

EPC FY26 Strategy Discussion

The intent of this discussion is to identify possible areas and activities of impact for the EPC in FY26 and identify the top priority activities.

Agenda

Topic	Description
Overview	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review Strategy Discussion
Establish FY26 Guiding Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Review what EPC is charged to do• Review and update FY25 Guiding Principles & Establish for FY26
Prioritize Areas of Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Build consensus on areas of impact• Priority areas of impact• Identify possible activities• Prioritize FY26 Activities
Closing	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify the next 3 “activities” for the EPC to focus on• Closing discussion

Establish FY26 Guiding Principles

The EPC’s FY26 Guiding Principles will be updated and/or confirmed based on a review of it’s charge according to the EPC’s bylaws and the FY25 Guiding Principles.

EPC’s Charge

Established in 1970 by the Alexandria City Council under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code, the Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) advises and makes recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager, on matters relating to the following as defined in the EPC Bylaws:

- The Climate crisis and its effects
- Clean air
- Land use
- Noise pollution
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants
- Solid waste
- Water quality and supply
- Other topics relating to conservation and protection of environmental conditions in the City of Alexandria, and
- Such other matters as may from time to time be referred to it by the City Council

The EPC currently consists of 13 members, including from the field of environmental sciences, urban planning, the business community, citizen-at-large members, and a member with experience in Federal or state environmental statutes, regulations, and procedures. The Commission is supported by the City of Alexandria Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality.

FY25 Guiding Principles

- Decarbonize buildings
- Decarbonize transportation
- Improve climate resiliency
- Focus on environmental justice

Confirming FY26 Guiding Principles

Discussion: The EPC will confirm the FY25 Principles for the upcoming fiscal year, or agree to update, change.

Prioritizing Areas of Impact

The EPC traditionally implements its mission through specific activity types to include:

- **Advocacy** to include letter writing, council testimony, recommendations on budget/state legislative priorities, and providing input on key development decisions.
- **Plan Development and Influence** to include participating in work groups and supporting the development of key City plans/guidance (e.g., Green Building Policy, EAP).
- **Information Gathering** to include research and facilitating presentations from city staff, industry, or other advocacy groups.
- **OCA Program Support** to include providing direct support the Office of Climate Action efforts, such as the Green Business Recognition Program.
- **Collaborative Activities** to include direct collaboration with other key city commission or other groups participating in joint advocacy or regional EPC-like orgs (e.g., Planning Commission, Commission reports; Fairfax-EQAC).
- **City Council / City Staff Engagement** to include directly or indirectly informing council/staff members on key environmental priorities and/or leveraging formal/informal venues for engagement.
- **Public Engagement** to include supporting social media posts, letters to the editor, volunteer activities, tabling at event.

Activity 1: Confirming Possible Areas of Impact

The EPC will confirm the list of areas of impact.

Activity 2: Prioritizing the Areas of Impact

Each EPC member will receive sticky dots. Members should vote for their preferred priority areas of impact by using a dot to indicate which is of most importance to them. Members can vote for an item as many or few times as they like.

Activity 3: Identifying Specific Activities by Area of Impact

Members will have 10 minutes to write down ideas for activities, by areas of impact, and place them under the relevant area of impact. The EPC will review all activities for discussion.

Activity 4: Prioritizing Activities

Each EPC member will receive sticky dots. Members should vote for their preferred activity by area of impact by using a dot to indicate which is of most importance to them. Members can vote for an item as many or few times as they like.

Activity 5: Identify the top

The EPC will identify the top 3 activities to initiate by the end of the FY25 term and or the “first up” starting in the fall of 25, as well as review the top voted activities to accomplish.

Example/Outstanding FY 25 Activities

- Crafting budget letter
- Crafting legislative priorities letter
- Identify who the EPC can collaborate with to move FY-25 priorities forward
- Develop a reference document that identifies EPC commissioners’ experiences and interests.
- Identify how the EPC priorities can support the City Council members’ priorities

Closing

The EPC will use this time for any additional closing discussion.