



December 12, 2018

Honorable Mayor Allison Silberberg and Members of City Council  
City Hall  
301 King Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

**Re: Environmental Policy Commission recommendations for fiscal year 2020 budget**

Dear Mayor Silberberg 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 (FY) 2020 budget. The FY2020 budget will be the first budget developed and considered following Council's approval of the Phase 1 update of the Environmental Action Plan (EAP) in October.

This request also follows the release of the alarming Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, which calls for "rapid, far reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society," including in our cities, to prevent catastrophic climate change.

Average annual temperatures in Alexandria and the rest of the contiguous U.S. are projected to increase by 2.5°F over the next few decades (2021-2050), relative to the 1976-2005 average. Global mean sea levels are projected to rise at least one foot by 2050 relative to 2000, and the relative sea level rise for Alexandria and the rest of the Eastern seaboard will be even higher.

While some of these and other adverse effects are 'locked in' and will lead to more flooding of our historic waterfront and greater frequency of severe weather events, longer term changes depend on what we do now. To meet the goals of the IPCC report, Alexandria must transform our city's built-environment and transportation system to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in half within the next 12 years, in conjunction with efforts by other cities, state governments, and the private sector. We have several tools to do this, including our budget process.

To that end and as reflected in the Council-approved Phase 1 update to the Environmental Action Plan, we ask you to consider the following budget recommendations for FY2020.

**FY2020 Budget Recommendations**

We urge you to **fully fund the FY2020 action items recommended in the EAP Phase 1 update** that Council approved in October. *Note: We are including items already approved in the current Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) to reaffirm our support and new incremental investments requested for the updated CIP:*

## EAP Phase 1 FY2020 Budget Request

	FY2019 OpEx	FY2020 OpEx	Approved CIP	New CIP
<b><u>Renewable electricity for City operations.</u></b> Purchase of Renewable Energy Credits	\$40,000	\$100,000		
<b><u>Energy efficiency in City facilities</u></b> Integration of energy performance in the Facility Condition Index (FCI) rating process.				\$200,000
<b><u>Energy efficiency in City lighting, including streetlights</u></b> Accelerating the retrofit of City facilities' lighting to more efficient LED technology. Staff assessed LED retrofits as having a payback range of approximately 3-8 years;			\$25,000	\$925,000
<b><u>Energy efficiency in the community</u></b> Implementing a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program. Alexandria's development community has advocated for us to have a similar program as Arlington.		Up to \$450,000 in OpEx or new CIP.  <i>Staff will need to clarify the allocation of these funds between the operating budget and capital requirements.</i>		
<b><u>Accelerating electric vehicle adoption</u></b> Hire a consultant to develop a community electric vehicle charging infrastructure strategy.		\$100,000		
<b><u>Protect and add open space</u></b> Protect and add open space through acquisition, preservation, and conservation			\$1.2 million	

EPC appreciates Council's consideration of our input and your commitment to a sustainable Alexandria.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jim Kapsis  
Chair  
Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission