

Creating an Economically and Environmentally Sustainable Arlington

Updated November 2010 – www.arlingtonva.us/energyplan



Summary

Under the leadership of Arlington County Board Chairman Jay Fiset, Arlington formed a **Community Energy and Sustainability (CES) Task Force** to identify ways to ensure our economic, energy and environmental future. The 30-person task force comprises community leaders that represent many sectors.

This “green ribbon” steering committee will make recommendations for long-term goals to **reduce the County's energy use and total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions**, and will include strategies and actions necessary to meet these goals.

A nationally recognized leader in climate action, Arlington County is working to reduce energy use and GHG emissions from government operations through the Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions (AIRE) program. The County has broadened that effort with meaningful community dialogue on GHG emissions reductions programs and energy generation, distribution, storage, and use in the **greater Arlington community**. The goal is to come together as a community and chart a course to ensure a **healthy, viable, sustainable** Arlington for generations to come.

Project goals

- Enhance Arlington's economic competitiveness
- Ensure reliable and affordable energy supplies
- Demonstrate the County's long-term commitment to environmental responsibility

Why should you care about Arlington's energy future?

- Investments in energy efficiency are **good business**. Arlington Co. Government's AIRE investments are paid back, on average, in 5 years, with net savings each year thereafter.
 - Each dollar the County invests in energy efficiency projects returns about 20 cents per year in **reduced operating costs**. Learn more at www.arlingtonva.us/aire.
- More reliable and affordable energy supplies
 - Development of locally generated energy (such as renewables) to ensure consistent energy delivery.
- Long-term commitment to environmental responsibility
 - To protect the health and economic well-being of current and future generations, we must **reduce our energy use and emissions of heat-trapping gases** by using the technology, know-how, and practical solutions already at our disposal.

The County generates 20% ROI on energy efficiencies.

Project Update

In January 2010, the Arlington County Board Chairman convened the CES Task Force, which will be in operation until spring 2011. The task force meets bi-monthly and guides the development of the Arlington **CES Task Force Report**, which will be the foundation for a subsequent implementation plan.

- The task force directed the project's technical working group, comprising County staff and project consultants, to create a *transformative* community energy plan.
- The task force helped kick off the transformation effort by selecting four potential scale project areas that the technical working group should focus on: Columbia Pike, Crystal City, East Falls Church and Rosslyn.
- The task force reviewed and commented on the summary of preliminary recommendations. The task force will be given the draft report in January 2011 for their review and comment. Check the project website - www.arlingtonva.us/energyplan for additional meeting and project information.

"Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important."