

EPC Retreat Key Themes & Next Steps – May 2023

Priorities:

- Buildings
 - o New Construction – push 4 items on the Letter to Council
 - o Existing Buildings – better communication of IRA incentives & C-PACE & perhaps join Green bank in other jurisdiction(s), Grants, P3
 - o Stickers for business that don't use single use plastic
 - o Solar for multi-family bldgs – see VA Code § 56-585.1:12. Multi-family shared solar program – see article
- Communications of good news things, opportunities for funding, educational information
 - o At Scale –
 - Commercial – community groups like West End Business Association and VisitAlexandria
 - Residential – citizens associations like Rosemont Citizens Association and North Old Town Civic Association
 - Churches, unions, other groups
 - o Targeted – 2:1 (non-sunshine) meetings between EPC members and Business Community members to learn what they need from the City to act on climate – e.g. major restaurant owners, large multifamily apartment owners, major landlords
 - o Media – Zebra and other news outlets – how do we get more articles printed?
 - Volunteers to write articles?
 - o Compare ALX to other jurisdictions when it comes to Community New Buildings and Existing Buildings – everyone pick a jurisdiction – **do they include metrics or just aspirations?**
 - o Seek out and collect climate stories about ALX residents and their stories involving climate issues -
- Climate Lens – EJ is one of ALX six main principles so does this include:
 - o looking at the **CIP budget** with a climate lens
 - o When looking at **Equity**, including climate – e.g. Equity Index Map only includes climate data inputs on tree cover and walking distance to bus/metro
 - o Incorporating low EUI and max on-site solar in Zoning for Housing/Housing for All – to reduce energy burden, improve indoor air quality, health of residents, reduce noise and support Environmental Justice City Principle, Climate Emergency Declaration, EAP 2040 targets and ECCAP milestones? Time to poke the bear and stop supporting failed/failing business model of cheapest is best -
 - o Continue to support ARHA net-zero energy buildings

Upcoming EPC Meeting topics:

- Metrics – What are the goals for each of the programs and how is Alx performing against them? Perhaps create or more often update Dashboard – this might help EPC identify what to cheer and what to help bolster.
- Ryan+Melissa to talk through all updates on the EAP2040 List – and perhaps also add the new FY24 programs that aren't on there

- EV update - How is Alx doing on charging infrastructure and its overall EV strategy

Budget letter – perhaps review by using a series of questions like Montgomery Co’s.

Education topics

- Weatherization program implementer Community Housing Partners (CHP) & Stephen Walz to talk about what is needed to increase participation
- Code enforcement officials - speak through compliance with energy provisions in VA Code during new construction, renovations and then enforcement – how often & criteria? Certifications – like LEED, Passive House, etc.
- Alexandria Health Office to come talk about climate co-benefits and provide an update on EAP2040 Chapter 8 Environmental Health

Legislative:

- Local Authority for an Energy/Water Benchmarking Ordinance
- Local Authority to provide incentives/grants for decarbonization projects (like we already have for stormwater resilience)
- Defense! On Clean cars, RGGI and VCEA
- Local Authority to incentivize use of electric vs. gas powered leaf blowers and/or authority to ban gas powered leaf blowers in City
- Local authority for “stretch building codes”

Upcoming important dates: Sept 19th – Big electrification show