

**MEETING MINUTES OF THE HYBRID MEETING  
ARLINGTON COUNTY C2E2 ENERGY COMMITTEE**

The **C2E2 ENERGY COMMITTEE** (EC) convened its virtual meeting via MS Teams at **7:00 PM** on **April 16, 2025**.

**PRESENT**

Elizabeth Whitney  
Stephanie Burns  
John Bloom  
Kip Malinosky  
Rob Sandoli  
Jamie Kern  
Scott Brideau  
Kevin Vincent  
Doug Snoeyenbos  
Greg Brozak

**ABSENT**

Scott Dicke  
Claire Noakes  
Jonathan Morgenstein

**STAFF**

Rich Dooley

**GUESTS**

Cindy Lewin

**SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS/DISCUSSIONS**

1. Review/approve meeting agenda and March meeting summary (7:00) – **Elizabeth Whitney**
  - Both were approved unanimously
2. Public Comment (7:05)
  - Bronson Bast, Community Engagement Lead with SolarApp+™, described the benefits of the SolarAPP+™ tool.
    - SolarApp+™ is a free, widely used solar plan review tool that streamlines the permitting and inspection process for residential solar by automatically verifying code compliance. SolarApp+™, is live in almost 300 jurisdictions in 15 states - including Virginia. SolarApp+™ has issued over 85,000 permits to date.
    - SolarApp+™ is offering technical assistance to prepare for the deployment of Solar for All funds in Virginia.
    - Customization of SolarApp+™ for use in a jurisdiction only takes about two weeks and is supported by SolarApp+™ onboarding staff. This includes a registration walkthrough and validation of local requirements.
    - If Arlington County is interested in next steps they should reach out to Bronson Bast at [bronson.bast@solarappfoundation.org](mailto:bronson.bast@solarappfoundation.org) to schedule a one-on-one review of the tool and to discuss customization options.
    - K. Vincent – are funds being rolled back from the Trump admin? A: No, SolarForAll funds are not impacted
    - J. Kern – Does SolarApp work for MFH? A: No, not currently.

### 3. CPO Work Plan – (7:10) – **Jennifer Fioretti, Assistant County Manager for Climate Policy**

- JF provided a Climate Policy Office (CPO) Work Plan presentation (Attachment A)
- The CPO's work is organized into what we like to call the 4C's:
  - As a "Climate Champion" our role is to support and champion the County's efforts to develop and implement systemic climate solutions.
  - Commitment – Here we will participate in supporting the County's commitment to climate action through policy development and advancing legislative efforts that will result in measurable and sustainable progress.
  - Coordination – Promote collaboration and partnership within and outside the County, share best practices and facilitate the creation of new relationships to advance our mutual goals and objectives around sustainability and climate.
  - Communication – Through inclusive engagement and communication, the CPO seeks to build upon and add to the incredible resources already available through county programs and initiatives to inspire climate action.
- It is important for us to work with our internal stakeholders, external stakeholders, and our regional partners
- There are three buckets to the work plan – it all ties back to the CEP; the work plan is grounded in the CEP
  - Slide 5 shows how all of the Work Plan items fit into addressing CEP sectors
- The GetGreen app is intended to meet people from where they are in their journey toward addressing climate change impacts
- Our Climate Hub is going to be one place where people can go to find all of their climate change information. This is similar to the County's [Arlingteens](#) initiative.
- We are planning to create a residential climate toolkit to help groups and individuals to spread the CPO's messages
- In addition, we plan to launch an important Corporate Climate Leaders network. We are in the process of setting up a partnership with a nonprofit that is well-versed in working with large and small businesses across the US. We are also working to identify the best local university to have a role in this initiative.
- Our HVAC EE Education Program aims to advance use of heat pumps with residents and with commercial property owners. We recently held with the City of Alexandria a listening session with contractors to find out how we could support that sector.
- For government, we are working with our AED partners to advance our sustainable tourism website. For every \$1 in sales and marketing invested by the County, we get \$9 in return in revenue for the County.
- We are going to be advancing the Climate Action Plan in 2025.
- In Dec. 2024 we launched our Climate Leadership Network – every County department is involved. We bring in speakers quarterly to help inform our staff about various climate change connections. On April 27 we are bringing in Jason Samenow to talk about the Mid-Atlantic region when it comes to climate change and what we can do about the forecasted climate change in our area.
- We are conducting policy research & development, together with our County staff partners.
- Lastly, on April 22nd we are providing a Climate 101 training series designed for local government staff.
- D. Snoeyenbos – Asked how the filling of our open CPO FTEs is going. A: Last week, we posted our Climate Communications position – it closes tomorrow at Midnight – please encourage good people you know to apply. We are getting really good interest. We have a second Environmental Policy Analyst position that is open and our hope is to post that job in the near future.
- E. Whitney – Asked about a CAP consultant. Is the County using its existing contracts to find and secure that consultant? A: Yes, that is the process we are in right now.

- J Bloom – Any chance you can educate people about building electrification? A: Yes – our job is to help communicate complex topics in ways that people can understand.
  - **ACTION:** Please send us recommendations to good speakers on the topic.
  - We will be at the DC Healthy Homes Fair to help educate people.
  - Our Libraries staff are also interested in helping educate people.
- G. Brozak – I am getting an electric induction cooktop installed next week. A lot of people do not know the difference between an electric cooktop and an induction cooktop.
  - Also, when it comes to HVAC, some people think about electric heating using heat pumps and confuse that with baseboard electric resistance heaters. A: We heard during our session with the City of Alexandria that contractors needed an education packet for homeowners to help homeowners understand the benefits of switching from natural gas furnaces → heat pumps.
- E. Whitney thanked Jen for the work she is doing and for moving things along.

#### 4. Amazon updates – (7:50) – **Ray Fakhoury, Manager, AWS Energy Policy**

- E. Whitney introduced Ray Fakhoury who will tell us what Amazon Web Services (AWS) has been doing to address climate change. She also noted how data center growth in N. VA is a key area of interest of Arlington and other N. VA localities.
- R. Fakhoury heads the AWS energy activities. He is primarily focused on the eastern US region.
- There are no slides in tonight's verbal update
- AWS is working with Dominion Energy (DOM) on data center development
  - 75 billion dollars – invested in the last 12 years in VA by Amazon for data center investments
  - In 2023, Amazon announced another \$35B being invested outside of northern VA.
    - MS, IN, OH, and markets in the west are areas other than VA where data center investments (billions of dollars) are happening
- AI is not just about ChatGPT. AI is software used by companies to add data to its processes to make those firms more efficient and reliable in a timely manner. AI helps to dramatically shorten various R&D timelines.
- The use and need of AI really requires more energy supply.
- Biggest issues: interconnection queue backlogs.
  - Those backlogs need to be addressed to get more clean energy projects forward.
- AWS has invested \$500M in a small modular reactor (SMR) project in hopes that it goes online by 2039.
  - It is an equity investment, which is even more skin in the game than a PPA.
  - They also invested in XEnergy (in the NW) to fund SMR projects to move them forward.
  - AWS is also helping to fund nuclear power to be added to the Lake Anna site in VA.
- AWS is also optimizing their data centers.
  - That includes low-carbon concrete, and making their data centers energy efficient.
  - By moving the data center activities to the cloud, they are making those data center processes more efficient than keeping the data center processing activity onsite.
- Amazon is a leader in clean energy purchasing year over year.
- Amazon also sees the importance in investing in the grid and is doing exactly that.
- FERC is working to improve its processes for new energy projects.
  - Tapestry aims to expedite the process for getting them through the interconnection queue in PJM territory.
- R. Fakhoury also mentioned Grid Enhancing Technologies and how they can help improve the grid.
  - That said, utilities need to be willing partners for such grid improvements.
- E. Whitney noted her recently launched newsletter that covers such topics like data centers, SMRs, and virtual power plants (VPPs).

- S. Brideau asked, Given the scale of AWS and other companies' needs, are there any conversations going on with power suppliers that address the probability that residential and small businesses may be steamrolled in this equation? Will this essentially pull attention away from historically underserved areas that desperately need better infrastructure? A: Amazon is investing in projects that will help the grid overall in hopes that it helps all customers that use the grid.
- A few reports were shared in the meeting chat during the course of the discussion.
  - [https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/Rand\\_Queue%20Up\\_2022\\_Tx%26Ix\\_Summit\\_061223.pdf](https://www.energy.gov/sites/default/files/2023-07/Rand_Queue%20Up_2022_Tx%26Ix_Summit_061223.pdf)
  - <https://eelp.law.harvard.edu/extracting-profits-from-the-public-how-utility-ratepayers-are-paying-for-big-techs-power/>
  - The JLARC report from 2024 noted that Amazon pays more than its fair share when it comes to the need for additional energy resources on the grid and the transmission infrastructure to support data centers.
  - Co-locating has been happening for years. However, Amazon wants to invest in the grid instead in order to help the grid.
- J. Kern – How is Amazon approaching different jurisdictions around the country? Is there a central message Amazon uses no matter where Amazon is presenting? A: Yes; one of our core tenets = building trust. Our narrative is expanding infrastructure, investing in more clean power, access to water and access to clean electricity. The same principles apply to whatever project they are pursuing. Amazon shareholders demand Amazon to keep to its principles.
- J. Kern – The energy producers are saying that natural gas is the answer to the more energy needed by data center developers. What do AI and data center providers say about this? A: While natural gas is being billed as the bridge fuel, even those projects take time to get online. That is the reason why Amazon is investing in long-duration energy storage and other advanced clean energy resources that can provide energy now.
- J. Bloom – How is Amazon doing in VA to invest in clean energy? A: Amazon tracks such information nationwide. Accelerated Renewable Energy Buyers (ARB) Program – Amazon is part of that Program. Amazon has met the targets set by the State Program.
  - Where does Amazon post that data or reports? A: Not sure if the State publishes the ARB program updates.
- E. Whitney – Regarding a white paper on the web – how does Amazon participate in voluntary markets? A: Amazon likes to source its resources, such as RECs, in the region in which they are operating.
- J. Bloom – He hears a lot from Alexandria, e.g., the Plaza 500 project. Is there a proposed Amazon data center there? Any news on that? A: No, he has not heard of that project.
  - **ACTION:** E. Whitney asked J. Bloom to send whatever he had on the topic to the rest of the EC.

## 5. C2E2 Updates (8:30) – **Rob Sandoli, Elizabeth Whitney & other C2E2 members**

- E. Whitney – C2E2 approved the EC letter priorities regarding the budget. Jen F. provided an update on the CPO Work Plan.
- C. Lewin – Thanks the EC for its work and the help on the budget.
  - The County told C2E2 it should be happy to not get staff cut.
  - A few SPRC meetings were discussed at the C2E2 meeting.
- D. Snoeyenbos – A fundamental C2E2 item is the SPRC projects. C2E2 is working to improve the analysis for each project on what a high-performing building should be. C2E2 sends in a letter on each project it evaluates.
  - E. Whitney noted that Melissa Benn has brought her COO skills to the discussion.

## 6. County policy updates (8:40) – Rich Dooley

- Regional meetings update

### **BEEAC - April 17<sup>th</sup> @ 10 am - [Built Environment & Energy Advisory Committee - Environment - Events | Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#)**

- The meeting agenda included the following:
- COG Staff will present the draft 2026 MWCOG Regional Environmental Programs work plan and budget. Members are asked to provide feedback on committee priorities, as well as new initiatives and program launches looking forward.
- Local government members will highlight energy events, projects, and programs. They will also address the following questions in preparation for the main agenda item.
  - 1) What climate-related workforce development programs (e.g. clean fuel automotive technology, tree maintenance, electrician, HVAC, waste collection education, and solar installers) are available in your community?
  - 2) Are you coordinating with your economic development office?
  - 3) How do you partner with or promote local climate-related workforce development programs?
- PANEL DISCUSSION: BUILDING A CLIMATE-READY WORKFORCE IN THE WASHINGTON REGION
- As part of EPA's CPRG Comprehensive Climate Action Plan (CCAP) grant program requirements, COG is required to conduct an analysis of anticipated workforce shortages that could prevent achieving the goals described in the CCAP and identify potential solutions and partners. Panelists will discuss their climate-related workforce development programs that serve the region.

### **CEEPC - March 26<sup>th</sup> - Climate, Energy & Environment Policy Committee - [Events - 2025 | Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments](#)**

- The meeting agenda included the following:
- LEGISLATIVE UPDATE
- FEDERAL DEREGULATORY UPDATE: ENDANGERMENT FINDING
- Dr. Cleetus will provide an update on recently announced federal deregulatory actions, including EPA's announced reconsideration of the Endangerment Finding for greenhouse gases.
- Action Item: Receive briefing, provide guidance on possible COG response to federal deregulatory actions related to climate change
- MID-COURSE REVIEW: RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARDS
- MWCOG staff provided an analysis of progress in meeting the Renewable Portfolio Standards in Maryland, DC, and Virginia. He will also share information on implications for meeting COG regional climate goals for 2030.  
Action Item: Receive briefing, discuss opportunities to accelerate action on renewable energy system deployment.
- COMMITTEE AND MEMBER UPDATES
- E. Whitney noted that regulated utilities are not fans of the endangerment findings reconsideration.
- J. Bloom – When will the GHGe inventory to be presented? A: C. Lewin noted that it will be presented at the next C2E2 meeting.
  - D. Snoeyenbos – **ACTION** - Please ask Steve Burr what the latest is when it comes to ticketing cars that are not charging in EV-only parking spots.

## 7. County FY 26 Budget – recap from CB budget adoption – (8:45) – Elizabeth Whitney

- Additional CB guidance was provided on how the CAF funds are to be used.
- Also, at least \$25k of the CAF are to be used to restore and update the Energy Masters Program

- **ACTION:** See if EcoAction could come present to the EC at a future meeting regarding Energy Masters and the new program scope
- J. Kern – Regarding the question he sent after the last EC meeting – there was a \$930k budget item for solar. Anything new on that? **ACTION:** Remind County staff of the J. Kern idea and e-mail again to see if the County has considered those sorts of partnerships to get solar installed and maintained without County funds being used.
- E. Whitney – D. Snoeyenbos mentioned in the past that we should have budget discussions well in advance of the next budget set of deliberations.
  - C. Lewin – C2E2 aims to issue a budget letter in the Fall regarding the next budget session.

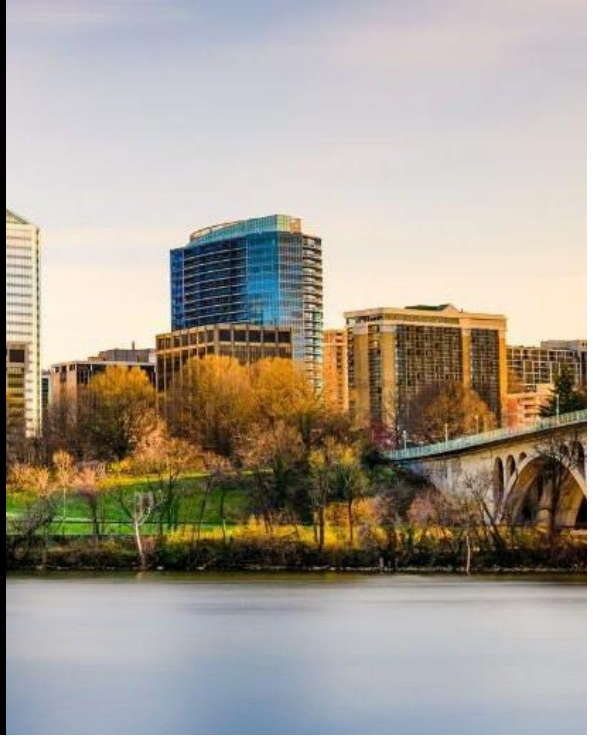
**8. Adjourn (9:00)**

- Next month will be Ivy Main as our guest presenter. We also plan to bring in APS about their energy and climate matters.
- Meeting adjourned at 8:59 pm

## ATTACHMENT A

### CPO WORK PLAN PRESENTATION

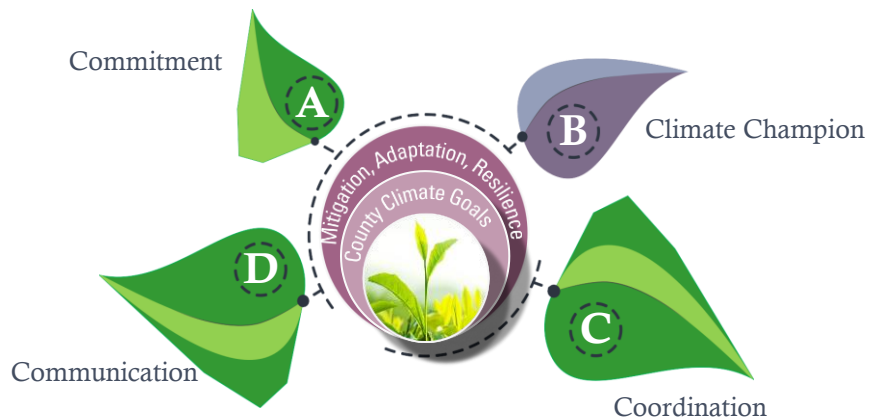
# ARLINGTON COUNTY | APRIL 2025 CLIMATE POLICY OFFICE 2025-2026 WORKPLAN



## WHO WE ARE

### Climate Policy Office

Leads a collaborative "whole-of-community" and "whole-of-government" approach towards a sustainable future. Guided by values of equity and collective action, CPO aims to develop and prioritize climate mitigation, adaptation and resilience.



Infographic: PoweredTemplate.com



## 2025-2026 WORK PLAN

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### WORK PLAN OVERVIEW

#### Education & Behavior Change

Climate Communications Campaign

Virtual One-Stop-Shop Climate Hub

Climate Toolkit

Corporate Climate Leaders

#### Buildings

HVAC Energy Efficiency Program

Emissions Reduction Planning & Resource Toolkit

#### Government

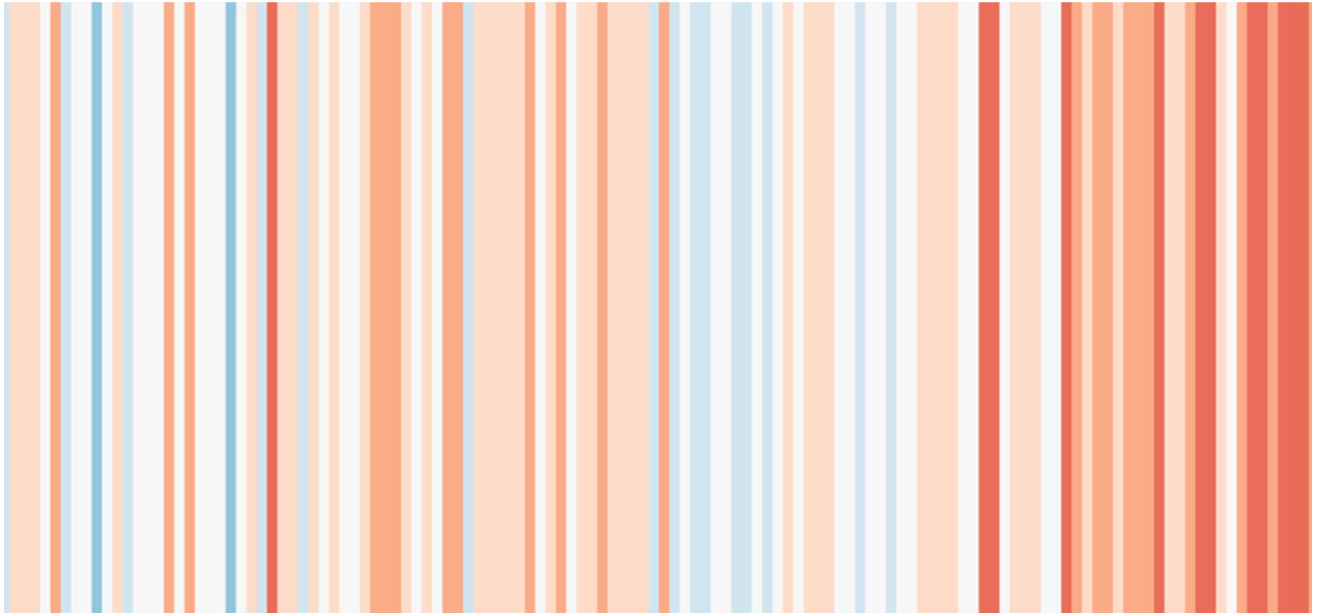
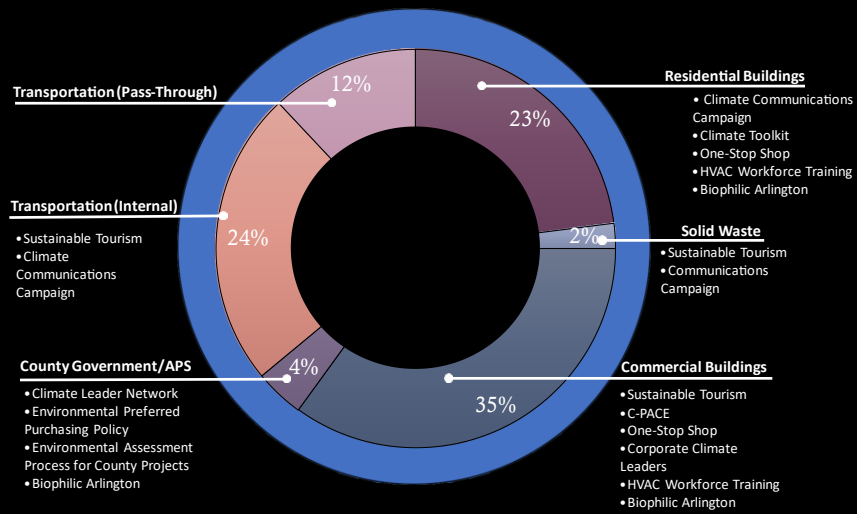
Sustainable Tourism

Climate Action Plan

County Leadership Network

Policy Research and Development

## CPO WORK PLAN IMPACT ON GHG EMISSIONS BY SECTOR



## EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

### Residential Climate Communications Campaign

#### Description

- Focused on “later is too late” and “protecting what we love”, creating moments to connect homeowners and renters about the value of energy improvements.
- Aims to inspire immediate action on home energy efficiency



#### Activities (Q1 2025 – Ongoing)

- Design communications and marketing campaign
  - Mobile application – Get Green App
    - **Launched January 2025**
  - County theme calendar – Maximize cross-market opportunities
  - Social media – Design and deploy videos
  - Earned and paid media
  - Advertising
  - “Power” Pop-Ups, Library “Vignettes”
- Leverage community partnerships to amplify message
  - Canvassing, Pop-Ups, Special events

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## EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

### GetGreen Mobile Application

#### Description

- Customize mobile app helps individuals make an impact on climate change through changes in everyday habits.
- Partnership between Arlington County and EcoAction Arlington
- Smart City Works \$10,000 grant administered by EcoAction Arlington.

#### Discover

- Personalized, interest-based actions
- Sustainable product suggestions
- Browse by category, popular, or recommended

#### Take Action

- Track progress toward monthly goals
- Compare and compete with other users
- **Launched January 2025!**

A promotional graphic for the 'Let's getgreen Arlington' mobile application. The text 'Let's getgreen Arlington' is at the top in blue and green. Below it, a green arrow points to a QR code with the text 'Download the GetGreen app to help add planet-positive actions to your daily routine!'. To the right of the QR code are two smartphone screens displaying the app's interface. Below the QR code, it says 'Search for GetGreen in the App Store or Google Play'. At the bottom, there are logos for 'ARLINGTON VIRGINIA' and 'ecoaction arlington'. On the right side, there are four icons with text: 'Interactive Climate Action Challenges', 'Engage with Your Community', 'Tailored Tips for Sustainability', and 'Exclusive Rewards'.

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## EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

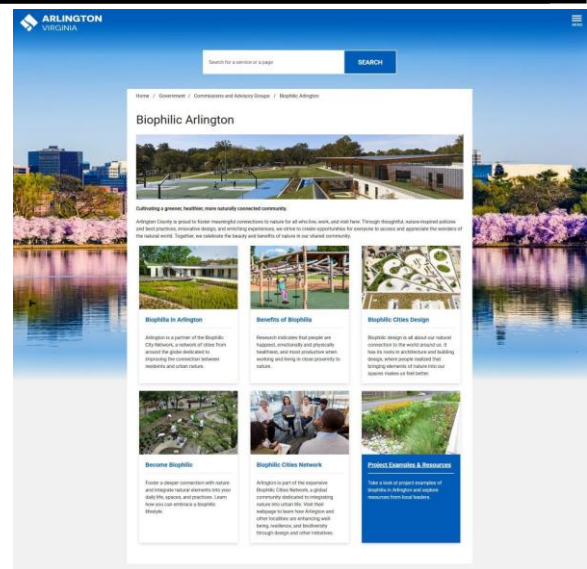
### Biophilic Arlington

#### Description

- Update and refresh Biophilia in Arlington webpage
- Rebrand

#### Activities (Q4 2024 – Q1 2025)

- Redesign and deploy webpage
- **Launched February 2025!**



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## EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

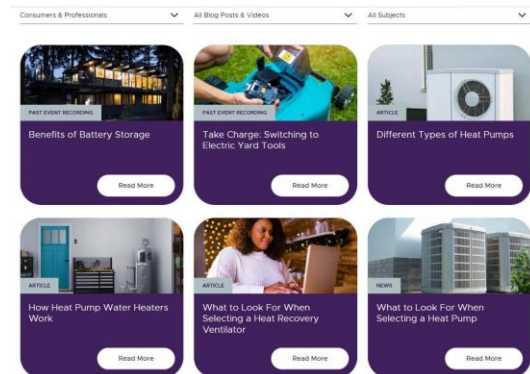
### Virtual One-Stop-Shop Climate Hub

#### Description

- User friendly, county webpage information hub where residents, businesses and visitors can learn more about County climate policies, programs and services in one location.

#### Activities

- County climate landing page (2025)
- County energy information hub (2026)



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## EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

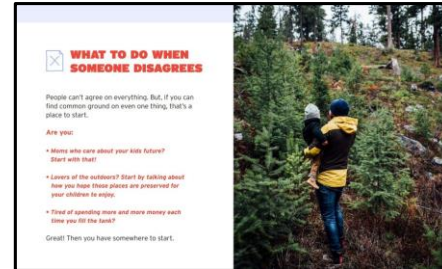
### Residential Climate Toolkit

#### Description

- Climate toolkit includes digital and physical assets necessary to communicate the impacts of climate change, county climate goals, opportunities and resources to take action.

#### Activities

- Design residential climate toolkit
- Identify and train climate allies and mission driven organizations to use climate toolkit
- Deploy and track formal engagements using toolkit
- Evaluate opportunity to create Climate Ambassadors Program



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## EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR CHANGE

### Corporate Climate Leaders

#### Description

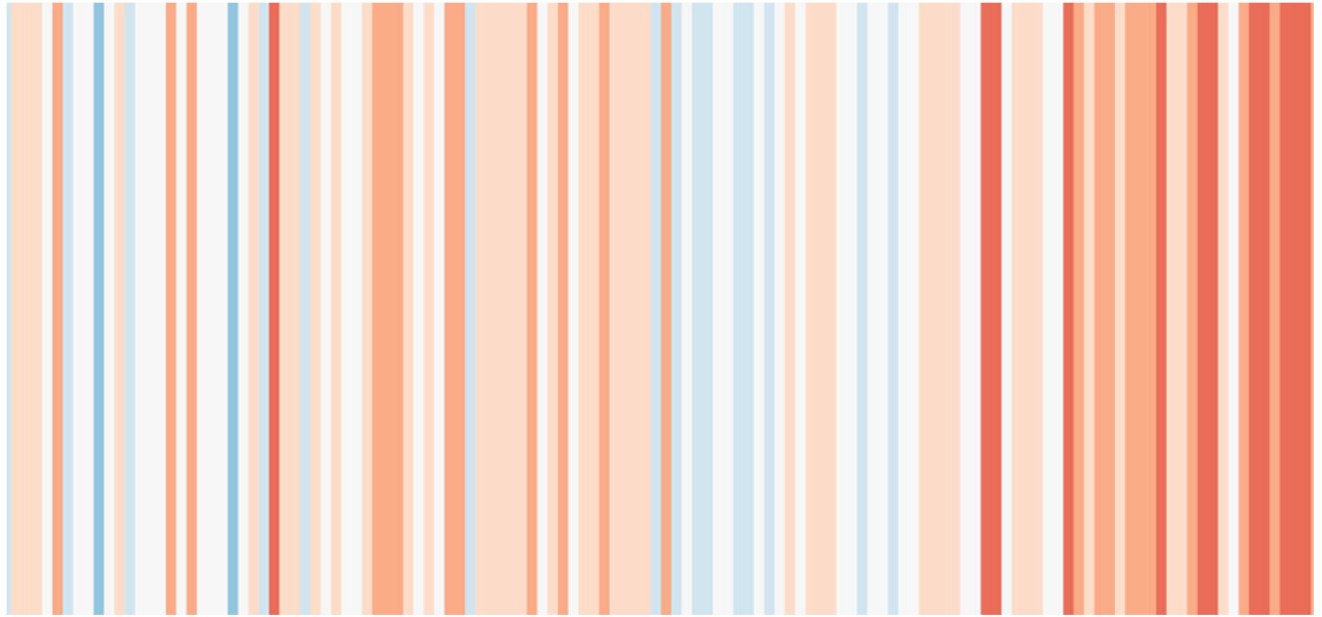
- Foster active collaboration between local businesses and the County to address climate change.
  - Share relevant evidence-based information to inspire corporate climate action.
  - Training and resources.
  - Celebrate corporate climate achievements.

#### Activities (Q2 2025 – Ongoing)

- Inventory climate friendly businesses & identify network partners
- Host Green Business Summit
- Launch Corporate Climate Leaders network



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## BUILDING

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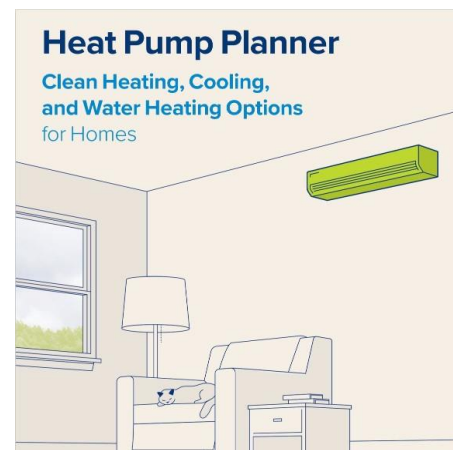
### HVAC Energy Efficiency Education Program

#### Description

- Educate homeowners and contractors on weatherization and energy efficient HVAC systems.
  - Encourage and assist homeowners to develop a weatherization and HVAC replacement plan.
  - Partner with workforce development organization to deliver/enhance HVAC contractor training on energy efficient HVAC systems.

#### Activities (2025 – Ongoing)

- Evaluate opportunity to launch homeowners HVAC planning assistance program



## BUILDING

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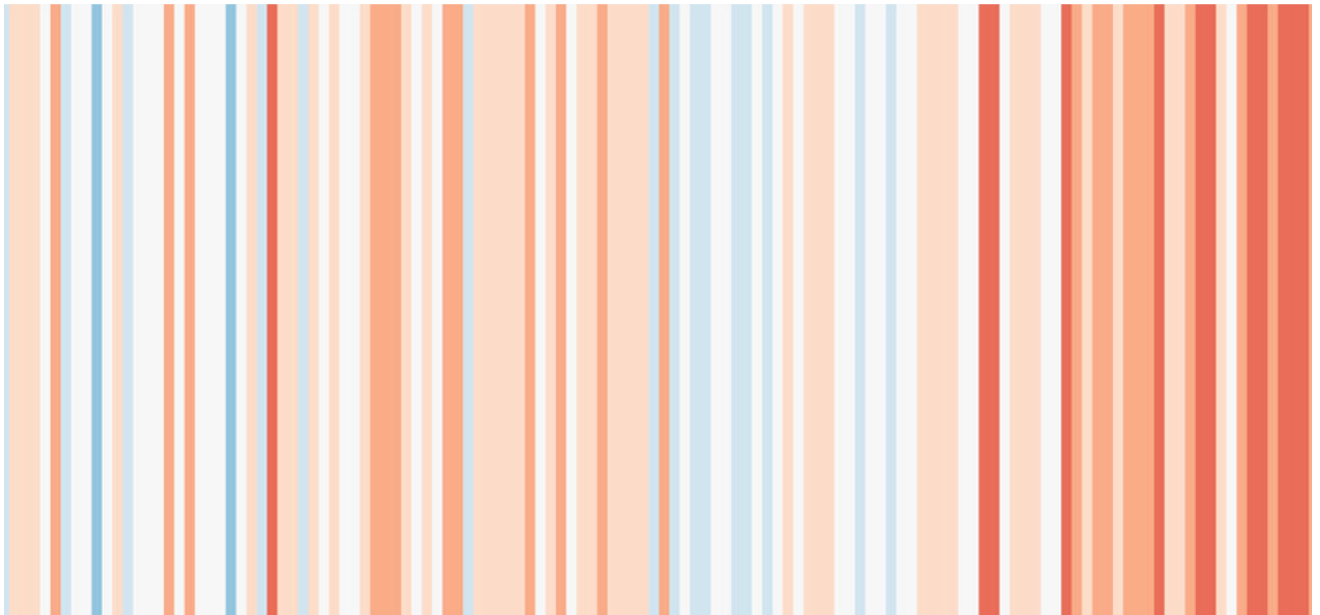
### Emissions Reduction Planning and Resource Toolkit

#### Description

- Curate planning and resource toolkit to better assist building owners and managers to organize and implement an Emissions Reduction Plan (ERP).

#### Activities (Q4 2025 – Q2 2026)

- Literature review
- Business owner/manager needs assessment
- Customize planning and resource toolkit to assist with developing ERP and strategies for implementation and tracking.



## GOVERNMENT

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### Sustainable Tourism

#### Description

- Reinvigorate and expand County's Sustainable Tourism Program to position Arlington as a leading destination for eco-conscious travelers, meeting professionals and businesses.

#### Activities (2025 – 2026)

- Coordinate with ACVS to enhance sustainable tourism messaging on StayArlington.com tourism website.
  - **Launched February 2025!**
- Establish performance metrics for tourism sustainability (e.g., contacts, attendance, website traffic, engagement, PR measures, etc.).



- Re-invigorate Virginia Green Travel Alliance Chapter in Arlington, enhance presence on mission-aligned websites.
- Explore participation in performance improvement programs e.g. the [Global Destination Sustainability Movement](#) and the [GDS-Index](#).

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## GOVERNMENT

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### Climate Action Plan

#### Description

Expand the scope of the current Community Energy Plan (CEP) to a comprehensive Climate Action Plans (CAP) that includes mitigation, adaptation and resilience strategies.

#### Activities (2025 – 2027)

- Complete GHG Emissions Inventory – Q1 2025
- Planning – Q1-Q3 2025
- Plan Launch – Late 2025



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## GOVERNMENT

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### County Leadership Network



Strategic initiative designed to empower County leadership with knowledge and skills necessary to lead climate action within county.



Platform for ongoing learning and information exchange



Fosters a collaborative environment to tackle climate-related challenges effectively.



Activities  
(Q4 2024 – Ongoing)  
Host quarterly interdepartmental meetings

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## GOVERNMENT

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### Policy Research and Development



Comprehensive policy research and development that promotes County climate goals.

Analyze current environmental data, assess the impact of existing policies, and identify gaps that need urgent attention.

Collaborate with local, regional, state and federal partners, scientific experts, and community members.

Emphasis on feasibility and co-benefits

Equity centered

#### **Completed**

- C-PACE Ordinance Update (Jointly with DES AIRE) - November 2024

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THANK YOU

