

Department:

Department of Environmental Services

Recommendation:

Build on the initial success of the Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions (AIRE), and invest in our facilities, operations, and community to further reduce carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions. To fund this initiative, a residential utility tax was imposed in FY 2008 based on the amount of electricity (kWh) and natural gas (CCF) consumed by residential properties (single-family detached/townhouse/apartment unit/condominium unit), not to exceed \$3.00 per month for each utility (electricity and natural gas).

Activities in FY 2008, such as increasing energy efficiency and purchasing wind power, will reduce emissions from County operations by 860 tons CO₂ (1.2 percent). Activity planned for FY 2009 will reduce emissions another 1,500 tons (two percent). By the end of FY 2009, CO₂ emissions from County operations will be seven percent lower than 2000.

Goal:

Reduce Arlington's greenhouse gas emissions that cause disruptive climate change. AIRE seeks to cut emissions from Arlington County government operations by ten percent (7,400 tons CO₂) by 2012 (from our 2000 baseline). In addition, AIRE seeks to stop growth in CO₂ emissions from the entire Arlington community by 2010. AIRE engages all sectors of the community to improve energy performance and reduce carbon emissions, to demonstrate that our community can make a real difference in this global effort.

Priorities for FY 2009

- Complete and issue a community-wide climate action plan based on analysis and community input.
- To reduce emissions from County operations by two percent in FY 2009 we will:
 - Deploy additional energy efficiency upgrades in County facilities to reduce energy consumption by two percent. These measures pay for themselves by reducing operating costs, and are good models for the private sector;
 - Increase the purchase of clean power from six percent of our total electricity consumption to eight percent; and
 - Fund energy demonstration projects, such as solar photovoltaic technology, and investigate innovative measures such as small-scale wind turbines.
- To slow emissions growth in the community in FY 2009 we will:
 - Recognize AIRE Champions who achieve notable reductions in greenhouse gas emissions or milestone results through climate-friendly programs or practices;
 - Assist AIRE Partners, to help the private sector implement best practices that reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency, green power, green buildings, transit services, and improved recycling;
 - Provide 60 residential and five commercial energy audits to stimulate energy-saving activity;

- Coordinate and integrate AIRE activities with related programs such as Commuter Services, promote efforts to expand pedestrian and bicycle options throughout the community, enhance recycling in commercial and multifamily housing, and improve environmental design in all County projects;
 - Enhance outreach via the Web, print media, live workshops and seminars, and other community tools to residents and businesses on energy efficiency, green power, and other emission reduction methods.
- Implement and integrate AIRE objectives and activities with collaboration from across the County government, our residents, local businesses, and other localities.

Funding Information	FY 2008	FY 2009
Expense:		
Outreach to residents and businesses	272,000	313,000
Energy efficiency improvements to County facilities	600,000	650,000
Innovative energy demonstration projects	200,000	150,000
Implement program objectives	428,000	387,000
Total Expense	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
Revenue:		
Residential Utility Tax (electricity and natural gas)	1,500,000	1,500,000
Total Revenue	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000
FTEs (new)	4.0	-