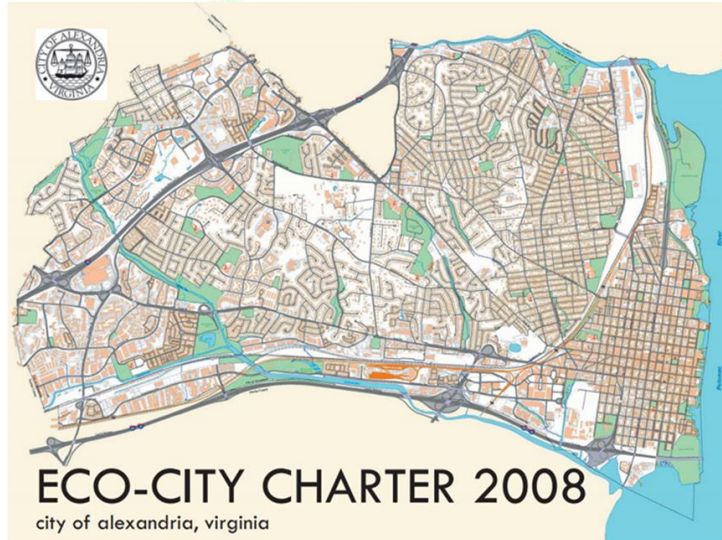
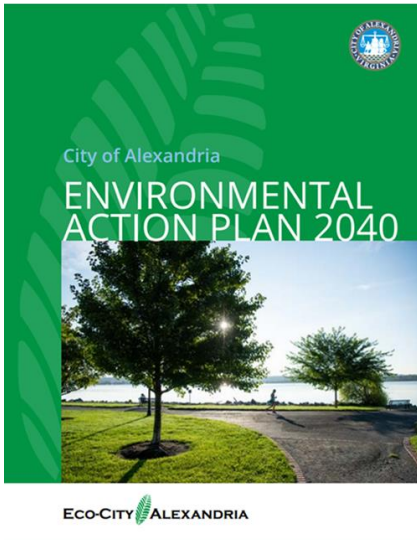




Environmental Policy Commission



FY2024 EPC ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2024

SEPTEMBER 27, 2024

1. Introduction

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code to “advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, when appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager.” This report provides a summary of EPC activities during Fiscal Year 2024.

2. Who We Are

The Alexandria City Council established the EPC in 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager, on matters relating to the following:

- The Climate crisis and its effects
- Clean air;
- Land use;
- Noise pollution;
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants;
- Solid waste;
- Water quality and supply;
- Other matters referred to the EPC by the City and citizens; and
- Other topics relating to the conservation and protection of Alexandria’s environment.

The EPC, when fully appointed consists of 13 members, including five members from the field of environmental sciences, five citizen-at-large members, one member from the field of urban planning, one member with experience in federal or state environmental statutes/regulations, and one representative from the Alexandria business community. The EPC regularly works with other organizations to further the environmental goals of the City.

The following is a list of Commissioners who served on the EPC during FY2024.

Kishla Askins ²	Kathie Hoekstra (Chair)
Dan Beattie	Anna Marino ³
Eldon Boes	Philip Mobilia ²
Alexander Clark	Michael Olex (Vice-Chair) ¹
Benjamin Cuddy	Theresa Romanosky (Secretary) ³
Jennifer Debias	Marta Schantz
Cynthia Elliott ¹	Julia Slayden ²
Oleksandr Faryga ³	James Vandeputte

Notes: ¹Term ended in FY24; ²Term began in FY24; ³Resigned

During this fiscal year, the commission held hybrid meetings once a month, except in January and February when the meetings were virtual. Additionally, the commission held one educational event in August, one working group meeting on budget, and four small working group meetings on creating an Eco-City Homes Recognition program from March through May. All meetings were open to the public, agendas and documents considered during the meetings as well as minutes of the

meetings and videos, as appropriate, were posted to the EPC page on the City website:
<https://www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission.html>

Throughout the year, the staff of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality supported the EPC. The EPC wishes to express its thanks for the support and guidance provided by City leadership and staff.

3. EPC Annual Retreat

The EPC held its annual retreat in April 2024. The focus included:

1. A discussion from Virginia Energy, Alexandria’s Office of Climate Action, and the VA League of Conservation Voters;
2. A discussion on topics for educational presentations and information EPC members wanted included in future meetings;
3. A discussion of FY23 successes and challenges;
4. A discussion on how the EPC can have more interaction/influence with City Council and other organizations.

4. EPC Activities and Accomplishments

The following are some of the major activities and accomplishments of the commission during FY2024:

Throughout the year, EPC leadership worked with the Director of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES) to increase coordination and initiate annual planning of T&ES updates from staff.

In July, the commission wrote a letter of support for the U.S. Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize application.

In September, the EPC wrote a letter of support for the City of Alexandria’s 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation’s Pilot Program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant.

In October, the EPC wrote a letter to City Council and the City Manager for the EPC’s 2024 Legislative Agenda, which addressed the City’s Strategic Priorities including equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service.

In October, the commission sent a letter to the City Manager detailing recommendations for the remainder of FY24 and FY25 budgets, including continuation of the remaining \$600,000 from FY23 and a summary of the EPC’s recommended list of programs/projects and budget allocation for each.

In November, the EPC wrote two letters where the EPC advocated for City funding for FY25 for Housing ALX and supported City Staff’s Recommended Zoning for Housing/ Housing for All Proposals, respectively.

From January through June, the EPC participated in the Advisory Group for the ongoing update to the Green Building Policy.

From March through May, the EPC held small subgroup meetings to draft a proposed framework for an Eco-City Homes Recognition program, which was passed to the Office of Climate Action to further develop and implement, as appropriate. This program follows similar design as the City's Eco-City Business Recognition Program, includes a tiered approach, and recognizes residents for making sustainable choices.

In May, the EPC engaged with ACPS to foster an ongoing relationship regarding sustainability in the school system. The intent is to continue engagement over time across areas of development/capital planning, operations and maintenance, and learning curriculum.

In June, the EPC wrote a letter of support for the proposed Hoffman Eisenhower East Coordinated Development District (CDD #2), specifically supporting the elimination of minimum parking requirements in the CDD #2 zone. The EPC plans to continue closer engagement with Planning & Zoning to identify other projects and sites for review and advisory activities.

Throughout the year, the EPC also piloted an Instagram account @SustainALX to engage the community, promote environmental activities and amplify relevant City (EcoCity, T&ES, Beautification Commission) social media posts.

Members of the Commission also participated in the following City commissions, committees, and advisory groups in the capacity of voting members:

- Waterfront Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Stormwater Utility and Flood Mitigation Advisory Group (non-voting)

6. EPC Correspondences

All EPC correspondences are posted on the EPC webpage:

www.alexandriava.gov/environmentalpolicycommission

1. Letter of Support. Re: US Department of Energy Buildings Upgrade Prize application from the Housing Alexandria/Build Our Future, July 14, 2023
2. Letter of Support. Re: City of Alexandria's 2023 U.S. Department of Transportation's Pilot program for Transit Oriented Development (TOD) Planning Grant, September 28, 2023
3. Letter to City Council and City Manager. Re: EPC's 2024 Legislative Agenda to address the City's Strategic Priorities including equity, environmental justice, civility, transparency, respect and service, October 7, 2023
4. Letter to City Manager. EPC's Recommendations for the Remainder of FY24 and FY25 budgets, October 31, 2023
5. Letter to City Manager. EPC Advocating for City Funding for FY25 for Housing ALX, November 1, 2023

6. Letter to City Council and City Manager. Letter of Support for City Staff Recommended Zoning for Housing/ Housing for All Proposals, November 14, 2023
7. Letter of Support. Re: Proposed Hoffman Eisenhower East Coordinated Development District (CDD #2), June 11, 2024

7. EPC Membership Recruitment and Leadership

During FY24, five members left and three new members joined the commission. At the end of June 2024, the Commission had 11 members and 2 vacancies.

The Commission held its annual elections for FY2024 during its June 17, 2024, monthly meeting. Marta Schantz, Benjamin Cuddy and Philip Mobilia were elected unanimously as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.