

Energy and Climate Change Task Force Meeting #5 Summary

February 1, 2022 | 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

Zoom Virtual Meeting | [Meeting Recording](#)
[Task Force Webpage](#)

Attendees

Task Force Members

(*Present; **Absent)

Alyssa Abosompin*

Javier Bastos*

Leah Devendorf**

Mary Harris, Co-Chair*

Fiona Herbold**

Praveen Kathpal*

Raquel Nicora*

Marian Pegram, Co-Chair*

Josh Sawislak*

Marta Schantz*

Rose Stephens-Booker*

Stephen Walz*

Sangina Wright*

City Staff

Ellen Eggerton

Bill Eger

Jessica Lassetter

Amanda Dolasinski

Camille Liebnitzky

Dan Medina

Members of the Public

Mark Ginsberg

Daphne Tuccitto

Kathie Hoekstra

Anne Reddy

Rick Schneider

Marlene Dakita

Matthew Johnston

Wrigley Smith

Scott Barstow

Krissy Walentisch

Marissa Womble

AJ Thomas

Eldon Boes

Sean Porse

1) Welcome, Introductions, Meeting Overview

The meeting commenced at 7:02 p.m. with Ms. Marian Pegram sharing the required electronic meeting notice. Ms. Mary Harris walked Task Force members through the agenda.

Mr. Bill Eger went through Meeting 4 follow-up and city updates:

- Three studies have been recently published that will help guide climate action: Transportation Planning Board Climate Mitigation Study board (posted online under Meeting number 4 resources), Virginia Department of Energy Decarbonization Study (posted online), and State Corporation Commission Transportation Electrification Study (not yet available but will be posted once it is received)
- There are 3 new city council members and the new city manager, Mr. Jim Parajon.
- This past month, city council held a work plan retreat with 3 items of interest: resilience, climate change and environmental justice, and also city-wide inclusive and equitable community engagement. The video of work plan retreat will be posted to city's website.
- The city manager will present FY2023 budget on February 15, and over March and April there will be public comments and recommendations to city council regarding the budget.
- The VA General assembly is in session and being led by the legislative director. The city is actively working to advance priorities – many of which reflect climate, energy, environmental stewardship and programs and understanding the new administrations priorities. The General Assembly may halt recent climate regulation laws, so the city is preparing to work to keep the current climate-advancing policies. If you are interested in learning more about the city's legislative priorities, go to [this link](#).

- The Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act (IIJA) was passed by Congress late 2021. A lot of infrastructure projects are starting now, and the city is currently reviewing and evaluating projects.

2) Climate Adaption – Addressing Flooding, Extreme Heat, and Additional Climate Vulnerabilities

Mr. Eger talked about the workshop #2 and trends and impacts for Alexandria specifically. The climate change impacts include extreme heat, increased precipitation, critical infrastructure effects and equity implications. The city wants to prioritize the highest climate vulnerability risks (extreme heat days and flooding) while realizing that other consequences will not be ignored. Mr. Eger also mentioned the leverage to state planning efforts, including DC's Climate Ready DC plan, the Montgomery County climate action plan, and Virginia Coastal Adaptation and Resilience Master Plan, among others.

Mr. Dan Medina then went through a few slides about flooding – and more frequent and severe storms - in Alexandria. There have been three severe storms in Alexandria over a 14-month period (2019-2020); flooding occurred because the dated storm system was overwhelmed. Dan went through why the city is experiencing more frequent and severe flooding events from a climate change perspective. Mr. Medina went through the program that is working to help mitigate flooding across the city which include capital investments (\$170M allocated to 11 projects over the next 10 years), spot improvements, increased maintenance, and outreach and technical assistance and technical and financial assistance to property owners, residents, and businesses across the city. He talked about the CASSCA study that reviewed the city's storm sewer infrastructure – and how that was used in conjunction with the 311 calls after the flash flood events to prioritize where the projects should be taking place. Mr. Medina also spoke of the flood mitigation grant, a pilot grant that gives people funding for small projects on their property, such as floodgates to help keep floods out of property. Citizens can be granted up to \$5,000 for mitigation projects.

Mr. Medina went over the large storm sewer capacity projects – infrastructure lasts for a long time – but they need to be there and be reliable. Mr. Medina stated that the city is planning for climate change with these large investments. He discussed “top-down analysis” (business as usual, predicting future conditions and designing infrastructure systems based on those predictions) and “bottom-up analysis”, this is resilient design. Bottom-up analysis occurs by selecting a design standard based on best-available information, then stress-testing the design by trying out what-if scenarios – and look at the cost/benefits. Bottom-up analysis looks at 6-steps based on mitigation of risk (consequence of failure).

After the presentation, there were some questions that the Task Force and staff discussed. This discussion included that the city has been granted 3 grants from Community Flood Preparedness Fund (Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation) to help improve stormwater management. Mr. Medina addressed a concern that the longer the city waits to invest in climate adaptations, the more expensive; he indicated that the city is working on catching up with the effects of industrialization, climate change, and building cities of majority-impervious surfaces.

Mr. Eger then went through a heat island and adaption presentation. He summarized the December 7th meeting discussing urban heat islands and adaptations to help reduce the effect, such as cooling centers during very hot days and increase native shade tree canopies in open spaces. The city is considering different options to expand heat response and heat island reduction, such as increasing programs and incentives to green roofs, vertical gardens, solar panels, and cool roofs. It also wants to increase education on heat risks, energy efficiency and cooling assistance programs. The city wants to create community check-in programs for high-risk neighbors to extreme heat.

In regards to general climate adaptation, the city wants to hear the Task Force's ideas of what aspects of critical infrastructure to prioritize, such as power systems, wastewater treatment and water supply, and transportation, among others.

3) Discussion: Task Force Guidance on Climate Adaption Priorities

a) How have you adapted?

The Task Force members discussed closing blinds and windows on hot days, getting windows tinted to reduce summer sun heat. They discussed other options to increase solar panels and battery systems in the city, and that systematic solutions should be done at the community level. The group discussed the difficulty in implementing weatherization and energy efficiency projects in multi-family units.

b) How does Task Force further recommend supporting adaptation across different scales?

The Task Force discussed increasing tree planting, especially in lower-income areas, where there is far less green space than in wealthier Alexandria neighborhoods. The group discussed ways to educate all Alexandria citizens on what city environmental grants and programs are available to them. The Task Force also discussed different tools to reduce the urban heat island effect such as turning unused pavement into green space and using reflective paint.

c) How should City prioritize climate adaptation for critical infrastructure resiliency?

The Task Force agreed that more on-site renewable energy and generators should be added to buildings. The group discussed the difficulties of putting solar on rental properties, and in owned condos the first hurdle is normally getting 60% of residents to sign on to a project. The main driver is money: if the rental property can make the money back in a short amount of time, they are much more likely to invest in a project. As for new buildings, fortunately the green building policy in Alexandria requires new buildings to be LEED silver.

d) Beyond impacts – and what other guidance does the Task Force have?

The Task Force encouraged the addition of sustainable design features to the waterfront, and the concern of increased wind events and extreme storms.

4) Discussion: Community Engagement Session #2 – Vulnerability / Adaption

Ms. Ellen Eggerton discussed the second community workshop and the ideas about format – the meeting will take place March 1st. The city wants as many community members as possible come to the workshop. The Task Force recommended that speakers show specific US examples of what a successful plan and adaptation to the climate crisis looks like. They discussed the possibility of doing a hybrid event, where the meeting takes place in a vulnerable community to make it more accessible to those in that neighborhood. They suggested showing the public the city's flood maps and how it affects city residents, what future infrastructure in the city should be, and that the breakout discussion should be focused on city, not individual, actions. Finally, a Task Force member recommended that the workshop shows the gaps between what renters in low-income communities need versus what building owners provide (i.e., air conditioning, green space).

5) Discussion: Task Force Status and Next Steps, ECCAP Process Updates

Mr. Bill Eger went through the additional updates and considerations. These updates include: the official consultant for the city is ICF, and other partners with ECCAP are ICLEI, MWCOG Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and GMU (George Mason University Institute for Sustainable Earth). Outstanding items the city will provide the Task Force are: overview of scopes and where the partners and city staff are working where, and schedule updates to Task Force (the city will provide this in the next couple weeks). The city is also working to get on the various calendars for the spring, like the city transportation and planning commissions. Finally, the Task Force discussed what the possible next steps are, since it expires on May 4th. The Task Force requested an extension to this date so that it has time to review and comment on the ECCAP draft after consultants review it (the consultants' draft will not be available until after May 4th).

At the end of the meeting, Mr. Steve Walz introduced his draft of a letter that would be signed by the two Task Force Co-Chairs and be given to the city manager and mayor laying out what additions to the FY23 budget based on public comments. The letter includes the following requests: support supplementary budget requests, increase funding of low-middle income weatherization and energy efficiency programs to be consistent with equity, and give resources needed so that consultants can do all their work. The Task Force passed a motion that approved the letter; the Co-Chairs will look at the letter and sign it after review.

Ms. Marta Schantz mentioned a letter from EPC, TC, and PC to move faster on addressing climate crisis – and in support and alignment of the letter Steve created – and the PC is voting on that letter tonight. EPC and TC and PC are also working on pushing city to do all climate crisis actions too

6) Public Comment

Scott Barstow discussed city's use of [American Rescue Plan Act funding](#) and back when the EPC was working on helping the city manage the transformation to respond to the climate crisis. There was talk about making the EPC focused on keeping city accountable regarding climate change action items.

7) Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Record of Votes

- 1) Resolution to Support Virtual Meeting moved by Marta Schantz, second by Stephen Walz. The resolution passed with all votes in favor and 0 against.
 - 2) Vote for the adoption of the meeting summary for December 7, 2021, moved by Josh Sawislak, second by Rose Stephens-Booker. The adoption passed with all votes in favor; 0 against; and Marta Schantz abstaining.
 - 3) Vote for the budget letter, moved by Steve Walz, second by Sangina Wright. The vote passed with all in favor and 0 against.
-

Meeting Chat

From Kathie Hoekstra to All Panelists 06:59 PM



From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 07:02 PM

Hello!! Good to be back together with everyone again

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 07:03 PM

Hello! Praveen I'll be following your live-tweet, always a treat

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 07:03 PM

if I must...

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to All Panelists 07:05 PM

Welcome everyone! Happy New Year!

Happy Lunar New Year

From Stephen Walz to All Panelists 07:06 PM

Thanks Mary. Happy Lunar New Year to all

From Daniel Medina to All Panelists 07:08 PM

Dan Medina, Flood Action Program Manager

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 07:08 PM

Josh Sawislak, task force member

From Alyssa Abosompim to All Panelists 07:08 PM

Hi everyone. Alyssa Abosompim here

From Javier Bastos to All Panelists 07:08 PM

Hello from Javier Bastos

From Raquel Nicora to All Panelists 07:08 PM

Good evening everyone — Raquel Nicora here

From Stephen Walz to All Panelists 07:08 PM

Steve Walz, Task Force Member. Good evening.

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 07:08 PM

Ellen Eggerton, Sustainability Coordinator

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 07:08 PM

Reminder to everyone to change your "To:" to Everyone in chat.

From Sangina Wright to Everyone 07:08 PM

Hi everyone, Sangina Wright here

From Rose Stephens-Booker to Everyone 07:09 PM

Rose Stephens-Booker, Task Force Member.



From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 07:10 PM

Hello again! Praveen Kathpal here, At-large member of the Task Force

From Me to All Panelists 07:10 PM

Jessica Lassetter, Stormwater Management here! I'm taking notes so forgive me for not sharing my video at the moment!

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 07:12 PM

Happy Lunar New Year everyone.

From Ellen Eggerton to All Panelists 07:13 PM

Praveen do you have a question?

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to All Panelists 07:13 PM

Mary Harris here

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 07:13 PM

Sorry, had my hand up for too long. Back down now

From Marian Pegram Co-Chair to All Panelists 07:13 PM

OK. thanks. Hi Praveen.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 07:16 PM

Love that Environmental Justice was a part of the City Council Workplan Retreat!

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 07:18 PM

Unfortunately at Council retreat, climate change and EJ was listed last rather than being integrated into consideration when we talk about equity, housing, infrastructure or community engagement/outreach.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 07:19 PM

Thanks for the note on that, Kathie. That's unfortunate, a missed opportunity.

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 07:21 PM

FYI, I'm still here, just a bandwidth issue.

From Marian Pegram Co-Chair to Everyone 07:22 PM

Hi Josh. Thanks for letting us know.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 07:26 PM

Worth noting that there are a number of co-benefits for climate adaptation and mitigation efforts. This could be a venn diagram!

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to All Panelists 07:27 PM

Jus before this meeting, I attended a Planning Commission Work session on development considerations at the former Mirant Power Plant site - 25 acres in OTN along the Mt Vernon Trail in Old Town North. Commissioners cited climate resilience, mitigation, tree canopy and sustainability - as well as affordable housing- as main issues. Gaining traction.

From Stephen Walz to All Panelists 07:28 PM

Mary - Any discussion of the development getting to net-zero energy?

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 07:28 PM

During council retreat the Mayor talked about community discussion about what flooding level should the City build to - 10 year flood, 100 year flood - higher/lower, etc. I was wondering if the City has any risk matrix it uses which has severity on x axis and likelihood on y axis? This might be a good way to have a good discussion on the topic. Given climate crisis, 10 year flood vs. 100 year flood means nothing any longer - better to use some other way to gage rainfall or flooding levels.

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 07:28 PM

Mary, great to hear and thank you for attending. I know it can take a lot of time to go to additional meetings!

Also - recommend you set your "To:" in the chat to Everyone instead of just to Host and Panelists so other attendees can see your messages

From Bill Eger to Everyone 07:29 PM

@Marta - noted and agree on capturing co-benefits

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 07:34 PM

How much is the City spending to reduce the water ending up in the storm water pipes or streams? It seems we are spending all our money on stormwater pipes and little to reduce the quantity of water ending up in the pipes.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 07:35 PM

Good thing we'll have fewer plastic trash bag litter thanks to the bag tax

From Scott Barstow to All Panelists 07:42 PM

Changes to our climate are effectively permanent, as in thousands and thousands of years....effective mitigation is the ultimate capital improvement project

From Javier Bastos to All Panelists 07:44 PM

Does it make sense that the longer the wait the more expensive it gets to act on these issues? So this is really an investment in the future of the city, is it enough and timely with current projections (there were so many)?

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 07:45 PM

Excellent presentation Dan. Bottom up design is most relevant for a small city like ALX. Can you address flooding by "overtopping" of the Potomac River as climate changes and sea level rise causes more river flooding and become extreme events become normal tidal ranges? This was noted by Jason Samenow in our ECCTF public session recently. Could it wipe out our waterfront parks regularly in the next 20-30 years?

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 07:47 PM

Question for Daniel - Good to see the existing investments being made. Alexandria was able to obtain funding for two projects (at least) out of the first round of flood management grants using funds from Virginia participation in RGGI. Has the City done any analysis of the delay in flood control projects from any loss of funding?

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 07:52 PM

On Potomac Flooding, there was an extensive presentation to the Waterfront Commission on Jan 6 - See <https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/recreation/info/WCFlood6January2022.pdf>

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 07:57 PM

Thanks to staff for being ready to apply timely to the grants and receive more funding than any other locality in the first round.

From Rick Schneider to Everyone 08:05 PM

Can the city shade surface parking lots with solar panels?

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:05 PM

Just noting that the Arlandria neighborhood and 4 mile Run flooding should be explicitly addressed in ECCAP because its an "endangered" ALX affordable housing and equity area .

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 08:06 PM

On slide 22 (Existing): What are examples of surface parking lots in the city that have been shaded through the development process?

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:08 PM

Most new development is undergrounding parking.

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:09 PM

As climate changes and temperatures rise does concrete vs asphalt in streets and surface parking are have advantages in cooling? Are there opportunities to incentivize this if so?

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 08:09 PM

On slide 23 in the attachment (Expanding...) - Regarding increased participation in weatherization, cooling assistance, and energy efficiency programs. Whose programs are these? Dominion? Washington Gas? Anyone else?

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:10 PM

State programs also

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:14 PM

Strong support of Praveen's point

From Camille Liebnitzky to All Panelists 08:14 PM

Hey everybody! Sorry I didn't introduce myself. I'm Camille Liebnitzky. I'm from Stormwater Management and specialize in green infrastructure.

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 08:15 PM

My comment was aligned with Praveen and Steve.

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:15 PM

Welcome Camille! Thank you for joining!

From Camille Liebnitzky to All Panelists 08:15 PM

thank you @Mary Harris

From Kathie Hoekstra to All Panelists 08:16 PM

Great point Praveen! 👍

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:17 PM

ALX gives a tax break to solar plus battery operations.

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:18 PM

City support for putting in backflow preventers in sewers as part of larger sewer improvements is another example of how the City can put policy and funds in place to act.

From Bill Eger to Everyone 08:18 PM

@Praveen - DHCD facilitates Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP), Dept of Social Services operates energy assistance programs, Dominion Energy operates EnergyShare and has income-qualifying energy efficiency programs. We are working to get reporting on uptake which has proven to be more difficult than expected. There is an opportunity to coordinate across Housing, Code, Health Dept, DCHS, etc. for coordinate advocacy for program uptake among many who may benefit in the community.

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:19 PM

I would suggest that every City property that is a cooling center should also have solar panels and battery in case there is a power outage.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:22 PM

There's a great report from ULI called "Pavement to Parks" that provides examples on how cities are converting former parking lots, roadways, parking garages, spaces underneath highway overpasses to parks and open space <https://knowledge.uli.org/en/Reports/Research%20Reports/2020/Pavement%20to%20Parks>

"Could that pavement you see be a park instead?"

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:24 PM

The more we get people to use public transportation vs. POVs, the less we need parking lots and thus the more parks and trees we can plant.

From Bill Eger to Everyone 08:24 PM

@Kathie. The City has been working through feasibility and technical analysis for solar+storage microgrids at City critical facilities, including those that may serve as cooling sites. These were presented as part of the first tranche of ARPA funding considerations, but was not advanced after the public input process.

From Scott Barstow to Everyone 08:27 PM

Is it within the ECC Task Force's purview to make recommendations for the City's use of the second round of ARPA funding?

From Bill Eger to Everyone 08:27 PM

@Josh. There may be opportunity to expand the City's EnergyMasters program to provide further awareness and communications. This program has been hindered by the pandemic.

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 08:28 PM

@Bill, I was trying to remember the name of EnergyMasters! Thank you

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:28 PM

Eco-City Academy is also an opportunity to have Ambassadors to assist the community

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:28 PM

Is there also an opportunity for the Climate Corps here?

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 08:29 PM

@Javier, bravo on the albedo effect.

From Bill Eger to Everyone 08:30 PM

We would be open to Climate Corps or other similar fellowship programs. Depending on the budget requirements, that would need to be taken into consideration.

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:30 PM

One area for the city to promote more implementation of both energy and flood control is to have staff assigned and with time available to use C-PACE (as Ellen notes C-PACE)

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:30 PM

Bravo Javier! Marina Towers, a 50 yr old bldg. single meter bldg, installed white roofs for reflective value and T6 insulation in its 40 year reroofing project. A little help would be great!

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:30 PM

Has climate corps been funded or is it still stuck in BBB?

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 08:32 PM

Colorado has a great new program in this space (climate corps). Not sure the state will go there, but maybe the city can do it?

@Kathie, it was in BBB.

From Javier Bastos to Everyone 08:32 PM

Has the free DASH access decreased automobile use or at least increased ridership?

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:32 PM

@Stephen and C-PACE! 👍👍

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:33 PM

Is there capacity in the City to host AmeriCorps VISTA participants to target the climate actions to our lower-income communities?

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:33 PM

In multifamily housing, it's all about \$\$\$\$. Most condos require 60% of owners to approve expenditures. So any \$\$ incentives as well as TA is important.

From Bill Eger to Everyone 08:33 PM

Preliminary analysis suggests increased ridership; I am not aware of a completed analysis on correlation with reduction of vehicle miles traveled. I believe there is analysis underway.

From Camille Liebnitzky to All Panelists 08:33 PM

I've done a similar program in Gainesville FL - that has a huge impact for those people!

Thanks @Ellen for talking about it

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:34 PM

Free DASH has improved ridership and reduced POV, but not as much as we might have liked due to POVs just driving thru ALX vs. starting or ending within ALX.

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:35 PM

DASH metrics

For ridership, I can tell you that our monthly ridership increased by 50% from August to November 2021. We reached 82% of pre-COVID ridership levels in November 2021, which was a major increase from the 40-50% of pre-pandemic service levels that we had seen for the first eight months of 2021

from Martin Barna at DASH

From Camille Liebnitzky to All Panelists 08:36 PM

Most generators are placed in basements for security and to naturally keep them cool - however, we should assess if they are to be kept now above the floodplain.

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:36 PM

@Ellen re: DASH 🍌🍌🍌🍌

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:36 PM

One place to look at to implement the resiliency hubs are at the recreation centers that are typically co-located with elementary schools

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:37 PM

We partnered with the Library to create a Resiliency Hub resource center

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:37 PM

@Mary - I agree wholeheartedly. Amend each SAP!

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:38 PM

I like the SAP climate-impact update strategy!

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:39 PM

@Ellen, Resiliency Hub resource centers are good, but there also is the need for the resiliency infrastructure to be put in place, such as the solar/battery/generators discussed

There also is the issue of split incentives that affect payback

From Rose Stephens-Booker to Everyone 08:40 PM

agree with @Mary, payback period is big part of the decision making process

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:40 PM

There's a different split incentive for landlords vs renters, as compared to a condo association. For apartment rentals, especially if the individual residents pay their utility bills directly, there's a huge split incentive that makes rooftop solar installation a big challenge.

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:41 PM

Being able for renters to buy into community solar is a better idea to reduce electric bills.

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:41 PM

Thanks @Marta for adding more info regarding split incentives

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:42 PM

Energy efficiency can be more cost effective than solar collectors

From Rose Stephens-Booker to Everyone 08:43 PM

The Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies has some great resources on split incentives (ie. barriers, approaches, case studies, etc). for those looking for a great resource. ACEEE is also a fantastic source

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:44 PM

@Rose - yes ACEEE is great resource.

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:45 PM

Institute for Market Transformation is another very good resource on how to work around split incentives

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 08:45 PM

Open space can be at ground level or elevated under certain conditions

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:46 PM

The Oakville Triangle development has a lot of resilient park/open space and stormwater strategies as part of their "horizontal development" (the land) but does not have as many "vertical development" (the buildings) commitments regarding solar panels <https://www.alexandriava.gov/planning/info/default.aspx?id=76672>

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:47 PM

Bravo Sangina! This is where Small Area Plans matter and Planning considerations rule.

From Kathie Hoekstra to Everyone 08:47 PM

@Stephen also New Building Institute too.

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:52 PM

I would second (third, fourth?) the suggestions that the Small Area Plans address flooding, heat and other climate conditions

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 08:54 PM

Thank you Raquel Nicora for inviting and enticing Jason Samenow to the last Community workshop! It was an enlightening presentation.

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 08:54 PM

@Ellen mentioned in the chat that energy efficiency can be more cost effective than solar. I'd like to point out that EE can also NOT be more cost effective than solar. Depends on the EE measure. The team that designed Discovery Elementary in Arlington gave a good talk on this and made the point that the declining cost of solar can essentially set a price cap on which EE measures are cost effective. The ones that are more expensive than solar - just add more solar instead (if you have space)

From Raquel Nicora to All Panelists 08:54 PM

I'm happy it worked out!

From Scott Barstow to Everyone 08:54 PM

Small area plans should also include district energy planning to facilitate developing zero-energy buildings

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 08:55 PM

+1 on Jason - he was great!

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:56 PM

In prior ECCAP TF meetings we had talked about Alx going to these hard-to-reach communities, instead of us inviting them to come to Alx open events. Does the city have any opportunities/bandwidth/budget to target their stakeholder outreach in that direction instead?

From Alyssa Abosompim to All Panelists 08:57 PM

I think it would be helpful if we found out from the community what things they have tried to mitigate the effects of climate crisis. Maybe find out if they've noticed anything that works for them or if there are things that definitely do not work for them. That way the city can meet people where they are in the community rather than hoping the public will follow along with city guidance

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:58 PM

I recently learned about this park that was "built to flood" which could be neat for Alx to consider <https://www.fastcompany.com/90716670/this-16-acre-atlanta-park-was-built-to-flood?>

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 08:58 PM

On breakout groups, we should focus on what the city should do, both in the Action Plan and budget decisions and less on leading with individual actions. This is consistent with comments from Praveen and others tonight.

From Alyssa Abosompim to Everyone 08:58 PM

Sorry, this message didn't make it to community members so I'm resending:

I think it would be helpful if we found out from the community what things they have tried to mitigate the effects of climate crisis. Maybe find out if they've noticed anything that works for them or if there are things that definitely do not work for them. That way the city can meet people where they are in the community rather than hoping the public will follow along with city guidance

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 08:59 PM

Agreed with Stephen, would prefer breakout discussions focus on City actions, not Individual actions

From Bill Eger to Everyone 08:59 PM

@Marta, I saw that article too. Super cool.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:00 PM

Maybe TWU could host it

From Bill Eger to Everyone 09:01 PM

TWU?

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:01 PM

@Marta that park looks awesome

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:03 PM

TWU - <https://www.tenantsandworkers.org/> - "We organize communities, build power, win changes, and advance social justice across Northern Virginia." (they have the building in Arlandria with cool street art)

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 09:03 PM

If the Corps of Engineers is ready, we should see if they are ready to speak about the NoVA coastal flood risk management study. This may not be ready but could ask

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:03 PM

Communication suggestion: Get the mayor to post it on his Facebook

From Rose Stephens-Booker to Everyone 09:03 PM

I know this is logistically hard. I think it would ideal if the community engagement, particularly in Arlandria, would include a walking or talking tour for folks to be able to point to and show what is going on in their areas.

From Raquel Nicora to All Panelists 09:04 PM

I would like to take Bill up on that offer for the template

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 09:04 PM

Great idea Rose!

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:04 PM

Love the Mayor FB/Twitter post idea - second that! So many folks follow him.

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 09:05 PM

Outreach in Arlandria should be integrated in the current outreach on the Small Area Plan in this area

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:05 PM

Instead of saying it is a workshop tell people that it is a new high density multifamily dwelling - you will get lots of engagement! (kidding...)

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 09:09 PM

@Rose, would it make sense to do some outreach at the Four Mile Run Farmers and Artisan market on Sunday morning?

Yes Rose, good ideas for this area

From Me to Everyone 09:10 PM

We have @Amanda on this meeting tonight who has been really helping our office with outreach. She did a social media post for the ECCAP meeting tonight with Fiona. She did an excellent job! We had a lot of engagement with the post!

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 09:11 PM

Thank you @Amanda! You complete us!

From Amanda Dolasinski to Everyone 09:15 PM

Yes! Fiona's post was published as a Story on Facebook and Instagram. It received 5X as much engagement (attention) as a typical post we've done in the past to promote meetings. That signals to us that people like the personal video message from ECCAP members as opposed to a text graphic.

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 09:15 PM

Thank you @Fiona!

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:15 PM

Would the council briefing be after the workshop?

From Stephen Walz to Everyone 09:16 PM

We will need at least one additional meeting to hear the input from the consultants and then develop final recommendations. This will probably require an extension, to handle these specific tasks, as we;; as provide for coordination with the other Commissions.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:16 PM

Cool, Amanda & Fiona! Do you need additional videos from ECCAP TF members to help promote future meetings? I bet a few of us would volunteer to help with that.

From Me to Everyone 09:16 PM

Yes, the workshop will be 3/1 and we anticipate the briefing will be after that.

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:17 PM

When would the consultants draft be available?

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:17 PM

Agreed that we shouldn't end the Task Force until the consultants provide their analysis and we consider that input

From Amanda Dolasinski to Everyone 09:17 PM

@marta - YES! Shoot me an email: amanda.dolasinski@alexandriava.gov. Thank you!

From Ellen Eggerton to Everyone 09:17 PM

The draft from the consultant would not be available until after May 4th

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:21 PM

I support task force extension through ECCAP adoption and we understand who will oversee implementation.

Council? Eco City Steering Committee? EPC?

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:26 PM


For reference, here are the FY23 Supplemental Budget Requests:

https://www.alexandriava.gov/uploadedFiles/tes/oeq/info/Copy%20of%20FY23_SupplementalBudgetSubmissions.pdf

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:27 PM

@Steve who is the Administration in the letter? Is that code for the mayor? or staff?

From Bill Eger to Everyone 09:31 PM

 Materials from tonight's meeting available here - <https://www.alexandriava.gov/Eco-City>

 Please give us your feedback on tonight's Community Engagement Workshop:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/GVLM5L8>

Apologies - Materials from tonight's meeting available here: <https://www.alexandriava.gov/tes/ecocity/info/default.aspx?id=118548>

From Rose Stephens-Booker to All Panelists 09:32 PM

Huzzah!

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 09:32 PM

The usual language is "staff and council"

From Krissy Walentisch to Everyone 09:33 PM

No comments from me at this time. Great discussion. Thanks!

From Matthew Johnston to All Panelists 09:33 PM

No comments from me - keep up the good work! Appreciate the discussion

From Josh Sawislak to Everyone 09:34 PM

It's her actual role on the TF.

From Mary Harris Co-Chair to Everyone 09:35 PM

Thank you @Krissy and @Matthew for joining us tonight!

From Rose Stephens-Booker to All Panelists 09:36 PM

Looking at the time! Hoping to come to a conclusion soon.

From Marta Schantz to Everyone 09:36 PM

You can find the EPC/PC/TC "Letter to City Council" from the Jan 24th EPC Meeting attachments on this website:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission>

From Scott Barstow to Everyone 09:37 PM

Thanks/sorry!

From Praveen Kathpal to Everyone 09:38 PM

Thank you @Scott for helping get the ECCAP update and task force going!