



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

October 2, 2023

Charles Houston Recreational Center, Multipurpose Room

[Zoom Meeting Recording](#)

7:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members	Staff
Dan Beattie	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Eldon Boes	Ryan Freed, OCA
Benjamin Cuddy	
Jennifer Debias	
Kathie Hoekstra, Chair	Guests
Michael Olex, Vice-Chair	Bill Pugh
Marta Schantz	Scott Barstow

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Kathie Hoekstra called meeting to order. Meeting is not mandatory, so a quorum is not needed.

2. Public Comments

Bill Pugh – Discussed how ACPS capital improvement plans do not include a lot of information related to energy efficiency/planning. Asked the Office of Climate Action to engage with ACPS on energy planning in terms of the City’s ultimate energy and climate change action plan.

Scott Barstow provided supporting comments.

Mr. Eldon Boes mentioned his upcoming meeting with the new ACPS employee who is responsible for including climate initiatives into the school’s curriculum.

3. Budget Discussion

Chair Hoekstra provided an overview of where we are with budget and how we got there. EPC assumes that the City has \$1.65 million of the \$1.85 million remaining for FY24 and the \$600,000 budget will be available into FY25. This meeting will focus on how the EPC would recommend the City break down the \$1.65 million in FY24 and budget focus throughout FY25.

EPC priority areas are new buildings, existing buildings, and transportation. EPC's previous budget recommendations were separated into focus areas that included incentives, environmental justice, education & outreach, disclosure, recognition, demonstration, and policies & procedures. Clarification that incentives can be given out through not-for-profits but not directly by the City. Chair Hoekstra mentioned that IRA funding from the State will likely not be available until end of 2024 or early 2025.

Further discussion of focus areas included:

Incentives: Office of Climate Action has \$150,000 allotted for incentives. Discussed initiatives associated with incentives.

- Discussion on whether not-for-profit can run program for heat pumps like they do for solar (i.e., Solarize Alexandria).
- Discussion on organizing a meeting with Delegate Elizabeth Bennett-Parker or Senator Ebbin, who are involved on environmental committees.
 - o Mr. Dan Beattie will coordinate. Mr. Eldon Boes interested in joining.

Environmental Justice: Office of Climate Action has \$350,000 allotted for Environmental Justice. Discussed initiatives, including community solar.

Education and Outreach: Office of Climate Action has \$500,000 allotted to education and outreach. Initiatives include community grants, Alexandria climate champions, home improvement education, and electrification showcase.

- First responder training will be next year.
- Initial connection to schools could be through RPCA after-school programs.
- Electrification showcase may be included in a larger Eco-City festival in April.
- Home improvement education: survey for homeowners to take, learn what they may be looking to update. Pass information to them on sustainable options for those improvements.
- EPC recommended creating a list of contractors that are certified to do work, including sustainable options, questions to ask the contractor, restrictions/limitations based on resident's neighborhood.
- Alexandria Climate Champions will initially focus on city employees.

Other Discussion topics:

- EPC discussed effectiveness of yard signs to highlight sustainable efforts of residence.
- Ms. Marta Schantz mentioned EDF Climate Core program. Program where graduate students working on sustainability studies for their education are put in the private (or public) sector for a given amount of time to support discrete projects. Projects paid for by EDF and can help with initiatives in the city.

4. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m. Next regular meeting is Monday, October 16, 2023.