

ECO-CITY ALEXANDRIA

Progress Report on Environmental Action Plan 2030

Council Legislative Session
April 13, 2010



City of Alexandria

Eco-City Alexandria – Partnership Between the City, EPC, VT and the Community

- ✓ Green-Ventory and Compendium of Model Sustainability Practices
- ✓ Eco-City Café and Eco-City Summit
- ✓ Eco-City Charter Adoption – June 2008
- ✓ Phase I Environmental Action Plan Adoption – January 2009
- ✓ Outreach for Phase II
 - EAP Café – March 2009
 - Release of draft EAP at Earth Day – April 2009
 - EAP Open House – May 2009
- ✓ Environmental Action Plan 2030 adoption in June 2009



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Environmental Action Plan 2030

- Comprehensive plan and road map for sustainability for the next 20 years
- Implementation plan following the ten guiding principles of the Eco-City Charter
- Incorporates short term goals and actions from Phase I EAP with new mid and long term goals and actions
- Contains 48 goals, 50 preliminary targets and 353 actions covering the next 20 years and beyond



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Phase I Environmental Action Plan

- An ambitious plan having 41 goals and 132 action steps covering the ten guiding principles
 - *Focuses on short-term actions to be taken during FY2009 - 2011*
- Staff developed a spreadsheet version of the Phase I Environmental Action Plan to keep track of progress
 - *i.e., Short Term Environmental Action Plan Matrix*
- To date, 43 actions have been completed in addition to 26 actions being actively worked on using existing resources



Planning and Policy Activities

- Adopted a new green building policy that requires all new commercial and multi-family developments to be LEED Silver or LEED certified
- Adopted the Urban Forestry Master Plan that aims at protecting and enhancing the City's tree canopy by setting a goal of 40% tree canopy for the City
 - *The City continues to be recognized as a Tree City USA and conducted two successful tree sales in 2009*
- Incorporating sustainability principles into Small Area Plans such as the Potomac Yard Small Area Plan



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Green Building Projects

- Several city green building projects completed in 2009 include
 - Charles Houston Recreation Center – LEED Gold
 - DASH facility – LEED Gold
 - Potomac Yard Fire Station and the associated Green Globe Housing project – Designed for LEED Silver
- T.C. Williams High School achieved LEED Gold certification in 2009



Open Space

- Approved two developments with public access and open space easements, which focus on the City's open space goals
 - Acquired a new open space site on Commonwealth Avenue
 - Currently working with the Northern Virginia Conservation Trust to obtain a conservation easement on private property
 - The new 1.12-acre President Gerald R. Ford Park was dedicated in November, 2009



Climate Change and Energy Conservation

- Completed GHG and criteria pollutants inventory for City government and community
- Adopted MWCOG greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reduction targets
- Developed an energy strategy based on EAP 2030 and used it to obtain an Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG), resulting in significant savings in time and money
- EECBG funds are being used for five energy conservation projects
- Proceeding with purchasing four hybrid King Street trolleys



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Environment & Health

- Recently adopted the Healthy Food Resolution aimed at promoting better access to local fresh food
- “Proud to be Smoke-free” program achieved 100% smoke-free fast food restaurants and 95% smoke-free full service restaurants



Air Quality

- Significant progress has been made on improving air quality in the City
 - City/ Mirant Agreement calling for PRGS to further improve stack and fugitive emissions - \$35 million on stack merge and \$34 million to implement fugitive and stack fine particulate controls
 - SUP for Virginia Paving significantly reduces fugitive emissions and odor
 - Issued the report on “Alexandria’s State of The Air Report: Past, Present and Future” summarizing significant progress the City has made over the last 40 years



Recycling

- Expanded the number and type of materials collected in the “single stream” recycling curbside program
- Extended days and drop-off hours for hazardous waste
- Expanded recycling program at City Hall
- Purchasing paper products having at least 30% recycled fiber content



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Alexandria City Public Schools

- ACPS has been very progressive in implementing renewable energy and energy conserving technologies
 - T.C. Williams High School certified as LEED Gold
 - Green roof at Cora Kelly School
 - Geothermal energy and solar panels at T.C. Williams Minnie Howard campus
 - Geothermal energy, solar panels and ground-air heat exchange system are being constructed at James Polk Elementary School
- City and EPC participating in School Superintendent's Environmental Stewardship Committee
 - Expanded recycling and composting from the schools
 - Created Environmental Steward for each school



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Alexandria City Public Schools

Cora Kelly School

T.C. Williams, Minnie Howard Campus



Outreach

- Organized several successful education and outreach events involving more than 2,000 participants
 - ✓ 2009 Alexandria Earth Day
 - ✓ Eco-City Café and open house
 - ✓ Rain Barrel & energy audit workshops & Garden School
 - ✓ Stream cleanups
 - ✓ Green Building forum
 - ✓ EPC/ASA established the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award



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Recognition

- ✓ Mayor Euille testified before the US Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on Eco-City Alexandria, green jobs and the new green economy
- ✓ The City received the highest certification by the Virginia Municipal League's Go Green Government Challenge, Platinum level
- ✓ The City received the 2009 Virginia Sustainable Building Network's (VSBN) Green Innovation Award for Most Sustainable Community Project
- ✓ Eco-City Alexandria has just been named one of the 15 finalists in the U.S. Conference of Mayor's Livability Awards



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Next Steps

Some major on-going activities are as follows:

- ✓ Climate Change Action Plan (under development)
- ✓ Green Building Phase II
- ✓ EECBG project implementations
- ✓ Eco-City indicators
- ✓ Storm water funding
- ✓ Continued outreach efforts
 - Alexandria Earth Day, April 24, 2010



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Eco-City Alexandria – Partnership Between the City, EPC, VT and the Community

- ✓ Mayor and City Council
- ✓ Environmental Policy Commission
- ✓ Virginia Tech Department of Urban Policy and Planning
- ✓ Concerned citizens
- ✓ Alexandria City Public Schools
- ✓ Environmental Coordination Group Members from City Departments (P&Z, RCPA, GS, Health, Code Enforcement, T&ES)



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