



**Loudoun County**

**VIRGINIA**

WHERE TRADITION MEETS INNOVATION

-- Draft --

# 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
  - Explore “green bank” for Loudoun
- Increase Loudoun grid-supplied renewable energy
  - Evaluate “community choice aggregation” feasibility study
- Expand electric vehicle use
  - Expand EV fleet for County and schools
  - Expand EV charging infrastructure for staff and public

# Sustainable Energy Goals continued

- Reduce data center fossil-fuel energy usage
  - Incentivize energy efficiency renovations of data centers
  - Explore/expand green hydrogen as fuel source
- Increase use of solar power
  - Evaluate “solar zoning” to accelerate utility/non-utility scale solar and other renewable energy use
  - Enable solar as appropriate by sector and County region
- Reduce energy usage in new/existing buildings
  - Incentivize improved energy efficiency of existing buildings
  - Promote new development towards net-zero emissions

# Natural Resources Goals

- Dashboard to track critical environmental indicators
  - Map environmental resources and impairments
- Update land management policies
  - Propose tree ordinance
  - Establish wildlife corridors
- Analyze development processes and enforcement
  - Evaluate review process for natural resources
  - Robust developer incentives to encourage land conservation



# Natural Resources Goals continued

- Promote healthy watersheds
  - Expand stream buffers (make them wider)
  - Review existing watershed management plans for relevancy
- Improved waste management and recycling
  - Implement single use bag tax and enhanced litter enforcement
  - Establish food waste composting pilot program at schools and restaurants

# Environmental Justice Goals

- Identify EJ areas of concern
  - Develop risk maps & overlay with equity emphasis areas
- Promote energy equity with underserved populations
  - For example, low-income assistance w/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
  - Includes residents, educators, business and non-profits
- Invite broad public input into commission goals
  - Host annual Energy and Environment Public Forum
  - Host roundtables with stakeholders such as HOAs, developers, agricultural community
- Develop strategic partnerships with targeted groups to further commission goals
  - For example, non-English speaking, over 55 communities and local non-profits

# Government by Example Goals

- Develop Loudoun energy plan with specific goals/measurables
  - Annual Loudoun energy report to residents and Board
  - Track County energy usage in an easy-to-follow manner
- Reduce County facility energy usage/environmental footprint
  - Sustainable construction practices in all new County facilities
  - Other examples include, implement automatic “lights off” when rooms are empty, water bottle refill stations, expanded recycling opportunities for staff
- Sustainable County landscape management
  - Require 50% native plants and no invasive plants for all County landscapes
  - 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 30<sup>th</sup>

# 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**



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# 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**

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