

Sustainability Initiatives

Sustainability can be defined in many ways. In relation to urban planning, sustainability is often defined as “development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs” (World Commission on Environment and Development, 1987). The City has a responsibility to future generations to develop sustainably. In 2013, the City executed an energy performance contract to implement energy retrofits at fourteen City-owned buildings. The City pays back the upfront costs of the retrofits using the annual energy cost savings over time.

Sustainability issues extend well beyond City boundaries, so local decisions can impact the region and beyond. The City collaborates with regional partners, such as MWCOG and the Northern Virginia Regional Commission (NVRC) in formulating solutions to sustainability challenges and taking actions to achieve regional goals. In 2010, the Mayor and City Council adopted a resolution endorsing the voluntary Greater Washington 2050 Compact in which the City committed to following the principles and goals set within The Region Forward report, a vision for a more accessible, sustainable, prosperous, and livable metropolitan Washington.

Guiding Principle:

In 2035, Fairfax is a city with... sustainable practices that preserve, conserve, reuse and recycle resources.



Sustainability Initiatives Goal 1

Increase the use of sustainable practices, technology, design, and materials.

This City should seize the opportunity to promote energy efficient and sustainable redevelopments and retrofits of aging buildings while also encouraging designs that fit within the context of the existing community. This can involve incentives for privately-owned buildings as well as City investment in public facilities. Education about financing options (such as the Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corporation loans) should be provided to property owners. By improving energy efficiency and sustainable design of civic operations and in the greater community, the City will harmonize resources, investments and technology, help reduce utility costs, support “green collar” jobs, and institutionalize change.

OUTCOME SI1.1: Minimized energy demand with the application of energy efficient design features, technologies, and best practices.

ACTION SI1.1.1 Promote the efficient use of energy by residents, business owners and government facilities and operations to achieve a 30% reduction in energy use from 2018 baseline levels by 2035; a 40% reduction from 2018 baseline levels by 2040; and a 55% reduction from 2018 baseline levels by 2050.

SI1.1.1.1 Use a data-driven assessment process to deploy energy efficiency technologies throughout all government facilities and operations, and promote energy efficiency best practices among government employees.

SI1.1.1.2 Support incentives, provide education, and partner with public and private groups to promote energy efficiency and sustainability improvements by private property owners.

SI1.1.1.3 Promote voluntary benchmarking for commercial buildings.

SI1.1.1.4 Implement programs that offer clean energy financing solutions for residential and commercial sectors, such as the Solarize NOVA campaign, Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) program, and Fairfax Renaissance Housing Corporation (FRHC) Loans.

ACTION SI1.1.2 Develop a green building policy that establishes green building standards and incentives for both private and public sector construction and major renovations.

OUTCOME SI1.2: Increased use of renewable energy sources and advanced sustainable technologies.

ACTION SI1.2.1 Conduct feasibility studies and subsequent plans for government operations to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and community-wide 100% renewable electricity by 2050.

ACTION SI1.2.2 Revise applicable codes, zoning regulations, policies, and design guidelines to help facilitate local renewable energy deployment and adoption of sustainable technologies.

ACTION SI1.2.3 Provide education and incentives for residents and businesses to install renewable energy systems and sustainable technologies.

ACTION SI1.2.4 Partner with other local governments, organizations, and individuals on renewable energy planning and implementation.

Sustainability Initiatives Goal 1

OUTCOME SI1.3: Reduced waste and increased reuse and recycling of materials.

ACTION SI1.3.1 Implement the Solid Waste Management Plan, which establishes waste reduction goals and outlines how the City manages solid waste and recycling.

OUTCOME SI1.4: Minimized potable water demand in the community.

ACTION SI1.4.1 Develop and provide water conservation education and incentive programs for residents and businesses to promote the use of water efficient practices and products.

ACTION SI1.4.2 Support incentives and revise applicable codes, policies, and design guidelines to encourage water efficiency in new construction and landscaping.



Sustainability Initiatives

Goal 2

Support physical activity and healthy lifestyles.

Since the City is mostly built out and infrastructure is already in place, it is an ideal location to provide access to healthy food, community facilities, and recreational opportunities. Smart growth concepts should be incorporated in new development and redevelopment to further enhance the ability of residents to take advantage of public transportation, parks, open space, and trails. The City also strives to improve access to healthy, affordable, and regionally-grown foods to promote public health, reduce environmental impacts, and support economic development (Figure 36).

OUTCOME SI2.1: Access to healthy, regionally-grown foods.

ACTION SI2.1.1 Evaluate regulations that permit urban agriculture on publicly-owned property and/or space for community gardens in new multifamily and mixed-use developments.

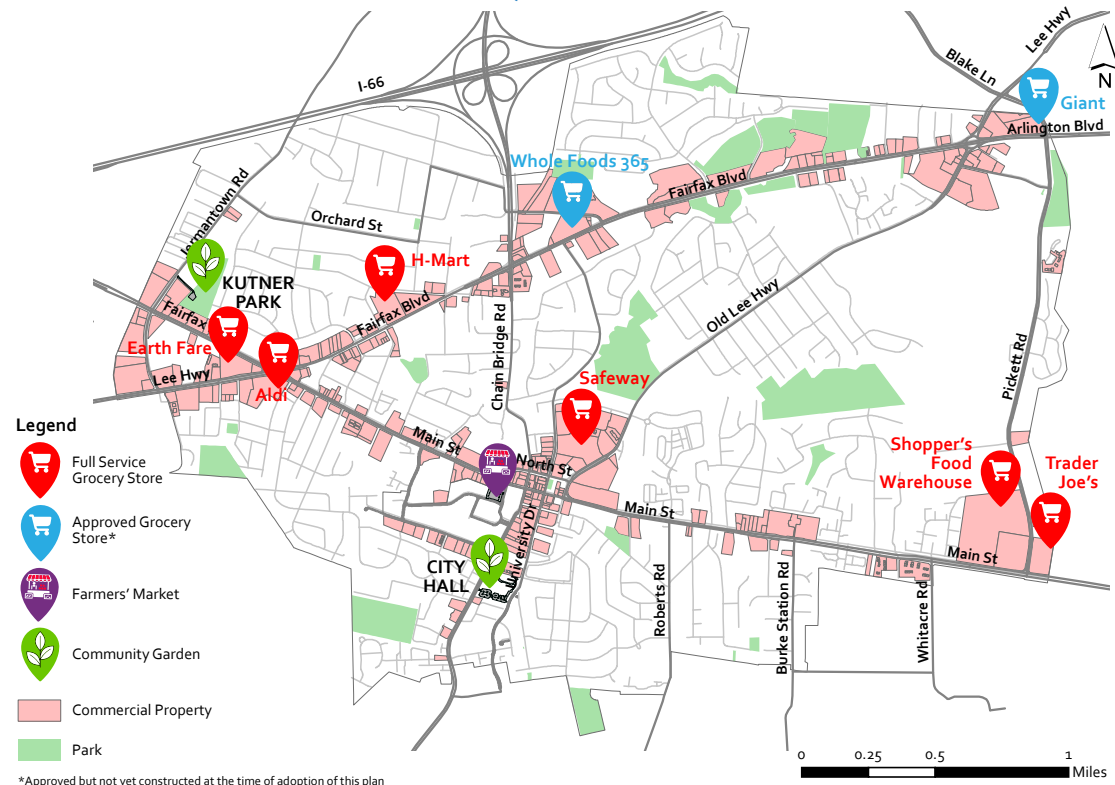
ACTION SI2.1.2 Work with Fairfax County to develop a healthy food access plan.

OUTCOME SI2.2: Access to parks, recreation, community facilities, trails, and open space.

ACTION SI2.2.1 Promote walking and trail use as part of a healthy community initiative.

ACTION SI2.2.2 Partner with Fairfax County and NOVA Parks to improve and expand the local and regional park system.

FIGURE 36 FULL SERVICE GROCERY STORES, FARMERS MARKETS AND COMMUNITY GARDENS



*Approved but not yet constructed at the time of adoption of this plan

Source: Fairfax City GIS Parcels 2018