

ESC Fiscal 2011 Work Plan

The purpose of this memo is to report the work and plans of the City's Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) since its formation in February 2010. A primary focus of the ESC has been on organizing and establishing a clear statement of its vision and mission and in selecting candidate projects for a work plan which its members believe will extend over the coming fiscal year. The organization of the ESC is nearly complete, with seven of the eight members now in place. We also are pleased to have George Mason University's Manager of Sustainability in attendance at our meetings as a liaison with the university community and resource.

Our vision, mission statement, and work plan for the City's Fiscal Year 2011 follow.

Vision

The Environmental Sustainability Committee envisions an environmentally sustainable City of Fairfax that supports the well being of its residents.

Mission Statement

The Environmental Sustainability Committee (ESC) is committed to guiding the City of Fairfax to become an environmentally sustainable "green city." This process involves resource conservation, the efficient use of resources in all areas, reducing the use of non-renewable resources, and developing and using renewable resources. To accomplish these goals, the ESC will identify and recommend programs and policies that will engage residents and businesses in the creation of a sustainable city.

Work Plan for the City's FY 2011

The ESC is proceeding to develop recommendations and contributions for two efforts that are driven by outside deadlines:

- Comprehensive Plan Update: The timeframe of this work will be based on the plan schedule established by the City Planning Director.
- Potential New Stormwater Regulations and Total Maximum Daily Load Requirements: ESC recommendations to the Council will be based on the schedule established by the state and federal government for permit action implementation and any required changes to the city's stormwater regulations.

We are also working on several other environmental projects that we believe will be of value to the city and its citizens, and plan to move them forward during Fiscal 2011

including: recycling program development; environmental assessment (creation of a set of quantitative and qualitative questions and measurements that will establish a baseline of information about the city's environmental status quo) and recommendations on improving the processes by which the city accomplishes its environmental objectives ; green building policy; funding and budget opportunities, city tree/environmental policy update; identification of energy conservation programs; GMU partnership opportunities, monitoring tank facility safety efforts, and citizen outreach events.

The ESC plans to pursue these projects over the City's 2011 fiscal year, and is open to addressing additional subjects that may emerge. We welcome Council direction and input on any of the projects identified above, as well as any additional subjects the Council considers appropriate for the ESC work plan. It is our intention to provide our first annual report to the Council at the completion of the City's fiscal 2011.

City of Fairfax
Environmental Sustainability
Committee

November 9, 2010
Work Session with City Council

Committee Members

- Judy Fraser- Chair
- Kate Bennett
- Thomas Kennedy
- Bruce Knight
- Chris Todd
- Bob Wilkinson
- Jay Wilson-Business community member
- Lenna Storm- GMU Liaison
- Adrian Fremont- City staff representative

Vision

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Committee Projects for 2010-2011

1. Measurement of city's sustainability
2. Sustainable development guidelines
3. Comprehensive Plan review participation
4. Energy efficiency programs
5. Review of city environmental policies
6. City and regional partnerships
7. Outreach and education activities
8. Monitoring storm water regulations
9. Funding strategies

How Environmentally Sustainable Are We?

- **Develop index of environmental sustainability indicators for City of Fairfax**
- **Measure and establish a baseline of quantitative and qualitative information**
- **Ownership of index requires we involve employees, citizens and businesses**
- **“Macro” indicators to promote the City**
- **“Micro” indicators to examine and improve operational processes**

Sustainable Development

- Sustainable development is now an expectation of government, private industry and citizens.
- LEED is not the only option for building green. The city can create guidelines that are tailored to the city.
- Sustainable development guidelines need to be an economic incentive for those who want to do business in the city .

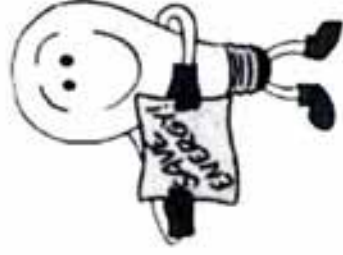
Comprehensive Plan Review

- Integrate sustainability into the Comprehensive Plan
- Participate in current Comprehensive Plan review



Energy Efficiency Programs

- Monitor status of government energy assistance programs
- Identify potential strategies for encouraging energy and resource efficient improvements to homes, businesses and government



To)

Review of Environmental Policies

- Tree planting and conservation
- Identify updates to current regulations
- Coordinate tree initiatives with other city groups



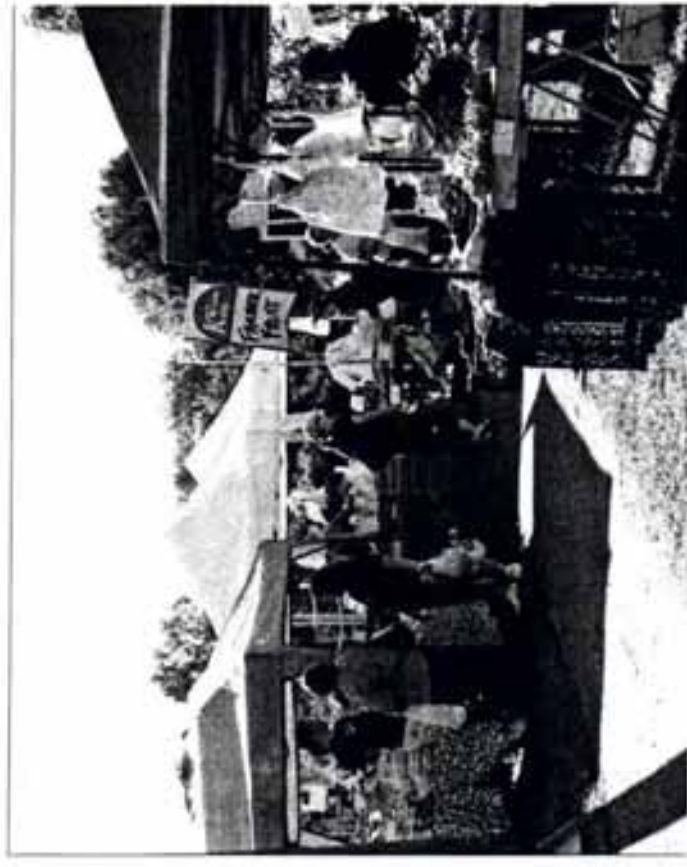
City and Regional Partnerships

- George Mason University – resource and partner
Workshops
Home Eff.
energy
water
waste min.
- GMU Sustainability Institute Grant
- Vienna and Falls Church dialogue; “healthy competition”
- NV Soil and Water Conservation District
- Reach out to city committees, COG, NVRPA, neighboring counties, business community, ACE, private organizations.

Friday, Dec 1

Outreach and Education

- Identify potential platforms: Fall Festival, Parade, Earth Day, workshops, CityScene, library, seminars, markets, recycling committee, school programs, stormwater education, civic associations
- Only as good as our outreach
- Lead by example – City services need to be green



Monitoring of Stormwater Issues

- Increased focus on regional water quality impacts from urban stormwater runoff
- Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) allocations-
 - Accotink TMDL
 - EPA is proposing a 53 % reduction in flows into Accotink Creek from Fairfax City
 - Chesapeake Bay TMDL
 - EPA is proposing significant reductions for nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment loads

Impacts of TMDLs

- TMDL allocations will be incorporated into enforceable municipal stormwater permits and construction stormwater permits impacting both new and redevelopment projects and requiring retrofits to existing development.
- Depending on Watershed Implementation Plan requirements, additional costs for stormwater facilities may well be required as soon as next year.

July

Funding and Allocation of Resources for Sustainability Initiatives

- Approach will be to identify sustainability measures that provide a positive return on investment
- Identify possible reallocations of existing expenditures based on goal of sustainability
- Grant opportunities



Jude,

RECAP

- **Priorities:**
 - Stormwater requirements
 - Comprehensive Plan
 - Sustainable development guidelines
 - Energy efficiency
- **Strategies:**
 - Measure city's sustainability
 - Develop city and regional partnerships
 - Create outreach and education activities
 - Review City's environmental policies
 - Identify funding opportunities

Fairfax City has many opportunities to become more sustainable.

With community and Council support the City of Fairfax can be a greener, more sustainable city for our children.

