

Climate Change, Energy, and Environment Commission (C2E2)

Summary of February 26, 2024

Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Joan McIntyre, chair; Mark Greenwood, Cindy Lewin, Jonathan Morgenstein, Rob Sandoli, Kevin Vincent, Madji Shomali

Guests Present: Joe Trivette, Public; Paul Snodgrass, Public; Trevor Montano

Staff Present: Jenna Peabody (DES-AIRE), Demetra McBride (DES-OSEM), Rich Dooley (AIRE)

Public comment

None.

Review January summary

Will do in March meeting.

Proposed FY25 Budget

The presentation was provided to the C2E2 group prior to the meeting. She then opened the floor for questions related to the budget. Doug Snoeyenbos inquired about the proposed spending on public electric vehicle (EV) charging in fiscal year 2025. Demetra McBride confirmed that there is a budget allocation for this purpose, but the exact amount will be revealed later. The funds are categorized as capital costs and will be part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and pay-go. Notably, there are two separate allocations: one for EVSE serving government fleets and another for public access EVSE on government facilities. Joan McIntyre recalled that last year, information about EV charger coverage was included in the Climate Action Fund.

Demetra McBride discussed projections and confirmed annual numbers. She also mentioned that the county manager recently reallocated an additional \$1,000,000 toward the Climate Action Fund. A few weeks ago, they compiled a list of tier one and tier two recommendations with tentative budgets. However, Demetra McBride couldn't provide specific details about the tiers until confirmation is received from the DMF and the manager's office. She assured that this information would be available soon, possibly during the DES budget workshop on March 12th.

Doug Snoeyenbos asked if they could share specific details about Arlington County's efforts in public EV charging. He wanted to know the proposed spending for fiscal year 2025. Demetra McBride acknowledged the importance of transparency and agreed that it would be helpful to provide a specific dollar amount. However, she didn't disclose the exact figure at that moment. Doug Snoeyenbos expressed the need for a specific dollar amount related to public EV charging spending. He emphasized that having this number would allow them to communicate more effectively about Arlington County's efforts in this area. Demetra McBride explained that the operating budget and capital budget operate on different schedules. The operating budget, which includes the manager's proposed budget, will go through workshops and public hearings before approval, likely in April.

Joan McIntyre inquired whether annual spending gets rolled into the operational budget. Demetra McBride clarified that capital funds (CIP and pay-go) are separate from operational funds. Unlike the stormwater budget, which is an enterprise fund, the capital budget process occurs independently. The draft capital budget typically comes out in April and is approved in June. During the discussion, Demetra McBride highlighted aspects of the budget related to their issues. She mentioned that she is currently constrained by the parameters of the manager's budget until March 13th. She directed attention to the Department of Environmental Services (DES) section, where there is a line item budget spanning several years. Although it appears that the AIRE budget decreases from FY24 to FY25, it actually reflects an increase. In FY24, significant one-time funding was allocated for the ART bus ZEB feasibility study and the Carbon-neutral Transportation Master Plan. These funds will be fully expended in FY24, resulting in the perceived cut. The additional needs include implementation costs, federal grants, and bridging the gap between grant applications and awards. Demetra McBride also suggested looking at allocations in other DES departments.

Demetra McBride mentioned that allocations related to electric vehicles (EVs) can be found in the Equipment Bureau, primarily within the capital budgets. These allocations cover additional EV purchases for the government fleet and school buses. The difference between available grants and remaining funds will help cover the costs. In the capital budgets, funding for upgrades to government facilities, including electrification of systems and appliances, is visible. Joan McIntyre expressed interest, and Demetra McBride suggested looking at the Arlington County Consumer Survey. According to Demetra McBride, nearly everything the survey covers has implications and impacts related to greenhouse gas reduction.

Demetra McBride clarified that she is unsure about the budget allocation for the Arlington County Consumer Survey (ACS). She asked Rich if he had any insights into how the budget is split between operating and capital for ACS, which is a department or division dealing mainly with micro-mobility. Rich, however, did not have further information. Demetra McBride agreed to connect with the relevant team to gather more details. Joan McIntyre mentioned that ACS falls under the mobility lab and recently received a sizable grant to promote the expansion of transit use and other multi-modal options.

Joan McIntyre and Demetra McBride discussed the Mobility Lab's recent grant aimed at promoting the expansion of transit use. They worked on embedding the Mobility Lab and grants like the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant into transportation elements that aligned with their goals. Demetra McBride planned to speak with Jim about the criteria for allocating capital budgets and operating costs. Joan McIntyre emphasized the need for transparency in understanding how budget expenditures connected to meeting climate and other environmental goals. Demetra McBride suggested a collective conversation with C2E2 and the Energy Committee on defining these things, as definitions could significantly influence success measures.

Joan McIntyre discussed the budget, noting that AIRE program expenditures had remained largely flat, with a slight shift due to studies nearing completion. An additional \$1,000,000 had been added to the Climate Action Fund, which was established in the FY23 budget. The funds had been allocated to energy efficiency projects, with a significant portion going towards the Madison Center. The building was transitioning to become all-electric, and other expenditures included EV charging and the CCA study.

Joan McIntyre questioned whether it would be more beneficial to make these funds line items for projects that advanced their goals, rather than keeping them as a special fund. She

mentioned the progress in rooftop solar installations on county facilities and the installation of EV chargers. However, she noted a lack of transparency regarding other projects and how they contributed to improving energy efficiency and building electrification.

On the transportation side, Joan McIntyre mentioned plans to merge two underutilized ART bus routes and eliminate another, focusing on the sections of these routes that saw the most use. She suggested a need to reevaluate and potentially redesign the ART system, considering options like on-demand microtransit and collaboration with APS to make the system more appealing to more people. Parks and Rec budget included close to \$1,000,000 in tree pruning and another about 300K in invasive removal.

Joan McIntyre provided an overview of the budget process and outlined the timeline, including a presentation to the county board, public hearings, and a final vote. She mentioned that there would be an opportunity to provide public input and draft a letter after their March meeting. The budget called for an increase in property tax to avoid drastic cuts and prioritized housing, teen programs, and environmental issues.

Demetra McBride added a clarification about on-site solar, explaining that they had secured their own power purchase agreement entities. These entities would model each location for potential solar installation, and if the numbers were not favorable, they could reject the site. In such cases, the county would have to decide whether to forego on-site solar or include it in their capital budget. Joan McIntyre acknowledged this positive direction, despite previous complications. They concluded by inviting further thoughts on the budget and noting that Rob had volunteered to draft a letter.

Rob Sandoli, a former budget examiner, asked about the major changes in the budget. He notes that the Office Director had a significant cut of 29%, but the overall change from 2024 to 2025 showed a 2% increase. Demetra McBride confirmed this and explained that the county has focused on three key priorities after much internal deliberation. She also mentioned that 32 positions were cut, but it's unclear how many were filled or unfilled. Joan McIntyre added that there should still be a position for the Climate Policy Officer that hasn't been filled and that the position of the Chief Equity Officer has been eliminated. Demetra McBride confirmed that the proposed expense for FY25 shows an increase of around \$90,000. Rob suggested sharing screens to walk through the budget together.

Rob Sandoli asked Demetra McBride to walk through the major changes in the budget. He noted a significant cut in the Office Director's budget but an overall 2% increase from 2024 to 2025. Demetra McBride explained that the perceived cut was due to the completion of two initiatives in FY24, and when these one-time costs were removed, the budget technically increased. She also mentioned that no full-time equivalents (FTEs) were cut from the AIRE department. Joan McIntyre then shared her thoughts on the budget, emphasizing the need for transparency and questioning whether the budget reflected a whole-of-government approach. She highlighted the importance of spending on efforts that would advance decarbonization and support the private sector. She also mentioned the progress being made on sedans in the county fleet and suggested that other vehicles in the fleet might also need to be considered. Joan McIntyre invited others to share their thoughts and input on the budget before the work session.

Joan McIntyre left everyone with some thoughts and questions, welcoming their input on the budget before the work session.

Demetra McBride suggested that the county didn't lack transparency, but that budget templates didn't lend themselves to easy identification. She proposed coming up with a clearinghouse methodology for identifying what is truly an impact. She believed they needed a mechanism for everyone in the county to recognize that they're doing something meaningful towards the greenhouse gas inventory and climate action goals. She suggested that this might be more appropriate for Bill Eger. Joan McIntyre agreed that it wasn't a bad idea.

Demetra McBride suggested that they needed a mechanism for tracking money on a comprehensive basis. She proposed discussing this with directors and deputy directors, referencing a measure they had early on when they did the roadmap. Joan McIntyre agreed and raised the issue of decarbonizing county operations, specifically eliminating the use of fossil fuels. She pointed out that most expenditures get wrapped into other costs, such as replacing an HVAC system, and it's unclear whether these expenditures are going towards decarbonization efforts like installing a heat pump. She emphasized the need for baseline inventory information to track whether expenditures are helping them move towards their goals, such as eliminating the use of fossil fuels and improving energy efficiency.

Demetra McBride asked if Joan McIntyre was talking about something that accounts for all of this after the fact or something predictive. Joan McIntyre clarified that they start with the current baseline and know the timeline for when systems need to be replaced or when a vehicle will need to be replaced. She stated that if the goal and policy is to shift from fossil fuels to electric, then each of these opportunities should be used to allow for that transition to carbon-neutral operations. Joan McIntyre emphasized the need to track how the county is advancing towards decarbonization and improving energy efficiency. She also highlighted the progress being made on sedans in the county fleet and suggested that other vehicles in the fleet might also need to be considered.

Demetra McBride then introduced the greenhouse gas inventory dashboards, which provide a detailed breakdown of emission sourcing and sources. She suggested that these dashboards could help identify areas where they can directly control or impact emissions. Joan McIntyre agreed and added that they need to understand how they can transition their operations to be carbon neutral. She also mentioned the need for a baseline inventory to track progress. Demetra McBride then discussed two changes in their initiatives. One was the update to a permanent EVSC rate ordinance, and the other was the creation of a directors table, which was shifted to Bill Eger from the county Managers Office. This table was seen as a better fit for Eger's role and would help drive conversations among all the directors. Jenna Peabody shared the dashboards and the CEP Roadmap progress years 1-2 in the chat.

Update on the CEP Roadmap

Demetra McBride discussed a comprehensive document that captured the performance and roadmap of various initiatives. This document was created in response to a suggestion from board members, and it proved to be a useful reference. It included detailed information about each sector's accomplishments, collaborations with other county departments, and the roles of different departments in leading certain initiatives. The document is extensive and includes a legend for easy interpretation. It marks completed actions or met milestones with checkmarks. Some initiatives were completed in two years, while others were progressively rolled out over five or even ten years. The document also notes any shifts in responsibility or changes in timelines. Demetra McBride intends to maintain this format due to its usefulness.

Demetra McBride also mentioned key accomplishments in the first two years of the CEP, including actions like the Maplewood and meeting 100% of government electricity consumption with renewable energy. However, she acknowledged that some impacts, such as reducing carbon emissions and improving energy efficiency, might be hard to directly tie to these actions. There was also another dashboard that compared them to other jurisdictions regionally and where they stood in a whole host of areas. However, this dashboard wasn't publicly available.

Demetra McBride noted that many regional jurisdictions were achieving clean energy by buying RECs from Dominion. Demetra McBride also mentioned that the statewide definition of clean energy and renewable energy in Virginia legislation didn't necessarily align with what Arlington and probably a lot of other jurisdictions followed. This definition included things like natural gas and biomass that gets processed predominantly through coal fire plants in North Carolina. They had a small share of those RECs that had been purchased over time.

Demetra McBride discussed the purchase of Dominion RECs, which was consistent with the state definition. She highlighted the conversion of the sedan fleet, with a goal of reaching 40% by the end of FY24. They had already achieved 56%, and with planned purchases for FY25, they expected to reach 61%. This was significantly ahead of anyone regionally. She mentioned the decarbonization tool for county facilities and noted a change in personnel who were more engaged with the role of facilities in the CEP. The Carbon Neutral Transportation Master Plan was also discussed as a blueprint for stimulating greater uptake in multi-modalism and planning for Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment (EVSE) installation.

She pointed out the challenges of retrofitting buildings for EVSE due to high costs, especially in Arlington where 71% of the population lived in multifamily or condo buildings. The conversion of the school bus fleet to electric buses was also mentioned as an important step, despite the challenges of funding and manpower. She discussed the success of the Green Building bonus density Incentive Program and its impact on the private sector. She also mentioned the ongoing process of upgrading the Green Building Incentive Program. Lastly, she emphasized the importance of forging relationships with separate governments in the Northern Virginia region and the need for local governments to aggregate and form a focused initiative and alliance. She believed that local governments were cheating themselves by not doing so.

Demetra McBride discussed the need for more engagement with the legislature and the importance of revisiting the state's definition of renewable energy. She expressed concerns about the state's current energy sources and the impact on greenhouse gas emissions goals. She also mentioned the possibility of finding a way to aggregate countywide electricity purchases without having to go through Dominion. She mentioned a final report that was being contracted out by the CIO and was 90% complete. The report was initially too technical, so they asked for it to be restructured to be more easily understood by others in the county and the board. She had some concerns about the report and had asked the County Attorney to detail the pros and cons of one particular aspect. She also discussed the problem with many Virginia laws, noting that they often deal with the same subject matter but are adopted over a long period of time, leading to inconsistencies, gaps, and ambiguities.

She then shifted to discussing action items in the CEP roadmap, including the "energy ambassadors" initiative, which had some funding issues. She also mentioned the need for more engagement with community partners to help spread information and facilitate meeting the county's carbon neutrality goal. She also brought up the Green Homes Choice program, which was being looked at and revamped, and noted that its current structure was fairly intense.

Demetra McBride discussed the balance between personal assistance and more generic information for people to find. She mentioned that they were making progress in public engagement necessary for transitioning in the private sector. She encouraged people to read the monthly newsletter and mentioned the availability of a lot of information on the AIRE website. She talked about the Green Home Choice program, which was resource-intensive and catered to a limited number of homes each year. They were looking to automate it and update a series of videos for electrification. They were also considering how to encourage building owners and condominium owners to adopt more green practices.

She mentioned the possibility of green mortgages and the idea of a centralized concierge service for people to call in about a variety of topics. Demetra McBride had a discussion with the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions, where they focused on using the school system as a conduit and platform for climate and energy education. Some exciting ideas emerged from the discussion. They were looking forward to doing more of this in the next couple of years. Work had already started on all of this. They were trying to maximize outcomes by changing processes or delivery of programs to expand not just outputs but real outcomes.

Jonathan Morgenstein asked what a green mortgage is. Demetra McBride explained that a green mortgage is where people buy a home that is under their credit limit because they're going to have to do improvements on the house. They were looking at working possibly with banks to promote green mortgages. Jonathan Morgenstein asked if this was related to the impending announcements for the National Clean Investment Fund and the Clean Communities Investment Accelerator. Demetra McBride wasn't aware of these programs and asked Jonathan for a link to them. She mentioned that her main job lately was identifying money sources coming out of the federal government and opportunities. Jonathan clarified that he was talking about the two green bank initiatives. Demetra McBride acknowledged that they were working on these initiatives. Jonathan mentioned that he saw Rich, who had been doing most of the work, on a call a few days ago.

Demetra McBride confirmed that they were waiting for the announcement of the overarching awards for the main funds. They had been working with the Coalition for Green Capital and had set up a local agency for localized administration of those funds. She mentioned that the Solar for All initiative had experienced some hiccups in its launch, which was supposed to have happened the previous October or November. Jonathan Morgenstein clarified that the applications were due back then and the announcements were expected in March.

Demetra McBride mentioned that VRC was trying to organize and manage the administration of the program in Northern Virginia and confirmed that they were working with Virginia Energy.

Discussion with County Board member Susan Cunningham

Then Susan Cunningham joined the meeting and was welcomed by Joan McIntyre. Susan expressed her appreciation for the service of the community members and mentioned her background in mechanical engineering with a focus on renewables and materials. She talked about her career path, which involved bringing together land use and green building with affordable housing and community development. She mentioned her work in the district with green home and green spaces, and her role in leading Affordable Homes and Communities (AGC) during a leadership change during COVID. She also mentioned a project that scored over 75% on the C2E2 scorecard.

Susan Cunningham shared her excitement about her work on the board, focusing on three main areas: investing in transparency and efficiency for good governance, focusing on housing and planning to cater to community needs, and focusing on community connection, particularly for young people aged 15 to 24 who have been disconnected due to COVID and are experiencing climate anxiety.

Two months into her role, she was examining proposed tax rate changes and welcomed feedback. The county manager had presented a baseline budget that balances and a proposal for some additional increase in the tax rate to support climate and youth and teen programming, among other things. She expressed her excitement about being the liaison for the year and was looking forward to figuring out how to keep moving things forward. She mentioned that she had been oriented to buses before she even started her role.

Doug Snoeyenbos brought up an issue related to an ordinance from 1979 that allowed for a real estate tax exemption for the value of solar equipment on buildings, both residential and commercial. The county Attorney's office had redrafted the ordinance, which was expected to provide an incentive for homeowners to install solar equipment. Susan Cunningham acknowledged this and mentioned her past experience working at Gensler, where she worked on programs to get solar incentives on commercial buildings. She was excited to push these experiences forward in Arlington.

Joan McIntyre suggested that the Virginia code might allow tax breaks or similar incentives for energy efficiency upgrades, which could encourage people to electrify and improve energy efficiency in their homes. Susan Cunningham had just left a meeting with school advocates, discussing the importance of using schools to champion climate efforts and maintain energy commitments as schools undergo renovations. Joan McIntyre expressed frustration that the Career Center hadn't gone as far as it could have in this regard. They discussed the challenge of getting both county facilities and the private sector to move in the same direction, especially since project owners often imagine but don't implement all-electric pathways. Joan McIntyre mentioned that owners often justify this by saying that using gas auxiliary for the HVAC system reduces carbon emissions more than using electric, based on current greenhouse gas levels in the electric system. Susan agreed with this assessment.

Jonathan Morgenstein pointed out that climate issues, energy efficiency issues, and clean energy issues are not prioritized in the Site Plan Review Committee (SPRC) process. He suggested that these issues should be a core component of the process from the beginning. Joan McIntyre proposed that before submitting their design proposals, developers should provide a narrative on how they plan to achieve the county's carbon neutrality goals. Richard Dooley clarified that environmental issues are typically discussed in the second or third SPRC meeting. However, Joan said that these meetings often cover too many topics, leaving little time for discussions on green or sustainability components.

Kevin Vincent shared his perspective on the site plan process, noting two dynamics that often occur. First, he observed that by the time C2E2's input is considered, many aspects of the building have already been negotiated and set, making it too late to have the desired impact. Second, he noted that there are often trade-offs about benefits accounting in site plans, resulting in different initiatives and goals of the county being played against each other. He expressed concern that the climate change view often gets traded off. Susan Cunningham agreed with Kevin's points and added that the process and timing also play a significant role in the outcome of the site plan approval. She noted that the county staff's priorities and willingness to trade off are crucial factors in the process. Kevin emphasized that whoever gets in first and

what the county staff views as their priorities often determine which priorities will be reflected in the site plan approval. He also noted that the timing of the process affects the outcome, with late substantive comments often losing out. Susan Cunningham agreed with these observations.

Mark Greenwood emphasized the importance of the Green Building Incentive Policy in guiding the SPRC process. He suggested strengthening this policy, particularly in areas such as energy, stormwater, and excessive heat. Susan Cunningham agreed and mentioned the need for pilot projects and policy updates. She also suggested the idea of a ranking system that could incentivize green building practices. She noted a shift towards prioritizing climate issues on the board and the importance of consistently raising these issues with staff and developers. She expressed a desire to learn from other jurisdictions that are leading in this area.

Susan Cunningham discussed the need for heat resilience, particularly in older and aging affordable housing properties. She suggested focusing on design and grants to address this issue. Majdi Shomali emphasized the need for the country to be serious about the goals of the Community Energy Plan. Joan McIntyre discussed the role of developers and the trade-offs made in building projects. She mentioned the Green Building Incentive Policy and how most developers participate in it. Demetra McBride brought up the governor's executive order directing state agencies to reduce their codes by at least 25%, including the State Building Code. She explained that this was based on a belief that the country is regulation-heavy in several areas, including the building code. She mentioned that they were tracking how this would take form.

Joan McIntyre discussed a piece of legislation that started as a stretch code but ended up stating that codes can't be changed arbitrarily by the governor and must go through the regular process. Demetra McBride agreed and expressed a wish for reach codes. Susan Cunningham suggested focusing on local incentives and continuing to advocate, despite the challenges at the Commonwealth level. Joan proposed getting creative with tax incentives and other opportunities to make projects appealing and attractive. She also questioned the extent to which the County Board could disapprove a project if its sustainability elements didn't meet their expectations. Susan suggested that this could be done once, but not too many times, and noted the reality of the marketplace. She mentioned the potential for retrofitting buildings to make them more efficient and attractive, and the need to capture the embodied carbon as they get reused. She also noted the economic development team's concerns and suggested a gentle approach with office buildings.

Joan McIntyre mentioned a presentation from an associate at Red Brook about the Douglas in Annapolis. The associate stated that they were investing in projects for the long term, building to net zero carbon standards, and trying to get certification on that. They believed this was in their best financial interest as it's what their clients were looking for and helped to future-proof projects due to upcoming carbon taxes and other factors that would require expensive retrofits in the future. Kevin Vincent pointed out that developers often fall back on the way they've always done things and argued for pushing harder on the commercial end. Susan Cunningham acknowledged the trade-offs and suggested leveraging tax incentives and grant funding. Joan McIntyre added that some projects are easier to finance if they're going for high sustainability and that there are people who want to invest in such projects for their ESG portfolios.

Susan Cunningham discussed the possibility of having more "easy buttons" or regional incentives available for building owners, especially for buildings that aren't heavily used right now. She suggested that this might be the time to fine-tune these buildings. Demetra McBride

mentioned their proposal for the Climate Pollution Reduction grant, which includes a sub-sector for what they call “distressed assets”. She expressed hope that this would survive to the actual application for funding. Joe Trivette added a comment about the future housing supply stock, mentioning that the Federal Housing Finance Agency is considering a requirement for all new construction mortgages to meet the latest energy efficiency requirements. This could potentially standardize it nationally. Joan McIntyre expressed appreciation for the discussion and looked forward to future interactions. Susan Cunningham thanked everyone for their contributions and encouraged them to reach out anytime.

Brainstorming on Arlington Visioning Initiative and Climate Action Planning

Joan McIntyre suggested spending the last few minutes discussing the county’s visioning initiative. She mentioned that she had attended the kickoff visioning event for Vision 2050, where participants shared their visions for the future. There was a lot of commonality in these visions, with a focus on addressing climate change, shifting to all-electric energy efficient buildings, and creating a diverse, equitable, and green community. Joan encouraged everyone to contribute their visions on the website. She also discussed the need to think more broadly about what the county needs to do to address climate change more deeply than the Community Energy Plan. Mark Greenwood asked about the next steps for the visioning initiative.

Joan McIntyre discussed the county’s visioning initiative, Vision 2050, and expressed frustration over the lack of a clear, high-level vision. She emphasized the need to identify the county’s priorities to develop a community that reflects the vision. Mark Greenwood agreed with the importance of this process. Joan also mentioned the Green Building Incentive Policy as a potential tool for setting minimum requirements for new buildings. Cindy Lewin and Mark Greenwood discussed the challenges of changing the SPRC process and the role of the Green Building Incentive Policy. They noted that while the policy is not required, it is often used as a benchmark, which can lead to buildings being approved that do not meet the desired standards.

Rob Sandoli asked if it was possible to mandate sustainability documentation before the SPRC process even starts, and if it doesn’t meet a minimum threshold, they can’t go through with the SPRC process. Joan McIntyre agreed and emphasized the importance of setting expectations from the start. She mentioned that the Green Building Incentive Policy doesn’t currently do this. She also noted that part of the reason developers claim they can’t achieve zero carbon buildings is because they haven’t designed from the beginning with this goal in mind. Joan suggested that there could be some sort of incentive that encourages developers to design upfront for these buildings. She referenced a presentation by Red Brook that showed it’s only about 5% more expensive to build to code, which can result in energy cost savings in the long run.

Joan McIntyre discussed the need for more definition in the Green Building Incentive Policy and expressed frustration over the current state of energy efficiency design. She suggested that they look closely at how the policy works and consider how to encourage building to the right standards from the start. Doug Snoeyenbos reported that he had reached out to Bill Eger, who confirmed that he was working on a purchasing policy to encourage county employees to consider green and environmental policies in their purchasing decisions. However, due to the current time of year and the implementation of a new computer program, it was not a good time to push for a new or replacement policy. Demetra McBride confirmed this and explained that they were going through an overhaul of the Prism system. Joan McIntyre suggested getting a presentation from staff on their policies for lighting and mentioned a white paper on Dark Sky compliance by C2E2.

Demetra McBride suggested bringing Dominion into the discussion about street lights, noting that while the county owns a percentage of them and has been responsible about the type of lighting, they don't control what Dominion does. Joan McIntyre agreed and said they would follow up on this. She also provided an update on the Solid Waste Committee, mentioning that they were going forward with the draft as presented and had marginally adjusted the projected trash down a little bit. She mentioned that she would be at the county board meeting the next day to talk about the Columbia Pike form-based code. Demetra McBride thanked Joan McIntyre for inviting her to an event hosted by Sierra Club and Eco Action, and mentioned that she had talked to Jenna Peabody about Rewiring America.

Updates

Joan McIntyre ended the meeting, looking forward to their next meeting on March 25th, and asked for anyone interested in taking the lead on the letter for the budget to step forward. Doug Snoeyenbos recalled that a member of the commission had expressed interest in joining the Energy Committee, which would require a vote or formal approval. Joan McIntyre agreed to move forward with this. Doug Snoeyenbos mentioned that Rob Sandoli was interested in joining the Energy Committee and moved to welcome him. Kevin Vincent and Cindy Lewin seconded the motion. The motion was passed with no opposition. Rob Sandoli expressed his excitement and gratitude. Joan McIntyre welcomed Rob Sandoli to the Energy Committee.

Next meeting: March 25 (hybrid)