




ECO-CITY ALEXANDRIA



What is an Eco-City?

Eco-Cities are places where people can live healthier and economically productive lives while reducing their impact on the environment. They work to harmonize existing policies, regional realities, and economic and business markets with their natural resources and environmental assets. Eco-Cities strive to engage all citizens in collaborative and transparent decision making process, which is mindful of social equity concerns.

What is Eco-City Alexandria?

Beginning in spring 2007, the City of Alexandria partnered with Virginia Tech's School of Urban Affairs and Planning (UAP) to design and facilitate a new, strategic collaborative planning process, called *Eco-City Alexandria*. This collaborative process ultimately created an *Eco-City Charter* adopted by City Council in June 2008 and an *Environmental Action Plan* adopted by City Council in June 2009. These documents will guide both the City of Alexandria and residents towards environmental sustainability over the next twenty years and beyond.

Alexandria's Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) is the project's principal advisor along with representatives from the Alexandria City Council and City Staff. The Director of the Office of Environmental Quality serves as the City's project coordinator.

In 2007, the *Eco-City Alexandria* team conducted an inventory of existing City programs and plans, which examined best practices from across the country and around the world to create a Compendium of Model Programs and Practices. The *Eco-City Alexandria: A Green- Ventry of City Environmental Policies, Plans and Program* is an inventory of these programs.

In 2008, the *Eco-City Alexandria team worked to engage* Alexandria residents and business owners, in order to determine what it would take to make Alexandria an Eco-City. The City organized an Eco-City Summit in May 2008, where 200 residents, business owners, and City leaders gathered to discuss the draft Eco-City Charter. Mayor Bob Harvey of the City of Waitakere, New Zealand who is a pioneer of the Eco-City movement served as the Eco-City Summit's keynote speaker.

Eco-City Charter

Following the Eco-City Summit, City Council adopted the Eco-City Charter in June 2008. It was the first Environmental Charter adopted in the state of Virginia. The *Eco-City Charter* serves as a document to guide City leaders and residents towards a more sustainable, holistic, and healthy environment. It defines Alexandria's commitment to ecological, economic and social sustainability. The *Eco-City Charter* outlines essential environmental sustainability principles and core values, which reflect the City's 2015 Strategic Plan.

Environmental Action Plan

The *Environmental Action Plan* follows the guiding principles outlined in the Eco-City Charter, and serves as road map for City leaders and residents to implement the *Eco-City Charter*. City Council adopted the Environmental Action Plan in June 2009, which Outlines 48 goals, 50 targets and 353 actions towards environmental sustainability throughout the City of Alexandria for the next 20/30 years. Additionally, this document identifies both short term goals and actions for fiscal year 2009-2011 with mid and long term goals

and actions for the next 20 years and beyond.

What is Sustainability?

Sustainability is progress that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. A sustainable community is an environmentally, economically, and socially healthy place where people can live, work and play for decades to come.

Ecological Sustainability

Ensures that all parts of the natural and built environments work together as a single ecological system.

Economic Sustainability

Ensures a healthy economy that supports and sustains people and the environment in which they live over the long-term.

Social Sustainability

Ensures that a community meets residents' basic needs and has the resiliency to prevent and/or address problems in the future.

ALEXANDRIA ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, PLANS AND PROGRAMS WEBLINKS

Eco-City Alexandria Website

www.alexandriava.gov/Eco-City

Environmental Action Plan 2030

alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/eco-city/EAP_FINAL_06_18_09.pdf

Eco-City Charter

alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/oeq/EcoCityCharter2008.pdf

Eco-City Alexandria "A Green-Ventory of City Environmental Policies, Plans and Programs"

alexandriava.gov/uploadedfiles/tes/info/GreenVentoryReport.pdf

Eco-City Challenge

<http://alexandriava.gov/EcoCityChallenge>

Compendium of Model Sustainability Practices

ecocity.ncr.vt.edu/model.html

Open Space Plan

alexandriava.gov/uploadedfiles/recreation/info/OpenSpacePlan.pdf

Recreation, Parks & Cultural Activities Strategic Master Plan

alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/StrategicMasterPlan.pdf

Transportation Master Plan

alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=3088

Water Quality Management Supplement

alexandriava.gov/tes/info/default.aspx?id=3844

Solid Waste Management Plan

alexandriava.gov/uploadedfiles/tes/info/solidwastemgmtplan.pdf

City of Alexandria Green Building Policy

alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/planning/info/GreenBuildingPolicyhandout.pdf

Green Building Resource Center

<https://www.Alexandriava.gov/tes/gbrc>



Virginia
Tech