Virtual Public Information Meeting
Department of General Services

Environmental Commission Energy and Environment Initiatives
Wednesday, November 17, 2021, 6 p.m.
Introductions and Welcome
Overview Presentation
Public Input Ground Rules
Pre-sign Up Call-in Comments
Chat Box Comments
Others (as time allows)
Environmental Commission

- Established by the Board in December 2021
- Provide recommendations on energy and environmental policies and practices for Loudoun
- 17 members appointed by the Board
- Public utilities, Loudoun public schools, Subject matter experts, Non-profits, At-large residents
- Staff support from Department of General Services
General Services

- Ernie Brown – Director
- Marc Aveni – Assistant Director
- Dennis Cumbie – Environmental Division Manager
- Keara Moore – Program Manager
- Najib Salehi – Energy Coordinator
Five Initiative Areas

- Sustainable Energy (SE)
- Enhancing Natural Resources (NR)
- Environmental Justice (EJ)
- Public Engagement (PE)
- Government by Example (GE)
Sustainable Energy Goals

• Accelerate clean energy investment
  o Explore “green bank” for Loudoun

• Increase Loudoun grid-supplied renewable energy
  o Evaluate “community choice aggregation” feasibility study

• Expand electric vehicle use
  o Expand EV fleet for County and schools
  o Expand EV charging infrastructure for staff and public
Sustainable Energy Goals continued

• Reduce data center fossil-fuel energy usage
  o Incentivize energy efficiency renovations of data centers
  o Explore/expand green hydrogen as fuel source

• Increase use of solar power
  o Evaluate “solar zoning” to accelerate utility/non-utility scale solar and other renewable energy use
  o Enable solar as appropriate by sector and County region

• Reduce energy usage in new/existing buildings
  o Incentivize improved energy efficiency of existing buildings
  o Promote new development towards net-zero emissions
Natural Resources Goals

• Dashboard to track critical environmental indicators
  o Map environmental resources and impairments

• Update land management policies
  o Propose tree ordinance
  o Establish wildlife corridors

• Analyze development processes and enforcement
  o Evaluate review process for natural resources
  o Robust developer incentives to encourage land conservation
Natural Resources Goals continued

• Promote healthy watersheds
  o Expand stream buffers (make them wider)
  o Review existing watershed management plans for relevancy

• Improved waste management and recycling
  o Implement single use bag tax and enhanced litter enforcement
  o Establish food waste composting pilot program at schools and restaurants
Environmental Justice Goals

• Identify EJ areas of concern
  o Develop risk maps & overlay with equity emphasis areas

• Promote energy equity with underserved populations
  o For example, low-income assistance with solar panel or used EV purchase, community solar in non-HOA areas, EV charging in ROWs and for multi-family

• Expanded outreach to EJ communities for input on actions to achieve commission goals
Public Engagement Goals

• Conduct Loudoun Environmental Excellence Awards
  o Includes residents, educators, business and non-profits

• Invite broad public input into commission goals
  o Host annual Energy and Environment Public Forum
  o Host roundtables with stakeholders such as HOAs, developers, agricultural community

• Develop strategic partnerships with targeted groups to further commission goals
  o For example, non-English speaking, over 55 communities and local non-profits
Government by Example Goals

• Develop Loudoun energy plan with specific goals/measurables
  o Annual Loudoun energy report to residents and Board
  o Track County energy usage in an easy-to-follow manner

• Reduce County facility energy usage/environmental footprint
  o Sustainable construction practices in all new County facilities
  o Other examples include, implement automatic “lights off” when rooms are empty, water bottle refill stations, expanded recycling opportunities for staff

• Sustainable County landscape management
  o Require 50% native plants and no invasive plants for all County landscapes
  o Develop nutrient management plans for all County maintained turf
Ideas For Future Consideration

• Data center use of reclaimed water
• Track data center hourly energy usage
• County GHG emissions tracking
• Stream restoration projects with ecological focus
• Innovative natural resources funding mechanisms
• Create open space management plan
• Reduce impervious surfaces
• Explore County landfill methane gas utilization
• Agricultural manure energy re-use
Public Input

• We want to hear from you
• Comment on the 5 Initiatives and associated goals
• Do you have other suggestions?
• Ask for clarification
• Public comments accepted until November 30th
Public Input continued

• Sign up ahead of time and speak for 2 minutes
• At meeting, request to speak for 2 minutes (as time allows)
• Leave question for staff in chat box
• Fill out online comment form
TIMER
Two Minutes for Each Speaker
Next Steps

• Staff will consider all input received
• Comments will be posted with minor editing for clarity
• Presentation for Board (January 2021 tentative) on recommended energy and environment initiatives
• Receive Board direction/input on possible initiatives
• Return to Board at later date with cost and staffing considerations
Contact Information

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Environmental Commission Webpage
https://onboard.loudoun.gov/board/3503

Environment Webpage
https://www.loudoun.gov/environment
Thank You