure Advisory Group, and OEEC works closely with Fairfax Water personnel on these topics.
- viii. A participant asked what the county is doing to sustain/enhance its credit rating, given that all major ratings agencies explicitly consider climate change. The participant noted that Resilient Fairfax could be packaged to succinctly and saliently make the case to them. They suggested adding communications with credit ratings agencies and insurers to the list of actions.
- ix. Another participant noted each district has a unique mix of risks and resources needs. They noted the Great Falls Citizens Association would be happy to partner on implementation.
- x. One participant noted that much of the language is framed in terms of integrating future projections from climate change. There are measures that can be taken for prevention, for instance stormwater, increasing building setbacks in development to increase permeable surfaces, protecting established, mature trees in areas - or even on specific lots- during developments. The participant stated that the plan mentions urban reforestation, but, unfortunately, there is a lot of urban de-forestation happening now.
- xi. A participant asked whether there have been any exercises or drills (for example via simulations) to define where the gaps are during a climate-driven emergency event? Allison Homer (OEEC): responded that emergency drills and simulations are conducted at the regional level by entities such as the Metropolitan Washington Council Of Governments (MWCOG). The county's Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) coordinates the county's participation in those exercises, and they are responsible for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ready Fairfax. Both DEMS and MWCOG are active participants in Resilient Fairfax, so that we're able to share that information with each other. As far as the Resilient Fairfax Vulnerability and Risk Assessments, our vulnerability identifications were identified based on mapping, modeling, interviews of infrastructure managers, data from real events (such as swift water rescues), public engagement, and other sources.

III. **Climate Ready Communities** | 7:10 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.

- a. ***Vision for Climate Ready Communities:*** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) described the vision of Climate Ready Communities, specifically: A well-connected and prepared community is better able to respond to and recover from climate impacts. Climate Ready Communities have:
 - i. Strong social cohesion to support community response to climate hazards
 - ii. Homes and neighborhoods that are prepared for flooding, extreme heat, storms, and power outages
 - iii. Resources easily accessible to all members before, during, and after climate events
 - iv. Historical inequities addressed and the needs of the most vulnerable populations prioritized
- b. ***Potential Strategies for Climate Ready Communities:*** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) then presented three sample strategies to the public:
 - i. ***Network of Safe & Resilient Spaces:*** Resilience Hubs: pursue development of Resilience Hubs network beginning with pilot, and assess needs, facility capacity and barriers to access.
 - ii. ***Community Capacity:*** 1) Engagement & aid in vulnerable areas: Launch community engagement campaign for continuous identification and alleviation of pressing resilience needs, access to resources, and meaningful inclusion of vulnerable populations. 2) Education & guidelines: Launch a climate resilience education and guidance program; “Resilience ambassadors” program.
 - iii. ***Climate Ready Development:*** Flood-resilient development standards to factor in climate: pursue potential updates to county development review procedures and standards that factor in both existing conditions and projected climate change; in addition to requirements, draft “above and beyond” voluntary resilience design guidelines.
- c. ***Discussion on Climate Ready Communities:*** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) facilitated a discussion for the public to share feedback on the sample strategies. The following are key takeaways from the discussion:
 - i. One participant noted they liked the typology of strategies, and the broad coverage various bases. One general bucket of comments, which could be a fifth category, is considering what the implementation strategy for each strategy will be and how will we ensure the plan is cohesive (i.e., the sum of all parts/strategies is impactful, successful, and align with one another). The participant recommended that the county consider things like staff time required by the county, and the potential of a massive scale-up to support the kind of strategies we are talking about. They noted the need to be critical to track key performance indicators (KPIs)/metrics for these strategies. That information can be part of the county’s ongoing management. Julia

Nassar (Cadmus): responded that one of the project team's tasks at hand is developing tracking metrics, so KPI's will certainly be considered during the next stage of this work.

- ii. One participant emphasized the importance of green spaces and targeted tree planting for helping the environment. They contributed to the ongoing parking initiative, Parking Reimagined and asked how and whether these two county priorities will coexist and how the relevant organizations will collaborate. Allison Homer (OEEC): responded that yes this is being considered, and we collaborate with the Parking Reimagined Team. Members of the relevant departments are also on our Resilient Fairfax Planning Team.
- iii. A participant identified faith communities as a good resource when considering resilience hubs. Julia Chase (Cadmus): responded that that is a great idea and we will consider them as potential implementation partners in the implementation roadmap.
- iv. One participant asked how Resilient Fairfax is coordinating with Fairfax County Public Schools. Julia Nassar (Cadmus): responded that they are a member of our advisory group and so have been engaged throughout the process. Allison Homer (OEEC): added that OEEC also works with FCPS on a number of other initiatives and have a good relationship that OEEC hopes will continue through this work. Julia Chase (Cadmus): added that as these strategies get expanded further and become more refined, the project team will identify the departments and organizations that will be key in the successful implementation.
- v. One participant asked about the CPACE strategy listed under "Additional Strategies". They noted CPACE can help with resiliency projects, but part of the current project rationale applicants must provide is based on internal rate of return (IRR) and payback period, which is hard to quantify for a lot of resilience-focused projects. It can be difficult to quantify the value of projects that help things like sea level rise mitigation for example. Julia Chase (Cadmus): responded that a lot of the resiliency projects have co-benefits, like energy efficiency, that can help them meet CPACE requirements. From the feedback we have received, support is needed to help draw people to the CPACE program and help them through the program/application process. Matt Meyers (OEEC) added the following link in the chat about the C-PACE program: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/c-pace>
- vi. Another participant noted that resiliency hubs pose a good opportunity for this effort to overlap efforts with CECAP. Electric school busses for example could support resiliency hubs as backup battery power when the electricity supply is disrupted and offer both mitigation and resiliency benefits. Julia Chase (Cadmus): responded that vehicle to grid integration is an emerging opportunity that could certainly be leveraged moving forward.

- vii. Another participant added that the county should reach out to senior centers, nursing homes, and hospitals for input on their concerns. The county libraries could be another resource for resilience hubs and education.
- viii. One participant recommended the county increase their funding for compliance. When county boards require developers or residents to improve their shorelines and riverbanks as a tradeoff for more impervious building areas, the applicants often backslide on compliance, but there are not enough code-enforcement staff to follow up on these failures.
- ix. One participant referenced parking spots in Florida and Texas that shade cars with raised solar panel arrays.
- x. Another participant added that parking lots should be painted light grey to lower the heat. The participant expressed concern that increasing albedo does not appear to be part of the plan. The participant noted that black asphalt is 50°F hotter than the air. Allison Homer (OEEC) responded that the participant made a great point about albedo and cool pavements. She noted that the draft strategies include heat mitigation strategies such as cool pavements in the "heat resilient development" and "guidelines" strategies, but that the county could have made that more clear.
- xi. A participant noted that to help incentivize private action, it would be useful to help to create the business case for actions at the homeowner and small business level. The participant asked the project team to please keep an eye out for the reports from MWCOG and Reston. Another thing to keep an eye on is work with Alexandria starting up soon. They added C-PACE is an example of how the county can help build the business case.
- xii. Another participant asked whether there will be new ordinances passed requiring these mitigation efforts, such as requiring all new buildings to be green buildings, or requiring that rebuilding after a disaster must follow Green Recovery Plan established by US DOE? Allison Homer (OEEC) responded that while the county is limited in its ability to pass Building Code requirements per se for buildings (due to the Dillon Rule), we are exploring opportunities to continue strongly encouraging or incentivizing green building, such as through the development review process and proffered conditions processes conducted through the Zoning Evaluation Division.
- xiii. One participant stressed the importance of ongoing maintenance, stating: once again the proffers and incentives to alleviate water runoff tend to degrade and disappear over time. The county needs to fund staff to continue to monitor how developers and homeowners are doing.
- xiv. A participant asked whether there are publicly available geographic maps that show different risk levels by zip code? Allison Homer (OEEC) responded: to the question about maps, we are currently working to develop an interactive "Climate Map

Viewer" with multiple climate hazard and vulnerability layers, such as urban heat islands, inland flooding, and coastal flooding projections. Our goal is for the public to be able to use the interactive map as they review the draft plan during the public comment period (and beyond). Julia Nassar (Cadmus): added that the public comment period will occur throughout the month of May 2022.

IV. **Adaptive Environments** 7:25 p.m. – 7:40 p.m.

- a. ***Vision for Adaptive Environments***: Julia Chase (Cadmus) described the vision of Adaptive Environments, specifically: natural environments that are protected and restored to improve overall county resilience to climate impacts. Adaptive Environments include:
 - i. Green infrastructure that enhances neighborhood resilience to heat and flooding
 - ii. Ecosystems that are able to thrive, provide ecosystem services and natural resilience, and be accessible to the public
 - iii. Environmentally sensitive areas that are protected and conserved
 - iv. Future conditions are considered in natural resources planning
- b. ***Potential Strategies for Adaptive Environments***: Julia Chase (Cadmus) then presented two sample strategies to the public:
 - i. ***Protection of Existing Natural Resources that Enhance Resilience***: Explore strategic partnerships and/or financing opportunities for conservation and protection of environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited to tidal and freshwater wetlands, intermittent streams, and habitat for key species.
 - ii. ***Restoration of Damaged areas with Nature-based and natural solutions***: Identify areas that are flood-prone and/or heat vulnerable that can be resolved through green infrastructure (i.e., do not need larger scale improvements); support community greening to encourage reduction of impervious spaces and increase of green spaces in communities; develop maintenance programs for green spaces.
- c. ***Discussion on Adaptive Environments***: Julia Chase (Cadmus) facilitated a discussion for the public to share feedback on the sample strategies. The following are key takeaways from the discussion:
 - i. One participant offered the following anecdote: we are finding a consistent problem in Fairfax County that people apply for funding and agree to create stream buffers and implement other resiliency measures to reduce runoff, erosion, and flooding, but allow their projects to deteriorate over time. Once they allow their streambed improvements and other resiliency measures to fall to the wayside, there is nobody at the county-level to hold them accountable for resolving the problem or monitoring ongoing upkeep. It is critical that resiliency measures are ongoing efforts with long-lasting results, and additional county staff is needed to ensure ongoing compliance and long-term maintenance so the impact is lasting.

- ii. One participant noted that many people that live in existing developments often get concerned about tree coverage and watershed impacts from new proposed land development projects, which is important, but existing developments should also be part of the solution. There are a number of measures through HOAs and other organization types that could be leveraged, allowing the county to work with existing developments and properties to create positive change for stormwater retention and county resiliency. The participant noted that a lot of these strategies will require community buy-in and ongoing involvement, this could help bring more people into the program and contribute to their conceptualization of how their actions can help their neighbors.
- iii. One participant recommended combining efforts across counties in the DMV area to optimize costs. Another participant agreed.
- iv. A participant encouraged the county to consider the effort and motivation to have communities building rain gardens to help reduce runoff. The participant noted that this can include enhancing and strengthening work with the native plants/gardening organizations (master naturalists, master gardeners, native plant societies, etc.).
- v. Another participant added that homeowners and businesses need to see why taking action is in their interest. The county has an important role to play in incentivizing this by demonstrating the economic bottom line as well as the social and environmental benefits of action by homeowners and businesses.
- vi. One participant commented that while the county is tracking planting trees, it is disregarding removal, especially on infrastructure or development projects.
- vii. A participant asked whether Fairfax County has a program to control the amount of salt used to treat roads prior to ice/snow events, and whether the program monitors contractors' use of salt. The participant commented that this salt is washed into our watersheds and we need to protect our environment. Matthew Meyers (OEEC) responded that the county sees the results of salt on our streams at the U. S. Geological Survey's stream gages and is coordinating with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Fairfax Water, VDOT and other Northern Virginia jurisdiction to implement a salt management strategies to reduce the use of salt and the impacts on water quality. The Northern Virginia Regional Commission's Salt Management Strategy website has additional information and a tool kit.
<https://www.novaregion.org/1498/SaMS-Toolkit>.

V. Integrated Action Planning | 7:40 p.m. – 7:55 p.m.

- a. ***Vision for Integrated Action Planning:*** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) described the vision of Integrated Action Planning, specifically: integration of climate in planning and coordination ensures resiliency is at the forefront of county initiatives. A county with integrated action planning is:
 - i. Monitoring progress, supporting transparency, and informing implementation
 - ii. Integrating climate change preparedness across county operations

- iii. Advocating for resilience action beyond county control (e.g., public transit, building codes, energy resilience)
 - iv. Positioning the county to be competitive for state and federal funding opportunities
 - v. Building new funding streams and providing dedicated funding source to support county's climate goals
- b. **Potential Strategies for Integrated Action Planning:** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) then presented three sample strategies to the public:
- i. **Data Collection: Resilience Metrics:** Develop metrics for ongoing assessment of community resilience and improvements. Considerations should include but are not limited to: vulnerable populations, social factors, built infrastructure, and environmental infrastructure.
 - ii. **Funding Plan:** 1) Climate Fund: Explore options for development of a county Climate Fund for county investment in climate adaptation and mitigation projects with priority considerations for more vulnerable communities. 2) Federal & State Funding: Increase use of federal and state funding for resilience projects, including natural and nature-based solutions in addition to built infrastructure resilience.
 - iii. **Agency Collaboration & Coordination:** Establish a system for continued climate resilience collaboration between county departments, regional entities, and levels of government.
- c. **Discussion on Integrated Action Planning:** Julia Nassar (Cadmus) facilitated a discussion for the public to share feedback on the sample strategies. The following are key takeaways from the discussion:
- i. One participant encouraged private funding and action, in response to the Funding Plan strategy. Allison Homer (OEEC): noted that additional funding, including private opportunities are key and will be incorporated and highlighted in the strategy development process. She assured the participant that additional funding is indeed listed in the current draft of strategies; the project team could only fit a few sample strategies on the slide.
 - ii. One participant mentioned that Montgomery County just put \$10 million into adaptation strategies via their Green Bank. The participant noted that this seems like a very important step, and stated that we have authorization in Fairfax County to deploy the same type of Green Bank strategy that is capable of leveraging private dollars. Julia Chase (Cadmus): responded that for these strategies, we named it a climate fund, (because currently in Virginia, Green Banks are limited in their resilience uses). The idea for a climate fund would draw from examples of Montgomery County and others and would leverage private funding the same way.
 - iii. A participant noted that considerations for the private sector, businesses, Chamber of Commerce, etc. are important. The participant asked about ideas of bringing in the private sector and getting them to engage in the county's resiliency efforts. Allison Homer (OEEC): responded that one specific way they are included currently is

in the engagement process; business entities such as the Chamber of Commerce are included in the Community Advisory Group. Additionally, the strategy for proposed guidelines would apply to businesses and the private sector. There will also be resources developed to help small businesses enhance their resilience.

- iv. A participant recommended developing guidelines to help HOAs and other organizations with resiliency, storm management, green infrastructure, and other efforts. The participant noted that their organization takes a lot of actions already, but there are other things that could be done, and others may not be doing much in terms of resiliency at all. The participant noted that guidelines would also allow organizations to learn from one another and help engage the community effectively.
- v. A participant noted not seeing mention of the phasing of the strategies. The participant commented that one approach to consider is the "adaptation pathways" method that designs a series of phased actions tied to milestones / M&E. It could be useful for the county to convene a business forum around the release of the report to help businesses think about how they can benefit from your good thinking and how they can be leaders in developing and implementing solutions.
- vi. One participant recommended working with business associations, noting that change equals a lot of business opportunities.
- vii. A participant commented that it sounds like no ordinances will be passed to make sure these strategies are implemented in the private sector. The participant stated that some nurseries are selling invasives, and that one nursery owner told the participant: "There's no law against selling invasives, so I'll keep selling them." OEEC notes that the county unfortunately does not have the authority to regulate commerce or international trade.
- viii. A participant requested the final strategies include an explicit description of how the resilience strategies are dovetailed with the mitigation strategies.

VI. **Next Steps** | 7:55 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

- a. Julia Chase (Cadmus) and Allison Homer (OEEC) concluded the meeting by outlining the project team's next steps (including upcoming public release of the Climate Projections Report, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment, and Audit of Existing Policies, Plans, and Programs), and opportunities to remain engaged throughout the process.
 - i. The public can [follow the Resilient Fairfax process on this website](#).
 - ii. The [Climate Projections Report can be found on the OEEC website here](#)
 - iii. The Vulnerability and Risk Assessment and Audit of Existing Policies, Plans, and Programs will be likewise posted on the website.
 - iv. The public comment period on the compiled plan is currently scheduled for May-June 2022.

- v. Residents can reach the Resilient Fairfax team at any time by emailing ResilientFairfax@fairfaxcounty.gov.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:35 p.m.

Chat Transcript

From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 06:39 PM OEEInfo@fairfaxcounty.gov

From Eric Goplerud to Everyone: 06:42 PM How can we provide meaningful input without the information about Vulnerability and risk assessment, and Audit of Policies, Plans and Programs?

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 06:43 PM** Thank you for your question, Eric, it has been recorded!
- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 06:43 PM** Hi Eric - thanks for the question! Julia is going over the results of those reports now as a recap, in case folks missed the first two public meetings :-)
- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 06:48 PM** If anyone would like to see additional results of the preceding analyses (before the finalized versions are posted on our website), there is additional information available on our website in the meeting materials from the previous two public meetings. Here is a link : <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/public-engagement-resilient-fairfax>
 - [June 15 2021 Public Meeting Materials](#)
 - [October 14 2021 Public Meeting Materials](#)
 - [Climate Projections Report](#)

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 06:48 PM The prior slide implied that "low cost" options are better. But, sometimes transformative improvements come with higher price tags. Those should not necessarily be deprioritized, particularly given the potential for new funding streams via IJJA, etc.

- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 06:50 PM** Hi Peter - fully agreed! Please be assured we are not prioritizing only low-cost options. We are instead ensuring we have a mix of strategy types, costs, and scales.
- **From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 06:50 PM** Thanks for the feedback, Peter. The intent of that slide was to demonstrate the broad mix of strategies under examination (both low cost and larger capital improvement projects).
- **From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 06:50 PM** Thanks Julia. Your clarification would be good to address in the finalization of the visuals on this. This is a great typology of strategies.

From Cory Suter to Everyone: 06:49 PM A major gap in the impact assessment is Fairfax County's dependence on external supply chains, particularly for essential goods such as Food. Fairfax County does not produce nearly as much food as we could using Edible Landscaping and other Urban Ag solutions.

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 06:55 PM** Thank you for your comment Cody, it has been recorded!

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 06:50 PM What about explicitly factoring in barriers to implementation?

- **From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 06:53 PM** To your second question, Peter, we're examining barriers to implementation in the "implementation criteria" (specifically "Capacity" and "Technical Feasibility") Point noted, re: updating visualization!
- **From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 06:53 PM** Thanks Julia.

From Daniel Singh to Everyone: 06:53 PM Thanks for moving this initiative forward. Will these slides be available on the meeting page after tonight?

- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 06:55 PM** Hi Daniel - yes, the slides will be available on the meeting page, along with the recording!
- [February 1 2022 Public Meeting Materials](#)

From Prachi S to Everyone: 06:56 PM Is there a way to understand more details for each of these strategies such as - level of impact/importance, level of budget needed, already in place?, requires a policy change?

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 06:59 PM** Thank you for your questions Prachi and Jihan!
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Filling in these details for the prioritized strategies is the next step of the process. There will be an "Implementation Roadmap" developed for each prioritized strategy that will include the following:
 - Lead: Department leading
 - Partners: Departments or partners supporting
 - Timeline: Timeline for implementation
 - Cost: Cost estimates for implementation
 - Implementation Actions: Action steps
 - Equitable Implementation: Considerations for equity focused implementation
 - Funding Opportunities: Potential funding sources
 - Key Performance Indicators
 - The public will have an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the Implementation Roadmap (and all other components of the Resilient Fairfax plan during the public comment period, currently scheduled for May or June 2022.

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 06:56 PM It'd be useful to call out synergies with CECAP's conclusions. This could put "wind in the sails" of measures that have benefits for BOTH mitigation and adaptation. On cost, it'll be useful to ID both upfront and ongoing (O&M) costs.

- **From Lisa Schlecht to Everyone: 06:58 PM** I agree with Peter on linking the two, especially to help communities prioritize limited resources
- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 07:00 PM** Peter - definitely! In our "Implementation Roadmap" we will have a checkbox to indicate which strategies provide greenhouse gas reduction "co-benefits," and synergies with CECAP.

From Jihan Sherrod to Everyone: 06:58 PM How do you propose having resilient infrastructure introduced to older buildings already established?

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 06:59 PM** Thank you for your questions Prachi and Jihan!
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** There may be opportunities to retrofit existing buildings with resilience

enhancements to fortify the building to effects such as flooding, severe storms, and extreme temperatures. The Resilient Fairfax team plans to develop guidelines for building owners who wish to enhance the resiliency of their existing buildings. A few examples include the following: For flooding, the recommended retrofits depend on numerous factors including the building size, type, location, condition, and material. Certain buildings may be elevated. For others, the utility equipment may be relocated away from flood-vulnerable basements. Subgrade flood vents may be installed, or flood-resistant materials can be added to existing buildings. Energy efficiency measures can assist with temperature resilience. Back-up power and energy diversification such as solar power plus storage may help with storm resilience. Existing guidelines are available through FEMA (www.fema.gov)

From Candice Guillaudeu to Everyone: 06:59 PM I help a group called Virginia Green Initiative, Inc. which helps any statewide business get started on conservation, waste mgmt., etc. Most of the businesses that participate are small businesses, and how can we help them reduce their costs to implement some of their own strategies? Most of the businesses lease their office space or operate out of their home. Again, the one I'm working with is for any business within VA. So helping small businesses is key. C-PACE is up to the building owner. So please keep these folks in mind and who can I reach out to find out more?

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 07:04 PM** Thank you for your questions Candice, Richard, Peter, and John - they have been recorded!
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for this question and for the important point about differentiating businesses who are not the owners of the buildings in which they operate. Permanent physical upgrades to buildings would likely need to be done by building owners rather than tenants, through programs like C-PACE. However, there are operational preparedness and readiness measures that tenants can take. Currently, the Resilient Fairfax draft strategies include a recommendation for the creation of climate resilience guidelines and resources for businesses. In the meantime, OEEC encourages businesses to take a look at existing emergency preparedness resources from our colleagues in the Department of Emergency Management and Security: [Office of Emergency Management | Emergency Management \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency)

From Richard Rowan to Everyone: 07:00 PM Thanks for a professional presentation. Now, where is the sense of urgency? Things change. Suggest you address inevitable changes, and how plans will adapt.

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 07:04 PM** Thank you for your questions Candice, Richard, Peter, and John - they have been recorded!
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for the question, and support for resilience action. The county agrees that urgent action is needed, and that adaptability of the plan over time will be necessary. In terms of urgency, the county collectively has a lot to be proud of in the notably fast (but still thorough) Resilient Fairfax process. In terms of plan adaptability over time, the county hopes that the Resilient Fairfax planning process will be an iterative process that is reevaluated regularly, similar to the Hazard Mitigation Plan process.

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:02 PM Does the County have the staffing

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 07:04 PM** Thank you for your questions Candice, Richard, Peter, and John - they have been recorded!
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC is unsure which strategy is being referred to here. However, we can

confirm that staff capacity was preliminarily evaluated as part of the Resilient Fairfax Audit of Existing Policies, Plans, and Programs. For new and expanded programs, additional staff may be necessary.

From John Ulfelder to Everyone: 07:04 PM What is a “resilience hub”?

- **From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 07:04 PM** Good question, John - we'll talk about resilience hubs in our next discussion section (Climate Ready Communities)

From Derek Reinhard to Everyone: 07:04 PM I did not see mention of access to clean water and sanitation in the midst of climate change. There is a nexus between flooding/drought, sanitation treatment, and potable water. Flooding can actually reduce access to clean water and functioning sanitation/waste treatment, in the short and long term.

- **From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:08 PM** +1 to Derek's point, given the conclusions of the ICPRB that the supply of freshwater needs to be increased for the County -- given projected increases in demand -- irrespective of climate change. The Reston Association, which I represent here, is very keen to work with the County on implementation. We are highly dependent on the County to move the ball on resilience.
- **This question was answered verbally** during the meeting. Please see meeting minutes above.
- **From Derek Reinhard to Everyone: 07:10 PM** Thank you, Matt. Good to know

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:05 PM I'm also keen to hear what the County is doing to sustain/enhance its credit rating, given that all major ratings agencies are explicitly considering climate change. The work that you're doing here could be packaged to succinctly and saliently make the case to them. There's a lot riding on that. Perhaps the communications with credit ratings agencies and insurers could be added to the list of actions.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for this comment! Addressing climate change and reducing our risk to climate hazards supports the county's bond rating, which is currently very good (AAA Bond Rating). Here is a recent article about our Bond Rating: [Fairfax County Retains AAA Bond Rating, Holds Successful Bond Sale | News Center](#)

From Lisa Schlecht to Everyone: 07:05 PM I think each district has a unique mix of risks and resources to provide to help. The Great Falls Citizens Association would be happy to partner on implementation.

- **From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 07:06 PM** Thanks, Lisa!

From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:06 PM What is the weight placed on access to solar energy for residents as part of the energy resilience aspect

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Energy in Fairfax County is provided by private utilities such as Dominion Energy, NOVEC, Washington Gas, and Columbia Gas. While Fairfax County government does not have the direct authority over solar energy regulations, the county can serve as a strong advocate for renewable energy and utility resilience upgrades. Energy resilience in Resilient Fairfax is approached from the lens of increasing the energy resilience of county facilities (e.g., increasing the availability of on-site back-up power, ideally renewable power) and advocating for resilience upgrades with the utilities and other infrastructure partners.

From Daniel Singh to Everyone: 07:08 PM Are there intersections with the FC Parks and their strategic plan?

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Great question and yes! Fairfax County Park Authority is an active member of the Resilient Fairfax Planning Team and also the Resilient Fairfax Infrastructure Advisory Group. They have participated actively throughout the Resilient Fairfax planning process to ensure our plans and programs are aligned.

From Maureen O'Donnell to Everyone: 07:08 PM Much of the language is framed in terms of integrating future projections from climate change. There are measures that can be taken for prevention, for instance stormwater, Increasing building set-backs in development to increase permeable surfaces; protecting established, mature trees in areas - or even on specific lots- during developments. The plan mentions urban reforestation, but, unfortunately, there is a lot of urban deforestation happening now. These

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for this comment, and absolutely! The county's ordinances, including those pertaining to setbacks, floodplain protections, impervious cover limitations, Resource Protection Area (RPA) protections, tree conservation, and land development limitations do indeed enhance our resilience in a preventative rather than reactive manner. One of the purposes of Resilient Fairfax is to identify areas where our existing ordinances and processes may need to be further strengthened to enhance our resilience. For example, the Department of Public Works and Environmental Services is currently leading a flood risk reduction initiative to address flooding issues more proactively in the county before they occur, rather than relying heavily on reactive flood response. The reason the county is seeking to also integrate climate projections into these efforts is to help ensure that resilience upgrades that are made continue to be resilient to future conditions. For example, if new stormwater infrastructure is installed, we want to make sure that that infrastructure has capacity not only for current precipitation, but also future precipitation amounts and intensity.

From Prachi S to Everyone: 07:09 PM Have there been any exercises/drills (for example via simulations) to define where the gaps are during a climate-driven emergency event/

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 07:13 PM** Thank you for your question Prachi, it has been recorded!
- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 07:18 PM** Hi Prachi - great question! Emergency drills and simulations are conducted at the regional level by entities such as MWCOG. The county's Department of Emergency Management and Security (DEMS) coordinates those exercises, and they are responsible for the Hazard Mitigation Plan and Ready Fairfax. Both DEMS and MWCOG are active participants in Resilient Fairfax, so that we're able to share that information with each other. As far as our assessments, our vulnerability identifications were identified based on mapping, modeling, interviews of infrastructure managers, data from real events (such as swift water rescues), public engagement, and other sources. Does that help?

From Anne Kanter to Everyone: 07:15 PM When County boards require developers or residents to improve their shorelines and riverbanks as a tradeoff for more impervious building areas, the applicants often backslide on compliance, but there are not enough code-enforcement staff to follow up on these failures. The County must increase funding for compliance.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you! The county indeed anticipates that staffing capacity will need to be further analyzed.

From Derek Reinhard to Everyone: 07:16 PM Lead indicators, yes

From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:17 PM Peter, excellent point the KPIs

From Flint Webb to Everyone: 07:17 PM Is there anything we can do to revise the Public Facilities Manual to set more stringent standards than what is required in the Building Code? I don't think the implementation of more stringent standards being voluntary will work.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for your comment! An analysis and potential revision of the Public Facilities Manual is listed as one of the Resilient Fairfax strategies.

From Lisa Schlecht to Everyone: 07:17 PM You might want to get input from senior centers, nursing homes and hospitals on their concerns

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you!

From Noreen Wise to Everyone: 07:18 PM Will there be new ordinances passed requiring these mitigation efforts . IE all new buildings must be green. Rebuilding after a disaster must follow Green Recovery Plan established by US DOE?

- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 07:26 PM** Hi Noreen! Great question. While we are limited in our ability to pass requirements per se for buildings (due to the Dillon Rule), we are exploring opportunities to continue strongly encouraging or incentivizing green building, such as through the development review process and proffered conditions processes conducted through the Zoning Evaluation Division

From Prachi S to Everyone: 07:21 PM Thank you for the detailed response. Since the vulnerability assessments are completed, are there publicly available geographic maps that show the different risk levels by say zipcode?

- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 07:35 PM** Prachi, to your question about maps, we are currently working to develop an interactive "Climate Map Viewer" with multiple climate hazard and vulnerability layers, such as urban heat islands, inland flooding, and coastal flooding projections. Our goal is for the public to be able to use the interactive map as they review the draft plan during the public comment period (and beyond)

From Derek Reinhard to Everyone: 07:21 PM I've seen parking spots in FL and TX shading cars with raised solar panel arrays

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you!

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:22 PM To help incentivize private action, it would be useful to help to create the business case for actions at the homeowner and small business level.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you! [The Federal Emergency Management Agency \(FEMA\)](#) has data currently that may assist with one element of this, namely comparing financial implications for homeowners with and without flood insurance.

From Noreen Wise to Everyone: 07:23 PM Parking lots should be painted light grey to lower the heat. But increasing albedo doesn't appear to be part of the plan. Black asphalt is 50°F hotter than the air.

- **From Allison Homer to Everyone: 07:36 PM** Noreen, great point about albedo and cool pavements! We have heat mitigation strategies such as cool pavements tucked into the "heat resilient development" and "guidelines" strategies, but you're right that we could have make that more clear!

From Suzanne Olijar to Everyone: 07:23 PM Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you!

From Lisa Schlecht to Everyone: 07:24 PM The county libraries could be another resource for resilience hubs/education

- **From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 07:24 PM** Good feedback, thank you Noreen and Lisa!

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:24 PM Please keep an eye out for the reports from MWCOG and Reston -- both things that I'm involved. We're really hoping for strong support from Fairfax County. Another thing to keep an eye on is work with Alexandria starting up soon.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you! OEEC coordinates regularly with MWCOG and neighboring jurisdictions, including Alexandria.

From M. Pierce to Everyone: 07:25 PM How are you reaching out to communities that speak other languages?

- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 07:31 PM** Thank you for your question M. Pierce, it has been recorded!
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Last summer, the Resilient Fairfax administered a public survey to better understand residents' climate concerns and experiences. The county hired translators to translate the survey into four other languages. The survey was advertised throughout the county in multiple formats and through many engagement networks, including on-the-ground partners with existing trust in communities who speak other languages. However, the team did not receive any survey responses other than English responses. In addition to the public survey, translation services are offered ahead of all public meetings; to date, no translation services have been requested. County websites are always available in multiple languages, through the "translate" button in the top right corner of the website window. The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination will continue our efforts to better engage these communities.

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:26 PM C-PACE is an example of how the County can help build the business case.

- **From Matt Meyers, Fairfax County VA to Everyone: 07:26 PM** Information on Fairfax County's C-Pace program is available here: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/c-pace>

From Samuel Gaber to Everyone: 07:28 PM Health benefits can be added to the quantification Specifically reducing DALYS

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you!

From Flint Webb to Everyone: 07:28 PM Good idea Eric

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:28 PM +1 to Eric G's comments about combining mitigation and adaptation efforts.

From Anne Kanter to Everyone: 07:29 PM Once again the proffers and incentives to alleviate water runoff tend to degrade and disappear over time. The county needs to fund staff to continue to monitor how developers and homeowners are doing.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment; thank you!

From Prachi S to Everyone: 07:33 PM In the same vein, just like participants here are discussing connecting dots across mitigation and adaptation, are there benefits in combining efforts across counties in the DMV area to optimize costs?

- **From Eric Goplerud to Everyone: 07:34 PM** agree strongly with Prachi. solutions need to be regional
- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for the question! The county agrees on the importance of regional resilience collaboration. Fairfax County OEEC coordinates regularly with neighboring jurisdictions and also with regional entities such as the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG) and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC). Additionally, there are ongoing regional resilience projects being currently conducted by entities such as U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, WMATA, the Urban Stormwater Workgroup, and others. At the state level, Virginia recently completed [Phase One of the Virginia Statewide Coastal Resilience Master Plan](#); Fairfax County participated in the planning process.

From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:34 PM One aspect to consider can be the effort/motivation to have communities building rain gardens to help reduce runoff. This can be enhancing/strengthening work with the native plants/gardening organizations (master naturalists, master gardeners, native plant societies, etc.)

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for this comment! Rain gardens, native plants and vegetation, and other green infrastructure can indeed help. Promoting and expanding ongoing work is a great idea. We encourage residents to check out current workshops and assistance being offered by our partners at [the Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District!](#)

From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 07:35 PM To add to Allison's response, the public comment period will occur throughout the month of May

From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:37 PM are there incentives considered for people to engage in improvements on their own backyards?

- **From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:39 PM** +1 Jo. Homeowners and businesses need to see why taking action is in their interest. The County has an important role to play in incentivizing this by demonstrating the economic bottom line as well as the social and environmental benefits of action by homeowners and businesses.
- **The project team verbally answered this question.** The Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District currently has programs to assist with improvements to residential backyards.
- **From Matt Meyers, Fairfax County VA to Everyone:** 07:39 PM NVSWCD Conservation Assistance Program: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/soil-water-conservation/cap-community>

From Gary Bangs to Everyone: 07:37 PM: County is tracking planting trees, but ignoring tree removal. Especially on infrastructure or development projects.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this comment and hears this concern, thank you!

From Prachi S to Everyone: 07:38 PM Participants here are discussing community projects. Is there a thought around publishing recommendations for what community projects would be important (high impact, needed near-term)?

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for this question! Yes, there is discussion of prioritizing high-impact, pressing-need projects for communities, such as communities in need of flood risk reduction. Our “Adaptation Action Areas” proposed strategy would first identify those areas with pressing needs. Then, the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) process would prioritize specific projects within those communities. Additionally, one of Resilient Fairfax’s proposed prioritized strategies is related to Education and Guidance to increase community knowledge of climate impacts and resilience measures. Sub-actions under this strategy include flood mitigation guidance, wind/storm resilience guidance, energy resilience guidance, and agricultural guidance. These materials would be developed for a public audience.

From Eric Goplerud to Everyone: 07:39 PM Faith communities can serve as resiliency hubs. With support from the county

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC has received this suggestion, thank you!

From Kevin Kierce to Everyone: 07:40 PM: Does Fairfax County have a program to control the amount of salt used to treat roads prior to ice/snow events? Does the program monitor contractors use of salt? All of this salt is washed into our watersheds and we need to protect our environment.

- **From M. Pierce to Everyone: 07:45 PM** There is a state report called SaMS that was developed over three years that can be accessed via DEQ.
- **From Kevin Kierce to Everyone: 07:45 PM** Thanks Matt for your response
- **From Lindsey Popken - Cadmus to Everyone: 07:46 PM** Thank you for your question, Kevin! We are recording all questions and comments and responses will be made available in the meeting minutes!
- **From Gary Bangs to Everyone: 07:48 PM** Many are doing SaltWatch through water reporter, Izaak Walton program coordination may be useful. Salt levels in streams are way over allowed limits.
- **From Matt Meyers, Fairfax County VA to Everyone: 07:49 PM** Northern Virginia Salt Management Strategy: <https://www.novaregion.org/1399/Northern-Virginia-Salt-Management-Strate>

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:42 PM And, encouraging of private funding/action!

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:44 PM I didn't see mention of the phasing of the strategies. One approach to consider is the "adaptation pathways" method that designs a series of phased actions tied to milestones / M&E.

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** An adaptive pathways approach was envisioned for the long-term

implementation of Resilient Fairfax and supporting climate action plans. The Resilient Fairfax implementation roadmap will include a set of strategies and supporting sequence of actions that can be assessed and adapted over time.

From Lisa Schlecht to Everyone: 07:44 PM You could work with business associations. Change equals a lot of business opportunities.

- **From Candice Guillaudeu to Everyone: 07:45 PM** Yes, how are you all working with business associations, e.g., chambers of commerce, etc., to help our local businesses?
- **From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:47 PM:** what is the role been considered from the private sector/business/chamber of commerce, etc.
- **From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:52 PM** It could be useful for the County to convene a business forum around the release of the report to help businesses think about how they can benefit from your good thinking and how they can be leaders in developing and implementing solutions.
- **The project team** verbally responded to this question. Please see meeting minutes above.
- **From Matt Meyers (Fairfax County OEEC) to Everyone: 07:56 PM** The OEEC initiated and is looking for opportunities to grow it's Green Business Partners program:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/green-business>

From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:45 PM Are there strategies being considered for the public helping/motivate the effectiveness of the collaboration between county departments and other government levels?

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** The Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) was created to support inter- and intra-governmental coordination on environmental matters. Led by OEEC, there are 20 county departments actively engaged in the Resilient Fairfax planning process, demonstrating notable interdepartmental collaboration. There are also numerous collaboration strategies planned under the "Integrated Action Planning," category of the proposed Resilient Fairfax strategies, including but not limited to: integrating climate resiliency into countywide general planning and enabling continued interagency and intergovernmental collaboration on climate resilience efforts. The public can always reach out to OEECinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov with questions or concerns.

From Eric Goplerud to Everyone: 07:46 PM montgomery county just put \$10 million into the its green bank

- The project team verbally responded to this comment. Please see meeting minutes above.

From Jeff Warrington to Everyone: 07:46 PM What did Ithaca, NY get right in their effort:
<https://www.cityofithaca.org/642/Green-New-Deal> would any of those ideas help us?

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** Thank you for sharing this example. Our team will review in the context of Resilient Fairfax.

From Allison Homer (Fairfax County OEEC) to Everyone: 07:49 PM Thank you all for your fantastic questions and comments! Please know we are recording all of your feedback, and for any questions we're unable to get to, we will have responses in the meeting minutes, which will be posted on the website.

From Eric Goplerud to Everyone: 07:50 PM Are there critical infrastructures that are at risk of climate catastrophes? Waste management? Electrical systems?

- **From Allison Homer (Fairfax County OEEC) to Everyone: 07:54 PM** Hi Eric, good question, and yes. Our Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (VRA) analyzed 27 sub-sectors (including a range of infrastructure types) for vulnerability to six hazards. We'll be posting the finalized VRA on our website soon, but in the meantime, you can see presentations about the results in the previous public meeting slides at this link: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/public-engagement-resilient-fairfax>
 - [Resilient Fairfax Public Meeting - June 15, 2021 | Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)
 - [Resilient Fairfax Virtual Public Meeting: October 14, 2021 | Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)
 - [Resilient Fairfax Virtual Public Meeting: February 1, 2022 | Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#)

From Jo Doumbia to Everyone: 07:52 PM Thanks very much for all answers

From Samuel Gaber to Everyone: 07:53 PM Thank you for facilitating a very informative discussion.

From Noreen Wise to Everyone: 07:55 PM It sounds like no ordinances will be passed to make sure these strategies are implemented in private sector. Some nurseries are selling invasives. One nursery owner told me: "There's no law against selling invasives, so I'll keep selling them."

- ***The project team did not have time to respond during the meeting. A follow-up response is included here:*** OEEC agrees that invasive plants are an issue that should be addressed. The county environmental office unfortunately does not have the authority to regulate commerce or international trade. However, there are initiatives such as [Operation Stream Shield](#) and [Plant NoVA Natives](#) working on invasive species efforts.

From Donna Jacobson to Everyone: 07:56 PM Thank you for an extremely informative presentation.

From Carola Ortuno to Everyone: 07:57 PM Thank you all

From Noreen Wise to Everyone: 07:57 PM Thank you!

From Julia Nassar (Cadmus) to Everyone: 07:57 PM Thank you all for your thoughtful participation! Have a great evening

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:57 PM It'd be great to see in a future meeting an explicit description of how the resilience strategies are dovetailed with the mitigation strategies.

From Candice Guillaudeu to Everyone: 07:57 PM Thank you!

From Lisa Schlecht to Everyone: 07:58 PM Thank you, great to hear from

From Peter Schultz to Everyone: 07:58 PM Thanks!!

From Helene Stikkel to Everyone: 07:58 PM Thank you!



From Heather Plank to Everyone: 07:58 PM Thanks for a very informative session

From Larry Zaragoza to Everyone: 07:58 PM Thank you

From Kevin Kierce to Everyone: 07:58 PM Appreciate the presentation. We need more participants other than 60 people on line tonight!