**ESC Areas of Focus**

**Top Recommendations for the City Council**

* **8 votes. Climate Change:** Support climate adaptation efforts, such as the development and implementation of the Community Flood Resilience Plan and Climate Adaptation and Resiliency Plan. Resiliency planning efforts identify how to better prepare and reduce risk to climate change impacts (e.g. heavy precipitation and inland flooding; severe storm and wind events; extreme heat and cold; drought) for city residents, businesses, and infrastructure.
* **8 votes. Energy Conservation and Efficiency:** Support solar projects, including the installation of rooftop solar, ground-mounted solar, and/or solar parking canopies at select city facilities; net metering incentive, and community outreach. Take advantage of the federal tax incentive (direct pay).
* **7 votes. Urban Forestry:** Pass a tree ordinance focusing on improving the management of the public right-of-way trees.
* **6 votes. Energy Conservation and Efficiency:** Adopt an ordinance to join the Virginia state-wide Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) Program.
* **5 votes. Food Security and Sustainability:** Build demonstration gardens to encourage city residents to build rain, pollinator, and food production gardens at their homes.
* **5 votes. Waste Management:** Evaluate expanding the city’s composting program by adding compost drop-off locations in the city, including schools and providing curbside compost collection.
* **4 votes. Climate Change:** Support climate mitigation efforts, such as the development and implementation of the Climate and Energy Action Plan.
* **3 votes. Stormwater:** Support more public buy-in on the stormwater utility through very targeted community outreach.
* **2 votes. Urban Forestry:** Support the development of the Urban Forest Management Plan, including promoting it to internal and external stakeholders.
* **2 votes. Urban Forestry:** Develop strategies for promoting urban forest education and outreach to the community, focusing on invasive species management.
* **1 vote.** **Overall:** Institutionalize sustainability goals and resources by fostering alignment, commitment, collaboration, and accountability across local government departments, other public agencies, community partners, and outside organizations.
* **1 vote. Overall:** Support the approval of new full-time employees who support environmental and sustainability efforts.
* **1 vote. Energy Conservation and Efficiency:** Support investments in Electric Vehicles (EV), including supporting the development of the EV Readiness Plan, supporting the installation of EV charging infrastructure, educating City residents on the benefits of EVs, and adopting a fleet electrification policy.
* **1 vote. Food Security and Sustainability:** Encourage food production in new developments and encourage food production businesses in the city.
* **1 vote. Food Security and Sustainability:** Educate community members on the importance of food security and reducing food waste.
* **1 vote. Waste Management:** Continue and expand refuse and recycling education and outreach efforts to communicate the importance of and how to reduce the amount of contamination within the recycling bins.
* **1 vote. Waste Management**: Create a green businesses award or recognition program for businesses that apply environmental practices (e.g., glass recycling, composting, recyclable take-out containers, no single use utensils).
* **Overall:** Identify and pursue relevant federal and state funding opportunities.
* **Overall:** Support FY25 environmental, sustainability, urban forestry, and stormwater CIP and operating budget requests.
* **Climate Change:** Continue the partnership with GMU’s Virginia Climate Center on climate mitigation and adaptation efforts.
* **Stormwater:** Consider creating a stormwater grant program for residents to start projects on their property with guidance from city staff.