



October 7, 2019

Yon Lambert  
 Director, Transportation & Environmental Services  
 301 King Street  
 Alexandria, VA 22314

**Re: Environmental Policy Commission recommendations for FY2021 budget**

Dear Mr Lambert:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission, I am writing to share our recommendations and priorities for the city’s fiscal year (FY) 2021 budget with a focus on items that will assist Alexandria in becoming a **green** City, in line with one of the themes emphasized in the FY2020 budget.

The FY2021 budget will be the first budget developed and considered after City Council unanimously adopted the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) 2040 in July 2019. The EAP sets out ambitious goals, and at the same time lays a pragmatic roadmap for achieving them by identifying actions proposed by staff that can be taken each year toward the EAP’s targets.

Most critically, the EAP 2040 sets a target to reduce community-wide greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions by 50 percent by FY2030. The EPC recommends prioritizing the EAP actions that relate to **reducing community-wide GHG emissions** and the **city leading by example**.

<b>Priority: Reducing Community-Wide GHG Emissions</b>			
<i>“Despite the current federal administration’s reversal of prior greenhouse gas emission initiatives, cities and states still have the responsibility of addressing climate change.”</i>			
- City Manager Mark Jinks, FY2020 budget message, Feb 2019			
<b>Category</b>	<b>FY2021 Budget (000\$)</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>EAP Reference, Department</b>
<b>Energy and Climate Change</b>	305	Establish a task force to update the Energy & Climate Change Action Plan	1.1.1 GS
	120	Establish a green buildings staff position	3.1.7 P&Z
<b>Implementation, Education, and Outreach</b>	40	Establish voluntary community recognition and award programs	10.1.4, 10.1.5 T&ES

## Priority: The City Leading by Example

*“Alexandria must do its part to combat the climate crisis, and with the passage of the Environmental Action Plan 2040 and Green Building Policy we send a message that we intend to lead by example.”*

- Mayor Justin Wilson, EAP 2040 adoption press release, July 2019

Category	FY2021 Budget (000\$)	Action	EAP Reference, Department
Energy and Climate Change	100	Develop a renewable energy supply strategy	2.1.1 GS
	150*	Initiate electric vehicle pilot programs for DASH, ACPS, and the City vehicle fleet	2.2.2 GS
Green Buildings	120	Establish a green buildings staff position	3.1.7 P&Z
Transportation	100-300	Develop a plan to acquire zero emissions buses on rapid transit routes and conversion of DASH fleet to zero emissions	7.1.5 T&ES

\* via Vehicle Replacement Fund

The EPC recommends continuing CIP funding for converting streetlighting to LEDs, energy efficiency in City facilities, and Open Space Acquisition & Development.

The EPC has the following additional budget policy recommendations to help align the City's actions to its commitment to address climate change and be a leader:

- 1. We request that the City Manager direct staff to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions associated with City operations 5% from FY2020 to FY2021.** To achieve the community-wide emissions target of 50% reduction by 2030, a sustained compounded rate of 5% year-over-year reductions is needed. The City should lead by example by adopting this annual target as its own for Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions – essentially the emissions associated with electricity and natural gas used in City facilities, and gasoline and diesel fuel used in City vehicles.
- 2. To give a more complete picture of Alexandria's emissions, we urge the city to annually report the carbon emissions from four additional entities: Alexandria City Public Schools (ACPS), AlexRenew, DASH, and Alexandria Redevelopment and Housing Authority (ARHA).** This will give a more complete picture of carbon emissions due directly to city operations and illuminate mitigation priorities for the city.

In closing, EPC appreciates staff's consideration of our input and your on-going support for Eco-City Alexandria.

Thank you for your consideration.

Praveen H. Kathpal  
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission

cc: Karl Moritz, Director of Planning & Zoning, Jeremy McPike, Director of General Services