

## Review of Last Year's Successes and Challenges

### Successes

- Set aside of \$2 Million in City Budget for Climate/Environmental Justice Actions
- Creation of new Office of Climate Action
- Funding for 3 FTE's – Climate Action Office Leader, Communication person similar to one serving Stormwater flooding and 1 for Transportation – for Vision Zero implementation
- Meetings and Subgroup proposal with the Planning Commission on how to update the City's entitlement process to better respond to the Climate crisis and encourage City and community to take advantage of tax credits/incentives from the Inflation Reduction Act and the Infrastructure Act.
- Through our questions and examples of other jurisdictions: the building net zero buildings in Philadelphia and New York Major provided by Building Our Future: the major revision to Potomac River Generating Station's (PRGS) Consolidated Sustainability Strategy. The revision resulted in more energy efficiency, (hopefully) use new federal government incentives and including the maximum on-site renewable energy. Best get: their slide showing City's current Green Building Policy is even not as strong as current building Codes when it comes to energy efficiency.
- Budget letter to City Manager for FY24 Budget
- Provide comments on the Energy and Climate Change Task Force Draft
- Educate commissioners on Net zero buildings being built in Philadelphia New York City via Webinars from Build our Future
- Letters in support of City applications for Grants for DASH and its infrastructure
- Saving (likely) millions of dollars from City taxpayers for unnecessary "stream restoration" while protecting biodiversity and trees along Taylor and Strawberry Runs.
- Holding the line in Richmond on rollbacks of the Virginia Clean Economy Act, the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative and Clean Cars Act and successfully fighting off most other attempts to undermine ways to combat the climate crisis.

### Challenges

- Getting City Council to act with the urgency needed based upon their Declaration of Climate Emergency in 2019 including getting them to take specific actions, create City-wide discussion space, **or respond in any way** to our joint letter with Planning Commission on updating our entitlement process, i.e. Green Building Policy, CDD process, Small Areas Plan process, etc.
- Getting some elected officials to better understand the real reason it made both economic and environmental sense to NOT accept the State's Stormwater Local Assistance Fund grant for 2 of our streams