



AGENDA

EPC REGULAR MEETING

Monday, December 21, 2015

7:30 - 9:30 PM

City Hall, Room 2000 (Second Floor)

7:30 – 7:35	Welcome and Public Comments
7:35 – 7:50	Staff Consent items and EPC updates
7:50 – 8:20	Budget Letter To Council
8:20 – 8:50	Community Outreach/Sustainability Coordinator Workshop
8:50---9:20	Indicators Discussion (Geoff)
9:20 – 9:30	Agenda for next Work Session and full meeting
9:30	Adjourn

City Staff Update: 12/21/15

Prepared by Lisa Goldberg

1. The Alexandria Earth Day 2016 Committee met on December 2, 2015. Natasha Anderson chairs the committee. The event is tentatively scheduled for April 30 at George Washington Middle School. City Staff and Alex Renew have begun preparing the Ellen Pickering Award press release.
2. City staff and Stephen Thayer, the citizen representative to the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA) Reagan National (DCA) Community Working Group attended the group meeting on December 10. At this meeting Alexandria supported a motion to recommend that the Federal Aviation Administration begin its process to modify satellite navigation approach to DCA from the north so that aircraft remain directly over the Potomac River longer than occurs with the FAA aircraft approach currently in place. Additional flight path parameters and the variables will be reviewed in future meeting in 2016 to address noise mitigation from south approaches and departure flight paths.
3. City staff met with VDEQ and its remediation contractor to review the upland soil gas and groundwater monitoring and community relations plans for the Oronoco Bay outfall remediation program. DEQ officials were receptive to modifying the scope of the currently proposed remediation should additional site testing support changes to the existing dredging and cap remedial design.
4. Virginia Paving held its annual open house at the Marriot Courtyard hotel, 2700 Eisenhower on November 16 from 6-8 PM. OEQ staff attended.
5. Norfolk Southern hosted a community meeting to address its plans and progress to expand its operations at its Alexandria ethanol trans-loading facility. Fact sheets on the expansion will be posted to the City's web-site.

Environmental Policy Commission Minutes
November 16, 201 Regular Meeting

EPC Members in Attendance

	Jim Kapsis (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Susan Gitlin		Scott Barstow
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tyler Orton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jed Bullock	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annika Moman
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Aaron Karty	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Natasha Anderson		Geoffrey Goode
x	Ryan Wojtanowski		Steve Milone		Jessica Lassetter

X= Present

City Staff

Khoa Tran, Bill Eger, Lisa Goldberg

Other Attendees

Begin 7:35 PM

Welcome and Introductions

- Peter gave an overview the EPC's responsibilities to the citizen in attendance.

Public Comment

- None

Pedestrian/Bike Master Plan

- Bike lanes in between parking lanes and curbs are being considered in areas where ample street space is available on a case by case basis.
- Steve Sindiong comments that Transportation Planning is trying to look at all transportation methods in a balanced approach rather than trying to avoid on-street parking
- The Bike/Ped Master Plan has been aided by a group selected by the city manager
- The Transportation Planning department as part of this plan has set a series of goals that they are going to measure every 2 years
- Ideas for indicators may be Mode Split, Number of Kids Biking and Walking, Vehicular Miles Traveled can be particularly hard to measure
- The goals from the EAP have been pulled from the Transportation Master Plans as well as other plans
- Annika will work with the EPC on providing comments on the Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan
- The Bike/Ped plan is non prescriptive intentionally to leave room for new treatments and technologies as they become available

Chair/Vice Chair Budget Meeting w/ES Director

- Chairs and Vice Chairs were invited to a meeting on the FY17 budget
- The EPC have been asked to write a letter to Yon and The City Council
- This year's budget is starting with a 5% decrease
- Priorities raised by the EPC are the Sustainability Coordinator; Urban Forestry; Green Building Policy Update; Stormwater Utility; and EAP Update

- Annika will write a budget guidance letter draft
- Other Thoughts for budget lines could be: Recycling improvements; Having the City stop purchasing bottled water; slow down expansion of Capitol Bikeshare;

Earth Day Planning

- The theme idea for this year is "Choose To Reuse, Your Choices Matter"
- Other locations are being considered for 2016
- They are going to start meeting twice a month in January
- Some commissioners have concerns about reduce not being in the title of the event
- The EPC would like to better utilize the citizens groups in the city to promote and help with the Earth Day Event

Sustainability Coordinator Draft Memo

- The letter was approved unanimously with minor edits

Indicators Discussion

- The EPC is going to try to find time at either the next work session or the regular meeting to continue discussing indicators
- The indicators should be a way to show council and the public what we're looking to conceptualized
- Climate Change Indicator Thoughts:
 - o Emissions gap between goals and actual
 - o Vehicular fuel usage between goals and actual
- New targets may need to be set for indicators with major changes
- They Should be measurable on an annual basis and should be able to compare to other jurisdictions

Next Meeting/Worksession 12/7/15

- Talk about urban forestry and budget letter
- Outreach and the EPC's role
- Next regular meeting on 12/21

December 22, 2015

Honorable Mayor William Eulle and Members of City Council

City of Alexandria

Suite 2300, City Hall

301 King St

Alexandria, VA 22314

Dear Mayor Eulle and Members of Council:

On behalf of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), I am writing to provide our perspective on the City's environmental policies and resources, six years after Council approved the Environmental Action Plan--2030 (EAP), and to highlight areas of the FY2017 budget where EPC believes that Council can continue to advance the EAP's goals.

The EAP is a wide-ranging collection of goals, action steps, and targets to guide the City's environmental performance improvement efforts, as part of the "Eco-City Alexandria" initiative. The adoption of the Eco-City Charter and the EAP positioned Alexandria in the vanguard of Virginia cities and other cities in the U.S. of its size, establishing a vision and road map for more wisely managing finite natural and financial resources.

Despite continued progress, there is more work to be done to realize the vision of the Eco-City Charter. Local governments have a substantial impact on emissions through their decisions on transportation policy, neighborhood planning and community development, and building codes and assistance. Alexandria can pursue such efforts responsibly in a way that reduces operational expenses related to the City's energy and water use and that defers future capital expenditures associated with growing resource demand.

It is on this basis that the EPC would like to share the following priorities for the City Manager's proposed FY2017 budget. We urge Council to support the following:

- **Plan Updates:** Two of the EPC's priorities for FY2016 were to begin updating the EAP and the City's Green Building Policy. While we were disappointed by the lack of funding in the FY2016 budget to support these important updates, we have appreciated the opportunity to work with staff to incorporate some innovative green building approaches into the Old Town North Small Area Plan (SAP) process and to advance the concept of an Eco-District. However, these larger planning updates remain overdue. The Long Range Work Plan (LRWP) agreed to last June includes updates of the EAP in FY17 and the Green Building Policy in FY18. The EPC urges the Council to maintain the current schedule for the update of the EAP and asks that they direct staff to move up the timeframe for updating the Green Building policy to FY17. We believe that this will lead

to planning efficiencies and ensure our policy updates are more consistent with previous Council decisions.

- **Sustainability Coordinator:** As presented in our letter to Council dated Nov 17, 2015 requesting a new position be created for a Sustainability Coordinator, the EPC urges Council to include funding for this position in the FY17 budget. The Sustainability Coordinator would be responsible for integrating sustainability practices into the City's economic development and community planning, and engaging the public, particularly the local business and development community, to advance the City's sustainability goals. Given the City's current fiscal situation, one of the central goals of this position would be to generate a positive return on investment so that the role effectively delivers an overall benefit to taxpayers.
- **Trees:** The City's Landscape Guidelines, first published in 1997, were last updated in 2007. We urge your support of its 10-year update in 2017, with an emphasis on revisions to reflect goals and recommendations contained in the Urban Forestry Master Plan (UFMP) and the EAP, both approved by City Council in 2009. We are also working on joint recommendations with other City commissions to appoint a work group to help implement key recommendations contained in the UFMP and the EAP and update current guidelines. The proposed work group will represent City Departments and commissions responsible for the implementation of the UFMP and the EAP. In the meantime, we recommend that the City Council support additional funding in FY 2017 Operating and Capital Budgets for tree plantings and tree maintenance, as both are essential to expanding the City's tree canopy coverage to meet the goals of the approved UFMP and the EAP.
- **Stormwater Utility Funding:** The City faces real challenges in meeting its stormwater obligations over the next 10 years with the current real estate tax dedication for stormwater. Staff has wisely included an additional FTE in the Capital budget to support the study, and possible implementation, of a Stormwater Utility. The EPC believes that the City should seriously study and re-consider the establishment of a Utility, which has the potential to more equitably pay for the costs of stormwater management by tying those costs to actual services provided. Furthermore, the EPC encourages the study of a robust credit program to encourage participants to provide permanent reductions in stormwater flows. This aligns with the Eco City Charter Vision to "Share Responsibility" with the community to achieve common goals.

Comment [MA1]: Steve Milone reviewing

The EPC understands the budget gaps the City is facing, and while asking for funding to advance efforts in support of the EAP, we have identified a few areas that could be considered for reduced funding, or increased cost sharing, to help close these gaps.

Comment [MA2]: Awaiting any additional ideas from Aaron and Scott that they identified at the retreat

- **Maximize Use of Transportation Management Program (TMP) Funds:** While not a new source of funding, the TMP funds provided by developers to the City help pay for transportation related costs. In the past, and during this current year, funds are not fully

Comment [MA3]: Hillary Poole reviewing

utilized. While they remain in escrow, EPC believe they should be fully expended each year. Full use of these funds each year can contribute to defraying operating costs such as the Capital Bike Share stations. The City's current operating cost per station is \$10,000 each year.

- **Eliminate Bottled Water From City Meetings and Events:** For some City meetings and events, bottled water is provided to attendees. As an Eco-City, supplying single-use bottles is inconsistent with the commitment the City made. The budget impact may be limited, but policy sets an important example.
- **Recycling and Composting:** The commodity prices for recycled materials have dropped considerably in the last year. While reuse and recycling are significant priorities in the EAP, the EPC recommends revisiting the City's programs to ensure they remain cost effective. This includes potentially suspending the future funding of the composting pilot program.

The EPC appreciates Council's consideration of our input during this difficult budget year and your on-going support for the Eco-City Charter.

Sincerely,

Jim Kapsis
Chair, Environmental Policy Commission
kapsisje@gmail.com

CC: Alexandria Planning Commission
Alexandra Environmental Policy Commission
Yon Lambert, Director of Transportation and Environmental Services
Karl Moritz, Director of Planning & Zoning

Comment [MA4]: Lisa has confirmed that beyond FY16 funding is in question. It is still a pilot program right now. What do want to say here?

Hey Team,

I will be there on Monday and can lead a discussion on our indicators effort. The summary I prepared for the last work session remains current, as far as I know. I have unfortunately been disengaged since moving at the end of November and traveling last week.

Our goal for the meeting should be to discuss the list of indicators that have been proposed in order to determine if some, all, or none should be indicators that the City uses going forward. We are in the whittle down stage, and I think the factors below should be used to help whittle down. In essence, we want to make sure the indicators we use are informative, relevant to Alexandria, applicable to the EAP, reflect EPC and City priorities, and helpful for Council.

The link below is the current schedule of tasks for this effort.

Thanks,
Geoff

2015 EPC Environmental Indicators - Tasks.docx

Draft Indicators

- 1) Spend a few minutes re-introducing the effort, discussing as a group the purpose of the effort, and coming up with a consensus on how to approach evaluation of proposed indicators.
- 2) Before looking at individual indicators, decide if there are priority categories for indicators, so that those priorities can be reflected in the number of indicators chosen for each category.
- 3) Evaluate proposed indicators against the following criteria:
 - a. Relevance to EAP Goals
 - i. Identify the applicable EAP goals and link
 - b. Sources and availability of information for each indicator (consider the following factors)
 - . Publicly available information?
 - i. Reputation of sources
 - ii. Period of reporting
 - iii. Format of data
 - c. Trends for each indicator, if available (may help determine value)
 - d. Limitations for each indicator
 - e. How the indicator fits with the other indicators in the applicable categories
 - f. Lifespan of the indicator (short, medium, and/or long term)

Some helpful background reading:

Richmond's Progress Report for 2014:

http://www.richmondgov.com/Sustainability/documents/RVAGreen_AnnualProgressReport2014.pdf

San Francisco's Environmental Indicator Project:

<http://www.sfindicatorproject.org/indicators/environment>

EAP: http://alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/EAP%202030_Final_6-23-09_Scanned_Lower%20Resolution.pdf

- 1) Review existing indicators to determine nexus with EAP Goals (*complete*)
- 2) Develop a list of new and/or existing indicators (*ongoing*)
 - a) Develop categories of topics for indicators (*complete*)
 - b) Assign each category to one or two individuals responsible for identifying 2-3 applicable indicators (*complete*)
 - i) Indicators should include: 1) Proposed name; 2) Possible source of data; 3) Frequency of data production; 4) Time periods available
- 3) Review proposed indicators against the following factors (*ongoing - due December 21*)
 - a) Relevance to EAP Goals
 - i) Identify the applicable EAP goals and link
 - b) Sources and availability of information for each indicator (consider the following factors)
 - i) Publicly available information?
 - ii) Reputation of sources
 - iii) Period of reporting
 - iv) Format of data
 - c) Trends for each indicator, if available (may help determine value)
 - d) Limitations for each indicator
 - e) How the indicator fits with the other indicators in the applicable categories
 - f) Lifespan of the indicator (short, medium, and/or long term)
- 4) Finalize List of Proposed Indicators (*not started - January and February 2016*)
 - a) Communicate list with City staff
 - b) Identify staff concerns and either address concerns or modify list
- 5) Identify Targets (*not started - February and March 2016*)
 - a) Use current trends, targets sets by similarly situated jurisdictions, and other sources to propose targets for each indicator
 - b) Communicate targets with City staff and respond to input
- 6) Propose Final Indicator to City Council (*not started - Spring 2016*)

APPENDIX # 1: TARGETS BY DATE

The Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) also set “discussion” targets for each principle as a way to lay the groundwork about performance measures and eventual development of an EAP Score Card. Note the targets in the current draft include measures from existing plans or preliminary numbers to merely generate reactions and further discussion.

2010:

- By 2010, obtain a funded OEQ outreach position to manage MS4 and Eco-City outreach.
- By 2010, the City will purchase 5% of electricity needs through green certificates.

2011:

- Reduce fugitive emissions from the ash loading operations at Mirant Potomac River Generating Facility by 25% and coal yard operations by 20% by December 2011.

2012:

- By 2012, 95% of the restaurants in Alexandria will be totally smoke-free.
- Beginning in 2012, reduce the number of Daily Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMTs) on a per capita basis by 5% every five years.
- By 2012, reduce Business As Usual (BAU) emissions by 10% below 2012 level¹.

2013:

- Reduce stack PM emissions by a minimum of 20% by December 2013 at Mirant Power Generating Station.
- By 2013, establish mechanism for long-term dedicated funding for the purpose of maintaining and improving stormwater infrastructure.
- By 2013, preserve and/or acquire the remaining 35 acres of open space to complete 100-acre goal of the Open Space Master Plan².

2015:

- By 2015, complete Cameron Run Master Plan.
- By 2015, a 10% reduction in per-capita water consumption as estimated from wastewater volume conveyed from the city to treatment facilities.
- By 2015, reduce the per capita energy use in Alexandria by 15%.
- By 2015, track energy use of 30% of multi-family residence units.
- By 2015, ensure that all plantings on City property are non-invasive and incorporate native Plants.
- By 2015, design and install a pedestrian bridge to link Arlington and Alexandria sides of Four Mile Run.

¹ Business As Usual (BAU) targets in this section are based on targets set by Metropolitan of Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG).

² This target is in the Open Space Master Plan.

2020:

- By 2020, increase the number of commuters who use public transportation alternatives by 25% using 2000 Census data as the baseline.
- By 2020, all new buildings to achieve LEED Gold standards³.
- By 2020, 60% of all existing buildings achieve a 20% energy consumption reduction.
- By 2020, complete 90% of the in-stream portion of the Four Mile Run Master Plan.
- Retrofit 70% of feasible City facilities with BMPs by 2020 and explore water reuse operations.
- By 2020, 80% of the workplaces in Alexandria employing more than 25 persons will be totally smoke-free.
- By 2020, 25% of the City's energy portfolio will consist of clean, renewable energy sources.
- By 2020, achieve 40% tree canopy coverage.
- By 2020, exceed the goal of 35% diversion through increased waste reduction and reuse.
- By 2020, increase the recycling rate to achieve a goal of 50%.
- By 2020, reduce emissions by 20% below 2005 level⁴.

2025:

- By 2025, existing City buildings in the aggregate are 25% more energy efficient.
- By 2025, all new buildings will achieve LEED Platinum standards⁵.
- By 2025, 50% of the restaurants and grocery stores in Alexandria will qualify for designation as eco-friendly restaurants or grocery stores.
- By 2025, 50% of commercial buildings where more than 25 persons are employed will be participating in the Healthy Work Places program.
- By 2025, track energy use of 60% of multi-family residence units.

2030:

- By 2030, create three high capacity transit corridors as set forth in the 2008 Transportation Master Plan.
- By 2030, increase the number of non-single occupant vehicle (SOV) commuting trips to 50%⁶.
- By 2030, all new buildings will be carbon neutral⁷.
- Retrofit 100% of feasible City facilities with BMPs by 2030.
- By 2030, 25% of Alexandria children will walk or cycle to school

³ Reformatted from EPC GB Work Team from a goal to target; date changes from 2018 to 2020 for consistency and moved from Platinum to Gold at the ECG meeting

⁴ Business As Usual (BAU) targets in this section are based on targets set by Metropolitan of Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG).

⁵ Proposed at ECG meeting to have a phase in period from LEED Gold to Platinum to Carbon Neutral

⁶ Using 2009 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments survey data as baseline

⁷ Lack of consensus on 1) whether the building should be just carbon neutral or emission free; at ECG meeting the group consensus was to set target for 2030 and not 2020.

2030 (con't):

- By 2030, increase the number of non-single occupant vehicle (SOV) commuting trips to 50%⁸.
- By 2030, the percentage of Alexandria children and adults that are overweight or obese will have been reduced to less than 29% (currently 58%).
- By 2030, the incidence of asthma in Alexandria will be reduced by 50%.
- By 2030, 50% of the City's energy portfolio will consist of clean, renewable energy sources.
- By 2030, track energy use of 100% of multi-family residence units.
- By 2030, ensure that 25% percent of all Alexandria school children get to and from school by walking or riding bicycles.
- By 2030, ensure that 50% percent of Alexandrians commute to work by non-SOV means.
- By 2030, reuse the site of the coal-fired power plant.

2050:

- By 2050, 80% of the City's energy portfolio will consist of clean, renewable energy sources.
- By 2050, reduce emissions by 80% below 2005 level⁹.

⁸ Using 2009 Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments survey data as baseline

⁹ Business As Usual (BAU) targets in this section are based on targets set by Metropolitan of Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG).

Category

Indicator 1

KEEP: Per capita energy use, MWh per person per year (convert to kWh, if possible, for consistency)
Possible source of data: Dominion
Frequency of data production: Annual
Time periods available: Each year, if possible.
Target:

Energy - Scott, Geoff

Indicator 2

Energy use by sector (residential, commercial, industrial, residential) in kWh
Possible source of data: Dominion
Frequency of data production: Annual
Time periods available: Each year, if possible.
Target:

Water - Jessica

KEEP: Per capita water use, gallons per person per year
NAME: Energy use GHG pollution overflow
Possible source of data: Dominion and Washington Gas data on electricity and natural gas consumption, combined with EIA/SERC data on greenhouse gas emissions factors associated with electricity use in our area. These numbers would then be compared with the year's reduction target, as specified in the city's Energy and Climate Action Plan. This action plan called for reducing GHG emissions by 80% from 2005 levels by 2050. This would require a roughly 3.5% reduction in emissions each year. So, for example, community energy use-related emissions for 2015 should be just under a million tons (CO₂e), based on the community energy use-related emissions inventory reported for 2005 of 1.4 million tons CO₂e. The difference between the 0.986 million tons CO₂e target for 2015 and the actual energy-related emissions number for the year would constitute the indicator, telling us exactly how far away we are from being on trajectory to meet our GHG emissions goals.
Frequency of data production: Annual
Time periods available: Should be annual
Target: Specified in the Energy and Climate Action Plan adopted in 2011

Climate - Scott, Tyler
Transportation - Tyler, Scott

Overarching indicator: % canopy – calculated every three years

Landuse - Natasha, Susan

Openspace
Tree Canopy

Solid Waste - Tyler,

% Recycling Rate of action be? (Jessica)
City has exceeded our recycling rate. What should our next plan

Health - Geoff, Jed

KEEP: Number of days with code red/orange according the Air Quality Index

KEEP: Per capita wastewater treated, gallons per person per year

NAME: Vehicle-related GHG pollution overflow
Possible source of data: The transportation fuel use-related emissions will be harder to estimate on an annual basis. Ideally, we'd have an annual figure for estimated transportation GHG emissions, but this might depend on MWCOG or NoVA TPB sources or plans for estimating this consistently. We could have T&ES or a new sustainability coordinator—or Virginia Tech—conduct an annual survey to estimate this, or collaborate with Arlington to do this for both jurisdictions at the same time. As with the first indicator, the target can be pulled directly from the 2011 Energy and Climate Action Plan. According to the GHG inventory for 2005, our community generated 0.66 million tons of CO₂e due to on-road transportation. The same annual 3.5% reductions are needed from this starting point to achieve an 80% cut in emissions.
Frequency of data production: Annually, I hope.
Time periods available: Each year, if possible.
Target: As specified in the Energy and Climate Action Plan adopted in 2011

City contributions to canopy coverage (This would be calculated based on CCA measures in Landscape Guidelines and would include any plantings that the City directly or indirectly supports, from street tree plantings, to restoration plantings, having a hand in a tree sale with external partners, etc.)

Access to Community Gardens (within 1/2 mile)
Possible source of data: City
Frequency of data production: Annual
Time periods available: Each year, if possible.
Target:

Indicator 3

Cumulative renewable energy capacity in the community

Possible source of data: Dominion or City (permitting?)

Frequency of data production: Annual

Time periods available: Each year, if possible.

Target:

Infrastructure Practices (bioswales, green roofs, pavers, etc.) INSTEAD OF Number of stormwater best management practices (BMPs) in the City. This indicator would be a subset of the overall number of BMPs in the City with the hope that it would provide non-stormwater people with an understanding of the non-grey infrastructure in the city. Currently, EPC does

Indicator 4

Area of open space (through development redevelopment, or reclamation on city held lands) dedicated to food production or habitat for wildlife. (This may include plantings in plazas, parks, community gardens, and rooftops.) – measured and

Square footage of invasive plants removed

Percent of population living within an area with average daytime and nighttime noise level greater than 60dB

Access to Grocery store (within 1 mile)

Possible source of data: City

Frequency of data production: Annual

Time periods available: Each year, if possible.

Target:

Possible source of data: Federal Highway Administration's Traffic Noise Model and based on local traffic count data, City

Frequency of data production: Annual

Time periods available: Each year, if possible.

Target: