
CALENDAR YEAR 2022 EQUITY IMPACT PLAN

ANNUAL REPORT

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Department Name: Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC)

Equity Lead(s): Kate Daley

Date: November 30, 2022

EQUITY IMPACT PLAN REPORT

Review your department's Equity Impact Plan for CY 2022 at [Equity Impact Plans | Topics \(fairfaxcounty.gov\)](#). Using that plan, add each goal below and describe: 1) what was done to make progress toward the goal, 2) with whom (partners), and 3) how work toward this goal was measured/evaluated and the results. If you have data for the performance measures in your CY 2022 Equity Impact Plan, report them. Add more goals as needed.

Goal 1: Increase and promote language access to OEEC resources

Goal 1 Progress: Throughout 2022, the OEEC explored options available through the county to translate its educational and outreach materials. The Public Information Office and Equity Lead held informational interviews with the Office of Public Affairs (OPA) and the county's former Language Access Coordinator and attended countywide language access trainings to learn about resources available for our use. Following this information-gathering campaign, the OEEC translated a limited number of its educational and outreach materials for coinciding outreach events (e.g., handouts in Spanish on the county's disposable plastic bag tax at food distribution events where the OEEC handed out reusable shopping bags). The office is also translating additional educational resources for kits in Fairfax County Public Library's "Library of Things" related to home energy efficiency.

The OEEC recently hired a replacement for its Public Information Officer and is revisiting this goal in 2023 by identifying and defining the office's general language access needs not just for educational and outreach materials, but also for in-person and virtual events. It will identify existing resources and assets (e.g., volunteers for the office who are able to provide translation services at events), and develop general goals, processes, and guidance for county staff to ensure the office has a language access plan going forward.

Goal 2: Develop and leverage partnerships to expand community engagement opportunities

Goal 2 Progress: As a relatively new office, one of the primary actions the OEEC set for itself in 2022 under this goal was to enhance cross-organizational connections, with the expectation that, by developing cross-departmental networks, we would be better able to coordinate and team up with other agencies on community engagement opportunities and leverage existing county partnerships with community groups to advance energy and climate goals.

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Throughout 2022, the OEEC facilitated regular meetings for the Resilient Fairfax planning initiative, engaging over 20 county agencies in the process; it convened a Working Group for implementation of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) through which it regularly meets with many of the same agencies; it facilitated monthly meetings for Fairfax Employees for Environmental Excellence (FEEE), an employee group consisting of members from a variety of county agencies; and regularly coordinated with a number of other county agencies on internal and community-facing climate and energy initiatives.

These connections are already helping the OEEC to expand community engagement opportunities. In recent months, the OEEC has been invited to present on its initiatives at other agency-sponsored events (e.g., NCS) as well as to Boards, Authorities, and Commissions with which the OEEC does not typically engage (e.g., the Health Care Advisory Board and Disability Services Board). Altogether, in 2022, the OEEC significantly increased its participation in community events, offering presentations, listening sessions and other educational opportunities to several community associations, organizations, and educational institutions. The OEEC expects that, by continuing to leverage and foster these connections with county agencies and trusted community partners, it will be better suited to advance its climate and energy goals, particularly within vulnerable communities.

Goal 3: Compile and analyze data on climate risks and vulnerabilities

Goal 3 Progress: In November 2022, Resilient Fairfax, the county's first Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan, was adopted by the Board of Supervisors. Through this planning initiative, the OEEC worked with an internal Planning Team consisting of over 20 county agencies, an Infrastructure Advisory Group, Community Advisory Group and the general public to develop and collect feedback on a climate projections report to evaluate current and future climate impacts the county will experience; a vulnerability and risk assessment to determine how our services, infrastructure, populations and natural resources are vulnerable to climate change; an audit of existing policies, plans and programs to determine how the county is doing in terms of resilience; close to 50 strategies for climate adaptation and resilience; and an implementation roadmap for 18 prioritized strategies.

The Resilient Fairfax planning initiative identified areas of the county that are more vulnerable to specific climate impacts, such as heat and flooding, compared these against the Fairfax County Vulnerability Index and developed strategy CRC.1a: Adaptation Action Areas to ensure resilience action is prioritized in the county's most climate vulnerable areas. This strategy will be used to guide implementation of Resilient Fairfax and other related county initiatives.

With the adoption of the Resilient Fairfax plan in November 2022, this particular goal has been addressed by the OEEC, although equitable implementation of Resilient Fairfax will rely on the development of partnerships, expansion of community engagement, and increased access (e.g., language access) to resources, which will continue to be addressed through other goals in the OEEC's 2023 Equity Impact Plan.

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Goal 4: Integrate equity considerations into Fairfax Employees for Environmental Excellence (FEEE)

Goal 4 Progress: The OEEC is carrying this goal over into its 2023 Equity Impact Plan. In an effort to broaden and increase the diversity of staff participation, in 2022, promotion of FEEE increased through internal channels, such as through the county's NewsLink. In addition, FEEE participated in countywide events, such as the Employee Field and Fitness Day; hosted educational opportunities, including a Virtual Earth Day Fair open to all county employees; and hosted a variety of in-person and virtual volunteer events to capture the varied interest of current and potential FEEE members.

In 2023, FEEE will continue to explore ways to engage with a broader range of the county workforce, including through the provision of informational materials at new employee orientations. As the participation of diverse staff increases, FEEE plans to draw on its membership and internal resources to develop learning opportunities specific to equity and environmental justice. Consequently, these actions are being carried over into the OEEC's 2023 Equity Impact Plan.

Was other equity-related work completed in addition to the goals above? If so, please describe.

The OEEC is leading the county effort to establish a Green Bank, which will be a one-stop shop for clean energy financing and technical guidance for energy efficiency, renewable energy, and electrification technologies for residents and businesses. The Green Bank will advance the One Fairfax policy by making a focused effort to improve access to clean energy among members of the community who often encounter barriers to realize these opportunities. The Green Bank is expected to launch in 2023. Important groundwork was completed in 2022, including a feasibility study/ gap analysis conducted by a consulting group, and the formation of an interagency steering committee to facilitate internal stakeholder clarity and support.