

**CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION**  
**c/o Department of Environmental Services**  
**2100 Clarendon Blvd., Suite 705**  
**Arlington, VA 22201**

February 1, 2021

**TO:** Matthew de Ferranti, Chair, Arlington County Board  
**FROM:** Joan McIntyre, Chair, Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission  
**SUBJECT:** Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission 2020 Annual Report

**CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION**  
**2020 ANNUAL REPORT**

The Commission appreciates the opportunity to present a review of its 2020 activities and actions.

The Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2) bade farewell to several dedicated Commissioners this year: Mike Hanna, Claire O’Dea, and Carol Rakatansky. The Commission thanks these members for their service and commitment. The Board appointed three new Commissioners in 2020: Kevin Vincent, Carrie Thompson, and Stephen D’Alessio. The following other members served on the Commission: John Bloom (Chair), Timothy Effio, Mike Hanna, Teresa Leonardo, Michael Mesmer, Jonathan Morgenstein and Gabriel Thoumi.

As has been stated by many, 2020 was a year unlike any other. In 2020, E2C2 became C2E2. Commissioners of E2C2 worked with other commissions, the Board and staff to update their name and charge. This was a major change for the Commission that has been known as E2C2 for decades.

The Commission also revised their charter to reflect a renewed and focused effort on climate change-related actions. Under the revised charter, C2E2 now advises and assists the Arlington County Board in meeting Arlington’s commitment to climate action on:

- 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.

The C2E2 ceased meeting during the months of April, May, and June of this year as required by the County because of the COVID-19 pandemic. This was a difficult period for the Commission to balance critical work that was needed to advise the Board and halting all communications as a group. Nevertheless, the C2E2 worked collaboratively with staff to restart meetings virtually. C2E2 worked on several issues in the County and participated in numerous task forces and working groups with other commissions and citizens' groups. Commissioners educated themselves on a number of environmental issues relevant to Arlington now and in the future.

The Commission continued to seek opportunities to improve communications with County staff and Arlington Public Schools. The Energy Subcommittee, formed in 2017, remained focused on implementation of the Community Energy Plan (CEP) and provided input to the recent CEP Implementation Framework update process.

C2E2 routinely worked with the Planning Commission, Urban Forestry Commission, the Parks and Recreation Commission, and several task forces, including the Career Center Working Group, Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group, Neighborhood Conservation Advisory Committee, and the Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee.

Finally, the Commission continued its tradition of hosting a public comment period at the beginning of each meeting. Many residents provided valuable comments on a variety of issues throughout the year.

The Commissioners wish to thank all County staff who provided information and support to C2E2 in 2020. Staff members regularly attended C2E2 meetings, providing detailed reports and offering assistance in a timely manner. We are grateful to all staff who offered their time and expertise to the Commission this year.

Major issues addressed by the Commission during the year include the following:

#### **Green Building and County Energy**

- The Commission heard multiple presentations on the Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework, including scope and process.
- The Commission discussed recommendations from the Energy Committee to amend the Community Energy Plan Implementation Framework, Green Building Update, and regarding Site Plans.
- C2E2 heard updates on the Green Building Incentive Policy Program and coordinated with the Energy Committee to provide comments to staff and the Board.
- The Commission received an informational briefing on the County's solar VPPA with Amazon.

#### **Solid Waste Issues**

- The Commission's Solid Waste Committee was chaired by Joan McIntyre.
- The Commission discussed and provided input on the County's Zero Waste Goal, curbside composting, plastic bag tax, and other waste-related issues.

### **Environmental Assessments**

- No Environmental Assessments were brought before the Commission for review in 2020.
- Staff presented a draft EA 4.4 online tool and process in December 2020. The Commission continues eagerly toward an updated EA 4.4 process and framework.

### **Stormwater and Water Treatment**

- Mike Hanna served on the Four Mile Run Joint Task Force.
- The Commission heard an update from staff regarding stormwater projects and funding.

### **Open Space and Natural Resource Issues**

- Claire O’Dea served on the Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee.
- Claire O’Dea, Teresa Leonardo, and Shawn Norton served on the Natural Resource Joint Advisory Group, along with members of the Urban Forestry and Park and Recreation Commissions to oversee implementation of the Natural Resources Management Plan.
- C2E2 engaged in multiple projects and advocated for the preservation and continued acquisition of open and natural space.

### **Legislative and Fiscal Issues**

- C2E2 provided comments to the Board regarding the County Manager’s proposed and final FY2021 budget.
- C2E2 provided comments to the Board regarding legislative agenda items for 2021.

### **Transportation Issues**

The Commission discussed electric vehicles, charging, County fleet electric vehicles, and broader community planning.

### **In other actions, the Commission:**

- Met with Board Member Matt de Ferranti
- Met with DES Director Greg Emanuel.
- Met with OSEM Bureau Chief Demetra McBride
- Discussed diversity, equity, and inclusion.
- Discussed commercial development and strategic planning to address new projects.
- Discussed the MWCOG Environmental Justice (EJ) Toolkit
- Reviewed and updated the Work Plan on various occasions as Commissioners joined and cycled off of C2E2.

### **The Commission wrote 6 letters to the Board regarding:**

- C2E2 2019 Annual Report
- C2E2 Workplan
- Legislative Priorities
- Deer Population Control
- 1900 Crystal Drive
- Green Building Incentive Policy Update

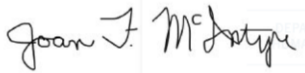
Commissioners were members or active liaisons with the following groups and task forces:

- C2E2 Energy Subcommittee
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group

- Solid Waste Committee
- Public Facilities Review Commission
- Public Spaces Master Plan Update Advisory Committee (POPS)
- Four Mile Run Valley Working Group
- Solids Master Plan Working Group
- Site Plan Review Committee of the Planning Commission
- Chesapeake Bay Ordinance Review Committee
- Urban Forestry Commission
- Bicycle Advisory Committee
- Pedestrian Advisory Committee
- Metropolitan Washington Council of Government Air and Climate Public Advisory Committee

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues while continuing the Commission's work and taking on new environment and energy issues that face Arlington in 2021.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan F. McIntyre". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

Joan McIntyre  
Chair, Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission