



Minutes

EPC MONTHLY MEETING

March 10, 2025

City Hall, Conference Room 2000

Zoom Meeting Recording

7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff
Kishla Askins	E	Melissa Atwood, T&ES
Dan Beattie	P	Howard Lee, T&ES
Eldon Boes	P	Flavio Goncalves, T&ES
Benjamin Cuddy, Vice-Chair	E	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Jennifer Debias	E	Tarrence Moorer, T&ES
Charlie Garlow	PR	Jeremy McPike, DGS
Kathie Hoekstra	PR	Jenine Cyes, DGS
Perrin Krisko	P	Guests
Philip Mobilia	P	Susan Coronis
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Deanna Habegger
Julia Slayden	E	Charles Sumpter
Yanique Revers	P	Don Burke
		Deanna – dark sky (online)
		Brendan Owens
		Mandy

P: Present; **PR:** Present Remotely; **A:** Absent - Unexcused; **E:** Absent – Excused; **N:** Not a Member

1. Welcome & Introductions

Chair Marta Schantz called the meeting to order; and introductions were completed for all attendees, including the welcome and introduction from the EPC's newest commissioner, Perrin Krisko. In person EPC attendance does not meet quorum. No items will be voted on during the meeting.

2. Public Comment

Deanna: Lives in North Old Town, near Canal Center Plaza, where there are a lot of office buildings that leave their lights on all day and night. Interested in whether there is an incentive for office buildings to put in motion sensor lighting or if the city could reach out to them regarding turning off the lights when workers and cleaning crews are done to help with energy costs and light pollution. Has submitted a 311 for this concern that was closed or transferred to code enforcement but has not heard from anyone yet.

3. Resource Recovery Annual Update (T&ES)

Mr. Howard Lee, Environmental Manager of the Resource Recovery Division, provided an annual update, including information on the EAP's Solid Waste implementation status. Further discussion included the plastic bag tax, Alexandria Clean Team, recycling and multifamily recycling, and food waste collection. Mr. Lee also discussed the Styrofoam ban in response to a commissioner question. Discussion and questions included opportunities for little pickup and curbside glass pickup. Noted a high school student that will collect glass recycling from your curb for a monthly fee. For litter pickup, opportunities are adopt-a-block, Green Team is starting in April. For glass collection, Resource Recovery has not pursued curbside collection because it breaks in the trucks and shards of glass can slip through cracks of truck onto streets. Discussion included focus on downstream versus upstream waste management and recycling, with a desire to see more on the upstream. The City focuses on residents, especially single-family homes, which is who the City services. City does not service the commercial community but encourages them to work with the City and provide them outreach and education materials.

4. Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) Presentation

Mr. Morris Meyer, the chair of the Sustainable Energy Committee of the Loudoun County Environmental Commission, presented on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA). Mr. Meyer started a nonprofit called Clean Energy, to talk about CCAs. CCAs are a way for municipalities and counties to purchase power to meet their electricity needs, offering an alternative in the market that is a competitively priced, renewable energy choice. The whole community, including residential, commercial, industrial, and municipal can opt into the aggregation. Discussion included common features of a CCA and need to do a feasibility study in areas considering this. Virginia can create a CCA but does not have any active programs. Mr. Morris provided examples of CCAs with multiple cities aggregated and individual jurisdiction CCAs, including a more detailed overview of Montgomery County, who is in a CCA pilot program.

Ryan Freed noted that the ECCAP and EAP include actions to consider CCAs, so the city has explored what surrounding jurisdictions have done as well as discussions with Dominion Energy about whether it will meet the Virginia Clean Economy Act legal requirements, which is also in line with the EAP.

5. GBP Update & City Hall Geothermal Update

Mr. Jeremy McPike, Director of General Services, and Ms. Jenine Cyes, Assistant Director of Capital Projects, provided an update on the City Hall renovation plans which were presented to the EPC in the fall. This update highlighted the extensive outreach and engagement, pursuing net zero and LEED Platinum, preservation of the existing building, where possible, and possibilities of adding sustainable features, such as green roofs and solar panels. The recommendation to completely replace the garage provides an opportunity to look at geothermal wells underneath the garage but includes an upfront cost that should be offset by

the longer lifespan. The City Hall renovation project is currently in the schematic design phase. The cost of adding geothermal is in deliberation with Council for approval.

EPC expressed interest in writing a letter of support for a net zero city hall design and including geothermal. Mr. Phil Mobilia will author the draft letter with Chair Shantz review. EPC plans to have the letter of support submitted to Council before the add/delete deadline in two weeks.

Mr. Ryan Freed provided an update on the Green Building Policy (GBP), including the expectation to reach out to the GBP advisory group in the next 2-3 weeks and move into the 30-day public comment period. It may go to public hearing in June 2025. EPC discussed whether EPC and Planning Commission would have a joint meeting and/or joint subcommittee meeting to discuss the GBP.

6. Administrative Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for February 10, 2025

EPC attendance does not meet quorum. Vote for meeting minutes was postponed until the April EPC meeting.

b) Approval of Gas-Powered Leaf Blower joint letter

Discussed draft joint letter, written by the Alexandria Beautification Commission (ABC). EPC also discussed enforcement expected for the possible ban, which was provided by city staff. Commissioners present in the meeting were supportive of the draft letter and approval. Formal voting did not occur as quorum was not reached, but it is expected to be a unanimous vote.

c) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Leaf Blower Community Meetings (Melissa Atwood): The City is hosting two public meetings for the potential regulation changes of gas-powered leaf blowers. Specific information on the meeting logistics, location, date and times were provided.

Update from Mr. Ryan Freed: Eco-City Festival is coming soon, on May 10th! Volunteers needed and noted various ways EPC members can participate throughout the event. Including welcome, possible “Ask an Expert” table, or host a booth. Volunteer opportunities will be on Volunteer Alexandria soon.

Transportation Commission (Mr. Dan Beattie): Did not meet last month. The commission will meet again next week.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): Discussions continue regarding location where pump station should be built. No other new information.

Update from Chair Schantz: Zebra published an EPC article. If anyone has other topics they want to write about, we can coordinate with ABC to submit and publish. ABC assists in submittals to Zebra as they have good relationship with the editor of the Zebra, who allotted a section of the paper to environmental topics.

7. Adjourn

The meeting ended at 9:28p.m.

FY2025 Attendance

Member	Sept 16, 2024	Oct 21, 2024	Nov 18, 2024	Dec 16, 2024	Jan 13, 2025	Feb 10, 2025	Mar 10, 2025	Apr 21, 2025	TBD (Retreat)	May 19, 2025	Jun 16, 2025	TOTALS
Kishla Askins	P	P	P	PR	E	PR	E					100%
Dan Beattie	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P					100%
Eldon Boes	P	P	P	PR	P	A	P					83%
Alexander Clark	E	P	E	PR	E	A						83%
Benjamin Cuddy	E	P	P	E	P	P	E					100%
Jennifer Debias	E	P	PR		PR	P	E					100%
Charlie Garlow		P	P	PR	P	P	PR					100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P	PR	P	PR	PR	P	PR					100%
Perrin Krisko							P					100%
Philip Mobilia	P	P	P	PR	P	P	P					100%
Marta Schantz	P	P	P	PR	P	PR	P					100%
Julia Slayden	P	P	P	PR	E	P	E					100%
Yanique Revers				PR	PR	E	P					
James Vandeputte	E											100%

***NOTE: Dec 16, 2024 meeting was virtual only**