

CECAP WORKING GROUP FAQs

WHAT IS THE CECAP WORKING GROUP?

In October 2020, the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan development process shifted from a model involving nine district level Focus Groups and one Task Force to a model with a single Working Group. The new CECAP Working Group will be composed of members of the former Focus Groups and Task Force and will serve as the deliberating and decision-making body throughout the remainder of the CECAP planning process. The Working Group is charged with developing recommendations for goals, strategies, and actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Fairfax County for presentation to the Board of Supervisors. Initially, the Working Group will be divided into two subgroups to facilitate consideration of sector specific strategies.

WHY DID WE SHIFT TO A WORKING GROUP MODEL?

The shift to a Working Group model was made for several reasons, chief among them:

- To address complications in the planning process due to COVID-19.

- To promote equity among CECAP participants, to ensure all voices are heard.

- To facilitate a robust and productive discussion around sector-specific goals and strategies.

The new Working Group model will allow for a more streamlined approach to discussion of CECAP goals and objectives, involving more voices and inviting people with diverse perspectives and backgrounds to help shape the final plan.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE CECAP WORKING GROUP?

All members of the former Focus Groups and Task Force are invited to participate in the CECAP Working Group. Members of the public are invited to observe Working Group meetings but may not actively participate in discussion.

HOW WILL MY ROLE CHANGE AS A MEMBER OF THE WORKING GROUP?

If you were formerly a Task Force member, your role as a member of the Working Group will not be significantly different. You will still be asked to review information provided by county staff and the CECAP consultants and to use your expertise and experience to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors.

If you were formerly a Focus Group member, your role will change as a member of the Working Group. You will become a voting member of this decision-making body and will be asked to share your thoughts and expertise directly, rather than via a summary report through a liaison. You will have an individual voice and vote from here on out.

HOW OFTEN WILL THE WORKING GROUP MEET?

The Working Group will begin meeting in December 2020 as two separate subgroups. These subgroups will meet in December 2020, January 2021, and March 2021, and the entire Working Group will come together as a whole to complete the planning process with meetings in April and June 2021.

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SECTOR SPECIFIC SUBGROUPS?

Sector specific climate planning is best accomplished by groups dedicated to a single sector or group of similar sectors. Best practice indicates that forming sector specific subgroups can help keep the planning process moving and ensure that the strategies identified are realistic. In the case of the CECAP Working Group, having two subgroups will allow all members to participate fully in strategy discussions, as the full Working Group is likely to have upward of 70 members.

CAN I SERVE IN MORE THAN ONE SECTOR SPECIFIC SUBGROUP?

Working Group members may not serve in more than one sector specific subgroup. Members will be assigned to a single subgroup but may observe the proceedings of the other subgroup and comment during full Working Group meetings.

HOW WERE SUBGROUP ASSIGNMENTS MADE?

Working Group members were assigned to specific subgroups based on their preferences, their areas of expertise, and a need to balance the membership of each group.

HOW CAN I ACCESS MEETING MATERIALS AND OTHER WORKING GROUP INFORMATION?

All Working Group meeting materials and resources will be posted on [the Working Group landing page](#). This page is also home to all of the materials from the former Focus Group and Task Force meetings.

WILL MEETING AGENDAS AND MATERIALS BE MADE AVAILABLE PRIOR TO WORKING GROUP MEETINGS?

Yes. Meeting agendas and materials will be made available to all Working Group members at least one week in advance of a planned meeting. These materials will be [posted to the website](#) on specific meeting pages by date. An email will be sent to notify Working Group members when materials are available online. It is the responsibility of Working Group members to navigate to the website to view these materials in preparation for upcoming meetings.