

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

2024 Priorities, Activities, and Assignments

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

Provide advice, guidance and expertise to the Arlington County Board to:

1. **Accelerate Comprehensive Climate Action** – integrates solutions to the climate crisis into all of its operations, policy, and decision making and puts the County on track in reducing Arlington’s carbon footprint – including consumption-based measurements – to levels in line with targets for 2030 and beyond identified by the IPCC as necessary to avoid the worst consequences of climate change.
2. **Integrate Climate Justice and Equity** – promotes policies that will address historical inequities such as excessive energy burden and access to open spaces and guarantee equitable access to climate action initiatives and opportunities for an inclusive transition to a sustainable community.
3. **Advance Climate-related Resilience** – fosters improvements to energy, stormwater, and other critical infrastructure to ensure long-term resiliency and reliability to adapt to changing economic, environmental, and social changes and to limit damage from and ensure rapid recovery of critical services following natural or manmade disasters.

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES– 2024

Priority Objectives¹	2024 Outcomes²	C2E2 Priority Actions & Activities³	C2E2 Assignments⁴
<p>Accelerate Comprehensive Climate Action</p>	<p><u>Buildings decarbonized</u> (Buildings account for 58% of County’s GHG emissions, per CEP p. 14)</p>	<p>Review and advise on the County’s planned 2024 update of Green Building Incentive Policy to create a practical yet ambitious approach to decarbonizing Arlington’s building sector</p> <p>Partner with County staff to craft an ambitious Climate Action Policy to replace the CEP in 2024</p> <p>Monitor and assess County staff actions to ensure Arlington is benefiting from Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) incentives and those of other federal programs</p> <p>Through the SPRC process, review, assess, and comment publicly on proposed site plans and long term development plans to ensure development projects deliver benefits consistent with County climate change mitigation goals and objectives. This</p>	<p>Energy Committee Majdi Somali</p> <p>C2E2 Commissioners on a project-by-project basis</p>

¹ Priority Objectives that we have identified above,

² Outcomes that we believe are necessary to achieve the Priority Objectives

³ What we as C2E2 are going to do to try to advance those outcomes

⁴ Who is going to be engaged in the actions and activities

		<p>includes GHG reduction, electrification, and the building reuse, reduction and recycling of construction (including demolition materials) waste, and use of low or negative building materials in construction projects, among other environmental attributes</p> <p>Update C2E2's SPRC Checklist and process to reflect revised GBIP and improve evaluation methodology</p> <p>Capitalize on budget cycle opportunities to support funding for priority programs to assist residents and property owners to save energy and eliminate onsite GHG emissions</p> <p>Advise County staff during FY 2025-2034 CIP development to explicitly identify how expenditures will meet the County's decarbonization goals, including improving energy efficiency and eliminating the use of fossil fuels in building operations</p> <p>Encourage and advise County Board members to adopt a policy directing the County manager to create Green banks / other financial mechanisms (+</p>	
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		Resilience) to leverage public and private capital to pursue goals for clean energy projects that reduce emissions	
	<p><u>Transport decarbonized</u> (Transport accounts for 36% of County's GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Capitalize on budget cycle opportunities and FY 2025-2034 CIP to support funding for priority transportation programs and investments, including electric charging infrastructure to serve both county fleets and residents.</p> <p>Through engagement, consultation, and review of relevant plans, advise County staff on how to expand transit and other multi-modal options to reduce vehicle miles traveled, including piloting microtransit service in neighborhoods where transit is underutilized</p> <p>Promote the adoption of a transition plan to replace ART CNG buses with zero emission buses that meet transit needs using the most efficient and cost-effective technology for Arlington's urban conditions.</p>	<p>Energy Committee Kevin Vincent Joan McIntyre</p>

	<p><u>Renewable energy installed</u> (Fossil-fueled energy systems contribute to all GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Work with County Board and staff to craft policies and programs to promote local control over energy sources through creation of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), possibly regionally, or other consumer choice mechanisms</p> <p>Advise County staff on ways to promote IRA incentives and other strategies to expand renewable energy sources within Arlington, as well as the VA Community Solar program</p> <p>Through the SPRC process and through advice to County staff on public education campaigns, promote onsite renewable energy (solar panels) combined with battery storage and microgrids (furthers Equity/Resilience)</p>	<p>Energy Committee</p>
	<p><u>County Government is leading by example</u> (County Gov't, including APS, accounts for 4% of County's GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Advise on and influence County staff plans to install all electric systems in all new and retrofitted facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PFRC Process ● FY 2025-34 CIP transparency <p>Advise on and influence County staff plans to procure electric vehicles and adopt strong green purchasing policy</p>	<p>Joan McIntrye Jonathan Morgenstein</p>

		<p>Work with other Commissions and community groups to develop a consensus on how climate action should be reflected in County budget and policy documents. Work together to convey these priorities and exert greater influence on relevant County decisions and actions.</p>	
	<p><u>County’s 2024 Solid Waste Management Plan & procurements strongly reflect Zero Waste principles</u> (Solid Waste accounts for 2% of County’s GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Contribute to development of best-possible Zero Waste Plan that prioritizes reduce and reuse strategies and promotes effective recycling strategies</p> <p>Encourage County to facilitate business practices that foster sustainable, low carbon, and inclusive lifestyles</p>	
<p>Integrate Climate Justice and Equity</p>	<p>Lower and middle income <u>(LMI) residents have shared their Climate Justice and Equity concerns with County</u></p>	<p>Support Countywide dialogue on identifying and providing solutions that address CJE issues specific to Arlington in partnership with the Chief Race and Equity Officer and Climate Policy Coordinator</p> <p>Encourage County to undertake programming that responds to C2E2 priorities , including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing energy efficiency and electrification for new buildings or retrofits of affordable housing to 	<p>Eric Gibbs</p>

		<p>reduce energy burden of LMI residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promoting onsite renewable energy (solar panels) combined with battery storage and microgrids ● Ensuring equitable access to green spaces ● Developing and implementing policies to eliminate the heat island effect 	
Advance Climate-related Resilience	<u>Watersheds, buildings, and critical infrastructure protected</u> from severe weather, and flooding from 10-year and 100-year storms	<p>Encourage County to do benchmarking of stormwater protection standards, heat island prevention strategies, and metrics adopted by other local jurisdictions</p> <p>Recommend ways the County can better protect watersheds, buildings, and critical infrastructure, and improve its response capability to safeguard health, safety, property & welfare of residents against expected climate impacts</p> <p>Revise the C2E2 Checklist for SPRC review to establish criteria for evaluating urban heat island effects, and to upgrade its criteria for stormwater management, two adverse environmental impacts closely related to climate change</p>	Mark Greenwood David Evans

		<p>Encourage County adoption of effective nature-based solutions to improve resilience of Arlington’s watersheds, buildings and infrastructure while enhancing the natural environment in the County and minimizing loss of mature tree canopy coverage.</p>	
	<p><u>Natural ecosystems increasingly healthy and tree canopy coverage steady or increasing</u> to reduce the urban heat island effect, provide restorative access to nature for all residents, and serve as a key element in reducing impacts of extreme weather</p>	<p>Monitor and advise County staff on implementation of new Forestry and Natural Resources Master Plan that will protect and expand Arlington’s natural resources and tree canopy on public and private property</p> <p>Pursue adoption or revision of building codes and sector plans to limit building footprints and impervious surface to preserve and enhance availability of open space, tree canopy, and native landscaping and address stormwater runoff.</p> <p>Promote incorporation of biophilic principles in building design, including bird-friendly glass, dark sky compliant lighting, native plant landscaping, and large canopy trees through the SPRC process.</p>	<p>Joan McIntyre Mikaila Milton David Evans</p>

2023 Assignments

ACTIVITY	LEAD COMMISSIONER(S)	OBJECTIVE(S)	MEETING SCHEDULE
Ongoing Committee Memberships (where C2E2 Commissioners are appointed as members)			
Public Facilities Review Committee	Commissioners as assigned	Participate in commission meetings	Varies (usually 1-2 per month) https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/
Solid Waste Committee	TBD -	Solid Waste Committee to continue to share information with C2E2	
Energy Subcommittee	EC Chair, Doug Snoyenbos Vice Chair: Elizabeth Whitney C2E2 members: Kevin Vincent, Elizabeth Whitney, Jonathan Morgenstein, Rob Sandoli	Support implementation of CEP and other energy-related items	Second Wednesday of each month
Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group	Joan McIntyre David Evans	Oversee the implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plan and along with the Urban Forestry and Parks and Recreation Commissions, advise more effectively on natural resource issues	First Monday of every month https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/natural-resources-advisory-group/

Committee/Commission Liaisons			
Bicycle Advisory Committee	Primary: Majdi Shomali Alternate:	Identify shared priorities and coordinate on policy/project recommendations when appropriate	First Monday of the month https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/bicycle-advisory-committee/
Pedestrian Advisory Committee	Primary: Cindy Lewin Alternate:	Identify shared priorities and coordinate on policy/project recommendations when appropriate	Second Wednesday of the month https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/pedestrian-advisory-committee-2/
Forestry and Natural Resources Commission	Primary: Mikaila Milton: Alterate: David Evans	Identify shared priorities and coordinate on policy/project recommendations when appropriate	Fourth Thursday of the month https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/urban-forestry-commission-ufc/
Transportation Commission	Primary: Kevin Vincent Alternate: Jonathan Morgenstein	Identify shared priorities and coordinate on policy/project recommendations when appropriate	First or last Thursday of the month (varies) https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/transportation-commission-tc/
Site Plan Review Committee	Primary: Mark Greenwood	Coordinate C2E2 participation in site plan review process	2-3 total per month, with each project having 3-4 meetings https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/sprc/
Chesapeake Bay Ordinance Review Committee	Primary: Mark Greenwood Alternate: David Evans	Participate in reviews of requests for exceptions to the Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance	Meets as needed to hear exception requests, typically 2-3 times per year
Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC)	Primary Mikaila Milton Alternate:	Participate in the subcommittee activities, draft report	Generally meets on the second Monday every other month
Administrative Regulation 4.4 Review Subcommittee	Ad Hoc	Work with staff to update Admin Reg 4.4 and the Environmental Assessment checklist.	DES staff revisions to EA process (check in with Rich Dooley, AIRE) may change the process for reviewing EAs

Commissioner Tasked with Meeting Applicants	Primary: Mikaila Milton	Meet with C2E2 applicants to screen them and assist with keeping Commission slots filled.	As needed based on openings, applications, and interest.
Advisory Group Liaisons			
BioSolids Advisory Committee	Primary: Joan McIntyre		