



AGENDA

EPC REGULAR MEETING

Monday, October 19, 2015

7:30 - 9:30 PM

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

7:30 – 7:35	Welcome and Public Comments
7:35 – 7:50	Staff Consent items and EPC updates
7:50 – 8:00	Earth Day Planning
8:00 – 8:45	Sustainability Coordinator Draft Memo to Council
8:45 – 9:15	Green Infrastructure Work Session Report
9:15 – 9:30	Agenda for next Work Session and full meeting, and review of calendar
9:30	Adjourn

EPC Meeting draft minutes – 9/28/15 meeting Prepared by Scott Barstow

Attending: ??

1. City staff updates and business items

- Alexandria was awarded first place in the Water Environment Foundation's (WEF) National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards Program "Innovation" category. The city also placed second in the "program management" category, and third overall in scoring.
- Alexandria is forming a Water Quality Working Group to address the city's requirements and options for complying with federal Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer program.
- Earth Day planning is already beginning, including discussion of a theme. Natasha would welcome any ideas people have for themes and activities.

2. SolarizeAlexandria (Bill Eger, Alexandria Energy Manager; Bob Lazaro, NVRC; Ryan Van Patton, LEAP)

- SolarizeAlexandria is focused on removing some of the barriers that exist for commercial and residential installation of solar photovoltaics, by targeting soft installation costs, such as the need for technical expertise, and lowering costs through bulk purchasing
- The program supported in part through in-kind support from municipalities
- The payback period for installations is about 15 years in VA, but would be much, much faster if VA was a solar friendly state (like D.C. is, with solar renewable energy credits (SRECs))
- Solar installation prices under the program are 15-20% lower than customer's costs on their own
- SolarizeAlexandria's goals are to help at least 30 local residents complete solar installations, educate at least 300 community members on their solar energy potential, and provide free solar site assessments by an energy coach
- Average size of installation is estimated at 6-7 kW; most systems cover 40-60% of electric bill per month, for single-family units. Energy efficiency (EE) audits (caulking, CFLs, etc.) are part of the process (although optional), which helps customers
- Website is <http://www.solarizealexandria.org>
- Sign-ups to start the process are being accepted through November 10th, pricing through the installers is good for one year. There is a 10 year warranty on the installation, and a 25 year warranty on the equipment

3. Eisenhower West Small Area Plan update

- The EWSAP goes to Council in November. The last community meeting for the plan was last week
- The area was last planned in 1992
- The plan envisions development reaching 15-20 stories high near the Eisenhower Metro Station (within ¼ mile), 10-15 stories high a half-mile out, and even lower further out
- Plan envisions 6 distinct neighborhoods

- Energy use projections are based on current, existing energy use patterns and averages for the area, assuming current Alexandria Green Building Policy
- Eisenhower area has a unique mix of residential, commercial, and industrial, with Covanta and AlexRenew
- Phase II of the plan will be more detailed. The current Phase 1 plan is a broad outline; due to its complexity, this planning area will require a more involved process
- Radhika Mohan of the Planning Department is leading this effort, and can be reached at Radhika.mohan@alexandriava.gov

4. West End Transitway

- Alternatives being studied include: No Building (we don't do anything new); Transportation Systems Management (TSM, includes giving buses priority, changing traffic signal timing, other low capital cost strategies); Build (everything in TSM, plus dedicated lanes, improved stations, other capital cost projects like Route 1 transitway now)
- With respect to environmental documentation, the City is likely to submit a Documented Categorical Exclusion (CE), based on latest guidance from the Federal Transportation Agency (FTA). Earlier FTA guidance was that the City should prepare a full environmental impact statement (EIS), but FTA is now saying City doesn't need to go that far, and can instead use a more abbreviated CE, which was the same process used for the Route 1 Metroway. A documented CE is checklist-based, more concise submission, and allows for quicker review and approval by FTA. This will allow the City to advance the project more quickly.
- EPC can assist with this project by providing input to Council, and engaging with the community
- Staff will be bringing this before Council in January/February.
- The Project Advisory Group for the transitway includes representatives from the Planning Commission, the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, the Transportation Commission, local residents, and two transit experts (WMATA, VRE)
- As ranked by the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the West End Transitway is #2 on the priority list, just behind the Potomac Yard Metro. Arlington may have some peripheral involvement, particularly with the Shirlington area, but is not directly invested.

5. Environmental Indicators Workgroup discussion

- The workgroup's plan is to meet and discuss these at the next work session, and have two or three draft indicators identified for each of seven issue "buckets": Energy, Water, Climate, Transportation, Land Use, Solid Waste, and Health
- City staff will begin pulling together indicators data for submission to Council in March of next year. Depending on the indicators selected and the availability of data, the next report may need to use indicators from the current list
- Developing targets for indicators may become a political issue requiring their confirmation or acceptance by City Council

6. Sustainability Coordinator discussion:

- Discussions that have been held with City staff make it clear that the position should have concrete responsibilities, and ownership, of specific tasks.
- Discussion of planning responsibilities (plan development, project development, review, green building promotion) and community education, promotion, and outreach as key job responsibilities.
- Advocating for the establishment of a sustainability coordinator position should include emphasis on the economic benefits.
- EPC members are encouraged to share their thoughts on this soon, as a recommendation memo is due to Council by early November.

Jim asked for feedback on our meeting format.

1. On Tuesday, October 6, the City of Alexandria was recognized by the Virginia Municipal League (VML) with platinum-level certification for being a green and sustainable local government. The Go Green Government Challenge, a VML initiative, encourages local governments to implement specific environmental policies and practical actions that reduce carbon emissions generated by both the local government and the broader community.
2. The first meeting of the Combined Sewer Overflow Working Group took place on October 7, 2015. This working Group is to address the city's requirements and options for complying with federal Municipal Separate Stormwater Sewer Program.
3. The first meeting of the Alexandria Earth Day Committee 2016 took place on October 7, 2015. Natasha Anderson chairs the committee.
4. City staff hosted a briefing meeting on October 9, with the citizen representative and alternate to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Reagan National Community Working Group to address solutions for mitigating aircraft noise. The first meeting of this working group will take place on October 27, 2015.
5. Oronoco remediation project:
 - a. An RFP is going through a re-bidding process to dredge the sediment and install the impermeable cap remediation over the remaining sediments below the outfall to the Potomac River.
6. Alexandria is hosting four Budget Civic Engagement meetings. The meetings will provide an overview of the FY 2017 budget process and some of the major budgetary challenges currently faced by the City. After a brief overview, meeting participants will break into small facilitated groups to discuss budget priorities for FY 2017 and how to stay engaged in the budget process. There are four opportunities to attend the meeting, held at different locations throughout the City. Meetings will be held on October 15, October 20, October 24 and November 4, and there will also be an opportunity to watch and participate online. Additional information is provided on the City web site: http://www.alexandriava.gov/news_display.aspx?id=87368

October 16, 2015

TO: EPC
FROM: Jim Kapsis, EPC Chair
RE: EPC Updates from the Chair

1. **Meeting with Washington Gas and Planning & Zoning:** On Friday, October 9th, the EPC Chair facilitated a meeting between the Washington Gas and the City's Planning & Zoning Department. City attendees included Karl Moritz, Director of P&Z, Robert Kerns of P&Z, and Bill Eger, the City's energy manager. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss opportunities to promote more energy choice in Alexandria and, specifically, in the near term in Old Town North to pilot some new approaches.

The following were among the agreed next steps:

- WGL is going to engage with P&Z to see if there is a way for them to participate as an energy expert for the Old Town North Plan. The week-long Charrette/workshop on the plan is currently scheduled for November 16-20.
 - WGL is going to share the details of their 3-year pilot program where they can provide incentives to developers to include gas in multi-family developments. WGL will follow up with Bill Eger on the details of their SCC proposal to expand their pilot program to incentivize developers to install gas in multi-family developments.
2. **Meeting with Chief Performance Officer, re: Socrata & Indicators:** On Thursday, October 15th, the EPC Chair met with Greg Useem, the Chief Performance Officer and Yon Lambert, the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services. The purpose was to learn more about the City's new partnership with a cloud-based software company called Socrata, which is helping the City better manage its disparate data streams (currently all tracked in Excel) by integrating into a single data base.

Socrata will allow the City to improve how it tracks performance of various policy outcomes and share that data with the community in digestible format. While initially a pilot program with a few City departments, including T&ES, the goal is to eventually scale across the City. I have asked Greg and Yon to arrange a future briefing for EPC to demonstrate how Socrata will help improve how the City tracks sustainability-related metrics, as well as to share what City staff's budget request for FY2017.

3. **Discussion with Laine Cidlowski, Sustainability Development Planner, D.C.:** On Friday, October 16th, the Chair had a telephone conversation with Ms. Laine Cidlowski, to better understand the functions of her role, where it sits organizationally and why, and lessons learned from developing and implementing DC's Sustainability Plan. She shared a job description for her role (pasted below) to help inform EPC's work, and offered to attend a future briefing of EPC and/or City Council to discuss D.C.'s organizational approach to sustainability.

A few key takeaways from the conversation:

- **The Sustainability Planner in DC led the effort to develop the Sustainable DC plan, and the outreach to the community.** In addition to engaging all of the City agencies, Laine and her colleagues attend more than 100 community events a year.
- **Agency Heads, the City Administrator, and Mayor need to be fully on board.** DC's sustainability goals were created with input and buy-in from the City Agencies. The City Administrator then put select actions from the Sustainable DC plan into the performance plans of the Agency Directors. The Mayor also hosts quarterly meetings of the "Green Cabinet" to track progress on the Sustainable DC plan.
- **Do not focus messaging on the environment, but make it local, relevant, and about jobs.** DC was very focused on making the sustainability agenda relatable at the neighborhood level, and to focus on the job creation potential of the various policies. Staff did a jobs analysis for every goal that was included in the Sustainable DC plan. They talked about the environmental benefits last.

Some other ideas to consider:

- **Innovation Fund:** The Sustainability Office administered an Innovation Fund that each Agency was able to compete to secure funds for capital projects that advanced the City's sustainability goals. Projects were selected by an interdepartmental panel. This led each Agency to try to come up with the best projects that were above and beyond business as usual.
- **Ambassadors Program:** DC created an Ambassadors Program where the City trained volunteers from the community to go and talk about the City's sustainability agenda at public events and with key stakeholder groups. They designed the program so that there was an application process to ensure that there was broad demographic representation from across all wards in the City.

Earth Day 2016 Planning Committee Meeting : Prepared by Natasha Garcia Anderson

October 7, 2015 – Lee Center

Update

We had our first meeting on October 7th. Invites were sent out to previous year committee members and through various neighborhood list serves. We didn't have much of a turn out; a few of the previous members moved or were too busy to commit the time. We are beginning the process of choosing a theme. This year we would like to have something focused on the EAP and something along the lines that we are doing a good job as a city, but we can do more as individuals. It would be great if the EPC could help out with the development of the theme and tying it in to all the work that we are doing on the EAP update. One thing that is concerning is that ACPS is no longer compensating environmental stewards, therefore there is not a person from ACPS assigned to Earth Day. It is all now on a volunteer basis, since ACPS is such a big part of Earth Day this can be a potential problem. At our next meeting we will start to finalize a theme and hopefully have figured out who we can contact at the schools for the artwork competition.

What would I like from the EPC?

- It would be great if we could have one other EPC member be a part of the planning committee. I will still be chair but having an EPC member on the committee is helpful. Last year Susan helped out.
- Help with the development of an EAP focused theme.
- Contact information for potential donors and potential committee members. We have a lot of great companies and organizations in Alexandria let's get them involved in Earth Day.

Next meeting will be November 4th at the Lee Center. In the future we will have a few meetings at UpCycle in Del Ray.

October 19, 2015

To: EPC
From: Jim Kapsis
RE: Draft Memo on Sustainability Coordinator

Many thanks to Scott Barstow and to many of you for your input to the draft sustainability coordinator memo. I have decided to take a step back and reorient our discussion on this topic to focus on three key areas: 1) Role Justification; 2) Role Responsibilities; and 3) Role Outcomes. You will see below that I do not include a lot of the opening text from the draft memo. I would like to reinsert some of that in a later draft. However, I'm concerned that we're spending too much time thinking through the high level reasons why we need a sustainability coordinator (e.g. climate change, sewer, economic development) when we should first focus more narrowly on what this person would do and how they would specifically advance the City's sustainability goals. In each of my conversations with City Council and staff, I have heard a consistent message. They want us to tell them what this person would do and what outcomes we expect them to deliver. I would like us to iterate tonight on the below to respond to their feedback, which is reasonable.

Role Justification:

- **Fill Planning Gap:** City staff currently has a capacity problem that is impeding its ability to keep up with planning needs. This gap appears to be most acute in the Planning & Zoning, and in Transportation and Environmental Services. As a result, planning related to the city's Eco-City and broader sustainability goals has been delayed. For example, the Environmental Action Plan (EAP), which was supposed to be updated in 2015, will not be updated until 2017, while the City's Green Building policy, which is 6 years old, will not be updated until 2018.
- **Fill Coordination Gap:** There is currently no single office or staff person charged with coordinating the implementation of the City's EAP. As a result, no single City Department feels ownership over the EAP. This has led to selective and inconsistent implementation. Similarly, while several departments and plans within the City have sustainability objectives (e.g. the Transportation Master Plan), there is lots of overlap and likely inefficiency. Creating a planning position whose purpose is to help ensure consistency across many City plans will lead to increased planning efficiency and ensure that the City is speaking with one voice on sustainability issues. Finally, while Departmental Directors meet on an ad hoc basis to discuss specific issues related to the City's Eco-City Charter, there is no sustainability "Sherpa" whose job it is to coordinate these meetings, develop agendas, and track progress.
- **Fill Public Engagement Gap:** There is no one person responsible for public engagement related to the City's Eco-City goals. As a result, there is a lack of consistent, coordinated and strategic engagement with local business, neighborhood groups, and other public organizations around the City's Eco-City's goals and policies. This has led to two problems. First, the public is broadly under informed of the City's many sustainability successes and policies. Second, the City is not effectively leveraging the public to advance its Eco-City goals. City staff has suggested that the EPC could help fill this gap by speaking more often with the public. While EPC is willing to do some additional public outreach, as volunteers we do not have the capacity to fill this gap on our own.

Responsibilities:

1. Manages the integration of sustainable principles into land use policies affecting the natural and built environment, including Strategic Plan policies and action items, neighborhood Small Area Plans (SAP)'s, business overlays, revitalization plans,

transportation strategies, infrastructure plans, economic development projects/strategies, development review cases/zoning actions, and historic preservation.

2. Develops and implements an approach to effectively and efficiently coordinate environmental issues with land use/zoning, design, transportation, infrastructure, and economic development.
3. Develops and executes sustainability planning priorities/plans consistent with the Environmental Action Plan (EAP), the Eco-City Charter, and the Energy and Climate Action Plan. Develops and recommends policy to the Director and to the "Eco-City Steering Committee" to advance sustainability initiatives and project implementation.
4. Responds to Director's requests for sustainability research, best practices, white papers, presentations, and other written materials. Informs staff and responds to citizen inquiries on sustainability issues.
5. Coordinates and leads the work of other City staff, interagency groups, task force, independent authorities, and other major public bodies concerning sustainability planning and implementation. This would include providing staff support to the Eco-City Steering Committee, composed of the Deputy City Manager, T&ES Direct, P&Z Director, and GS Director.
6. Serves as liaison between public and private sectors, the community and neighborhood groups. Evaluates public support to project plans and develops public relations/outreach approaches, including leading campaigns to engage the public to advance specific policy outcomes. Arranges meetings where City and resident issues/concerns are vetted and may incorporate incorporates new ideas into plans if appropriate.
7. Builds effective partnerships with local, regional and federal entities, as well as non-profit and for profit entities, to develop, coordinate, and help fund the implementation of the City's sustainability goals.

First Year Objectives:

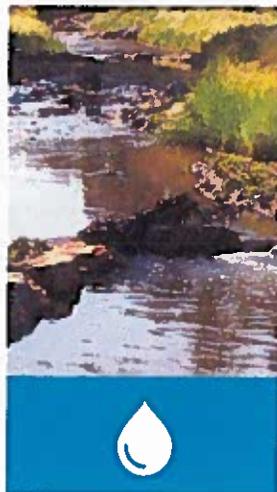
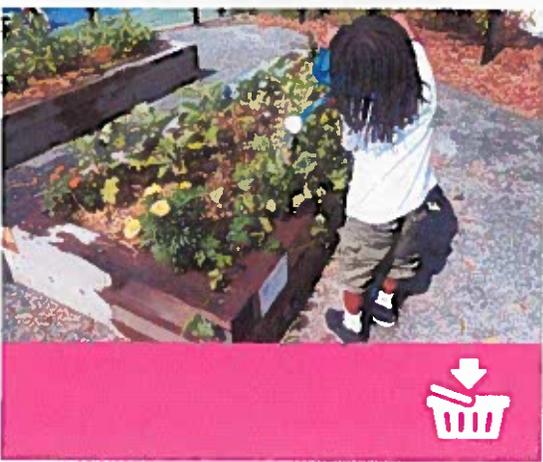
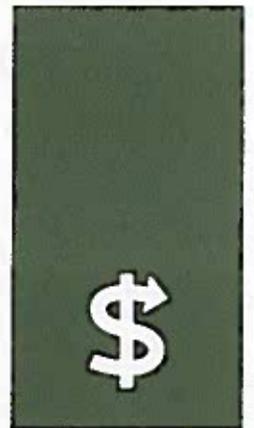
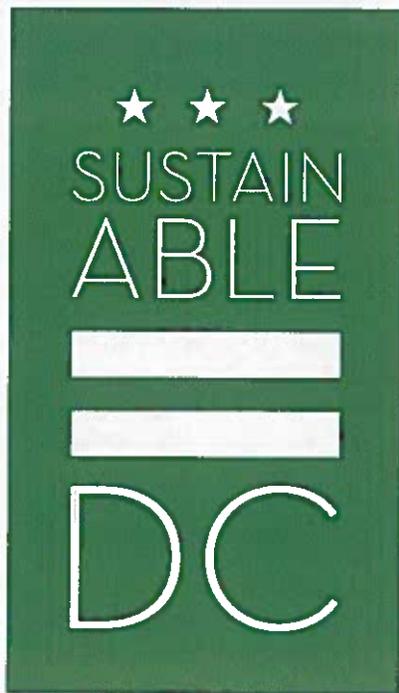
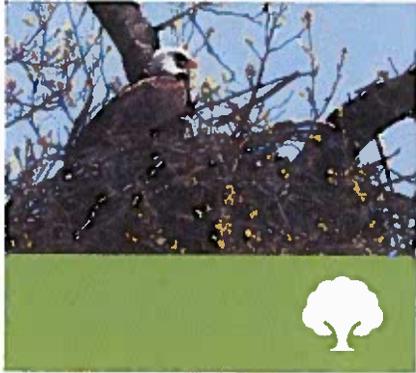
- Review the EAP, Eco-City Charter, and Energy and Climate Plan, and make recommendations for how to rationalize and consolidate moving forward.
- Coordinate with Departmental Directors and City Manager's Office to plan and lead process to update the City's Environmental Action Plan (EAP).
- Coordinate with Departmental Directors and City Manager's Office to plan and lead process to update the City's Green Building policy. Review existing plan and identify progress against goals and gaps. Establish and lead Advisory Group to review existing policy and make recommendations to Council for how to update.
- Coordinate with Departmental Directors and the City Manager's Office to incorporate sustainability goals into the Agency performance plans.
- Develop a public engagement strategy to better inform and engage the business community, neighborhood associations, homeowners, and other members of the community, such as storm-water and sewer system initiatives, green infrastructure promotion, energy efficiency and transportation-oriented development.
- Identify and apply for federal, state and other grants to support the City's sustainability goals.

Location of Role: We have had significant discussion internally with and City staff and Members of Council on where this role should sit. General feedback has suggested that we cannot conclude placement of the role until we agree on the roles objectives and responsibilities. Based on the above, my personal view is that it may make the most sense to place this person in Planning & Zoning even though they would coordinate close with T&ES, GSA, the City Manager's Office, and other departments as needed.

SUSTAINABLE DC

Second Year Progress Report

APRIL 2015





LETTER FROM MAYOR BOWSER

Sustainability is one of those words that evokes different things to different people. So, I'll tell you what sustainability means to me. Sustainability means a stronger economy with more opportunities for good-paying jobs. Sustainability means healthier neighborhoods with safe places to be active outside and better access to healthy food. Sustainability also means having more efficient homes that help keep our utility bills lower. Those are things every District resident can get behind.

The good news is the District is on its way to becoming a much healthier, greener, and more livable city. We have more certified green buildings and projects than any other city in the country; we buy more green power than any other city; and we are consistently ranked near the top for our walkability and public transportation system. But, not all residents are benefitting from our efforts equally. That is why I am making equity a critical focus of my sustainability agenda and making sure we bring what works to all eight wards.

My administration will do its part to make our city more sustainable. We will take bold action to save taxpayer money by making public buildings more efficient. We will invest in

additional public transportation infrastructure that provides new opportunities and options for residents and visitors. We will work to develop new healthcare facilities in currently underserved areas. And we will talk with residents in every ward to make sure everyone is able to enjoy the benefits of a greener, healthier city.

Building a Sustainable DC will take the efforts of government, collaboration with private sector partners, and a commitment by all residents to do their part. We will leverage sustainability to ensure pathways to the middle class. I encourage you to join the movement by getting involved at www.sustainabledc.org. You can sign up to volunteer in your neighborhood, get tips on saving energy, and learn ways to make your home—and your wallet—greener. Join me as we create a more Sustainable DC—together.

Mayor Muriel Bowser



WE ARE SUSTAINABLE DC

Each year, Sustainable DC continues to grow as a movement. Residents are coming together, developing plans to make their neighborhoods healthier and greener; major institutions are launching bold new programs to reduce the amount of energy and water they consume; and small businesses are trying new methods to send less waste to landfills. While much work remains to be done, there is even more to be proud of during the second year of the Sustainable DC Plan implementation:

- 45 residents were trained to be community ambassadors, learning how to talk about sustainability to their friends and neighbors.
- Staff and volunteers had conversations with more than 8,000 residents at 132 events citywide.
- 8 colleges and universities, 80 international institutions, and 21 healthcare providers have signed sustainability pledges, and 21 businesses have joined the Smarter DC Challenge to green their operations. Over the past six years, 60 businesses, individuals, and organizations have received Mayor's Sustainability Awards. 2014 winners include:
 - Akridge
 - City Blossoms
 - Founding Farmers DC
 - Fulya Kocak (Clark Construction Group)
 - Jimmy Edgerton (2 Armadillos)
 - ProFish
 - Solar Solutions, LLC

PROGRESS HIGHLIGHTS

- 85% of the 143 actions in the Sustainable DC Plan are underway and another 8% are complete. This is an increase from 83% underway and 6% complete on Earth Day 2014.
- 86% of actions in the Plan are in agency Fiscal Year 2015 performance plans, an increase from 73% in Fiscal Year 2014 performance plans.
- Two major packages of legislation with 15 bills were enacted by the Council of the District of Columbia and signed into law.
- 10 Sustainable DC task forces developed 131 recommendations for moving the Plan's toughest actions forward.
- Plans are underway for a District Government sustainability assessment to identify ways to make all operations more sustainable.
- More than \$7.5 million in funding has been provided for District agency innovation projects as part of the Sustainable DC Innovation Challenge, and more than \$4.2 billion was included in the District's FY15 budget for projects related to Sustainable DC.
- Playground, transportation, and age-friendly master plans aligning with and supporting the Plan were released.



JOBS & THE ECONOMY



HEALTH & WELLNESS

Increasing economic opportunities to those who need them most is a foundation of sustainability. While still much too high, the unemployment rate has decreased in Wards 4, 5, 7, and 8, and new businesses are opening their doors across the District. Partners throughout the city are working to make our economy stronger and more sustainable.

OUR PROGRESS

- The new Office of the Deputy Mayor for Greater Economic Opportunity will create more opportunities to the middle class for residents seeking employment or starting and growing new small businesses.
- The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs launched the Small Business Resource Center to streamline permitting and provide technical assistance for new businesses.
- 162 small businesses were certified as certified business enterprises by the Department of Small and Local Business Development since April 2014.
- Think Local First and the Council of the District of Columbia have named 2015 the "Year of Local" to strengthen small businesses, identify emerging markets, and highlight local entrepreneurs.
- The Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development launched OurRFP, which will put community priorities front and center in new economic development proposals.
- \$9.50 per hour is the new minimum wage, which will increase to \$10.50 per hour on July 1, 2015, one of the highest rates in the country.

While health disparities between wards remain a challenge, District Government, community organizations, and local businesses are working together to increase access to quality healthcare, make healthy food more available, and create safe places to be active outside.

OUR PROGRESS

- 92% of District residents are covered under health insurance plans thanks in part to DC Health Link connecting families and small businesses to quality new health insurance plans.
- The Student Food Ambassador Program was established to provide direct communication between DC Public Schools and students about school meals, and 40% of the total DCPS food service budget was spent on locally produced food.
- 21 local healthcare facilities signed the Sustainable DC Healthcare Sector Sustainability Pledge to green their operations and better engage the community on sustainability and health issues.
- 820 residents benefited from 73 free cooking classes in Wards 5, 7, and 8 thanks to DC Central Kitchen and the District Department of Health, and 6,415 low-income residents received fresh produce at farmers markets and healthy corner stores through the Freggie Bucks Program.
- The Department of Health and Department of Parks and Recreation are launching Fit DC, a nutrition and physical fitness citywide health and wellness campaign for residents.

2014 Unemployment by Ward

- WARD 1: 5.4% (2012: 5.9%)
- WARD 2: 4.8% (2012: 3%)
- WARD 3: 4.6% (2012: 3.3%)
- WARD 4: 6.9% (2012: 9.4%)
- WARD 5: 9.3% (2012: 13.4%)
- WARD 6: 6.2% (2012: 6.5%)
- WARD 7: 13% (2012: 16.9%)
- WARD 8: 16.3% (2012: 19.9%)



PLAYGROUNDS BUILT OR RENOVATED



EQUITY & DIVERSITY

Sustainable DC is only successful if all residents benefit regardless of their income, age, address, or spoken language. Community engagement continues to grow, helping to share opportunities, but broader engagement is required. While the District's economy is strong, developing good-paying jobs and more affordable housing options is key to our long-term sustainability.

OUR PROGRESS

- Mayor Bowser has committed to spending \$100 million per year to develop new affordable housing through the Housing Production Trust Fund, and the District Council passed legislation to require more affordable housing in new development projects.
- An equity and engagement specialist is joining Sustainable DC to better incorporate equity into programs and broaden community engagement.
- The Department of Health is opening an Office of Health Equity to implement the District's Health in All Policies plan that will incorporate equitable health as a priority in new policies and programs.
- 8 Sustainable DC Model Schools—one in each ward—are piloting an environmental literacy program and the Office of the State Superintendent of Education hired a specialist to bring environmental education to all District Public School students.
- The District Department of the Environment and the DC Sustainable Energy Utility launched the Solar Advantage Plus Program to install solar energy for low-income households.
- The George Washington University is launching an Eco Equity Challenge that provides up to \$15,000 to students to address equity and environmental challenges in partnership with community organizations.



CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT

The District Department of the Environment has launched the development of a citywide climate adaptation plan to prepare for hotter summers, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather. Deployment of green buildings, rooftop solar, green spaces, and transportation options are not only creating a more Sustainable DC, but also a more resilient DC.

OUR PROGRESS

- DC Water and the Department of General Services announced plans to install large new solar arrays that will cut carbon emissions while making our power supply more resilient.
- The District partnered with several Federal Government agencies to complete upgrades to the levy system that protects Downtown and the National Mall from flooding, while the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority is implementing \$20 million in projects to reduce flood risks to MetroRail.
- District residents emitted four tons less in carbon emissions per capita in 2013 compared to 2003, and drove 105 fewer miles on average in 2013 compared to 2012.
- The District city wide emitted 1.6 million tons less carbon in 2013 than 2006, equivalent to taking 340,000 cars off the road.
- The new Sustainable Purchasing Program has developed environmentally preferred specifications for 14 priority purchasing categories thanks to the Office of Contracting and Procurement.



TALKED ABOUT
SUSTAINABILITY
WITH
8,650
PEOPLE AT 166
COMMUNITY
EVENTS

GHG EMISSIONS DOWN



Between 2006-2013



BUILT ENVIRONMENT



ENERGY

The District continues to be an international leader in green building by pushing the envelope on energy efficiency and smart building technology. In fact, the District has the most LEED-certified projects and ENERGY STAR-certified buildings of any city in the country. In order to achieve the goals set out in the Sustainable DC Plan, the District needs to more rapidly drive beyond basic green building to approaches that achieve true sustainability.

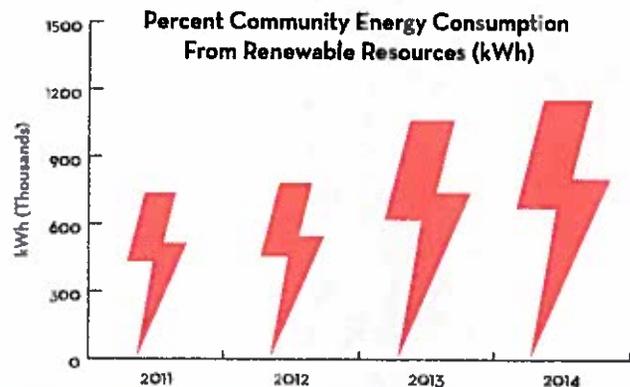
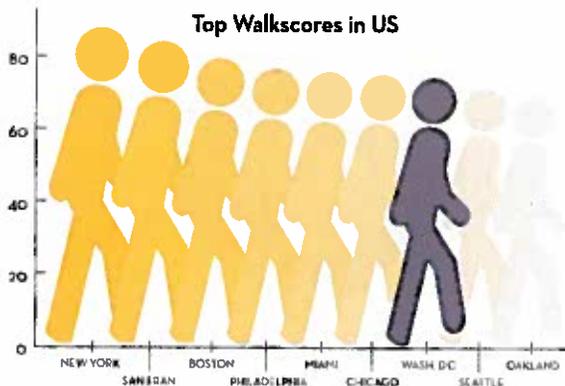
OUR PROGRESS

- The District leads the country among cities in the number of green buildings with 577 LEED-certified projects and 327 ENERGY STAR-certified buildings.
- 3 EcoDistricts are being supported by the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development, DowntownDC BID, and the National Capital Planning Commission to accelerate neighborhood-scale sustainability projects.
- Dunbar High School was certified as the highest scoring LEED for Schools-New Construction Platinum project in the world.
- A study on transforming the idle power plant at Langston Dwellings into a net positive renewable energy project was finished by the DC Housing Authority, which is now working on implementing the study.
- 320,000 square feet of green roofs and three cool roof projects have been installed by the Department of General Services, and 40 District Government buildings have been retro-commissioned to optimize energy usage.

With the District Department of the Environment's new solar installation program focused on low-income residents and partners like the DC Sustainable Energy Utility running programs to weatherize the homes of income-eligible families, District energy programs are focusing resources on those who need them most. Our city's buildings are getting smarter with new programs that allow residents, businesses, and District Government to use their consumption data to use less energy and save money.

OUR PROGRESS

- The George Washington University, American University and the George Washington University Hospital entered into a partnership to buy 123 million kilowatt hours per year of solar energy, which is the equivalent to taking 12,500 cars off the road.
- On behalf of residents in Brookland, DC Solar United Neighborhoods helped procure a cooperative solar purchase, adding it to other projects in all eight wards.
- 500 residential solar permits were issued by the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs.
- The Department of General Services held the second annual Sprint to Savings Energy Competition, which engaged DC Public Schools students in energy efficiency efforts and saved more than 76,000 kilowatt hours for the 28 participating schools.
- 736 of the District's largest private buildings released 2013 energy and water performance data, thanks to the building energy benchmarking and disclosure mandate.
- \$100 million in future savings will be realized due to investments made by the DC Sustainable Energy Utility.





FOOD

Increasing access to healthy food in underserved neighborhoods is an area of growing interest by public and private sector players. The District is building new community gardens and strengthening programs to bring healthy food to underserved areas. New businesses like Up Top Acres are bringing urban agriculture to new heights (in this case, roof tops!) and existing institutions like Union Kitchen are expanding to provide more space to new food industry entrepreneurs.

OUR PROGRESS

- Over 30 people participated in the University of the District of Columbia's Sustainable Urban Agriculture Certificate Pilot Program on food, agribusiness and sustainable design.
- The Urban Farming and Food Security Act of 2014 was passed to create a land-leasing initiative for District-owned vacant lots and establish incentives to encourage the use of privately-owned land for urban farming and community gardens. The Food Policy Council was also established to coordinate citywide efforts to address food access and grow the local food economy.
- 16 community gardens, including 89 plots, were built or renovated by the Department of Parks and Recreation, which also held 70 free garden classes for residents.
- The new Sustainable Purchasing Program includes a standard for 20% of District Government purchased food to be produced locally.
- DC Central Kitchen recovered 855,447 pounds of food that would have otherwise gone to waste.



NATURE

The District is now home to three bald eagle nests for the first time since 1947 and eaglets occupy at least one of the nests. For the second year in a row, the District has surpassed its tree-planting goal and is testing fruit and nut trees to help feed wildlife. The Sustainable DC Act of 2014 further protected the District's tree canopy by requiring payment to immediately offset the removal of a tree.

OUR PROGRESS

- The District Department of Transportation started construction on four more miles of the Anacostia Riverwalk Trail, which will provide a link for almost 70 miles of trails providing greater access to nature in the District.
- 11,590 trees were planted in 2014 by the District Department of Transportation, the District Department of the Environment, and Casey Trees.
- New native planting guidelines have been developed and are being incorporated into the Office of Contracting and Procurement's Sustainable Purchasing Program.
- 16 new playgrounds were built or renovated as part of the Department of Park and Recreation's Play DC plan, and 300 underused small open spaces around the District are being activated by a new Small Parks Specialist.
- 669 fifth grade students from Wards 7 and 8 took part in a pilot of the Overnight Meaningful Watershed Educational Experience to experience and explore nature up close.

 89

**NEW COMMUNITY
GARDEN PLOTS BUILT
IN 4 WARDS**



**11,590
TREES
PLANTED**



TRANSPORTATION

With new pedestrian, bike, and transit infrastructure being built, the District's already high walking and biking rates are increasing, and our transit ridership remains second only to New York City. The District Department of Transportation released its ambitious MoveDC plan and announced its commitment to Vision Zero, a plan to eliminate traffic fatalities. Ongoing partnerships with the Washington Area Bicycle Association and Black Women Bike are further helping to keep us all safe.

OUR PROGRESS

- The first phase of the **Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority's** new Silver Line, connecting downtown DC to Tysons Corner and eventually Dulles International Airport, opened to much fanfare on July 26.
- **3** new devices to count passing bicyclists were installed to provide new data, and a performance parking pilot in Chinatown will use data to match parking costs with demand.
- The **District Department of Transportation** has installed a record **9** miles of new bike lanes, including the beautiful Rhode Island Avenue Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge, and protected cycle tracks on 1st Street NE and M Street NW.
- **10** new **Capital Bikeshare** stations were installed and a record of **17,286** users in one day was set during the Cherry Blossom Festival.
- The **Sustainable DC Act 2014** will require businesses to provide pre-tax transit benefits to employees.



WASTE

The District continues to change the conversation from "throwing away" waste to "managing our resources" by increasing our diversion rate and exploring options for composting. The Department of Public Works completed a study on the District's existing waste landscape to inform future plans to increase citywide recycling rates. To further advance progress on waste and recycling, the District Department of the Environment hired a waste analyst and is hosting a Waste Summit on Earth Day 2015.

OUR PROGRESS

- Plastic foam food and drink containers for carryout use have been banned in the District starting in 2016, and recyclable and compostable containers must be used starting in 2017.
- The District's progressive new green construction code now mandates **50%** of construction waste be recycled or salvaged.
- **55** DC Public Schools have organics recycling programs in kitchens and cafeterias thanks to the **Department of General Services**, and **10** schools have established on-site demonstration compost bins.
- **25** rodent-proof compost bins were installed in community gardens.
- The **Council of the District of Columbia** provided **\$250,000** to the **Business Improvement District Council** to install more public space recycling bins in each BID in partnership with the **Department of Public Works**.



15% INCREASE IN BIKING



14% INCREASE IN WALKING



45 SCHOOL COMPOSTING PILOT PROJECTS

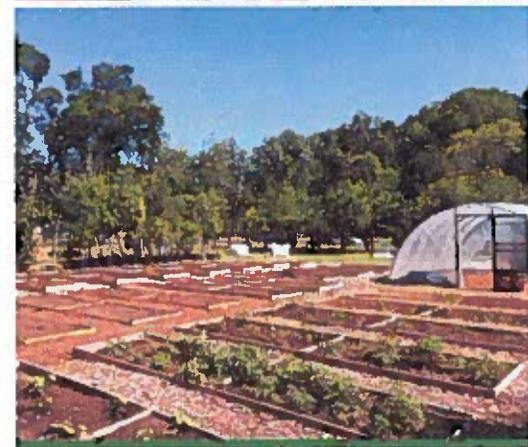
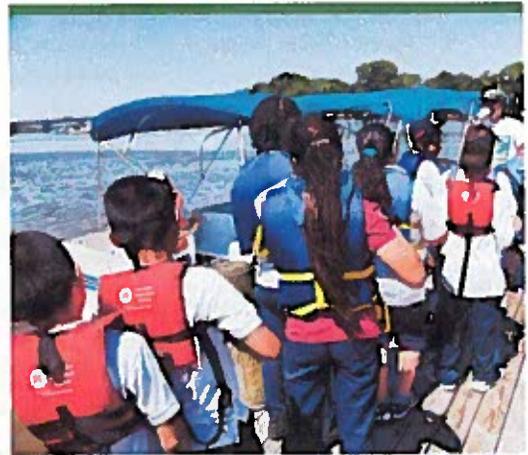


WATER

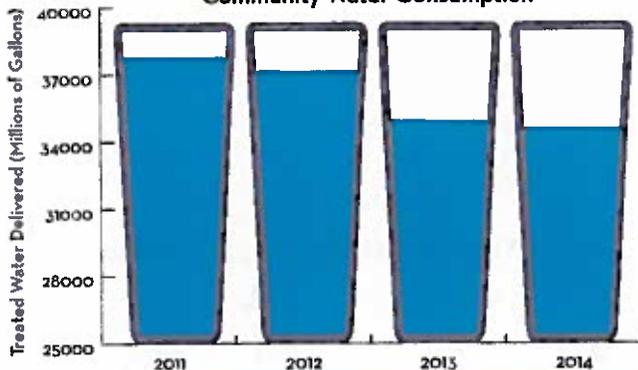
Water is no longer something we push away as quickly as possible in the District. The goal now is to capture stormwater to reuse it or retain and treat it on-site. With large increases in square footage of green roofs, porous pavement, and stormwater management practices, the District is leading the country in stormwater management.

OUR PROGRESS

- In 2014, 90,800 square feet of green roofs were installed in the District as part of the District Department of the Environment's green roof rebate program, and 1,000 homeowners received financial assistance to install practices to reduce stormwater runoff as part of the RiverSmart Homes program.
- The District Department of Transportation installed 29,500 square feet of flexible, porous paving material and constructed 0.6 miles of green alley.
- 351,000 square feet of impervious surface were retrofitted by the District Department of the Environment through the RiverSmart Homes and RiverSmart Schools programs, which will increase water retention across the District.
- 11,000 credits have been traded on the Stormwater Retention Credit Trading Program, which provides financial incentives to property owners to implement stormwater management improvements.
- DC Water and DC Green Works started the Growing Futures program, which is a 6-week program to address the high unemployment rates in Wards 6, 7 and 8 by training unemployed and underemployed young adults in green roof maintenance techniques through a blend of in-class and in-the-field training.



Community Water Consumption



PLAN PROGRESS CHART

This chart lists progress made on all 143 actions in the Sustainable DC Plan. For more details on the progress of an individual action, please visit www.sustainabledc.org/planprogress. A list of acronyms can be found at www.sustainabledc.org/acronyms.

PROGRESS KEY

- ● ● ● Not started
- ● ● ● Initiated
- ● ● ● Moderate progress
- ● ● ● Significant progress
- ● ● ● Complete

ACTION	TIME FRAME	LEAD AGENCY	PROGRESS
GOVERNANCE			
Goal 1: Expand District Government leadership to implement the Sustainable DC Plan.			
1.1 Dedicate District Government staff and funding to implement the Sustainable DC Plan, track progress, and make results publicly available.	Short	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.2 Implement a process to collect, analyze, and report data to ensure progress toward goals and targets by prescribed dates.	Short	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.3 Identify existing laws, regulations, and policies that conflict with sustainability goals and areas where new authority is required.	Short	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.4 Expand public/private collaboration to meet sustainability goals.	Short	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.5 Expand sector-based sustainability pledges and challenges to promote adoption of sustainable practices.	Short	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.6 Continue annual "Budget Challenge" competition for innovative sustainability projects within District Government.	Medium	EOM	● ● ● ●
JOBS & THE ECONOMY			
Goal 1: Grow and diversify DC's business sectors for sustained economic prosperity.			
1.1 Complete a review of regulatory reform options to make it easier to do business in the District.	Short	DCRA	● ● ● ●
1.2 Formally recognize corporations that meet independent social and environmental performance standards.	Medium	DCRA	● ● ● ●
1.3 Use anchor institutions to create local markets for sustainable enterprises.	Medium	OCF	● ● ● ●
Goal 2: Expand the number and range of jobs available to District residents and ensure access to new jobs through appropriate skills training.			
2.1 Improve integration of sustainable jobs training into school curricula to expose schoolchildren to new careers.	Short	OSSE	● ● ● ●
2.2 Partner with the Workforce Investment Council to develop targeted workforce development strategies.	Short	DOES	● ● ● ●
HEALTH & WELLNESS			
Goal 1: Inspire healthy, active lifestyles for all residents, regardless of income, ability, or employment.			
1.1 Expand public park access and programming to promote healthy lifestyles through physical exercise.	Short	DPR	● ● ● ●
1.2 Invest in a public health campaign to promote the benefits of healthy eating and active living.	Short	DOH	● ● ● ●
Goal 2: Create safe environments that are conducive to healthy living.			
2.1 Develop a "Healthy by Design" program for new affordable housing projects, with priority focus in low-income and underserved neighborhoods.	Medium	DCHA	● ● ● ●
2.2 Complete a feasibility study to understand the environmental, economic, and social barriers to healthy lifestyles that are specific to the District.	Short	DOH	● ● ● ●
EQUITY & DIVERSITY			
Goal 1: Ensure that all school-age children in the District are educated in sustainability and prepared for a changing green economy.			
1.1 Modernize all public school buildings.	Medium	DGS	● ● ● ●
1.2 Increase the quality and number of Early Childhood Development Centers.	Short	DME	● ● ● ●
1.3 Launch the implementation of the Environmental Literacy Plan (ELP) in school curriculum.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
Goal 2: Ensure transparency in the District's sustainability agenda including future plans and past progress.			
2.1 Reach community members in their daily lives with sustainability information.	Short	DDOE, OP	● ● ● ●
2.2 Feature the actions and impacts of residents and local community leaders in public sustainability campaigns.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
CLIMATE & ENVIRONMENT			
Goal 1: Minimize the generation of greenhouse gas emissions from all sources.			
1.1 Create online tools that allow people to view and share greenhouse gas emissions data and make more informed choices.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
1.2 Create financial tools that support climate protection programs by capturing the environmental costs of products and services.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
1.3 Report District emissions on a regular basis to track the reductions that can be attributed to specific initiatives.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
Goal 2: Advance physical adaptation and human preparedness to increase the District's resilience to future climate change.			
2.1 Evaluate the vulnerability of the District's energy infrastructure to the anticipated impacts of climate change.	Short	DDOE	● ● ● ●
2.2 Prepare District emergency services to respond to severe climate-related events such as extreme heat, storms, and flooding.	Medium	HSEMA	● ● ● ●
2.3 Require adaptation solutions as part of planning consent for new developments.	Medium	OP	● ● ● ●
2.4 Ensure transportation infrastructure can withstand the upper ranges of projected climate change impacts.	Long	DDOT	● ● ● ●
BUILT ENVIRONMENT			
Goal 1: Increase urban density to accommodate future population growth within the District's existing urban area.			
1.1 Increase affordable housing in the District.	Long	EOM	● ● ● ●
1.2 Expand brownfield redevelopment incentives and certification programs.	Long	DDOE	● ● ● ●
1.3 Reduce required parking minimums and restrict surface parking for large developments.	Short	OP	● ● ● ●
1.4 Modify zoning regulations to allow accessory dwellings such as apartments over garages or in basements.	Short	OP	● ● ● ●
Goal 2: Develop active and vibrant neighborhoods to create new economic opportunity and support a high quality of life.			
2.1 Ease permitting requirements for temporary arts, community, and business uses.	Short	DCRA	● ● ● ●
2.2 Create a government-backed revolving loan fund to support new businesses with a priority for those developed by District residents.	Medium	DSLBD	● ● ● ●
2.3 Convert five vacant buildings into permanent cultural or business incubation centers.	Long	DMPED	● ● ● ●
2.4 Triple the number of Live Near Your Work grants.	Medium	OP	● ● ● ●
2.5 Locate new affordable housing in walkable neighborhoods.	Long	DHCD	● ● ● ●
2.6 Implement the Southwest EcoDistrict Initiative and Maryland Avenue Small Area Plan.	Long	OP	● ● ● ●
Goal 3: Improve the sustainability performance of existing buildings.			
3.1 Rehabilitate all public housing to be green, healthy, and capable of meeting net-zero energy standards.	Long	DCHA	● ● ● ●
3.2 Eliminate environmental health threats such as mold, lead, and carbon monoxide in at least 50% of the District's affordable housing.	Medium	DDOE, DHCD	● ● ● ●
3.3 Expand existing programs to train 100 District residents in the latest green construction skills.	Medium	DOES	● ● ● ●
3.4 Build public-private partnerships to expand best practices for building operations and maintenance.	Long	DGS	● ● ● ●
3.5 Retrofit and modernize all public buildings to at least the LEED Gold standard or equivalent green building certification.	Long	DGS	● ● ● ●

PLAN PROGRESS CHART

ACTION	TIME FRAME	LEAD AGENCY	PROGRESS
Goal 4: Ensure the highest standards of green building design for new construction.			
4.1 Update the Green Building Act to require higher levels of LEED certification.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
4.2 Provide incentives for new building projects to achieve at least the LEED Gold standard certification or equivalent.	Medium	DMPED	●●●●●●
4.3 Incorporate best practice sustainability principles into neighborhood planning.	Short	OP	●●●●●●
4.4 Adopt the latest green construction codes for all new construction and major renovations.	Short	DCRA	●●●●●●
4.5 Require all new buildings to be net-zero or net-positive.	Long	DDOE	●●●●●●
ENERGY			
Goal 1: Improve the efficiency of energy use to reduce overall consumption.			
1.1 Require building energy audits and disclosure of energy performance.	Long	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.2 Establish Minimum Energy Performance Standard for buildings, phased in by building size.	Long	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.3 Replace all street and public lighting with high-efficiency fixtures.	Short	DDOT	●●●●●●
1.4 Fund \$500 million of renewable energy and efficiency retrofits.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.5 Complete a Comprehensive Energy Plan by 2014.	Short	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.6 Launch a citywide educational campaign to lower citywide energy use.	Short	DDOE	●●●●●●
Goal 2: Increase the proportion of energy sourced from clean and renewable supplies.			
2.1 Introduce legislation to reduce fossil fuel-based power use.	Long	DDOE	●●●●●●
2.2 Complete a feasibility study to identify opportunities for neighborhood-scale renewable energy systems.	Short	DDOE	●●●●●●
2.3 Build 1,000 additional residential and commercial renewable energy projects.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
2.4 Allow community solar and renewable energy systems through legislation.	Short	DDOE	●●●●●●
2.5 Develop a wind farm in the region to power District Government and private facilities.	Long	DGS	●●●●●●
Goal 3: Modernize energy infrastructure for improved efficiency and reliability.			
3.1 Develop a plan for citywide rollout of smart meters and smart grid infrastructure.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
3.2 Work with utility companies to improve the reliability of energy transmission and distribution.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
3.3 Modernize electricity infrastructure to enable expansion of local energy generation projects.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
3.4 Work with local educational and workforce development institutions to train District residents for work in the renewable energy and energy efficiency industry.	Short	DOES	●●●●●●
FOOD			
Goal 1: Increase agricultural land uses within the District.			
1.1 Adopt the Sustainable Urban Agriculture Act and zoning amendments for expanded urban agriculture.	Short	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.2 Streamline the process to find and use land for community agriculture projects.	Long	OP	●●●●●●
1.3 Install educational gardens at 50% of DC Public Schools.	Medium	DCPS	●●●●●●
1.4 Develop orchards or other food-producing landscaping on 5 acres of DC's public spaces.	Long	DGS	●●●●●●
1.5 Develop permitting for pop-up agriculture.	Short	DCRA	●●●●●●
Goal 2: Ensure universal access to secure, nutritious, and affordable food supplies.			
2.1 Expand the DC Healthy Corner Store initiative.	Medium	DOH	●●●●●●
2.2 Introduce fresh food circulators and mobile vendors in neighborhoods with poor access to fresh foods.	Medium	DOH	●●●●●●
2.3 Expand the Double Dollars program to farmers' markets and corner stores citywide.	Medium	DOH	●●●●●●
2.4 Incorporate best practices in healthy and local menus in all DC Public Schools.	Medium	DCPS	●●●●●●
2.5 Increase transparency about the nutritional content of food.	Long	DOH	●●●●●●
2.6 Develop cooperative food purchasing systems.	Medium	OP	●●●●●●
Goal 3: Develop the food industry into a strong and viable economic sector.			
3.1 Complete a comprehensive study of DC food supply systems.	Short	OP	●●●●●●
3.2 Create a Local Food Hub for consolidation and distribution of local produce.	Medium	DMPED	●●●●●●
3.3 Develop small business food processing incubator center in DC.	Short	DSLBD	●●●●●●
3.4 Permit incidental sales of food from community gardens.	Short	DCRA	●●●●●●
3.5 Designate staff to actively participate in a new Food Policy Council.	Short	OP	●●●●●●
3.6 Increase government and institutional procurement of local foods.	Short	OCF	●●●●●●
NATURE			
Goal 1: Protect and restore wetlands, waterways, and aquatic ecosystems.			
1.1 Work with the National Park Service to update open space guidelines and management policies.	Long	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.2 Develop an Urban Wetland Registry to facilitate restoration or creation of wetland habitat.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.3 Plant and maintain an additional 140 acres of wetlands along the Anacostia and Potomac Rivers and smaller streams.	Long	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.4 Require new waterfront developments and renovations to incorporate Low Impact Development strategies.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
1.5 Implement a Fisheries Management Plan to restore DC's native fisheries.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●●●
Goal 2: Protect and expand tree cover and green landscapes, creating an integrated District-wide ecosystem.			
2.1 Plant 8,600 new trees citywide per year until 2032.	Short	DDOT UFA	●●●●●●
2.2 Replace 75% of public lighting with fixtures that reduce light pollution.	Long	DDOT	●●●●●●
2.3 Create a connectivity map to guide development of viable habitats throughout the District.	Short	DDOE	●●●●●●
2.4 Require trees and green space on all new development sites.	Medium	OP	●●●●●●
2.5 Stipulate use of native plant varieties for District Government plantings and landscaping.	Medium	DDOT UFA	●●●●●●
Goal 3: Enhance access to parks and open spaces for all residents.			
3.1 Prepare an open space plan to increase residential connections to green space and the rivers.	Short	DPR	●●●●●●
3.2 Expand the formal trail network for hiking and biking.	Medium	DDOT	●●●●●●
3.3 Renovate and improve all District playgrounds.	Short	DPR	●●●●●●
3.4 Improve transit linkages to parks and natural areas.	Long	DDOT	●●●●●●
3.5 Create small parks and green spaces in areas with inadequate open space.	Short	DGS	●●●●●●
TRANSPORTATION			
Goal 1: Improve connectivity and accessibility through efficient, integrated, and affordable transit systems.			
1.1 Complete 37 miles of streetcar networks.	Long	DDOT	●●●●●●

ACTION	TIME FRAME	LEAD AGENCY	PROGRESS
1.2 Improve transit connections to employment and activity centers from underserved areas.	Medium	DDOT	●●●●
1.3 Define and secure permanent funding for transit planning and improvements.	Long	DDOT	●●●●
1.4 Design transit systems for resilience to extreme weather events.	Medium	DDOT	●●●●
Goal 2: Expand provision of safe, secure infrastructure for cyclists and pedestrians.			
2.1 Develop a citywide, 100 mile bicycle lane network.	Medium	DDOT	●●●●
2.2 Expand the Capital Bikeshare program by 200 stations.	Medium	DDOT	●●●●
2.3 Partner with community organizations to deliver bike and pedestrian safety education.	Short	DDOT	●●●●
2.4 Collect data to improve understanding of cyclist and pedestrian travel patterns.	Short	DDOT	●●●●
2.5 Program crosswalks and traffic lights for improved safety and convenience of pedestrians and cyclists.	Medium	DDOT	●●●●
Goal 3: Reduce traffic congestion to improve mobility.			
3.1 Implement an expanded Performance-Based Parking program.	Short	DDOT	●●●●
3.2 Expand car-sharing programs to low-income residents using financial tools.	Short	DISB	●●●●
3.3 Encourage private businesses to offer incentives for employee travel by transit, walking, or biking.	Medium	DDOE, OP	●●●●
3.4 Encourage and promote telecommuting and alternative work schedules for employees.	Short	DDOT, DCHR	●●●●
3.5 Study the feasibility of a regional congestion fee for travel during peak hours.	Short	DDOT	●●●●
Goal 4: Improve air quality along major transportation routes.			
4.1 Strictly limit idling engines.	Short	DDOE	●●●●
4.2 Require District Government, and encourage private businesses, to purchase clean fuel, low-emission fleet vehicles.	Long	DDOE	●●●●
4.3 Expand electric vehicle charging infrastructure throughout the city.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
4.4 Offer incentives to avoid driving and other emission-generating activities on predicted Code Red and Orange air quality days.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
4.5 Track and report mileage data from clean fuel, low-emission, and electric vehicles.	Long	DDOE	●●●●
WASTE			
Goal 1: Reduce the volume of waste generated and disposed.			
1.1 Develop a robust Waste Action Plan with the objective of decreasing all citywide waste streams.	Medium	DPW	●●●●
1.2 Introduce a Pay-As-You-Throw pricing structure for waste collection services.	Long	DPW	●●●●
1.3 Ban Styrofoam and non-recyclable plastic containers from food and retail outlets.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
1.4 Introduce a bottle deposit law.	Long	DDOE	●●●●
1.5 Implement Sustainable Sites Initiative (SITES) guidelines for park maintenance.	Medium	DPR	●●●●
1.6 Allow nearby businesses to share containers for landfill waste, recycling, and composting.	Short	DCRA	●●●●
Goal 2: Reuse materials to capture their economic value.			
2.1 Establish a District product stewardship program.	Long	DDOE	●●●●
2.2 Introduce construction waste management requirements.	Medium	DCRA	●●●●
2.3 Require the use of recycled and salvaged building materials.	Long	DCRA	●●●●
2.4 Complete a waste life cycle study.	Short	DPW	●●●●
2.5 Reuse 50% of biosolids treated in the District.	Short	DC Water	●●●●
Goal 3: Increase the citywide recycling rate.			
3.1 Provide all households with a three-track waste collection process.	Long	DPW	●●●●
3.2 Establish a new organics transfer station in the District.	Short	DPW	●●●●
3.3 Increase the size of recycling bins.	Medium	DPW	●●●●
3.4 Increase recycling receptacles in the public realm.	Long	DPW	●●●●
3.5 Provide incentives for residential composting and recycling.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
WATER			
Goal 1: Improve the quality of waterways to standards suitable for fishing and swimming.			
1.1 Field test innovative technologies to improve river water quality.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
1.2 Restrict the use of cosmetic pesticides and chemical fertilizers.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
1.3 Restrict the use of harmful salts on roads in winter.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
1.4 Study the feasibility of implementing nutrient and water quality trading programs.	Short	DDOE	●●●●
Goal 2: Relieve pressure on stormwater infrastructure and reduce long-term flood risk.			
2.1 Install 2 million new square feet of green roofs.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
2.2 Increase the use of green infrastructure along public rights of way.	Short	DDOT	●●●●
2.3 Double the number of homes participating in the RiverSmart Homes program.	Medium	DDOE	●●●●
2.4 Build 25 miles of green alleys.	Long	DDOT	●●●●
2.5 Establish pervious surface minimums for targeted zoning districts.	Short	OP	●●●●
Goal 3: Reduce demands for potable water and increase rainwater reuse.			
3.1 Update water-efficiency standards in District building codes.	Short	DCRA	●●●●
3.2 Revise building codes to allow the use of alternative water systems.	Short	DCRA	●●●●
3.3 Expand use of neighborhood-scale water collection networks.	Long	DDOE	●●●●
3.4 Develop incentives for water-efficiency measures in landscaping and building design.	Long	DDOE	●●●●
3.5 Expand the use of water monitoring technologies.	Long	DDOE	●●●●

**Environmental Policy Commission
Work Session**

October 5, 2015 | 7:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. | City Hall, Room 2000

EPC Attendees

Annika Moman
Geoffrey Goode
Jim Kapsis, Chair
Patrick Holman
Scott Barstow
Stephen Milone
Susan Gitlin, Vice Chair

Lisa Goldberg
Brian Rahal
William Skrabak

Invited Guest

Seth Brown, Storm and Stream Solutions, LLC

Public Guest

Tim Bagley, The Alexandria Emerging Technology Center

City Staff

Jesse Mains
Khoadinh Tran

Public Comments

None

Staff Updates

Jesse Mains provided a summary of the National Municipal Stormwater and Green Infrastructure Awards. The City of Alexandria was the “Winner in Innovation” for a Phase II MS4. For more information, visit <http://www.wef.org/ms4awards/> (accessed 10/09/15).

Jesse Mains reported that they submitted their annual MS4 Program Plan, which includes the Chesapeake Bay TMDL Action Plan on October 1, 2015, to Virginia Department of Environmental Quality.

The CSO stakeholder meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2015.

Presentation: Green Infrastructure Overview – Funding/Financing Options

Seth Brown, Storm and Stream Solutions, LLC, is working under contract to the Chesapeake Bay Trust who received grant funding through EPA Region 3 to support alternative financing for green infrastructure. EPC provided the following four questions to Seth in advance:

1. Review the traditional vs non-traditional funding/financing benefits as it relates to implementing GI projects.
2. What is a typical timeline for establishing either a SWU or a CP3?
3. How might a SWU or a CP3 be implemented in Alexandria?
4. What can the EPC advocate for over the next 12 months to influence the Long Term Control Plan to include meaningful GI to offset some or all of the non-GI alternatives?

Seth discussed the benefits and co-benefits of GI including increasing property values; reducing energy use; increasing community involvement.

Seth focused on two examples: NYC and Philadelphia, PA, both are CSO communities and have found positive cost savings through incorporating GI in their long term control plan.

City staff pointed out that Alexandria is unique in that they must achieve a waste load allocation (WLA) reduction in bacteria from their CSO. They raised concerns about the high water table and soil composition in the CSO area. Incorporating GI in all feasible areas in the CSO would provide a 30% reduction in stormwater, which would still cause CSO discharges and not reduce the bacteria WLA, a permit requirement. Seth pointed out that there is variability in infiltration capacity and highlighted several examples of CSO communities focusing on GI for their long term control plan.

The group debated the specifics of a storm water utility fee in the City and options for implementation (i.e., real estate tax bill, separate bill, etc.) and challenges. The group also talked about credit program opportunities and challenges.

Seth discussed public-private-partnerships (P3) as an option to financing stormwater projects. He recommended that P3 (or similar) would be most successful if implemented post-stormwater utility fee so there is already a dedicated revenue stream.

The timeline for the stormwater utility fee is to convene the working group in FY16 with implementation, should Council approve, in the second half of FY18.

The City receives a permit for their MS4 in 5-year cycles (2013-2018 is the current permit cycle). The City must achieve 100% implementation in stormwater BMPs to meet their Chesapeake Bay TMDL WLA (based on acres of pervious and impervious area within the MS4 and the overall loading for the Potomac River) after four permit cycles (by 2028). The group talked about the effects of the MS4 on the CSO area and vice versa.

The City's CSO long-term control plan is due August 2017 to VA DEQ with implementation by 2025.

EPC Updates

Geoffrey Goode will send a separate email regarding the draft indicators.

Scott Barstow drafted a memo to Council on staffing a sustainability coordinator position. He requests comments to this letter by 10/12 so they may be discussed during the 10/19 regular meeting.

EPC CALENDAR - FY2016

July 2015 through June 2016

Conference Room 2000 at City Hall Unless Noted Otherwise
7:30 PM – 9:30 PM

DATE	EVENT	AGENDA ITEMS	ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
7-6-2015	Work Session		
7-20	Regular Meeting	•	•
8-??	EPC Picnic/ Retreat		•
9-14	Work Session	EAP Indicators	•
9-28	Regular Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solarize Alexandria, Bill Eger • Update on the Eisenhower West SAP – Radhika, P&Z • Presentation on West End Transit Way, Allan Fye 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget letter to City Council • Solarize (Bill Eger)
10-5	Work Session	Green Infrastructure	Seth Green
10-19	Regular Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earth Day Planning • Memo to Council • Work Session on Green Infrastructure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater (Jesse Maines) • Budget
11-2	Work Session	Urban Forestry	•
11-16	Regular Meeting	Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan, Patrick Reed	•
12-7	Work Session		
12-21	Regular Meeting	•	•
1-11-2016	Work Session		

DATE	EVENT	AGENDA ITEMS	ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION
1-25	Regular Meeting		
2-8	Work Session	•	
2-22	Regular Meeting	•	•
3-7	Work Session	•	•
3-21	Regular Meeting	•	
4-4	Work Session	•	
4-18	Regular Meeting	•	
5-2	Work Session	•	•
5-16	Regular Meeting	•	•
6-6	Work Session	•	•
6-20	Regular Meeting	• EPC elections	• FY2016 Annual Report and Member Attendance Report

Holidays: January 18: Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
 February 15: President's Day



April 21, 2014

The Honorable Mayor Bill Euille and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
Alexandria, VA 22314

Proposed City Budget and Capital Improvement Program for FY 2015

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I am writing to share our comments regarding the proposed budget and capital improvement program for fiscal year 2015 for your consideration as you make your final adjustments.

Your support and the work of City staff have enabled Alexandria to compile several notable successes in environmental stewardship over the last several years. However, instead of abating, the environmental challenges and responsibilities the city faces are becoming more severe. Without a corresponding increase in investments in our environment, we will significantly increase the risk of environmental damages and large, unpredictable financial costs in years to come.

Since we commented on the development of the FY2015 budget and capital improvement program in November of last year, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has released two major reports: one on climate change impacts, adaptation, and vulnerability; and another on mitigation of climate change. The introductory chapter for the report on the mitigation of climate change states that "[T]he scale of the mitigation challenge has grown enormously since 2007 due to rapid growth of the world economy and the continued lack of much overt effort to control emissions." The report also states that emissions are not on track for stabilization, let alone deep cuts, and that emissions from industrialized countries are largely unchanged from previous levels.

Following are specific recommendations and comments regarding the FY 2015 proposed city budget and capital improvement program.

Recycling activities: Several recycling activities were approved in FY 2014 using Contingent Reserves funding, including expanded public space recycling and food waste composting. Unfortunately, the proposed budget would stop these service expansions. We urge Council to adopt an increase in the residential refuse fee sufficient to allow continuation and expansion of all of the City's current recycling and waste reduction initiatives.

Transportation: We support the proposed budget's investments in transportation system improvements, and the continuation of the 2.2-cent real estate tax allocation toward this area. With this funding, as well as funding from the Northern Virginia Transportation Authority, the City can continue converting the DASH bus fleet to alternative fuel or low-emission vehicles, and continue development work on the Potomac Yard Metrorail Station.

Sanitary sewer and storm sewer infrastructure: We are concerned that the capital improvement program does not include funding for the costs associated with federally mandated infrastructure improvements to sanitary sewer and storm sewer systems. There will be large costs associated with the necessary infrastructure improvements over the coming years, and yet the budget proposes no increase in the sanitary sewer rate from the current level of \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons of wastewater treated. We believe the City should begin allocating resources to this project in FY 2015.

Open space: Alexandria will need to add an estimated 183 acres of open space over the next ten years in order to maintain the current ratio of 7.3 acres of open space per 1,000 residents. The capital improvement program does not include funding to address this need. Both planning and financial resources are needed to provide residents with access to open space in the years to come.

Energy management staffing: We strongly support establishing an additional staff position to focus on energy efficiency work on behalf of the City. The City's infrastructure, much of which has a useful lifetime measured in decades, establishes the parameters for the City's energy use, and consequently its emissions of greenhouse gases which are changing our climate. The City has a direct financial interest in minimizing its energy use, and a vitally important role to play in serving as a leader in energy efficiency initiatives in the community. Earlier this year, the EPC considered working with City staff to submit an application for the Georgetown University Energy Prize, which challenges local governments around the country to implement energy efficiency initiatives that lower residents' energy bills. Unfortunately, we were forced to conclude that Alexandria did not have sufficient staff to support participation. However, we understand that Arlington, which has several staff focused on sustainability efforts, will be participating. We urge Alexandria to follow Arlington's lead and add staff to help ensure that the City is able to capture cost effective energy efficiency savings.

We appreciate your continued commitment to Alexandria's Eco-City charter and to your support for policies and programs that make our City more sustainable.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Scott Barstow
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

April 29, 2015

Honorable Mayor William Euille and Members of City Council
City of Alexandria
Suite 2300, City Hall
301 King St
Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Euille and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I am writing to provide our perspective on the City's environmental policies and resources, five years after Council approved the Environmental Action Plan--2030 (EAP), and to highlight areas of the FY2016 budget where EPC believes that Council can continue to advance the EAP's goals.

The EAP is a wide-ranging collection of goals, action steps, and targets to guide the City's environmental performance improvement efforts, as part of the "Eco-City Alexandria" initiative. The adoption of the Eco-City Charter and the EAP positioned Alexandria in the vanguard of Virginia cities and other cities in the U.S. of its size, in establishing a vision and road map for more wisely managing finite natural and financial resources.

Significant Steps Forward

Council and City staff have made major steps forward on a wide range of issues over the last few years. EPC is grateful for the dedication and hard work carried out by staff, under your leadership, that has led to several important achievements. Staff has documented many of these accomplishments in their progress report to Council on the EAP on April 8, 2015. These include, but are not limited to:

- Development and reporting of key environmental indicators;
- Closure of the GenOn (formerly Mirant) Power Plant;
- Completion of an initial greenhouse gas emissions inventory
- Adoption of the Energy & Climate Change Action Plan;
- Increasing recycling rates up to nearly 50% of total waste disposed;
- Establishment of new King Street bike lanes to improve pedestrian and bicyclist access;
- Establishment and continued expansion of the Capital Bikeshare program;
- Initiation of new Metroway bus service along the Crystal City-Potomac Yard Transitway;
- Restoration of nearly 40 acres of natural areas through the removal of invasive plants;
- Rapid progress on the financing and development of the Potomac Yard Metro Station.

More Investment Needed

Despite recent progress, there is much work to be done to realize the vision of the Eco-City Charter. Climate change remains a real threat to the future finances and sustainability of the City. For example, new research findings from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) show that warming caused by greenhouse gas emissions is causing

acceleration in the melting of Antarctic (and Greenland) ice sheets, outpacing most earlier projections of sea level rise. Sea level rise contributes to flooding along the Potomac River, such that over time flooding events along Alexandria's waterfront will be both more common and more severe. Alexandria will need to make investments to ensure the City adapts to these changes.

While national governments ultimately need to lead mitigation efforts if we are to slow down climate change globally, Alexandria and other local governments must also do their part to contribute. Local governments have a substantial impact on emissions through their decisions on transportation policy, neighborhood planning and community development, and building codes and assistance. Alexandria can pursue such efforts responsibly in a way that reduces operational expenses related to the City's energy and water use and that defers future capital expenditures associated with growing resource demand.

FY2016 Budget Outlook

Two of the EPC's priorities for FY2015 were to begin updating the EAP and the City's Green Building Policy, both of which are now more than five years old. While we are disappointed by the lack of funding in the current FY2016 budget to support these important updates, we appreciate Council's support of our joint agreement with City staff to advance these policy updates in FY2016 by leveraging existing staff and EPC resources. EPC is committed to working with staff and with other commissions to make this process as efficient as possible. However, we expect that next year's budget will include sufficient financial support to accelerate both of these updates.

In addition to the EAP and Green Building Policy initiatives, the EPC would like to share the following additional recommendations on the City Manager's proposed FY2016 budget. We urge Council to support the following:

- **Capital Bikeshare Funding:** The EPC echoes the recommendations that the Transportation Commission recently shared with Council (See letter from March 23, 2015). Like the Transportation Commission, the EPC requests that Council approve a budget that includes full funding for the operating cost of this expansion. As the Transportation Commission noted, "The City has previously committed to expanding Capital Bikeshare in Alexandria through prior-year appropriations towards the capital cost of bicycles and stations. Developer contributions and grants provide all funds to purchase, equip, and install 16 new stations. The operating cost of this program is small, just \$10,000 per station, and the cost recovery factor is 70%."
- **Stormwater Utility Funding:** The City faces real challenges in meeting its stormwater obligations over the next 10 years with the current real estate tax dedication for stormwater. Staff has wisely included an additional FTE in the Capital budget to support the study, and possible implementation, of a Stormwater Utility. The EPC believes that the City should seriously study and re-consider the establishment of a Utility, which has the potential to more equitably pay for the costs of stormwater management by tying

those costs to actual services provided. Furthermore, the EPC encourages the study of a robust credit program to encourage participants to provide permanent reductions in stormwater flows. This aligns with the Eco City Charter Vision to "Share Responsibility" with the community to achieve common goals.

- **Recycling and Composting:** The EPC strongly supports proposed increase in the budget for \$15,000 for the residential food waste composting pilot to 2,500 homes, as well as an increase of \$40,000 for Old Town refuse carts.

The EPC appreciates Council's consideration of our input during this difficult budget year and your on-going support for the Eco-City Charter.

Sincerely,



Jim Kapsis
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission
kapsisje@gmail.com

CC: Alexandria Planning Commission
Alexandra Environmental Policy Commission
Yon Lambert, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services
Karl Moritz, Director of Planning & Zoning

