

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

Public Feedback Session: Energy

Tuesday, February 23, 2021

7:00 PM – 8:30 PM

Held Electronically via WebEx



Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

Welcome & Meeting Overview

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



Agenda

Welcome and Meeting Overview

Meeting Purpose

How You Can Give Feedback & WebEx Tips

Getting to Know You

Preparing You to Provide Useful Feedback

CECAP Process Overview

Energy-Related Actions

Major Energy-Saving Improvements

Smaller, DIY Energy-Saving Improvements

Renewable and Alternative Energy

Green Buildings

Open Discussion on the Public Engagement Process

What works & what could be improved

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Meeting Purpose

- **Educate and inform** you about our climate and energy action plan
- **Invite** your individual feedback via our community surveys
- **Understand** your opinions, preferences, and ideas about energy-related strategies and activities the Fairfax County community could undertake to reduce our carbon footprint
- **Gather** information to improve outreach and community engagement efforts going forward

How Can You Give Feedback?

- **Community Surveys:**

- Surveys are available online here on the [CECAP Public Engagement webpage](#)
- Open until March 14
- Available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese
- Please take 5 minutes to provide your feedback

Getting to Know You

- How did you hear about this meeting?
 - Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, NextDoor, Email (e.g, email from Fairfax County or from another organization), someone told me about it
- To what extent are you personally concerned about climate change?
 - Very concerned, slightly concerned, not concerned
- How familiar are you with the CECAP process?
 - Very familiar, somewhat familiar, not familiar at all
- Where do you live within the County?
 - Braddock, Lee, Springfield, Sully, Providence, Mount Vernon, Hunter Mill, Mason, or Dranesville
- In the future, how would you prefer to hear about CECAP?
 - Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, NextDoor, email, posters, flyers, etc.

CECAP Overview

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County



Community Engagement and Public Input

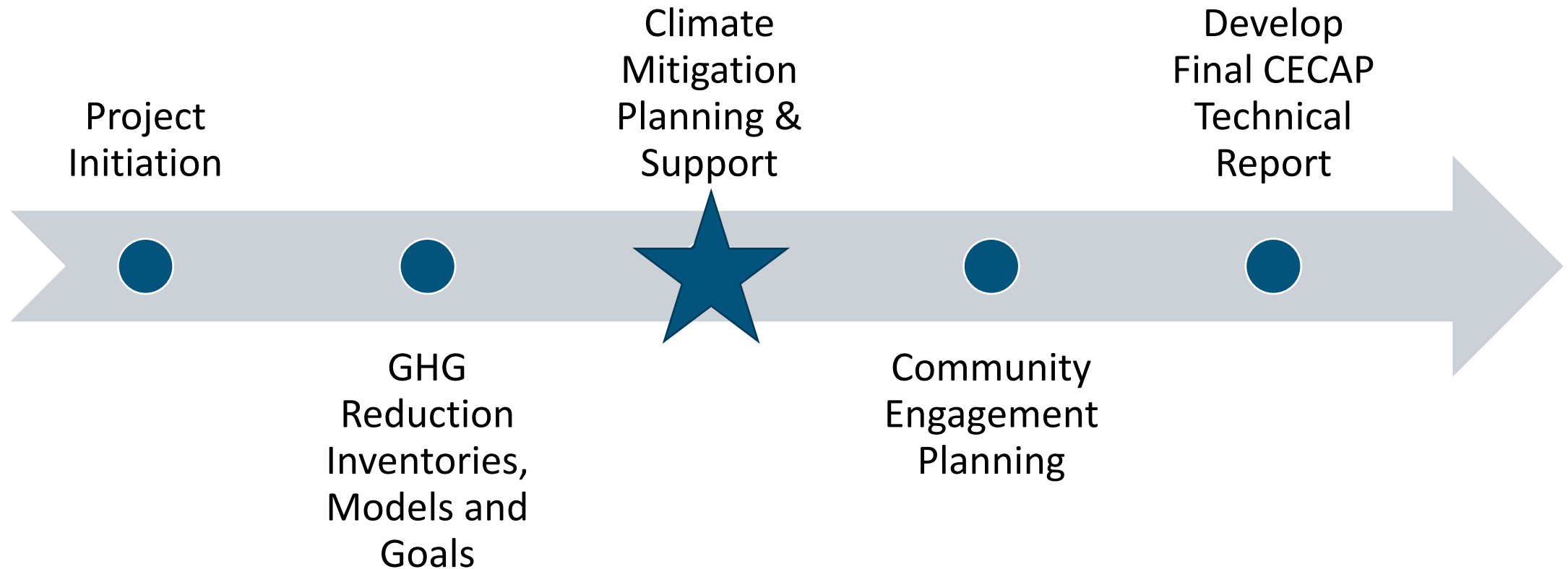
Public

- Input and implementation roles
- Online access
- Outreach
- Public feedback meetings
- Public comment periods

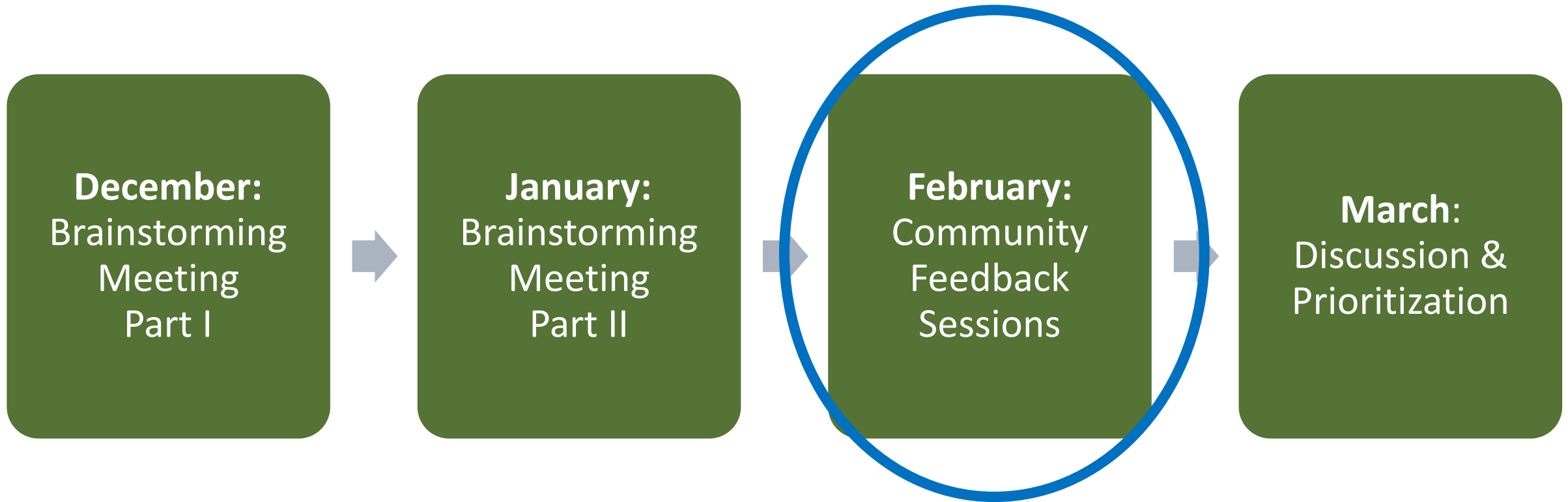
CECAP Working Group

- Decision-making role
- Recommends Plan to Board of Supervisors
- County-wide representation
- Meetings open to the public

CECAP Process



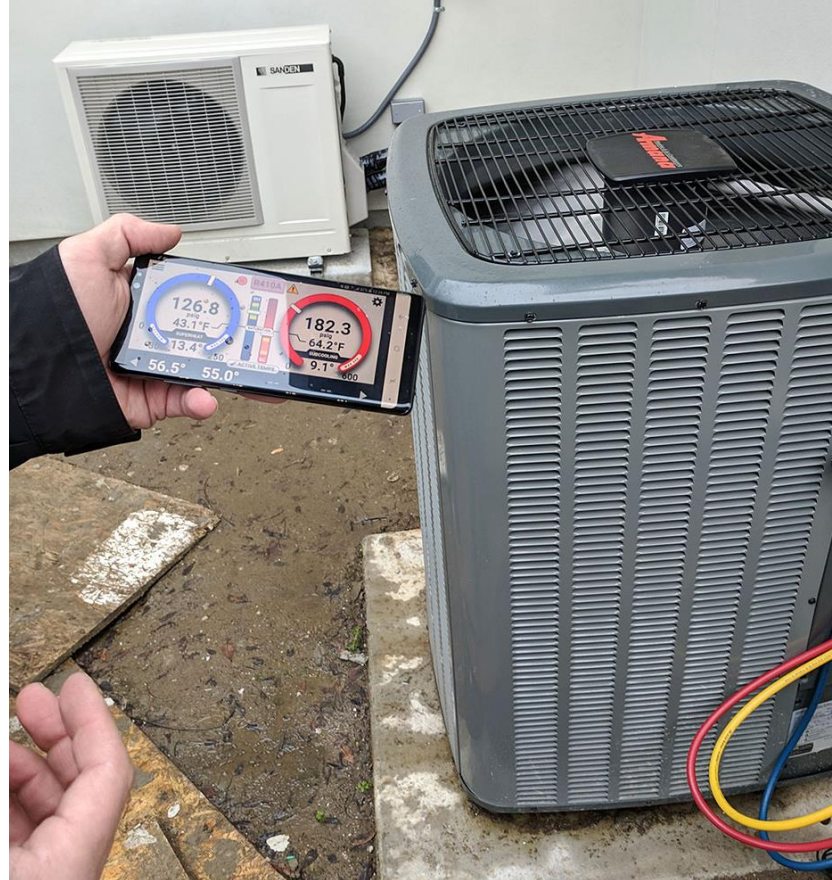
Timeline for Current Phase



Energy-Related Actions

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator
Adam Agalloco, ICF





Major Energy-Saving Improvements (1 of 4)

Major Energy Saving Improvements

What would encourage you?

- Financial savings
- Tax rebate
- Vendor selection & availability / access to info
- Lower property tax
- Cost-sharing program
- Standardized loan application & terms
- Professional input on choices & trade offs

What would stop you?

- ROI takes too long
- Costs too high compared to savings
- Lack of reputable vendors or trust in vendors
- Lack of financing options (e.g., PACE)
- Lack of data on benefits & choices
- Timing
- Process is too complex
- Unclear how to assess need
- Cost prohibitive for individuals/families



Smaller, DIY Energy-Saving Improvements (2 of 4)

Smaller, DIY Energy-Saving Improvements

What would encourage you?

- Benefits/impacts (e.g., comfort)
- National price on carbon
- Information on options, supplies, & vendors
- Cost savings
- Energy audits
- How-to guides/one-pagers (e.g., lighting)
- County-approved contractors
- Tax free / Rebates
- Educate youth
- Education on time investment

What would stop you?

- Time / Prioritization*
- Cost
- Too complex
- Stories about failures
- Lack of ability to experiment
- Renters may lack agency/choice
- Lack of information on savings
- Lack of awareness & education
- Lack of quality products



Renewable and Alternative Energy (3 of 4)

Renewable and Alternative Energy

What would encourage you?

- Tax incentives, rebates, subsidies
- Energy storage/Resiliency benefits
- Standardized loan application & terms
- Shorter ROI
- Leasing solar panels
- Utility program
- Education about benefits
- Purchasing renewable energy

What would stop you?

- HOA restrictions
- Aesthetics
- Utility restrictions
- Quality roofing contractor, familiar with renewable energy/solar technologies
- Too many trees
- Legislative restriction (e.g., max allowable solar)
- Permitting costs too high



Green Buildings (4 of 4)

Green Buildings

What would help you support this path forward?

- Higher taxes
- Student education
- Information on cost/benefit* (e.g., energy efficiency/climate impacts*)
- Dialogue/inclusion
- Features like rooftop gardens*, cool design
- Tax incentives/real estate tax deduction
- Secondary benefits (e.g., daylight, health*, air quality)
- Events/community meetings in green buildings
- Awareness of cost savings due to public green buildings

What might get in the way of this path forward?

- Architects/lack of integrated project teams
- Perception of first cost
- Budget concerns (for public buildings)
- Lack of leadership
- Lack of understanding of benefits/cost savings
- Maintenance costs
- County building standards
- Lack of education re: space reuse
- New technologies that don't work
- Resistance from chambers of commerce

Public Engagement Process

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator



Open Discussion on Public Engagement Process

- Given the County's constraints (COVID, budget):
 - What works well?
 - What could be improved?

Wrap Up and Next Steps

Michelle Paul Heelan, ICF Facilitator

Maya Dhavale, Fairfax County



Let's Hear From You

1. Do you intend to respond to one or both surveys (Energy, Transportation/Development)?
2. Will you share the surveys with at least 3 other people?
3. Is the next set of public meetings in May 2021?

Upcoming Dates

Online
survey
opens
Feb 22

Working
Group
reviews
public
feedback

Working Group
meetings held on a
~monthly basis; open
to the public

Online
survey
closes
March
14

Working
Group
meetings
on March
24 & 25;
open to
public

Public
feedback
sessions in
May 2021

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.

Get Involved

- **Take one or both short Community Surveys (Energy and Transportation & Development), [found here](#)**
 - Open until March 14
 - Available in English, Spanish, Korean, and Vietnamese
- **Follow or Like** the [Fairfax County Climate and Energy Facebook page](#), and join the online conversation.
- **Email cecapoutreach@fairfaxcounty.gov to become a CECAP Community Partner.** Help advocate for and enact changes in your community that will lower our collective greenhouse gas emissions.

Thank You!

For further questions, please contact:

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[Fairfax County Climate Change Planning and Action Website](#)