

CLIMATE CHANGE, ENERGY, AND ENVIRONMENT COMMISSION

2026 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, with particular focus on buildings and transportation as the primary sources of greenhouse gas emissions in the County, to put the County on track to meet Arlington’s County Board-adopted carbon reduction targets for 2035 and 2050.
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– 2026

Priority Objectives (see p.1)	2026 Desired Outcomes to Achieve Objectives	C2E2 Priority Actions & Activities to Advance Outcomes	C2E2 Assignments
Accelerate Comprehensive Climate Action	<u>Arlington adopts an innovative and forward-looking whole-of-community approach</u> to climate resilience and adaptation in the Climate Action Plan	Partner with the Climate Policy Officer and other County staff to craft an ambitious Climate Action Plan to replace the CEP	Cindy Lewin Elizabeth Whitney Commission as a whole
	<u>Buildings decarbonize</u> through improved energy efficiency, electrification, and reduction in embedded carbon for construction. (Buildings account for 54% of County GHG emissions, per 2023 GHG Inventory)	Monitor implementation of updated Green Building Incentive Policy with special focus on public education and outreach to enhance uptake <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Review C2E2’s new SPRC Checklist evaluation methodology to take into account revisions to the GBIP at the appropriate time 	Scott Brideau Rob Sandoli Commission as a whole
		Through the SPRC process, review, assess, and comment publicly on proposed site plans and long term development plans to ensure development projects deliver benefits consistent with County climate change mitigation and environmental goals and objectives	Commissioners assigned on a project-by-project basis

		Engage in budget advocacy in fall 2026 before the budget cycle to set the tone for the need to end status quo budgeting on climate, with focus on staffing and on incentives to spur private action by companies and residents	Doug Snoeyenbos Commission as a whole
		Continue pressing to ensure Arlington is tapping into any possible tax incentives to facilitate building decarbonization, particularly for existing buildings	Doug Snoeyenbos Other commissioners with relevant knowledge
		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	Trevor Montano
		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 and batteries	Henry Perillo David Friedman Commission as a whole
		Continue to press for authority for municipalities to require benchmarking as an Arlington legislative priority	Commission as a whole

	<p><u>Transportation plans reflect low-carbon options</u> (Transportation accounts for 36% of County GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Capitalize on budget cycle opportunities and FY 2027-2036 CIP to support funding for priority transportation programs and investments, including electric charging infrastructure to serve both county fleets and residents.</p> <p>Participate in the 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>Energy Committee Kevin Vincent</p> <p>Liliana Diaz Katie Thomson</p> <p>Energy Committee Rob Sandoli</p>
	<p><u>The grid becomes cleaner and more resilient</u></p>	<p>Establish virtual power plant in Arlington by advising on best practices, using EVs and electric buses and encouraging more batteries, creating microgrids, and advancing strategies for tapping into energy storage systems and residential demand. Monitor Dominion pilot and continue to push for broader scope.</p>	<p>Elizabeth Whitney Energy Committee</p>

		<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 battery storage and microgrids (further Equity/Resilience)</p>	<p>Energy Committee</p> <p>Energy Committee Commission as a whole Melissa Benn</p>
	<u>County Government, including APS, leads by example</u>	<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> <p>Advise on and influence County staff plans to procure electric</p>	<p>Commission as a whole</p> <p>Commission as a whole</p> <p>Energy Committee Kevin Vincent</p>

		<p>vehicles and adopt strong green purchasing policy</p> <p>Encourage County to attract more green tech businesses to Innovation District, perhaps by creating a start-up incubator utilizing excess commercial office space</p> <p>Support the Corporate Climate Leaders program; push for climate reporting more broadly as a legislative priority</p>	Commission as a whole
	<p><u>County's Solid Waste Management Plan & procurements strongly reflect Zero Waste principles</u> (Solid Waste accounts for 3% of County's GHG emissions)</p>	<p>Contribute to the continued development of best-possible Zero Waste Plan that prioritizes reduce and reuse strategies and promotes effective recycling strategies, including for construction and demolition waste</p> <p>Aid County in identifying and promoting individual and business actions that meaningfully contribute to reducing waste, including food waste</p>	<p>Cindy Lewin Lisa Marcellus</p> <p>Committee as a whole</p>
Integrate Climate Justice and Equity	<p><u>Arlington's policies are fair and equitable</u>, with impact on lower and middle income (LMI) residents centered</p>	<p>Encourage County to undertake programming that responds to C2E2's EJ priorities, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing energy efficiency and electrification for new buildings or retrofits of affordable housing to 	<p>Commission as a whole Melissa Benn David Friedman</p>

		<p>reduce energy burden of LMI residents;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promoting onsite solar combined with battery storage ● 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 	
Advance Climate-Related Resilience and Adaptation	<u>Watersheds, buildings, and critical infrastructure protected</u> from severe weather, and from flooding from 10-year and 100-year storms	<p>Monitor implementation of RAMP plan; encourage County to engage in benchmarking of stormwater, heat island, and related best practices adopted by other jurisdictions</p> <p>Identify and 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</p>	<p>Commission as a whole Alex Rough Joe Trivette</p> <p>Commission as a whole</p> <p>Energy Committee Elisabeth Whitney</p>

		<p>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>	Commission as a whole
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2026 Assignments

ACTIVITY	LEAD COMMISSIONER(S)	OBJECTIVE(S)	MEETING SCHEDULE
Ongoing Committee Memberships			
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: Lisa Marcellus	Solid Waste Bureau to continue to share information with C2E2	Bureau reports to C2E2 1-2 times per year
Energy Committee of C2E2	EC Chair, Elizabeth Whitney Vice Chair: C2E2 members: Kevin Vincent, Doug Snoeyenbos, Rob Sandoli	Identify and study innovative energy actions; support implementation of County's energy-related initiatives	Second Wednesday of each month
Natural Resources Joint Advisory Group	Cindy Lewin Doug Snoeyenbos Lisa Marcellus	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: Alex Rough Alternate:	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: Lisa Marcellus 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: Liliana Diaz Alternate: Katie Thomson	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: Liliana Diaz Alternate: Katie Thomson	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: Commissioners as assigned Alternate: Commissioners as assigned	Coordinate C2E2 participation in site plan review process	2-3 total per month, with each project having 2-3 meetings https://commissions.arlingtonva.us/planning-commission/sprc/
Chesapeake Bay Ordinance Review Committee	Primary: Joe Trivette Alternate: Jamie Kern	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: Alex Rough Alternate:	Participate in the subcommittee activities, draft report	Generally meets on the second Monday every other month

Comprehensive Plan Update Long Range Planning Committee	Primary: Rob Sandoli Alternate: Liliana Diaz		
Low Residential Study of the Long Range Planning Committee (fall 2025)	Primary: Lisa Marcellus	Participate in meetings, update C2E2	First meeting Oct 29, 2025
Administrative Regulation 4.4 Review Subcommittee	Ad Hoc	Work with staff to update Admin Reg 4.4 and the Environmental Assessment checklist.	DES staff revisions to EA process (check in with Rich Dooley, AIRE) may change the process for reviewing EAs
Commissioner Tasked with Meeting Applicants	Primary: Doug Snoeyenbos and Cindy Lewin	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: Alex Rough Alternate:	Tracks progress in the implementation of the County's Biosolid Plan that call for a major replacement of the existing treatment process with anaerobic digestors	Two to three times per year
Climate Action Plan Advisory Group	Primary: Cindy Lewin Primary: Elizabeth Whitney	Work with CPO to develop innovative and impactful Climate Action Plan	Monthly or bi-monthly meetings