

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes  
March 1, 2010 Work Session

**EPC Members in Attendance**

✓	Scott Barstow (Chair)	✓	Danielle Fidler	✓	Laura Medhurst
✓	Jessica Bayliss Brown	✓	Patrick Hagan	✓	Kurt Moser
X	David Boxer	✓	Patricia Hilgard	✓	Peter Pennington
✓	Bobby Croghan	✓	Jennifer Hovis	✓	Phil Voorhees

[✓ = In attendance X= Absent E=Excused Absence]

**City Staff**

Khoa Tran, Bill Skrabak, Bill Eger

**Begin 7:50 PM**

**Public Comment**

None

**Administrative Items**

- EPC welcomed a new member, Kristopher “Bobby” Croghan, the first member to represent the Alexandria business community.

**Earth Day**

- Peter will be meeting with ACPS shortly to discuss the role of the new environmental stewards, both at the schools and at the Earth Day festival.
- Laura proposed a new idea for the EPC table, a game focused on whether certain items can be recycled in curbside bins; she will take the lead on organizing the activity. EPC and City staff should also find a way to incorporate the new audit tool without distributing too much paper – laptops (battery limitations) or poster boards with a few key questions for users to mark up.
- The announcement for the Pickering Award has gone out, primarily on the Earth Day web page. The City will send it out on eNews and post on Facebook, etc.

**Discussion with Energy Manager on EAP Progress**

- The City’s new Energy Manager, Bill Eger, provided an update on efforts to address energy goals and actions in the EAP. Overall progress is very good; the City expects to meet or exceed key targets earlier than planned.
- Some efforts underway include: reorganizing the Energy Conservation Committee, leveraging IT infrastructure to improve outreach and transparency, creating competitions to foster improvements (e.g., fire station contest to reduce energy usage), Climate Change Action Plan will be finalized shortly, ARRA funds are being used for energy assessments at 8 high priority facilities, will be meeting with Dominion to assess availability of usage data by zip code or area of the city to determine where to focus outreach efforts.
- Bill mentioned some complications with the large number of multi-unit residential buildings where individuals may not know their own energy usage. Property owners then struggle with spending money to inform renters over spending money on actual improvements.
- Renewable energy credits are currently offsetting 7.2% of City operations (primarily City Hall and Charles Houston). Biodiesel opportunities have not panned out yet, as costs have gone up significantly.

### **EAP Implementation**

- Khoa and Bill shared a matrix of goals and actions with current status; 44 are done. EPC should meet with the ECG to prioritize the remaining short term items (to be put on agenda for May ECG meeting).
- Peter proposed that the subgroups that were focused on each of the charter principles should reform to tackle priority items and establish networks within the city. Ultimately, EPC agreed to stay focused on the key areas identified in the retreat last fall – Tree projects, business, financing, benchmarking, and outreach. Members of each group were re-established, and Scott will resend the matrix of priorities for these groups.
- Laura mentioned that the Chamber of Commerce has invited the EPC to co-host a series of lunch meetings on sustainability; she has also secured support from the Vice Mayor to reach out to local businesses.
- EPC agreed to use work sessions (first meeting each month) to break into the subgroups and work on issues, instead of the recent tendency to use work sessions as a typical meeting. This shift will begin in April. Each subgroup is to set goals and a schedule by June.
- Members should put more emphasis on submitting email summaries of meetings they attend, in order to save time during EPC meetings.

### **Committee and Staff Updates**

- Patricia attended a VA Tech lecture on transportation issues that was led by a representative from the Congressional Research Service; she will share the presentation.
- Peter highlighted the upcoming JBG meeting on March 6 regarding development ideas and low cost housing.
- Bill mentioned the VDOT meeting on BRAC at Minnie Howard next week, intended to seek public input.
- Council work session on March 3 will focus on health and environment budget areas, including stormwater utility fee.
- EPC members are encouraged to participate in the April 10 Potomac watershed cleanup at Four Mile Run.

### **Adjourn 9:30 PM**