

Arlington's commitment to reducing energy usage

Arlington has long been committed to sustainability – economic, fiscal, and environmental. The County's "smart growth" policies have been in place since the 1960's. Arlington was one of the first localities in the region to hire an Energy Manager, in 2000.

Reduced emissions from County operations

Despite growth in the number of facilities, total CO₂ emissions from Arlington County operations **fell 2.6% between 2000 and 2005**, thanks to several new policies and practices, notably:

- Improving energy efficiency of our buildings and facilities; energy use per square foot has **fallen 6% between 2000 and 2005**.
- Energy use at traffic intersections is cut dramatically where we have installed **LED signals** in place of incandescent signals.
- Arlington now purchases **3% of our electricity from wind power** (as renewable energy credits).
- Since 2001 we have used "**B20 biodiesel**" (containing 20% soybean oil) instead of 100% petroleum diesel fuel in all of our diesel engine vehicles.
- Arlington was the **first local government on the East Coast** to purchase energy-efficient hybrid-electric vehicles; we now have **more than 60 hybrids** in our fleet.
- Arlington **plants more than 1,200 trees each year**. Trees capture and store CO₂ from the atmosphere.
- Arlington has virtually **eliminated old-fashioned incandescent lighting** in its buildings – replacing them with compact fluorescent lights – and aims to be 100% incandescent-free by the end of 2007.

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Smart growth policies yield environmental results

- Arlington is a nationally-recognized leader in **Smart Growth development**. Arlington received the U.S. EPA's first National Award for General Excellence in Smart Growth in 2002.
- Residents in our transit corridors have dramatically lower vehicle ownership -- **one in six households has no car**, and more than half of the workers in our transit corridors either take transit, walk, or bike to work.
- Arlington has **36 miles of paved, off-street bicycle paths**, and a network of bicycle routes recognized as one of the best in the nation, earning the title "Bicycle-Friendly Community."
- Arlington operates some of the nation's finest public and alternative **transportation resources**, including CommuterPage, ArlingtonTransit, and WalkArlington.

Arlington's 'green' building leadership

- Arlington is a national leader in **green building practices**, with Virginia's first certified Silver LEED™ public building (Langston-Brown). We now have 6 LEED-certified buildings, with 14 in the pipeline.
- Arlington offers an innovative **bonus density incentive for private developers** who build to LEED certification and works closely with developers to ensure that all new construction incorporates green building components.
- Arlington's **Green Home Choice** program offers guidance and "green" certification to homeowners and builders who want to build environmentally responsible homes.