

8.27.2022 Community Workshop #3 Notes

Opening Remarks Yon Lambert highlights the work of TES and the City at large RE: Duke Street Transitway Project, DASH electric buses, and more. Mary Harris recognized several volunteers, gave background on the ECCTF and her involvement in the process.

Menti Virtual Poll Questions

- What does climate action look like to you in Alexandria?
 - Trees
 - Affordable housing is interconnected/interwoven into all of the themes people have submitted through the poll
 - Boldness
- Biggest concerns or fears about climate change?
 - People being lazy about addressing it
 - Unlivable planet/climate
 - Limited natural resources: water stress, depleted environments
 - Loss of home, personal loss – from flooding, extreme storms, other climate disasters
- What sector is greatest source of Alexandria's GHG emissions?
 - 9 of 18 thought transportation; 7 correctly voted for buildings (commercial/residential)
 - (Bill) Looking at BAU emission projections, trend is going up over the next few decades. This is driven by the community's building stock.
 - Question: is it possible to segment out buildings due to single family homes or multifamily homes, to understand what type of housing is best for balancing community growth with least emitting type of housing?
 - Does the BAU projection include the VCEA? No, BAU does not account for that, it's not a given/certainty that clean energy will be rolled out that quickly.
 - Are there factories or industrial uses that cause emissions? Covanta is the primary source.

Background/Level-Setting (Bill)

- Climate Action Office is developing – more updates next month
- Climate Change Budget Priorities
 - Electric vehicle charging, new navigator position
 - Waterfront infrastructure
- State/Federal Climate Action Priorities
 - VCEA – State just opened up public comment for the State Energy Plan, asking that everyone provide comments on it.
 - BIF/IIJA
 - IRA
- EAP 2040
- ECCAP Workstreams
- Wrap up of ECCAP process; past community engagement sessions on Mitigation and Adaptation.
- Round of Feedback/Questions:
 - DC had a plan that took into account the specific amounts of emission reductions?

- Does the ECCAP address incentives for commercial real estate?
- In what ways do commercial and residential buildings contribute to emissions?
- How is ACPS involved in these processes?
- ACPS is considering converting natural grass to turf/synthetic turf – what are the impacts?
- For the schools being built net-zero – why is the communication/signage not being updated/why was it removed? Follow-up with ACPS about signage at Douglas Macarthur & Minnie Howard.
- Attaching emissions from transportation to each building type? Because certain types of buildings generate certain types of trips/mode share vs. other building types.
- Question: Given that we know that shifting people out of cars – do we have plans for making driving “worse”? A: Communications generally framed toward: giving people more options by expanding bike and ped infrastructure.

Bill Presentation (Community-wide GHG emission reduction target): the biggest actions the city can take are in electrifying the buildings in our community, while also relying on our electricity supply switching to renewable energy.

- Buildings:
 - Comment: Studies that LEED certified buildings perform the same (or sometimes worse) than minimum code buildings; Passive House/more aggressive standards could cut energy use by more than half compared to other buildings.
 - Question (Mary Harris): if a building wanted to convert to high-efficient/electrified, will the plan identify range of costs that would be incurred to do so? If I wanted to change to an electric stove, just the connection would incur cost.
 - Question (Raquel): Are there challenges to electrifying within different parts of the community/based on the type of housing (single-family, condo, low-income, etc.)?
 - Question: Is there a priority list of programs currently for all the areas of electrification (residential, commercial, etc.)?
 - Question (Mary Harris): Within each of these wedges – do we know the numbers in those sectors, particularly # of buildings and # of vehicles? A: ~26,000 buildings in the community, ~160,000 residents and average vehicles/household = 1.5 (can do math to calc vehicles from there).
 - Question: Dominion/VCEA is factored into the Emission Reductions wedge chart? A: Yes.
 - Question (Mary Harris): Is the community-wide emissions based on population growth in the City? A: Yes.
 - Question: the 2030 target seems very ambitious and almost not doable based on where we are now, how can we reasonably get there? A: No easy answer, talk of looking deeper at building codes, dialing up and investing more in EV readiness and transition, continuing TOD/amplifying transit.
 - Question (Ray): Why can't we show a pathway to actually meeting our goal in the emission reduction wedge chart? Could the consultant say – here are some ways we can close the gap, even if they are ambitious/highly uncertain?

- What ideas do you have to communicate heat vulnerability and impacts to the community?
 - Comment: Creating a partnership program throughout the city on how to work with private/volunteer groups on doing tree plantings on private property. Lots of volunteers want to be a part of this, so getting a third party involved to leverage that interest is important.
 - Comment: Having a technical assistance program available would also be useful. Urban Forestry already offers this but communicating it differently to increase engagement.

Communications Ideas:

- Comment: How can we articulate the cost of **inaction**?
- Comment: Directly communicate “here is what this legislation means for you as a resident” (Federal incentives) both on website and newsletter, etc. Also, information sessions & tabling at Farmer’s Markets?
- Comment: Not everyone has the same level of access, need to go to less traditional places to be able to reach them (partner with other organizations to do this?).
- Comment: Communication has to be the central thrust – do people know how far we are in meeting goals and targets? If we’re not, what do we need to do to get there? Need to wave big flags about our major programs and any successes that have emerged.

Sustainable Development Code

sustainablecitycode.org provides examples of sustainable land use & zoning codes/ordinances for municipalities

Thought for closing the gap of projected on net goal:

While retrofitting, insulating, & sealing the envelope of existing buildings to improve efficiency is cost prohibitive, it is a potential to close that gap. ~~Energy~~ Emergency/future funding opportunities may help mitigate cost, and as climate warms, it will be more cost effective.

Comment

I found the presentation hard to read from the second row!
Print too small / Contrast not enough.

Darker room might help, or larger screen...

Sarah Glassco glassco@gmail.com

Question: How long have you lived or worked in the City of Alexandria?




1

Since May 2021.

Question: Have you previously attended an Energy and Climate Change Action Plan event?




2

never.
 I walked in late b/c I was looking for Upcycle store

Question: How did you get here today?

3

drive.

Question: Share up to 5 words or phrases describing what local climate action means to you here in Alexandria?




4

less flooding

Question: Provide a few words or phrases telling us your biggest concerns or fears about climate change?




5

flooding
less fos & fuel
wao

Question: What sector is Alexandria's Greatest Source of Greenhouse Gas Emissions?




6

?

Feedback and Questions: Give us your input or ask a question on the ECCAP background or process, Alexandria's community-wide emissions, or Business-as-Usual Greenhouse Gas emission projections.



7

Feedback and Questions: Give us your input or ask a question on the ECCAP mitigation strategies and actions.



8

Question: What ideas do you have to communicate heat vulnerability and impacts to the community?



9

Question: What Additional Climate Adaptation/Resiliency Actions Could the City Consider?




10

Question: What topics should the City communicate about climate change to empower action?




11

Information
out to
renters.

Question: What types of communications from the City do you find most helpful?




12

Mail
email
(I didn't know about this meeting)

Question: How should the City consider tracking ECCAP implementation?



Eco-CITY ALEXANDRIA

13

Question: What groups or organizations should the City partner to advance our climate change goals and ECCAP actions?



Eco-CITY ALEXANDRIA

14

Question: Do you have further ideas on strategic implementation of the ECCAP by the City or community we haven't already been captured?



Eco-CITY ALEXANDRIA

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ECCAP Feedback (Thankst. Appreciate staff time on a Saturday!)

The plan document will have to carefully and effectively communicate that

① Federal, state policies are not enough, that the City will have to do more and do it quickly.

② This is challenging but it is doable, will

4 charts needed:

① BAU

provide many other benefits besides GHG reduction, and here are options to do it.

② In-place programs
(Fed., State, Local)
includes VA CEA

- Bill P.

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③ Community-wide GHG Emissions.
(cumulative reductions showing gap)

④ Chart 3 showing various options to close the gap (esp. 2030)

(IJC can research best and most relevant CAPs and

types of actions to give a menu of ways ALC can close the 2030 gap.)