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Mount Vernon

Joint Board Matter with Supervisors Jeff McKay and John Foust
Fairfax Green Initiatives

Background

Based on a new report from the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), our planet is facing unprecedented climate changes requiring more immediate steps to reduce our carbon emissions. The IPCC, a group of the world's leading climate scientists, is urging governments to take action to reduce emissions by 45% by 2030 in order to keep global warming at a maximum of 2.7 degrees F (1.5C). We believe Fairfax County must do more as well by accelerating and increasing our previous actions, plans and commitments.

Below are energy-related initiatives which we believe are crucial for consideration and expeditious implementation if we are to begin to stem the growth of greenhouse gasses which are dramatically altering our environment, our world and the people, places and property in our communities. These initiatives have been discussed with leading area organizations, acknowledged related experts and now with you, our colleagues.

We recognize, value and appreciate the leadership the Board has shown in many of these areas for more than a decade (see attached). Our intent with this Board Matter and these initiatives is to build upon that leadership, bring together the spectrum of possibilities and accelerate their consideration, adoption and rapid implementation. In addition, we recognize that some of these initiatives are already being considered or implemented, but believe they should be included in and prioritized with this more comprehensive list. Our responses now must be proportional to the unprecedented climate changes now being reported and to their multiplying impacts.

THEREFORE, Madame Chairman, WE MOVE THAT THE BOARD support the following actions to accelerate Board consideration and action:

1. Direct the County Executive to report to the Environmental Committee no later than June 2019 on:
    a. A draft process, resources and timeline to develop a Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP). It is anticipated that this plan development would include the retention of consultants on climate-

related issues and public outreach, as well as standing-up of a task force representing key public and private stakeholders and experts.

b. A process for contracting with an energy savings performance contractor (ESPC), or recommend other such initiatives that produce a similar outcome and timeframe.

2. Refer to the Development Process Committee for discussion and consideration whether County staff should review and report back to the Committee on the costs and benefits of the following:
   a. Comprehensive Plan and Zoning changes that would incentivize and support more environmentally sustainable development.
   b. Building design and code changes, including the International Green Construction Code, that could inspire and expedite energy saving practices on all new construction and significant renovations.
3. Refer to the Budget Committee for discussion and consideration the following:
   a. GO, ED and other capital bonding options that could accelerate energy saving initiatives, provide high economic returns on investments and support other community benefits that would enable green building, energy savings renovations and green purchasing practices.
   b. Support for the County Executive's current consideration for the FY 2020 budget of increased dedicated County energy, climate change and environment related staffing.
4. Refer to the Environmental Committee for discussion and consideration the following:
   a. Accelerating goals and targets for the Operational Energy Strategy; for example, faster transition to electric vehicles in County fleet.
   b. Directing staff to brief Committee on options to increase pursuit of grant and cooperative agreement funding for energy efficiency, conservation, weatherization, cogeneration, renewable energy, energy resilience and greenhouse gas emission reductions, through public-private partnerships, foundations, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the Federal government to provide greater energy reduction support for all residents, consistent with One Fairfax.
   c. Setting a goal that by 2025, locally generated energy (like solar) would offset County government energy usage. For example, this could be done with an I-95 landfill solar facility.
   d. Completing current Committee and staff work for C-PACE adoption by July 2019 with implementation by the end of 2019.
   e. Expedite consideration of R-PACE or other capital funding options to support residential energy use reductions.
   f. Identify timeframe for developing a County-specific Climate Resiliency and Adaptation Plan.
   g. Direct staff to report quarterly on all energy and climate initiatives.
   h. Review local advocacy group initiatives:

i. Fairfax to Zero Campaign – Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS)
ii. Fossil Free Resolution for Fairfax County – 350 Fairfax
iii. Resolution in Support of a National Carbon Fee and Dividend Program [Energy Innovation and Carbon Dividend Act of 2019 (H.R. 763)]– Citizens' Climate Lobby (CCL)
iv. 12-point Energy & Climate Action Plan for Fairfax – Great Falls Group of VA Sierra Club & Clean Energy for Fairfax Now

5. Charge the Tree Commission with recommending to the Board low-cost and no-cost options along with public-private partnerships that can assist residents in planting additional trees that will increase our existing tree canopy. The Commission should report annually to the Board on progress and accomplishments.
6. Direct the County Executive to report to the Board no later than September 2019 the following:
    a. Strengthening Green Building Policies for County Facilities
    b. A solar public-private partnership agreement.
    c. Increasing County leadership and accountability for climate change initiatives.
        i. Ensure County leadership accountability for results and outcomes through SMART goals.
        ii. Include energy management criteria in performance evaluations of departmental heads and senior executives.
        iii. Engage County staff and departments in competitions to lower energy use.
        iv. Develop incentive program to reward employees who provide energy saving ideas or recommendations that are acted upon.
        v. Develop partnerships like the Federal Department of Energy's Better Buildings Challenge
7. Encourage each Board office to identify, if not already done so, a District environmental liaison to foster community energy savings outreach, initiatives, education and engagement, County programs awareness, partnerships with local groups and serve as a liaison with County staff and other Board offices.

Brief Summary of Existing Fairfax County Initiatives

Board of Supervisors' Priorities: #3

To ensure the third priority – a clean, sustainable environment – Fairfax County has pledged to "continue to protect our drinking water, air quality, stream valleys and tree canopy through responsible environmental regulations and practices. We will continue to take a lead in initiatives to address energy efficiency and sustainability and to preserve and protect open space for our residents to enjoy."

See www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/priorities

Board's Vision Statement includes the following (paraphrased): Our vision is to protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County by maintaining safe and caring communities, building livable spaces, connecting people and places, maintaining healthy economies, practicing environmental stewardship, creating a culture of engagement and exercising corporate stewardship. We envision that local government, industry and residents will seek ways to use all resources wisely and to protect and enhance the county's natural environment and open space. As a result, residents will feel good about their quality of life and embrace environmental stewardship as a personal and shared responsibility.

Cool Counties - Fairfax County's climate change actions and initiatives include: ▮ Reducing greenhouse gas emissions in county government operations through efficiency, conservation and education. ▮ Implementing air quality, land use planning and zoning, transportation, tree and open space preservation, solid waste management, recycling and water conservation and reuse initiatives. ▮ Encouraging similar efforts in the wider community by supporting transit oriented mixed-use development, green building and energy-conserving design, particularly in redevelopment areas such as Tysons Corner. ▮ Encouraging similar efforts in the wider community by providing outreach to residents and businesses on a range of efforts that they can pursue in support of energy conservation and greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

County Energy Policy - promotes pragmatic conservation and management of energy resources. The policy supports nine measures: ▮ Energy efficiency and conservation in buildings, facilities, operations and vehicles. ▮ The use of alternative and sustainable energy options. ▮ Waste reduction and recycling. ▮ The use of more fuel efficient and alternate fuel vehicles in the county's fleet. ▮ Implementation of energy efficiency and conservation projects. ▮ Generation of energy on-site. ▮ Land use patterns and transportation systems that serve to reduce energy use. ▮ Intergovernmental energy efficiency efforts. ▮ Energy efficiency and conservation efforts by county employees. employers and residents.

Environmental Improvement Program – 2005/2012 - largely a compilation of projects, initiatives and actions that the county had taken, was in the process of taking or could take to support board-adopted environmental and energy policies and goals. Updated annually and sent to CEX for budgetary consideration.

Energy Action Fairfax Program – residential

1. Free home energy assessments

Environmental Vision – updated 2017 - the updated Environmental Vision document establishes "an overarching vision to attain a quality environment that provides for a high quality of life and is sustainable for future generations. These aspects of a quality environment are essential for everyone living and working in Fairfax County. No matter what income, age, gender, ethnicity, or address, everyone has a need and right to breathe clean air, to drink clean water, and to live and work in a quality environment." The updated Environmental Vision document is premised on the same two principles originally adopted by the board in 2004. First, that "conservation of our limited natural resources must be interwoven into all government decisions." And, second, that "the Board must be committed to providing the necessary resources to protect and improve our environment for quality of life now and for future generations."

County Operational Energy Strategy (2018)

County Sustainability Initiatives (FY 2019)

Tree Action Plan (2018)

Sustainable Development Policy for Capital Projects - The county supports green building in its capital projects and in private sector development. The Sustainable Development Policy for Capital Projects addresses county facilities. The Environment section of the Policy Plan volume of the Comprehensive Plan covers the private sector. County projects larger than 10,000 square feet must have a goal of achieving Silver certification in the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, or LEED®, rating system; smaller facilities are recommended for LEED certification.

Interagency Coordination:

1. Environmental Coordinator (Kambiz Agazi)
2. Environmental Coordinating Committee (ECC)
3. Energy Efficiency and Conservation Coordinating Committee (EECCC), which is now known as the Energy Core Team (ECT)

Fairfax County Monitoring

Fairfax does monitor community GHG emissions through COG's analysis. (20% per capita reduction over 2005-2015).