

Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission

Adopted - December 2020

Introduction: The Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2) is created as an advisory body by the County Board of Arlington County, Virginia, to provide counsel to the County Board on matters pertaining to climate change, energy, and the environment.

Mission: C2E2's primary responsibility is to advise and assist the Arlington County Board in meeting Arlington's commitment to climate action; helping to identify and address risks to the community created by climate change; protecting Arlington's environment; and ensuring that energy is generated, transmitted, used, and stored in a responsible and efficient manner. It shall report promptly on any subject that may be referred to it by this Board. It may conduct public meetings, hearings, and educational programs.

Governing Documents: Board-adopted policy documents that pertain to the advisory group's mission, include but are not limited to:

- Community Energy Plan
- Stormwater Master Plan and related ordinances and plans
- Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance
- Solid Waste Ordinance
- Environmental Assessment process for public facilities
- Arlington County Equity Resolution and related ordinances and plans
- Green Building Incentive Policy and related ordinances and plans
- Sustainable Public Facilities Policy

Functions and Scope: The Commission shall study and make reports and recommendations to the County Board on:

- Climate change action, including measures to advance energy efficiency, renewable energy, electrification of buildings and transportation, energy equity, energy security, and the rapid reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from County facilities and the community as a whole.
- Threats posed by climate change to community infrastructure, health and well-being.
- Environmental justice.
- Sustainable policies and practices, including progress toward Arlington's zero waste goal.
- The sustainability of the natural environment of Arlington, taking into account the inter-relationships among the air, water and land in their various uses.
- Environmental issues impacting the health of our citizens.

County projects and policies impacting or addressing climate change, energy or the environment, including review of Environmental Assessments.

To accomplish these objectives, the Commission shall:

1. Monitor regional bodies dealing with climate change, energy and environmental issues and advise the County Board concerning significant proposals.
2. Review the annual budget and biennial Capital Improvement Program prior to County Board adoption.
3. Review climate change, energy and environmental components of proposed County projects, as appropriate, providing input to other County Board advisory groups and the Board.
4. Identify climate change, energy and environmental issues affecting the County and its citizens and assist the County in addressing such issues.
5. Participate in County planning activities to provide climate change, environmental and energy-related input, working closely with the Planning Commission and Department of Community Planning, Housing and Development.
6. Designate members to attend Public Facility Review Committee meetings and Planning Commission Site Plan Review Committee meetings to provide climate change, energy and environmental review of development plans.
7. Liaise with commissions in related areas, including Planning, Transportation, Forestry and Natural Resources, Park and Recreation, Housing, Emergency Preparedness, and Fiscal Affairs.

In its work, the Commission adopts the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's view that, "To pursue sustainability is to create and maintain the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony to support present and future generations. Sustainability is a complex area that requires a systems approach that acknowledges the interconnections among environmental, social, economic, and other policies and practices.

Membership: C2E2 shall comprise up to 15 members. The Commission shall strive to maintain members from diverse backgrounds with expertise or a significant interest in green buildings, sustainable transportation, renewable energy, environmental justice, climate change mitigation and adaptation, natural resources, solid waste, and stormwater management. The County Board will appoint and maintain a roster of members including:
Name, address, contact info, date of appointment, appointment expiration date.

Members will be appointed for two-year terms, and with reappointment, shall be

permitted to serve no more than six (6) consecutive years. All members serve at the pleasure of the Board.

A member of C2E2 who fails to attend three (3) C2E2 meetings in a single year without providing advance notice to the Chair, or staff, may be asked to resign his or her remaining term on the Commission. The Commission Chair, after consultation with the County Board liaison, shall notify the member if such an action is warranted.

C2E2 members are expected to serve a liaison function to relevant parties in Arlington by request or at the initiation of C2E2.

Chair, Vice Chair and Committees: The County Board shall appoint the Chair annually. Also, up to two members of the group may be appointed by the County Board to serve as Vice-chair(s). C2E2 may create committees, as necessary, to fulfill its mission under the advice and consent of this Board.

Committee Membership: The Chair shall appoint committee leadership. Committee Chairs shall be active C2E2 members. Committee membership may include persons who are not members of C2E2.

Staff Liaison: The County Manager shall designate a person to serve as staff liaison to C2E2.

Meetings: C2E2 will meet as needed to adequately fulfill its role and responsibilities outlined in this charter. Meetings are typically once a month on Monday evenings. All meetings will comply with Virginia Open Meeting requirements and the Freedom of Information Act. Agendas and meeting minutes will be made available to the public in a timely manner. The Advisory Group Handbook provides additional information on the conduct of meetings as well as communication protocols that should guide all members in their advisory group work.

Reporting to the Board: C2E2 will provide recommendations to the County Board about climate change, energy and environmental issues. C2E2 will at a minimum submit an annual report to the County Board after consultation with the Board Liaison. C2E2 may, on occasion, be asked to provide comment at a regular Board meeting or Board work session. In addition, testimony from advisory groups on budget and capital spending priorities is always welcome. The Chair should consult with the staff liaison and review the published public hearing schedules.

Update of this Charter: From time to time, C2E2 shall review this charter to ensure that it meets current needs. Any requests for changes must be processed through the Board Liaison.