

Alexandria's Top Ten Environmental Achievements for 2011

Accomplishments include the agreement to retire the GenOn power plant in October 2012, the highest-ever solid waste recycling rate of 41.4% reported for 2010, purchase of new hybrid DASH buses and trolleys, several green initiatives completed under the EECSBG program, projects to green the City's facilities and promote green building construction, participation in the Capital Bikeshare program, several sustainable practices at ASA, and several successful community outreach events

- 1. GenOn PRGS Permanent Closure** - The City and GenOn Energy reached an agreement in August 2011 to permanently close the company's Potomac River Generating Station by October 1, 2012. PRGS has been the single largest source of air pollutant emissions in Northern Virginia, and its retirement will undoubtedly yield significant air quality improvement and health benefits to Alexandria citizens and those of neighboring jurisdictions.
- 2. Highest-Ever Solid Waste Recycling Rate** - The City reported its highest ever recycling rate of 41.4% to the Virginia DEQ for CY 2010. This dramatic increase over last year's reported 28.6% recycling rate was due primarily to significant increases in overall recycling collections.
- 3. New Hybrid DASH Buses and King Street Trolleys** – DASH purchased and received seven 35-foot hybrid buses, three 40-foot hybrid buses and the City purchased five 30-foot hybrid trolleys.
- 4. EECSBG Projects** – Using funds received from the Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECSBG) program, the City carried out several green initiatives including the following:
 - Developed and launched an online [Virtual Green Building Resource Center](#), conducted six workshops and two internal training sessions, and completed 19 energy assessments at residential, commercial, and City buildings.
 - **City Hall Green Roof** - The installation of a vegetative "green" roofing on the East and West courtyard structures of City Hall.
 - **Alexandria Continued to Green Its Fleet** –The purchase of 11 new Ford Fusion hybrid-electric cars, bringing the total number of hybrid vehicles in the City's fleet to 30.
 - **LED retrofits** of the traffic lights, and a pilot project for replacement of street lights with energy saving LED lights
- 5. City Continued to Green Its Facilities and Promote Green Building Construction** -
 - **New Alexandria Police Department** – the new Alexandria Police Department, a 124,000 square foot facility designed and built according to the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) standards. The facility is pursuing LEED Gold certification.

- **Community Building at Four Mile Run Park** - Completed in June, the former Duron Paint building, located at 4125 Mt. Vernon Avenue, that was converted using green building practices to a 4,700 square foot multi-use community building.
 - **Green Building Policy** – Applied the Green Building Policy approved by City Council in 2009 to some of the notable projects in 2011 that will obtain a green building certification include a 332-unit residential building (the Calvert), a 52,000 square-foot grocery store with 175 residential units (Old Town North Harris Teeter), and a 23,000 square-foot retail and office building (Yates Corner).
6. **Alexandria Joins Capital Bikeshare** - On October 11, the Alexandria City Council voted to authorize Alexandria to join the regional Capital Bikeshare network, beginning with implementing a pilot program providing six bikeshare stations with 54 bikes to the city. The Alexandria Bikeshare network is expected to be in place by the spring/summer of 2012.
 7. **Pocket Park Improvements** - The City, in partnership with the community, enhanced two pocket parks acquired through open space funds:
 - **Commonwealth/Reed Ave Park** - The former Dominion VA Power site was adopted by Arlandria volunteers who have cleaned up, re-planted, and maintained the site throughout 2011.
 - **Del Ray Avenue Pocket Park Phase 1 Site Improvements** - Improvements at the pocket park include a rain garden-designed to capture and filter stormwater, and a nature-inspired play area constructed from renewable/recycled materials such as recycled rubber, plastic bags, and other building materials. The park is adopted by the Del Ray Citizens Association.
 8. **Alexandria Sanitation Authority Strived to Enhance Sustainable Practices** - In 2011, ASA reused more than a billion gallons of treated wastewater on the treatment plant site, thus minimizing the need to use potable water. It also reused 22,500 tons of biosolids produced on agricultural farmland in Virginia, reducing the need for commercial fertilizers. ASA also used over 118 million cubic feet of digester gas produced in its process to replace natural gas requirements and saved \$150,000 in natural gas costs. In October, City Council approved plans for an expansion to the wastewater treatment plant.
 9. **Alexandria Recognized as Silver-Level Walk Friendly Community** - Alexandria was recently recognized as a Walk Friendly Community by the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center (PBIC), as one of ten communities recognized across the nation in the September 2011 awards. The City's Silver Level "Walk Friendly" designation, evaluates success in working to improve a wide range of conditions related to walking, including safety, mobility, and access.
 10. **VML Platinum Certification** - For the fourth straight year, the City earned Platinum level certification, the highest level, in Virginia Municipal League (VML) Green Government Challenge. The City received innovation points for its adoption of the Energy and Climate Change Action Plan and the development of a virtual Green Building Resources Center.