

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

2025 Priorities, Activities, and Assignments

PRIORITY OBJECTIVES

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

1. **Accelerate Comprehensive Climate Action** – integrate solutions to the climate crisis into all of the County’s operations, policy, and decision making as well as public outreach and education in a “whole of government/whole of community” approach to put the County on track in reducing Arlington’s carbon footprint 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** – promote policies that will address historical inequities such as excessive energy burden and limited access to open spaces, tree canopy, and public transit and guarantee equitable access to climate action initiatives and opportunities for an inclusive transition to a sustainable community.
3. **Advance Climate-related Resilience** – foster improvements to energy, stormwater, and other critical infrastructure to ensure long-term resiliency and reliability to adapt to changing economic, environmental, and social changes, reduce heat island effect, and limit damage from and ensure rapid recovery of critical services following natural or manmade disasters.

PRIORITIES AND ACTIVITIES– 2024

Priority Objectives ¹	2025 Desired Outcomes ²	C2E2 Priority Actions & Activities ³	C2E2 Assignments ⁴
Accelerate Comprehensive Climate Action	<p><u>Advance building decarbonization</u> through improved energy efficiency, electrification, and reduction in embedded carbon for construction. (Buildings account for 58% of County’s GHG emissions, per CEP p. 14)</p>	<p>Support a sweeping County Board Climate Change resolution and partner with the Climate Policy Officer and other County staff to craft an ambitious Climate Action Policy to replace the CEP in 2025</p> <p>Review and advise on the County’s planned update of Green Building Incentive Policy to create a practical yet ambitious approach to decarbonizing Arlington’s building sector, and prioritize budget cycle opportunities for funding for incentives</p> <p>Monitor and assess County staff actions to ensure Arlington is tapping into federal and state programs as well as financial, tax and other mechanisms to facilitate building decarbonization</p> <p>Through the SPRC process, review, assess, and comment publicly on proposed site plans and long term development plans</p>	<p>Energy Committee, Elizabeth Whitney, Commission as a whole</p> <p>Commission as a whole</p> <p>Rob Sandoli, other commissioners with relevant knowledge</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>to ensure development projects deliver benefits consistent with County climate change mitigation and environmental goals and objectives</p> <p>Update C2E2's SPRC Checklist evaluation methodology and process, and take into account revisions to the GBIP at the appropriate time</p> <p>Encourage the creation of County initiatives for expanded outreach to homeowners and other building owners to offer education, technical assistance, and small-scale incentives to advance energy efficiency improvements, electrification, and installation of rooftop solar</p> <p>Encourage and advise County Board members to adopt a policy directing the County manager to create Green banks / other financial mechanisms to leverage public and private capital to pursue goals for clean energy projects that reduce emissions</p>	<p>Mark Greenwood et al</p> <p>Joe Trivette Melissa Benn</p> <p>Trevor Montano</p>
	<p><u>Transport decarbonized</u> (Transport accounts for 36% of County's GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Capitalize on budget cycle opportunities and FY 2026-2035 CIP to support funding for priority transportation programs and investments, including electric</p>	<p>Energy Committee Kevin Vincent</p>

		<p>charging infrastructure to serve both county fleets and residents.</p> <p>Participate in the ongoing process to update the Master Transportation Plan to 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>Continue to monitor progress in the transition 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>Joan McIntyre Joe Trivette</p> <p>Joan McIntyre Doug Snoeyenbos</p>
	<u>Renewable energy installed</u>	<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>Through the SPRC process and through advice to County staff on public education campaigns, promote onsite renewable energy (solar panels) combined with</p>	<p>Energy Committee Jonathan Morgenstein</p> <p>Energy Committee Mark Greenwood Melissa Benn</p>

		battery storage and microgrids (furthers Equity/Resilience)	
	<u>County Government is leading by example</u> (County Government, including APS, accounts for 4% of County's GHG emissions)	<p>Call for consistent and measurable approaches for incorporating climate action into spending and policy decisions across government operations, backed up by detailed targets and regularly updated so that actual outcomes can be tracked against County goals</p> <p>Advise on and influence County staff plans to install all electric systems in all new and retrofitted facilities, improve energy efficiency, and install solar and battery storage as appropriate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PFRC Process ● FY 2026-35 CIP transparency <p>Advise on and influence County staff plans to procure electric vehicles and adopt strong green purchasing policy</p>	<p>Cindy Lewin Joan McIntyre</p> <p>Commission as a whole Joan McIntyre</p> <p>Energy Committee Kevin Vincent</p>
	<u>County's Solid Waste Management Plan & procurements strongly reflect Zero Waste principles</u> (Solid Waste accounts for 2% of County's GHG emissions)	<p>Contribute to the continued development of the best-possible Zero Waste Plan that prioritizes reduce and reuse strategies and promotes effective recycling strategies, including for construction and demolition waste.</p>	<p>Cindy Lewin Alex Rough</p>

		Encourage County to facilitate business practices and community outreach that foster sustainable, low carbon, and inclusive lifestyles	Cindy Lewin
Integrate Climate Justice and Equity Define Identify activities	<u>Climate transition is fair and equitable</u> , with impact on lower and middle income (LMI) residents ameliorated	Encourage County to undertake programming that responds to C2E2's EJ priorities, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Advancing energy efficiency and electrification for new buildings or retrofits of affordable housing to reduce energy burden of LMI residents; ● Promoting onsite renewable energy (solar panels) combined with battery storage and microgrids ● Ensuring equitable access to green spaces ● Developing and implementing policies to ameliorate the heat island effect ● Public education and outreach designed to reach LMI residents ● Tracking measurable outcomes such as access to parks, transit, health outcomes 	Commission as a whole Jonathan Morgenstein

Advance Climate-related Resilience	<u>Watersheds, buildings, and critical infrastructure protected</u> from severe weather, and from flooding from 10-year and 100-year storms	Encourage County to engage in benchmarking of stormwater protection standards, heat island prevention strategies, and metrics adopted by other local jurisdictions	Mark Greenwood
		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	Mark Greenwood
		Advance energy resiliency by advising on best practices for creating microgrids and resiliency hubs and advancing strategies for encouraging and tapping into energy storage systems and managing demand (aka virtual power plant)	Energy Committee
		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	Commission Mark Greenwood
		Encourage County adoption of effective nature-based solutions to improve resilience of Arlington's watersheds, buildings and infrastructure while enhancing the	Mikaila Milton

		natural environment in the County and minimizing loss of mature tree canopy coverage.	
	<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</p> <p>Commission as a whole</p> <p>Commission as a whole</p>

2025 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 https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/public-facilities-review-committee-pfrc/
Solid Waste Committee of C2E2	Chair: Cindy Lewin Alternate:	Solid Waste Committee to continue to share information with C2E2	Quarterly
Energy Committee of C2E2	EC Chair, Elizabeth Whitney Vice Chair: C2E2 members: Kevin Vincent, Doug Snoeyenbos, Jonathan Morgenstein, Rob Sandoli, Elizabeth Whitney	Support implementation of CEP and other energy-related items	Second Wednesday of each month
Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group	Cindy Lewin Joan McIntyre	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	Quarterly https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/natural-resources-advisory-group/

Committee/Commission Liaisons

Bicycle Advisory Committee	Primary: Majdi Shomali Alternate: Alex Rough	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: Melissa Benn 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: Alternate:	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: Joan McIntyre Alternate: Kevin Vincent	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/
Arlington's Transportation Future Advisory Group	Primary: Joan McIntyre Alternate:	Represents C2E2's priorities in advising County staff as they develop the updated Master Transportation Plan	Every few months as needed during the update of the plan
Site Plan Review Committee	Primary: Mark Greenwood Alternate:	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:	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
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	Tracks progress in the implementation of the County's Biosolid Plan that call for a major replacement of the existing treatment process with anaerobic digesters	Two to three times per year