Environmental Vision Community Meeting
Jackson Middle School
July 20, 2016
Group A

1. **What do you think are the top three environmental concerns facing the county?**

   - Land conservation/preservation
   - Climate Change (12)
   - Water Management/SWM (3)
   - Air Quality (3)
   - Integrated approach to environmental management
   - Restoration of degraded environment to a healthy natural state
   - Recycling/solid waste
   - Low emissions/transportation/bikes/alternative vehicles/transit
   - Energy efficiency (2)
   - Utilities moving to sustainable energy

2. **Do you feel that this document is complete? If not, what do you think is missing?**

   - High aspirational goal for greenhouse gas emission reduction (measurable) – greenest County in the country (6)
   - Lacks a vision for a future state – across the board (3)

3. **Are there any other changes you would suggest to the Environmental Vision? If so, please elaborate.**

   - Vision should include the <u>entire</u> county
     - Business
     - Civic organizations
     - Schools
     - Residences
     - Built environment
     - Governments (including Fairfax City, Falls Church, Federal Government, DC, etc.)
   - Climate change
     - Separate section (preferable)
   - Acknowledge externalities (moral responsibility for affecting the environment beyond the county)
   - Prepare for impacts of climate change

- o Extreme heat
- o Sea level rise
- o Storm frequency
- o Integrate with national and state res. efforts (building resiliency)
- Education for climate change and for the environment
- Fairfax County provides incentives for storm water retrofitting private/community/countywide
- Education – food choices as they relate to environmental impact
  - o Vegan and vegetarian options in public schools and government buildings
- Incentives for investments in energy performance/conservation/efficiency/ improvements
  - o Building owners and users
- Dashboard to communicate with the public
  - o Measure progress
  - o Green report card (D.C. does this)
- Easy bike commuting – coordinate with the state and federal government
- Active engagement of business community towards green economic growth

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* Numbers noted in parentheticals represent the number of individuals in the focus group that agreed with the statement and "cast a vote" accordingly.

Environmental Agenda Update
July 20, 2016 Public Meeting
Luther Jackson Middle School
Group B

Question #1: Top three concerns?
In descending order, based on number of persons agreeing

5	Climate change
3	Energy efficiency
3	Integration of green space (corridors) into new development
2	Smart growth/controls on development
2	Reducing energy use
1	Population growth
1	Walkability
1	Natural preservation (landscape)
1	Water quality
1	Stormwater management, esp. in context of climate change (e.g., heavier rains)
1	Alternative energy

Question #1: Top three concerns?
In order of discussion

5	Climate change
2	Smart growth/controls on development
1	Population growth
3	Energy efficiency
1	Walkability
1	Natural preservation (landscape)
2	Reducing energy use
3	Integration of green space (corridors) into new development
1	Water quality
1	Alternate energy
1	Stormwater management, esp. in context of climate change (e.g., heavier rains)

Question #2: What's missing?
In order of discussion

- Needs to be more of a vision – where do we want to go or end up? (2)
- Context
- Concrete goals and strategies (2)
  Strategy example: stormwater erosion prevention at the Providence
  ReCenter parking lot
- Inclusion of all segments of the county (e.g., FCPS) (2)
- Solutions to advance the goals of sustainability, justice, community
- A road-map or cross-walk to pull it all together
  In addition, a cross-walk to help the public understand which county
  document applies to which issue ("what document for what purpose?")
- A climate change section
- Benchmarking: Who do we compare ourselves to? How else to demonstrate
  national leadership?
- Restructuring to include goals and objectives
  Follow the format of the DC Sustainability Plan; other examples include
  Maryland and Portland, OR
- Vision to filter down to Commissions (BACs) and staff
- Top-down structure needed: add principles that inform decisions and actions
- Energy efficiency for low-income: how to help these citizens?
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Question #3: Other recommended changes:
In order of discussion:

- Internal report card to assess performance
- Update GHG emissions inventory
- Need more specificity
  Vision (drives) Strategy (which determines) Goals (then) Objectives
- Specificity as basis for accountability
- Need to see linkage between vision and other elements
- Should be inspirational and aspirational

Environmental Vision Update Process

Luther Jackson I.S.

July 20, 2016 7:30-9:30 PM

Group C Comments

Question 1:

- Better definition of the Vision, addressing the question, "Where will the environment be in 5, 10 years?"
- Identify the central issue, driving force of the Vision document- climate change
- Climate change
- Limit fossil fuels
- Reduce carbon with real, measurable goals (ex. Arlington, District of Columbia)
- The health effects associated with climate change
- Energy use and source and reusable/sustainable energy
- Encouraging clean energy, particularly energy efficiency and reusable energy
- Energy efficiency program for low income residents
- Promotion of solar energy
- Growth/land use and impacts to transportation and energy
- Smart growth development
- Stormwater management
- Stormwater management, especially as it relates to infill development
- Pest Management, particularly deer
- Conservation/green space and maintaining and improving on County goals
    o Example- close to meeting tree canopy goal- evaluate and set new goal

Question 2:

- Climate change should be another category in the vision statement and a county program
- Address climate change and energy
- There are ways to reduce greenhouse gases without sacrificing quality of life
    o Zoning law changes- current zoning restrictions prohibit increasing usage of existing houses (more tenants), pushing people towards subdividing lots for development
    o Limit sprawl to limit imperviousness that contributes to climate change
- Trail/sidewalk improvements to promote pedestrian and bike friendly roads
- Energy and sustainability office that reports directly to the Board of Supervisors and is funded with resources commensurate with the urgency of the problem
- Easily accessible dashboard approach to measure the use of energy
- Implement specific, measurable goals for greenhouse gas reduction
    o Implement Cool Counties
- Dashboard for stormwater management that tracks specific, measurable goals presented in a visual format that is accessible to the public

Question 3:

- Green roof incentive program, especially for retrofits
- Pursue additional incentives and innovative financing for clean energy and stormwater management for both new and existing properties
- Native plant incentives/programs and promotion of pollinator, wildlife, and other habitats
- Invasive species control
- Vision should emphasize the economic incentive that environmentally friendly spaces are attractive to the next generation (residential and commercial)
- Advocate with the state to preserve mature trees
    o Expand county policy from state policy
- Stronger advocacy on the state level to support county initiatives
    o Advocate stronger state framework to facility stronger clean energy and stormwater management policies