



## Fairfax County Board of Supervisors/School Board | Joint Environmental Taskforce (JET)

**Mission:** The mission of the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors/School Board Joint Environmental Taskforce (“JET”) is to join the political and administrative capabilities of the county and the school system to proactively and equitably address climate change and environmental sustainability. The JET will include community partners from higher education, industry, community and student advocacy groups to recommend aggressive goals in areas of common county and school operations and influence, such as workforce development, infrastructure and sustainability of public facilities and transportation, land use planning, communication and community engagement, and other challenges and opportunities as they arise. The JET will provide a forum for informing, advising, collaborating and addressing county wide issues and aligning institutional policies and practices pertaining to climate change and environmental sustainability through the lens of One Fairfax and to appointing bodies.

**Communication and Authority:** The JET will communicate to the Board of Supervisors and School Board on a regular basis. Items identified by the JET, Superintendent or County Executive that require modifications to budget, policy, or capital improvement planning will be referred to respective Boards for consideration. In addition, the JET has a unique opportunity to get our environmental message out to the community. Joint efforts by the County and Schools amplify our messages and broaden our audience as we seek to engage, inform and change behaviors.

**Facilities/Infrastructure:** Many efforts are already underway to improve the environmental quality of our existing and new facilities and to reduce greenhouse gasses through passive and active designs, solar power, lighting, HVAC, etc. The JET will focus on identifying, co-locating and combining facilities and uses for accelerating these improvements, exploring new and innovative concepts, encouraging pilot initiatives to test these concepts, and educating/tasking building managers and leaders as to findings and implementing them in their own facilities. SMART goals for achieving net zero carbon emissions and energy or carbon emissions per industry appropriate measures will be recommended by the JET. SMART goals should include energy use per anticipated user, comparable best practices for similar facilities, LEED or like rating organization certifications and other third-party measures.

**Land Use:** In order to enhance and accelerate our collaboration resulting in more environmentally sustainable land use decisions, the JET will prioritize co-locating resources, usage densities, types and intensities of development, and green space planning and preservation. Plans will incorporate walking, biking and multi-modal trails, employing green energy opportunities and carbon capture. Comprehensive Plan decisions, which more effectively partner and plan for “smart growth” and align with nearby, right-sized public facilities, will be key JET goals essential for reducing misaligned facility needs and transportation costs. The JET will recommend measures for assessing improvements and best practices for land use.

**Transportation:** This element provides significant potential and opportunities for partnering on climate change mitigation. The JET will identify SMART goals consistent with our Board’s environmental policies and leadership expectations by developing recommendations for decreasing per person carbon emissions per mile travelled.

**Workforce Development:** The JET will recommend County/School partnerships in collaboration with continuing education entities to create and enhance educational programming, internships, and co-op programs to support workforce development in green energy and environmental sustainability fields. Educational partnerships SMART goals will include career ready graduates and local talent retention.

**Public Health:** Impacts of climate change to public health will be considered in our joint roles of protecting and improving quality of life in our community. The JET will work to identify needs, seek and grow available public health resources, and advance use of modern health care technology.

For more information about the JET, visit [FCPS](#) and [Fairfax County](#) online.