

On December 7, 2021, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS) authorized the creation of a Sustainability Commission (SC) to guide the county on developing policies and programs for clean energy, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and climate resilience. The SC is charged with advising on the content of the Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP), which will serve as a roadmap for the county to reach its climate mitigation and resiliency goals.

The resolution that created the SC included this provision on 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.” This Status Report fulfills the reporting requirement, and continues with the following sections: (1) Climate and Resiliency Goals, (2) Key Participants in CESMP Planning, (3) Summary of Activities To Date, and (4) Planned Work for 2023.

(1) [Climate and Resiliency Goals](#)

On November 17, 2020, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS) adopted the following [Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Goals](#):

- 2030 - Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission to 50% below baseline 2005 levels
- 2030 - Achieving 100% renewable electricity in Prince William County Government operations
- 2030 - Becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region
- 2035 - Sourcing 100% of PWC’s electricity from renewable sources
- 2050 - Achieving 100% carbon neutrality in Prince William County Government operations.

Several of these goals are identical to those in the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#).

(2) [Key Participants in CESMP Planning](#)

The CESMP is being developed by several complementary teams, all operating through the coordination of Ms. Giulia Manno, the PWC Energy / Environmental Sustainability Officer (ESO).

Sustainability Commission

The [Sustainability Commission \(pwcva.gov\)](#) functions as a citizen-led public advisory body with open meetings, with members appointed by the BOCS. The SC, consisting of eight members appointed by the BOCS, began meeting in May 2022, immediately after the last commissioner was appointed.

Commissioner	District	Appointed By:
Ms. Chinaka A. Barbour	Woodbridge	Vice-Chair Margaret Angela Franklin
Mr. Warren Beeton	At-Large	Chair-At-Large Ann B. Wheeler
Dr. Joseph P. Boutte	Potomac	Supervisor Andrea Bailey
Mr. Demetrius Miguel Brown	Neabsco	Supervisor Victor Angry
Mr. Christopher Carroll	Brentsville	Supervisor Jeanine Lawson
Mr. J. Randall Freed (Chair)	Occoquan	Supervisor Kenny A. Boddye
Ms. Elizabeth H. Ward (Vice-Chair)	Gainesville	Supervisor Pete Candland
Mr. Robert B. Weir	Coles	Supervisor Yesli Vega

Core Team – PWC Staff

Ms. Manno also convened a Core Team of county staff members who provide information to the support contractor, AECOM, and meet on a monthly basis to review AECOM’s progress and deliverables. The core team consists of the following representatives from these departments and offices:

- Office of Sustainability – Giulia Manno, Environmental and Energy Sustainability Officer
 - Office of Executive Management – Rebecca Horner, Deputy County Executive
 - Planning Office – David McGettigan, Long-Range Planning Manager
 - Risk and Wellness Services – Jennifer Boeder, Senior Environmental, Health and Safety Manager
 - Office of Equity and Inclusion – Maria Burgos, Equity and Inclusion Executive Director
 - Public Works – Thomas Smith, Director Public Works; Madan Mohan, Assistant Director of Public Works for Environmental Management; Benjamin Eib, Senior Environmental Program Manager for Environmental Management Division
 - Office of Emergency Management – Katie Kitzmiller, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Brian Misner, Emergency Management Coordinator
 - Fleet and Facilities Management – Matthew Villareale, Director Facilities and Fleet Management; Kevin Milsted, Energy Coordinator
 - Development Services - Chad Roop, Building Construction Review Senior Manager
 - Department of Transportation – Ricardo Canizales, Director Department of Transportation; Meagan Landis, Department of Transportation Senior Analyst; Paulo Belita, Department of Transportation Planning Manager
 - Parks Recreation and Tourism – Seth Hendler-Voss, Director Parks Recreation and Tourism
- Contractor Support – AECOM

Ms. Manno serves as Project Officer for a task order with AECOM, an internationally recognized consulting firm with expertise in climate and sustainability. AECOM is reviewing baseline policy conditions, engaging stakeholders, analyzing priority climate mitigation actions, developing a climate vulnerability assessment, analyzing impacts, and prioritizing actions; and delivering a Climate Action Plan (CAP). Within AECOM, the Project Director is Ida Namur, and Tauhirah Abdul-Matin is the Project Manager.

(3) Summary of Activities to Date

There has been considerable progress over the past year in laying the foundation for the CESMP.

Sustainability Commission Activities

The CESMP covers many different greenhouse gas-emitting sectors, as well as climate impacts across many key sectors (e.g., ecosystems, infrastructure). It is thus a remarkably multidisciplinary effort that must consider virtually every aspect of the county’s public and private resources, and must draw on the expertise of much of PWC’s government departments.—Adding to the complexity of the task, the CESMP is but one of several key policy and strategy efforts underway in the county.

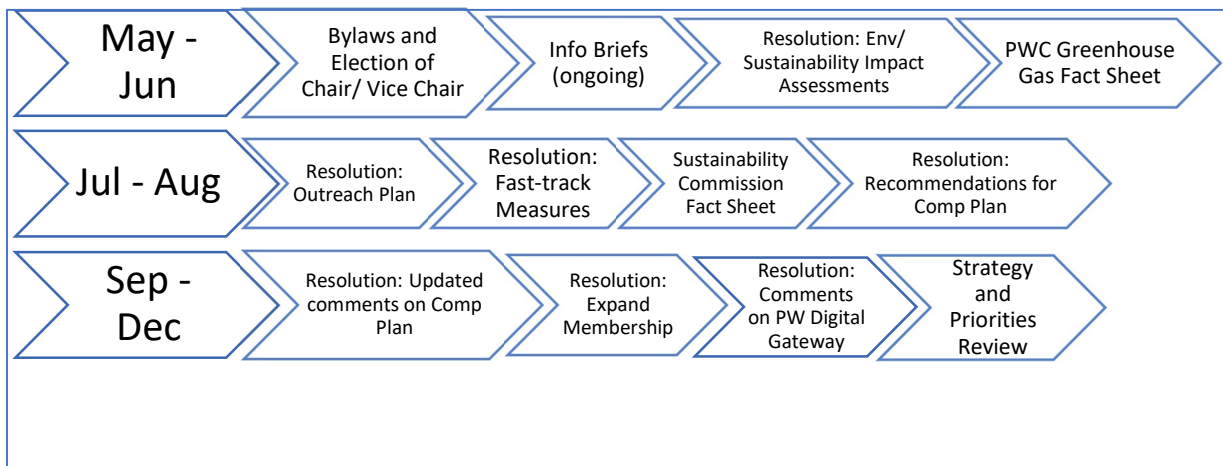
Given the policy and technical challenges intrinsic to this endeavor, PWC’s CESMP would benefit from understanding broader experience from the MWCOG region and beyond on sustainability and climate.

And given the short timeline PWC has on achieving the goals (several of which apply in 2030), there is some urgency to moving beyond planning and into implementation.

Thus, the SC's focus has been on establishing a governance framework, developing an understanding of the county's existing programs and policies relevant to the CESMP, engaging with other PWC planning efforts (the Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan) to improve coordination, and understanding the tools and experience available through similar efforts in the metropolitan region, via the following activities:

- Adopting bylaws and electing a chair and vice-chair
- Working to integrate the CESMP effort with the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan
- Receiving informational briefs from key county departments
- Reviewing Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) information on ongoing and planned sustainability programs
- Providing input to the *Pathway to 2040: Comprehensive Plan*, including the Mobility, Housing, and Land Use chapters, and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment on the Prince William Digital Gateway
- Providing input on the AECOM study to draft the sustainability plan
- Providing early recommendations on how to jump-start county sustainability efforts
- Receiving inputs from county residents
- Providing information regarding CESMP development and sustainability to residents via open meetings and the website at <https://www.pwcva.gov/departments/sustainability/commission>
- Beginning work with the Energy/Environment Sustainability Officer (ESO) to outline a community outreach strategy to engage and motivate PWC stakeholders on sustainability issues
- Identifying a representative (Commissioner Brown) to the Joint Environment Taskforce (JET) in coordinating environmental and sustainability issues across PWC government and PWC Schools

Key milestones have been developed as shown in the chart below:



The SC's key deliverables, with links to each, are as follows:



- [Recommendation to BOCS to Consider Energy and Sustainability Impact Assessments to Support Major Decisions](#)
- [Recommendation to Endorse a Sustainability Communication and Outreach Plan](#)
- [Recommendation to Align the Land Use, Housing, and Mobility Chapters of the Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Comments on the Land Use Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Comments on the PW Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment](#)
- [Recommendations for Fast-Track Climate Mitigation and Resilience Measures](#)

In addition, the SC developed a [Greenhouse Gas Fact Sheet](#) summarizing the status and trends in GHG emissions in PWC. This fact sheet summarizes the challenge of the CESMP as follows:

“Given our emission profile, the Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan will need to focus on reducing emissions from the transportation sector and from commercial and residential buildings. Federal and state-level actions to reduce the carbon intensity of the electric grid and the transportation sector will help. But it is clear even now, at the early stages of our planning process, that we will need to take aggressive action at the county level – making dramatic changes to our business-as-usual approaches – if we are to deliver our fair share toward reducing the world’s climate change problem.”

Core Team Activities

To date, seven of the nine offices and departments that make up the core team have provided briefings to the Sustainability Commission on their history, current work, and priorities moving forward in relation to climate change mitigation and resiliency.

In addition, the core team has provided data to AECOM to complete a Vulnerability Assessment of the county’s assets. This assessment is expected to be complete in mid-November.

Finally, stakeholder engagement groups have been identified with the core team, along with proposed engagement activities and a timeline.

AECOM Activities

AECOM has developed a Greenhouse Gas Forecast that extends to the year 2050. The forecast was extrapolated using data from Prince William’s greenhouse gas inventories developed by MWCOG, and utilizing data provided by county staff from the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

AECOM has also provided a briefing to the Sustainability Commission on the project goals and approach, and begun activities on several of the initial tasks.

(4) Planned Work for 2023

Below is an expected timeline of work for the development of the CESMP in 2023. This work includes tasks to be completed by the County with support from AECOM as well as recommendations from the Sustainability Commission and stakeholders.

January - February

- County Staff, with support from AECOM, to finalize CESMP Vulnerability Assessment
- AECOM to define potential GHG mitigation actions
- AECOM to define potential climate adaptation actions
- Sustainability Commission provides recommendations on initial draft action list for GHG mitigation and climate adaptation actions to County staff
- Sustainability Commission provides recommendations on selection criteria for prioritizing the GHG mitigation and climate adaptation actions to County staff

March-May

- County staff, with support from AECOM, to select evaluation criteria for prioritizing the GHG mitigation and climate adaptation actions
- County staff to hold townhall for feedback from the public on actions and evaluation criteria
- County staff, with support from AECOM, to prioritize the GHG mitigation and climate adaptation actions using the evaluation criteria determined by stakeholders
- Sustainability Commission to review priority GHG mitigation and climate adaptation actions and provide recommendations to County staff
- County staff, with support from AECOM, to finalize the prioritized GHG mitigation and adaptation actions

June – July

- AECOM to prepare draft CESMP for public review
- County staff to hold townhall for public comment on draft CESMP
- Sustainability Commission to review public comments and revisions and provide feedback to County staff
- AECOM to complete final CESMP
- County staff to present final CESMP to BOCS

August – September

- Sustainability Commission develops recommendations on the CESMP
- Sustainability Commission presents recommendations to the BOCS

We appreciate this opportunity to update the BOCS on progress of the SC (as mandated by the resolution that created the Commission) as well as the broader CESMP effort. We will look forward to comments and questions.

Appendix 1 – Sustainability Committee Resolutions.

For full text of resolutions, see [Sustainability Commission \(pwcva.gov\)](https://www.pwcva.gov).

- 22-001 Energy and Sustainability Impact Assessments (June 2022)
- 22-002 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (May 2022)
- 22-003 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (June 2022)
- 22-004 Sustainability Commission Outreach Plan (July 2022)
- 22-005 Sustainability Commission Recommendation to Align the Land Use, Housing, and Mobility Chapters of the Draft Comprehensive Plan (August 2022)
- 22-006 Sustainability Commission Comments on the Land Use Chapter of the August 25, 2022, Draft Comprehensive Plan (August 2022)
- 22-007 Sustainability Commission Recommendations for Fast-Track Climate Mitigation and Climate Resilience Measures (September 2022)
- 22-008 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (July 2022)
- 22-009 Amend the Membership of The Prince William County Sustainability Commission to Add Additional Transportation Sector Representatives From Local Transportation Entities As Non-Voting Members To Serve As Subject Matter Experts And Ex-Officio Participants (October 2022)
- 22-010 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (August 2022)
- 22-011 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (September 2022)
- 22-012 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (October 2022)
- 22-013 Sustainability Commission Meeting Minutes (November 2022)