

Energy and Climate Change Task Force
City of Alexandria, VA

February 1, 2022

Hon. Mayor Justin Wilson
City Council Members
City Manager
City of Alexandria, Virginia

Re: Prioritize climate and energy investments in the FY23 budget

Dear Mayor Wilson, City Council members, and City Manager Parajon:

The Energy and Climate Change Task Force has been charged with, among other items, to provide guidance on an Energy and Climate Change Action Plan implementation roadmap, including identifying and evaluating funding and budgeting strategies. Consistent with that charge, we are asking that the Administration and Council include additional funding for climate change actions in developing its FY 2023 budget and amending its FY 2022 budget.

1. **Support the City Energy Manager's supplemental budget request.** These activities would provide needed staffing, studies and outreach to successfully implement existing and planned programs, consistent with the City Environmental Action Plan 2040. They would support an incentive program for green building renovations of existing buildings, marketing and outreach for the Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program to achieve robust participation by businesses and property owners, implementing the Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Readiness Strategy, and other valuable activities.
2. **Increase funding for low/moderate-income home weatherization and energy efficiency programs.** These programs help make Alexandria a more affordable and equitable place to live while decreasing carbon emissions. One option is allocating local funding to supplement the State Weatherization Assistance Program in Alexandria. The City Energy Office also could explore other programs such as coordination with ARHA. This will become increasingly important if the Virginia ends its' involvement in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative that has just started providing new funding for low-income weatherization.
3. **Restore funding to the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan to ensure the plan helps vulnerable communities.** Due to funding cuts last year, the current work plan lacks sufficient technical analyses and public engagement related to socially vulnerable communities. Restoring this funding in FY 2022 would enable staff and the consultant to complete a heat vulnerability analyses, inform city tree canopy programs, and other work to help the residents and workers most impacted by climate change. We understand that the City Environmental Policy Commission has also called for restored funding.

Sincerely,

Mary Harris
Co-Chair, ECCTF

Marian Pegram
Co-Chair, ECCEF