



PRINCE WILLIAM
COUNTY

Sustainability Commission

June 1, 2022



AGENDA

Regular Meeting

- **Call to Order**
- **Citizen's Time**
- **Old Business**
 - Meeting Minutes May 17, 2022
 - Review of goals of CESMP and motion of Sustainability Commission
 - Status of contractor support for CESMP
 - Schedule for CESMP
- **New Business**
 - Environmental Sustainability Impact Assessment Resolution
- **Scheduled Briefings**
 - Office of Equity and Inclusion
 - Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG)
- **Commissioner's Time**
- **Adjournment**

Citizen's Time

May 17 Meeting Minutes

Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Goals

13-D

MOTION:

November 17, 2020

SECOND:

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 20-

RE:

ENDORSE - REGIONAL CLIMATE MITIGATION AND RESILIENCY GOALS

ACTION:

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change updated its guidance to recognize that the world is already experiencing the impacts of global warming and that to avoid the most severe climate impacts, greenhouse gas emissions must be reduced by at least 45 percent from 2010 levels by 2030 and to carbon neutrality by 2050; and

WHEREAS, metropolitan Washington, to include Prince William County, is already experiencing the impacts of a changing climate, including increases in temperature and sea-level rise and increased intensity and frequency of storms; and

WHEREAS, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Region Forward Vision includes a sustainability goal that calls for a significant decrease in greenhouse gas emissions, with substantial reductions from the built environment and transportation sector; and

WHEREAS, the COG Board of Directors, in Resolution R60-08, adopted the National Capital Region Climate Change Report and its recommendations in 2008, including goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 10 percent below business as usual by 2012, 20 percent below the region's 2005 baseline by 2020, and 80 percent below the 2005 baseline by 2050; and

Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Goals

WHEREAS, COG recognizes that educating the public about the risks from climate change and the value of emission reduction and resiliency efforts is a critical action in addition to direct actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase resiliency; and

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2020, the COG Board of Directors, in Resolution R45-2020, approved a new greenhouse gas emissions reduction goal for the region of a 50 percent reduction in GHG emissions below baseline 2005 emission levels, and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby endorses the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' interim climate mitigation goal of 50 percent greenhouse gas emission reductions below 2005 levels by 2030;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors endorses the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' climate resilience goals of becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region by 2030;

Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Goals

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors directs staff to incorporate into the Comprehensive Plan goals of 100% of Prince William County's electricity to be from renewable sources by 2035, for Prince William County Government operations to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and for Prince William County Government to be 100% carbon neutral by 2050;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors directs staff to begin to work on recommendations for the creation of a public advisory body charged with advising on potential enhancements to the Community Energy Master Plan (CEMP) to achieve the goals of the above-stated Comprehensive Plan changes;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors reinforces the need to incorporate equity principles and environmental justice into the Community Energy Master Plan (CEMP) as well as the entire Comprehensive Plan.

Resolution to establish Sustainability Commission

MOTION: FRANKLIN

December 7, 2021

SECOND: BODDYE

Regular Meeting

Res. No. 21-663

RE: ESTABLISH - PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION

ACTION: APPROVED

WHEREAS, the Prince William Board of County Supervisors (Board) has issued a directive to county staff and wishes to create a Sustainability Commission to make recommendations for a Community Energy / Sustainability Master Plan to meet the county's energy efficiency goals, regional greenhouse and carbon emission reduction goals while considering among other things, population projections, economic development goals, equity, diversity, and inclusion; and

WHEREAS, on April 27th, 2021, the Board adopted the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 County Budget inclusive of funding for a Sustainability Program, which includes the creation of a Sustainability Commission; and

WHEREAS, on June 20th, 2021, the Board adopted the County's 2021 – 2024 Strategic Plan, adding two (2) additional strategy areas – Environmental Conservation and Sustainable Growth – with the goals to “Promote and expand the preservation and protection of natural resources and processes, and promote environmental justice,” and “Establish Prince William County as a leader in promoting sustainable growth that ensures the social, economic, and environmental health of the County;” and

WHEREAS, the Board has endorsed the Metro Washington Council of Government (COG)'s climate action goals;

Resolution to establish Sustainability Commission

WHEREAS, the Board has endorsed the Metro Washington Council of Government (COG)'s climate action goals;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby creates a Sustainability Commission with the authority to make recommendations for a Community Energy / Sustainability Master Plan, and herein defines the scope of its mission, membership, resources, duration, and reporting requirements.

Mission: The Sustainability Commission will focus on making recommendations to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors for a Community Energy / Sustainability Master Plan.

As the Sustainability Commission will be a public body, meetings of the Commission are subject to the open meetings requirement of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the records of the group are likewise subject to FOIA.

Membership: The Sustainability Commission shall be made of eight (8) members – one (1) appointed from each Magisterial District Supervisor, and one (1) at-large appointment made by the Chair of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors. Appointees with relevant experience in a sustainability-related field academically, professionally, or through non-profit or other work are desired.

Resolution to establish Sustainability Commission

The Commission will elect a Chair and a Vice Chair among themselves, along with any other officers its membership deems appropriate, and establish its own rules of procedure. All members of the Commission serve at the pleasure of the Prince William Board of County Supervisors and serve without compensation. The term of service for commission members is coterminous with the Prince William Board of County Supervisors.

Staff Support: The County Executive will provide staff support to the Sustainability Commission, including relevant department directors or their designees, as necessary. Coordination with county agencies, departments, and the Joint Environmental Taskforce is encouraged.

Reporting: The Sustainability Commission shall submit and make a report on its progress towards making recommendations for the Community Energy / Sustainability Master Plan to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors within twelve (12) months of being established.

After adoption of the Community Energy / Sustainability Master Plan by the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, the Sustainability Commission will monitor progress and update recommendations for the plan, as necessary.

CESMP Draft Timeline

	2022						2023					
	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	April	May	Jun
Review Baseline Policy Conditions	■	■										
Stakeholder Engagement												
County Officials			■		■			■			■	
Community/Community Organizations			■		■			■	■			
Draft Plan townhalls											■	
Analyze priority Climate Mitigation Actions	■	■	■	■	■							
Develop Climate Vulnerability Assessments	■	■	■	■	■							
Analyze Action Impacts and Prioritize Actions						■	■	■	■			
Develop Climate Action Plan									■	■	■	■

Environmental Sustainability Impact Assessment Resolution



Equity Principles and Environmental Justice

Maria D. Burgos, Executive Director,
PWC Office of Executive Management, Equity
and Inclusion

Sustainability Commission

“BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors reinforces the need to incorporate equity principles and environmental justice into the Community Energy Master Plan (CEMP) as well as the entire Comprehensive Plan.”

What does this mean?



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PATHWAY TO
2040

A Community of Choice

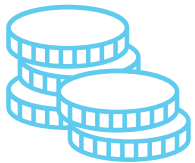
Why are equity principles and environmental justice important to know when making recommendations to the *Community Energy Master Plan* (CEMP) and to achieve the goals of the *Comprehensive Plan*?

Terms to Know

- **Environmental equity and justice (inclusion):** As defined by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA), “environmental justice is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.”
- **Environmental justice (EJ) gap:** Low-income communities who systematically experience disproportionately at a greater rate, adverse environmental risks and impacts, and fewer positive environmental benefits compared to higher income and more mobile communities. This phenomenon is known as the environmental justice gap.

Reviewing and making recommendations based on equity principals and environmental justice - Areas to Review

Community voices are the information thread



Affordable
Housing



Connected
Systems



Healthy



Resilient Economy

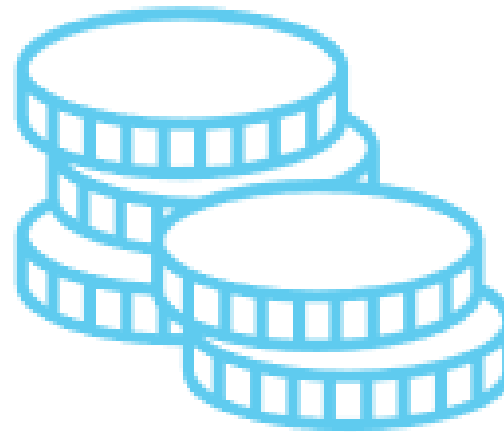


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Affordable Housing

Areas to review for greater understanding:

- ▶ Displacement & Housing Quality
 - What is the current rate of homelessness?
 - Where are the greatest housing habitability complaints?
 - Where are current land vacancies land and buildings located?

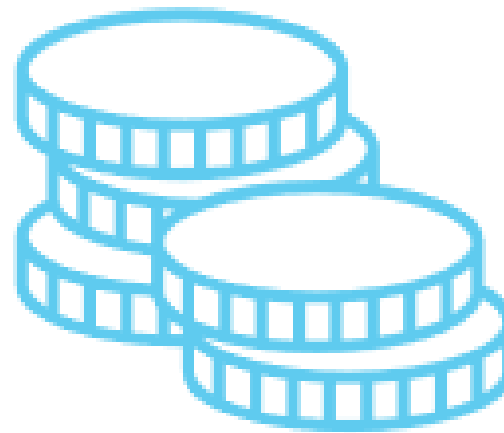


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Affordable Housing

Areas to review for greater understanding:

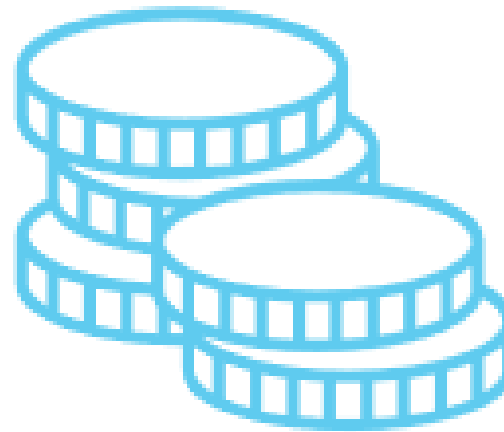
- ▶ Displacement & Housing Quality
 - What are the ages of homes and where is overcrowding taking place?
 - Do all residents have sufficient housing options they can afford and maintain (diverse housing stock)?



Affordable Housing

Areas to review for greater understanding:

- ▶ Permanent Housing
 - What are the current renter protections and targeted assistance programs to support stability where people from all backgrounds, abilities, and ages can remain in place?
 - Where are the highest levels of renter rights complaints?

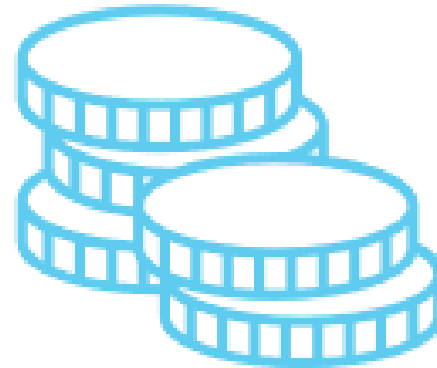


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Affordable Housing

Areas to review for greater understanding:

- ▶ Permanent Housing
 - Who has homeownership with mortgage?
 - What is the rate loan denial by demographics?
 - Who is experiencing renter cost burden?



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Connected Systems

Areas to review for greater understanding:

- ▶ Do all residents have access to transit-rich locations to support economic development connecting them to work, schools, childcare, shopping centers, healthcare, food resources, leisure, and other resources to ensure healthier communities?
- ▶ Which residents are transit - dependent currently?



Connected Systems

Areas to review for greater understanding:

- ▶ Did you have community input to review: Where can we improve access to improve travel time?
- ▶ Where can we expand bicycle infrastructure and improve safety of bike & pedestrian networks?



Connected

Areas to review for greater understanding:

- ▶ Did you have transportation network reports to review:
 - ▶ Residents who rate the transportation network supports county - Growth
 - ▶ Residents who rate the transportation network supports county - Commuters
 - ▶ Residents who rate the transportation network supports county - Congestion
 - ▶ Resident access to parks & recreation, public services, job centers



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Healthy

Areas of understanding:

- ▶ What are the current environmental justice gaps for renewable energy and water?
 - ▶ Current climate/air quality
 - ▶ Use of recycled materials
 - ▶ Solar energy
 - ▶ Where are the repeated flooding zones
 - ▶ “Impaired” waters
 - ▶ Current water quality



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Healthy

Areas of understanding:

- ▶ Who is currently taking advantage of electric/hybrid vehicles & other forms of transportation?
 - ▶ EV charging stations and locations
 - ▶ E-scooters and E-bike locations
 - ▶ Bike sharing locations Solar energy



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Resilient Economy

Areas of understanding:

- ▶ Business development:
 - ▶ The current rate of BIPOC, veteran, and women owned businesses
 - ▶ Commercial Tax Base
 - ▶ Prime Contracts Awarded
 - ▶ Geography of sales volume
 - ▶ Tourism tax revenue
 - ▶ Agritourism & agribusiness



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Resilient Economy

Areas of understanding:

- ▶ Employment Demographics:
 - ▶ The current rate of unemployment
 - ▶ Geography of existing jobs
 - ▶ Geography of labor force participation
 - ▶ Work development programs
 - ▶ Immigration employment status



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What does equity “look like” in a planning process?



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Equity Transportation Looks Like...

- ▶ An equitable transportation system is one that is safe, affordable and reliable in meeting the needs of all residents, but especially those with the fewest options.
- ▶ Equity also means thoughtful consideration of who benefits from a transportation investment when prioritizing projects.
- ▶ Transportation services should be affordable and accessible. Fares countywide should function to help riders that use multiple systems, lower fare costs across the board, and serve those most in need by offering income-based discounts.



Equity Housing Looks Like...

- ▶ All residents with access to a safe, stable, affordable, high-quality home.
- ▶ Housing with well-resourced schools and well-maintained transit – for all, regardless of ability, income, or race.
- ▶ More housing choices for families that have historically had few options. This includes ensuring families have the ability to stay in their homes and maintain the community connections and cultural fabrics of their neighborhoods, without being priced out.



Equity Environment Looks Like...

- ▶ Access to open space, clean air and water, safe housing, and a full suite of sustainable transportation choices for all residents.
- ▶ Understanding of climate change's and how its effects are felt most by communities with lower incomes to mitigate for those most at risk.
- ▶ Equitable long-range environmental strategies must account for past injustices and seek to improve housing stability for those most at risk of displacement.



Equity Economy Looks Like...

Prince William County can serve the diversity of our communities as it recovers from the impacts of COVID-19. An equitable economy means:

- ▶ All residents can meet their basic needs, even under deeply uncertain and shifting conditions.
- ▶ Small local businesses are diverse and sustain neighborhoods where residents could reinvest their money in local goods and services.
- ▶ Government supports are created to achieve greater home ownership.



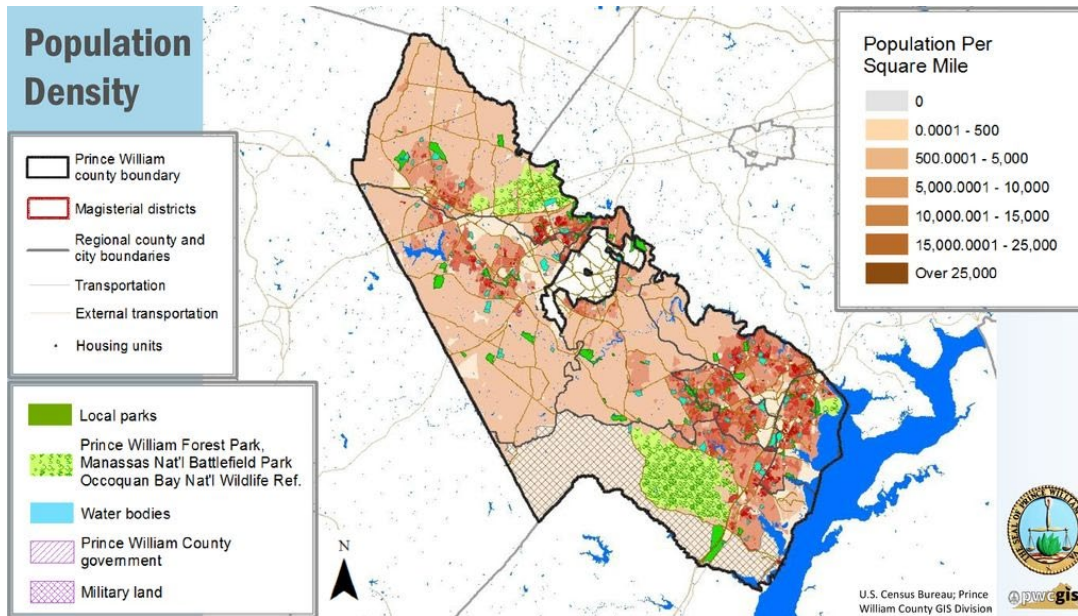
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What are Some Resources When Reviewing & Making recommendations to the Community Energy Master Plan?



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Demographic Dashboards



<https://www.pwcva.gov/departments/office-equity-and-inclusion/equity-and-inclusion-data-dashboards>



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The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments - Climate Awards

The Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments' (COG) Climate and Energy Leadership Awards provide a wealth of information from government agencies, non-governmental organizations, and educational institutions.

<https://www.mwcog.org/environment/planning-areas/climate-and-energy/climate-awards/>



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The American Planning Association

American Planning Association: Equity Policy Guide identifies policy recommendations for planners to advocate for policies that support equity in all aspects of planning at local, state, and federal levels.

<https://www.planning.org/publications/document/9178541/>



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US Department of Housing and Urban Development, Healthy Communities Transformation (HCTI)

https://healthyhousingsolutions.com/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/HCTI_Healthy-Communities-Index-Core-Indicators.pdf

Key Questions to Consider When Making Recommendations to Consider to Close the EJ Gap



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Closing the EJ Gap - Questions to Consider

- ▶ **Who has the need for what information and why?** Developing a list of potential stakeholders with their questions, information needs, and interests will help determine your recommendations and buy-in.
- ▶ **How will you make recommendations to the Community Energy Master Plan?** Define terms of measures, inputs, activities, outputs and outcomes. This will help organize stakeholder questions and information resources around the Community Energy Master Plan.
- ▶ **What issues and/or problem areas have already been identified?** Is there already sufficient information to make recommendations? A literature review or interviews with stakeholders may determine that an evaluation is not needed.



Equity Principles and Environmental Justice

Maria D. Burgos, Executive Director,
PWC Office of Executive Management, Equity
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Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOCG)

Commissioner's Time

Adjournment

