

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

December 16, 2025

TO: Takis Karantonis, Chair, Arlington County Board

FROM: Cindy Lewin, Chair, Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission

SUBJECT: Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission 2025 Annual Report

The Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission (C2E2) appreciates the opportunity to present a review of its 2025 activities and actions. In addition to recognizing our own members for contributing their time and expertise on a volunteer basis, we would like to thank Susan Cunningham, who served as Board liaison to C2E2 this year and has been extremely helpful and insightful.

I. Major Accomplishments

- Climate Action Resolution - We were delighted to contribute to and celebrate with the Board the passage of the Climate Action Resolution, something C2E2 has been seeking for several years.
- Green Building Incentive Policy- C2E2 worked closely with staff on the revised update to the Green Building Incentive Policy (GBIP). We appreciated the open communication with staff and particularly the opportunity to participate in the August stakeholder roundtable with developers. We look forward to an update of the County's standard site conditions in 2026 as an important part of making the GBIP successful.
- Revised SPRC Scorecard – C2E2 substantially updated the scorecard we use to analyze new construction projects in order to reflect innovations in building construction, energy, technology, and marketplace expectations, so that we can provide more constructive advice and help the Board achieve the carbon neutrality goals it has adopted.
- Sustainable Development - Through our consistent participation in the site plan review committee (SPRC) process for private sector projects, C2E2 highlighted for the Planning Commission and County Board the strengths and weaknesses of building designs in meeting the County carbon neutrality and other sustainability goals. We were generally supportive, with recommendations for improvement, of nine projects and opposed to one, One Rosslyn. This year we added analyses of adaptive reuse projects to our portfolio despite the lack of required information or public meetings due to the expedited process for these strategic projects.
- Whole-of-Government/Whole-of-Community - C2E2 was pleased to see the progress

made on our top priority objective in our work plan, the “whole-of-government and whole-of-community” approach. We applauded the leadership shown by Jennifer Fioretti and the Climate Policy Office in these areas.

- Innovation - We sought innovative ideas from external sources and worked to educate ourselves and County staff, with particular kudos to the Energy Committee for bringing in numerous speakers. Together, we heard from the following outside speakers:
 - JBG Smith on sustainability challenges in Arlington - Kim Pexton, senior vice president of sustainability
 - Sacramento Municipal Utility District on virtual power plants
 - Dominion Energy on its virtual power plant pilot program
 - Voltus, a leader in virtual power plants, on Virginia’s virtual power plant
 - Amazon on its clean energy policy
 - Rappahannock Electric Cooperative on data centers
 - Ivy Main, well-known energy consultant, on Virginia legislative priorities
 - Securing America’s Future Energy on the anticipated impact of artificial intelligence on transportation
 - Coalition for Green Capital of ICLEI on financing green projects
 - Dandelion Energy on technological advances in geothermal heating in residential homes
 - Rewiring America (former employee) on home electrification - David Friedman, now a member of C2E2

These presentations and dialogue with the speakers influenced our work and our advice to the Board.

- Advocacy Group Dialogue - C2E2 leadership continued to meet regularly with representatives of environmental advocacy groups that are active locally to stay apprised of their priorities and insights. While the role of these groups is somewhat different from C2E2’s role as an advisory commission to the Board, this connectivity and collaboration is valuable in informing the advice we give to the Board and continuing to expose C2E2 to new ideas and perspectives.
- Close Staff Working Relationships - Following the much-anticipated creation of the Climate Policy Office (CPO) and hiring of Jennifer Fioretti and Rich Dooley as Assistant County Manager and Director of Climate Policy respectively, C2E2 developed strong relationships with both, inviting them to speak at C2E2 and its Energy Committee regularly and providing feedback on the first CPO work plan and other initiatives. The same is true of Jason Papacosma, who assumed the Bureau Chief of OSEM role, which includes the AIRE team, at the end of 2024. In fact, we have had all six members of the AIRE team present to C2E2 so we understand staff expertise, areas of focus, and capacity. We have found this staff interaction very valuable and hope they feel the same.

II. Letters from C2E2 to the County Board in 2025

We provided more than 20 letters to the County Board on a variety of issues this year:

- Environmental Issues that Arose in 2025
 - Master Transportation Plan Visions and Goals– in addition to a letter to the Board, C2E2 provided many sets of comments from C2E2
 - Gas-Powered Leaf Blowers
 - Tree Canopy Fund
 - Dominion Energy comments on virtual power plant pilot – these were provided to the County’s Climate Policy Office, which incorporated many of them into the County’s official response
 - Comments on the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments Climate Action Plan – developed by a subcommittee of commissioners and provided to the County’s Climate Policy Office, charged with preparing the County’s official response
- Building Development: GBIP, SPRCs, and adaptive reuse projects
 - Updated GBIP Proposal Comments
 - Standard Site Conditions Update Need
 - Updated C2E2 SPRC Scorecard - substantially revised
 - SPRCs, PDSPs, and Adaptive Reuse Projects
 - 1801/1900 S. Bell St (adaptive reuse)
 - 2500 Wilson Boulevard
 - 4100 Fairfax Drive (adaptive reuse)
 - Ballston One
 - Clarendon Square
 - Hotel Pentagon
 - Inn of Rosslyn
 - Melwood
 - One Rosslyn
 - RiverHouse – our letter analyzed three different buildings and included three checklists
 - Shirlington House
 - UCMUD Clarendon self-storage project
- Recurring Annual Topics
 - Budget
 - Overall FY 2026 budget
 - Requested increase in AIRE team staffing for FY 2027
 - Supported continued or increased operating and CIP funding for invasive plant removal and protection of our natural land for FY 2027
 - Legislative Priorities

III. Representatives from C2E2 to Other County Groups

Commissioners served as C2E2 representatives to the following County advisory commissions, committees, or other groups:

- Energy Committee of C2E2
- Solid Waste Committee of C2E2
- Comprehensive Plan Update Long Range Planning Committee

- Arlington's Transportation Future Advisory Group
- Public Spaces Master Plan Implementation Advisory Committee (PSMP-IAC)
- Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group (C2E2, Parks and Recreation, and Forestry and Natural Resources)
- Forestry and Natural Resources Commission (dedicated slot for C2E2 member)
- Low Residential Study of the Long Range Planning Committee
- Public Facilities Review Committee
- BioSolids Advisory Committee
- Various Site Plan Review Committees and Long Range Planning Commissions

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We are proud of what we accomplished this year, but importantly, our successes are your successes – it is the actions taken by the County Board that make our work matter. Thank you for your engagement and attention throughout the year. We look forward to working on these critical issues with all of you in 2026 and the coming years.

Respectfully,



Cindy Lewin
Chair, Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission

Attachment: 2026 C2E2 Work Plan