



March 11, 2019

Honorable Mayor Justin Wilson and Members of City Council
 301 King Street
 Alexandria, VA 22314

Re: Environmental Policy Commission comments on Fiscal Year 2020 Proposed Budget

Dear Mayor Wilson and Members of City Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission, I am writing to share our recommendations and priorities for the city’s Fiscal Year 2020 budget.

The EPC appreciates that the City Manager’s Proposed Budget recognizes the role the City plays in addressing climate change. We are greatly encouraged by the following proposals in the budget, which are consistent with the Eco-City Charter and the Environmental Action Plan.

- Renewable Energy: Increasing the purchase of renewable energy credits to 100% of electricity used for City operations¹;
- Energy Efficient Lighting: Beginning “the conversion of all public street lights in Alexandria from fluorescent or incandescent bulbs to low-power, long-life LEDs”;
- Green Buildings: Raising the “green building goal for City facilities from the U.S. Green Building Council’s LEED Silver standard to LEED Gold”; adding “energy audits as part of the process to assess City facilities”; and
- Electric Vehicles: Funding “to develop a strategy to facilitate electric vehicle charging infrastructure for public and private vehicles across the city”;

While most of these measures focus on energy use and greenhouse gas emissions related to City operations, the City government only accounts for 4% of the emissions in Alexandria. We believe the City has a role to play in facilitating reductions in the other 96% of emissions by the community. To address this challenge, **we recommend the following items from the City Manager’s Alternative Options List be funded:**

Title	Cost	EPC’s Comments
CPACE - Year 1 Startup Costs	\$125,000	Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy is an innovative financing mechanism for commercial property owners to access low-cost financing to upgrade their buildings and make repayments via their property tax bill. The program has support in the development community and is already implemented in Arlington.
Community Energy and Climate Programs position	\$140,000	This position on the Energy Management team would work to reduce emissions in the 96% of greenhouse gases caused by the community, including by playing a role in the startup and operations of the CPACE program.

¹ Does not include energy use by ACPS, Alex Renew, or ARHA.

Environmental Action Plan Education and Outreach Implementation	\$20,000	The Environmental Policy Commission and staff across multiple City departments are reaching the end of a two-year update of the Environmental Action Plan. A lot of hard work has gone into updating the plan and we believe its benefits will come from engaging the community in moving forward with its implementation.
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EPC appreciates Council's consideration of our input and your commitment to a sustainable Alexandria.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Praveen Kathpal
Chair
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission