

MOTION: Elizabeth Ward

**September 22, 2022
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 22-007**

SECOND: Warren Beeton

**RE: SUSTAINABILITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FAST-TRACK CLIMATE
MITIGATION AND CLIMATE RESILIENCE MEASURES**

ACTION: Approved

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission's mandate is to provide recommendations to the Board of County Supervisors for a Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP) that will attain these goals ([MOTION: \(pwcva.gov\)](https://www.pwcva.gov)):

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

WHEREAS, three of the goals must be accomplished within the next 8 years, and climate programs generally take several years to reach full implementation, time is of the essence.

WHEREAS, the Sustainability Commission does not anticipate being able to review a draft CESMP (which will be prepared by a contractor with oversight from County staff) until 2023.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that it is the recommendation of the Sustainability Commission that the Board of County Supervisors direct the Prince William County staff to incorporate several "fast-track" measures, that are virtually certain to be included in the CESMP, in its planning and budgeting so as to put the county on a trajectory to achieve its GHG, renewable electricity, and resilience goals. These measures include

- Create a Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) program to provide financing to support energy efficiency investments in commercial buildings.
- Implement solar power on government buildings/property through a 3rd party Power-Purchase Agreement (PPA) or purchase of renewable energy certificates.
- Engage with SolSmart Virginia to help make permitting faster, easier, and more affordable to go solar for businesses and homes. Scale up residential solar by encouraging citizens to participate in Solarize NOVA.
- Request that the Virginia Department of Energy conduct a SolSmart consultation and identify the county-owned buildings where installation of solar panels and additional energy efficiency measures would be cost-effective.

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- Dramatically scale up the county's building energy efficiency program, which has already saved the county hundreds of thousands of dollars annually; the program has significant potential to accelerate and expand energy savings.
- Direct staff to provide a plan for the purchase of 100% replacement sedans in the County fleet to be electric.
- Direct Trails and Blueways Council to propose a more comprehensive trails network for the Mobility Chapter designed to minimize Vehicle Miles Traveled.
- Direct Office of Emergency Management to identify locations where solar panels and battery storage backup power could increase sustainability of public services after a major storm.
- Encourage or, if possible, require new data centers to purchase clean energy through PPAs or renewable energy certificates (RECs).
- Develop a large-scale tree planting program for reforesting rural areas (to store forest carbon and promote watershed integrity) and increase tree canopy in urban areas (to combat the urban heat island effect). As part of this program, request Prince William Soil and Water Conservation District Board, Department of Public Works, and Prince William Public Schools to work in partnership to identify places on public and private lands for reforestation projects.
- Prohibit the building of new backup power generation using diesel and/or petroleum in favor of less carbon-intensive generation and encourage the conversion of existing diesel and/or petroleum backup systems to less carbon-intensive generation.

Votes:

Ayes: Chinaka Barbour, Warren Beeton, Dr Joseph P Boutte, Demetrius Miguel Brown, Christopher Carroll, J. Randall Freed, Elizabeth H. Ward, Robert B. Weir

Nays: None

Absent from Vote: None

Absent from Meeting: None

Julia Manno

ATTEST:

Clerk to the Board