



Minutes
EPC MONTHLY MEETING
September 15, 2025
City Hall, Council Workroom
7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

Attendance

EPC Members (12)	Status	Staff
Dan Beattie, Vice-Chair	PR	Melissa Atwood, TES
Eldon Boes	P	Ryan Freed, Office of Climate Action
Benjamin Cuddy	E	Wendy Ginsberg, Legislative Director
Jennifer Debias	P	
Charlie Garlow	P	
Kathie Hoekstra	P	Guests
David Hole	P	Laura Vanin, Grassroots Alexandria
Perrin Krisko	P	Don Burke
Philip Mobilia, Secretary	P	David Introcaso
Marta Schantz, Chair	P	Megha Munipalla, Student at ACHS
Julia Slayden	P	Emma Bidwell, Student at ACHS
Yanique Revers	P	Ray Juneja, Grassroots Alexandria

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 provided an overview of topics to be covered. Introductions were completed for all attendees, including new EPC Commissioner, David Hole who provided a short introduction to his background.

Chair Schantz provided a refresher on the EPC priorities for the year, including:

- Decarbonizing buildings
- Decarbonizing transportation,
- Physical climate risk and how we adapt to climate change in Alexandria, like flooding and extreme heat
- Environmental justice and climate equity

2. Public Comment

Megha Munipalla is a student at Alexandria City High School and also a member of the Mayoral Youth Forum, where she is an advocate for environmental policy. Priorities

include starting a recycling program at Minnie Howard, for which she is looking for a new sponsor.

Ray Juneja, from Grassroots Alexandria, provided a letter to the EPC with requested considerations for support to include in the EPC legislative letter. Topics included expansion of funding for solar for all, weatherization assistance program, and LEAP program; incorporation of improved standards for flood and extreme heat in VA building codes; provision of VA disaster response and funding to offset uncertain/reduced federal FEMA funding during natural disasters.

David Introcaso, resident, is aware of vacancies for the EPC and interested. Provided a little background experience and mentioned areas of environmental interest.

Emma Bidwell, a student at Alexandria City High School and a member of the Mayoral Youth Forum. Attending the EPC meeting to talk about recycling, youth engagement, and setting up cleanups for the youth in our area.

3. Update on 2025 Draft Green Building Policy

Climate Action Officer, Ryan Freed, provided a review of the 2025 Draft Green Building Policy (GBP) process. The 2019 GBP focused on third party certifications. The 2025 draft GBP focuses on energy use intensity (EUI), renewable energy, and electrification. The draft GBP has been through public comment, where significant comments were received and addressed through further research, comparisons, and analysis to determine appropriateness of the recommended conditions for the GBP focus areas. Mr. Freed discussed the follow-up research and analysis conducted to address concerns and update/maintain the policy as written in the draft.

Chair Schantz summarized that the EPC submitted public comments that requested more aggressive EUI and renewables and a phase down in EUI over time. After addressing public comments, the EUI and renewables remained steady, but did not increase. The phase down to 2030 that the EPC and PC asked for is replaced by a review every two years. EPC commissioners want more out of the GBP update, but don't want to slow progress and see the value pragmatically supporting the updated GBP as it stands. Current draft is stronger than building code. Requirement to go to Council for review (and for a lower EUI target) at least every 2 years is a condition of EPC support. Support letter will include that expectation the EUI is on a trajectory that keeps going down over time.

Motion to write a letter of support for the 2025 Draft Updated GBP as it was released this fall, with statement regarding EUI trajectory continuing to go down and with review by city at least every 2 years: Ms. Kathie Hoekstra; **Second:** Jen Debias; **Vote:** Unanimous. Letter will be written by Chair Schantz.

Chair Schantz and Vice-Chair Dan Beattie will follow up with Planning Commission regarding stance on GBP since the commissions have written previous joint letters and collaborated on support throughout the GBP update.

4. FY26 Legislative Priority Discussion & Vote

Ms. Wendy Ginsberg, the city's Legislative Director, provided an introduction and an overview of the process the city goes through to prepare for the 2026 legislative discussions in Richmond. This process includes receiving legislative proposals from all 60 Boards and Commissions, city department heads, and city council. Ms. Ginsberg noted that this year's legislative priorities at the Commonwealth level will be significantly impacted by what's happening at the federal level, likely driving extra money to things like food insecurities, healthcare, jobs, and housing. Discussion included ideas of how the EPC should package their legislative priorities, so they are easier to explain as meaningful on the city level and for the Commonwealth.

Virginia League of Conservation Voters provided the EPC a draft list of legislative priorities to consider. EPC remains strong in support to rejoin RGGI and defend against rollbacks to the Virginia Clean Economy Act (VCEA). EPC members prioritized policy around resilience (extreme heat mitigation and flood mitigation), defending VCEA, rejoining RGGI, and healthy affordable sustainable housing. Ms. Julia Slayden will author the legislative priorities submittal.

Motion to approve priorities as outlined, which include (1) top priorities of (a) healthy and affordable housing and (b) prioritizing funding for and improved standards for flood and heat mitigation; (2) Secondary priorities such as getting into the specific building codes for flood and heat mitigation, giving Alexandria local authority to do a stretch code to advance climate action in buildings, rejoin RGGI, and support/defending VCEA; (3) all other priorities would be the full list: Ms. Slayden. Amendment to the motion: priorities sent to Ms. Slayden can be added to the second-tier priorities.

Second: Mr. Charlie Garlow. **Vote:** Unanimous.

EPC's letter for legislative priorities is due to Ms. Ginsberg by October 3rd.

5. Preliminary Budget Discussion

Commissioner Slayden proposed a discussion on how to frame the budget letter by keeping it shorter and more focused, including adding a line item for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA), possible staffing needs, and maintaining the climate-related budget items. EPC discussed possible inclusion of funds to ensure long-term planning for flood mitigation and heat impacts. Ms. Slayden will draft the draft budget letter for EPC members to review and approve at October's meeting.

6. Administrative Items

a) Approval of Meeting Minutes for June 16, 2025

Vote on June 16, 2025, regular meeting minutes, for approval. **Motion:** Mr. Philip Mobilia; **Second:** Ms. Julia Slayden; **Vote:** Unanimous approval with Ms. Kathie Hoekstra abstaining.

b) EPC Engagement

- Schedule monthly Public Hearing EPC Commissioner updates – Saturdays at 9:30am: Oct 18th, Nov 15th, Dec 13th, Feb 21st, March 14th, Apr 18th, Apr 28th, May 16th, June 13th, Jul 1st
 - EPC discussed volunteering for the next couple meetings, which are more near term, since schedules can change. Volunteer for other meetings closer to time. Possibly have a back-up commissioner for each meeting.
 - October 18th: Chair Schantz
 - November 15th: Ms. Slayden; Ms. Jennifer Debias will be backup
 - December 13th: Mr. Eldon Boes; Mr. Garlow will be backup
- Housing 2040 Engagement
 - Office of Housing is looking for 1-2 EPC volunteers to continue discussing housing strategies and incorporate sustainability
 - Ms. Yanique Revers and Ms. Hoekstra will participate.

c) Reports from Commissioners/Staff

Update from Mr. Ryan Freed:

- In a legislative meeting with Council, Dominion Energy was asked, but did not answer, if they would stand in the way of Community Choice Aggregation.
- EV Ride and Drive at Chinquapin Park on Sept 27th. Tax credits expire Sept 30th, so if you buy an EV before the deadline, you qualify for the \$7,500 tax credit.
- Tons of Trucks, Sept 20th.
- Most tax credits (except for EVs) expire at the end of the calendar year. Office of Climate Action has an Act Now campaign.
- New home efficiency flyer – intent to hand out to contractors, to push their customers to take the next steps that are city endorsed for heat pumps and electrification. City endorsement shows residents that contractors are not trying to upsell them.
- Hosted the 2nd webinar series for Eco-City Businesses, where about 30 businesses have now joined.

Transportation Commission (Vice-Chair Dan Beattie): Nothing to report. First meeting is Wednesday, September 17th.

Waterfront Commission (Mr. Eldon Boes): Nothing to report. First meeting is tomorrow, Tuesday, September 16th. Focus of meeting will be the Waterfront Park Pump Station.

Youth Engagement (Ms. Perrin Krisko & Mr. Boes):

- Sustainable Transportation Priority – Working with ACPS PTAs to start a pilot bike train program. Five leaders signed up, 10 PTAs were interested. Discussing with neighboring jurisdictions that have the same program to learn best practices and incentives. Program would be lead at the school parent level.
- Meeting with Emma and Megha. Recycling and trash cleanup and engagement in middle schools were the initiatives identified as priorities.
 - Need materials for trash cleanup: Melissa Atwood connect Emma and Megha with Green Team. Potomac Conservancy does cleanups in Jones Point Park.
 - Middle school mentor: volunteer as an Eco-Club leader at GW and Hammond.

Public Health Advisory Commission, PHAC (Ms. Krisko): Meeting Thursday, September 18th. Will be discussing legislative priorities. City released community health assessment this summer that PHAC supported.

Community Choice Aggregation (Mr. Charlie Garlow & Ms. Krisko): Paused during the summer. Drafted an article for ALX Times that can now move forward, pending review for accuracy.

Business Community (Ms. Jen Debias): Informed community about what EPC does and see if anyone is interested in applying for the business position. One business owner was interested and plans to apply.

Emergency Management (Vice-Chair Beattie): Plan to speak with Marc Barbieri, the Emergency Operations Coordinator in the upcoming weeks. How to plug into emergency planning initiatives that revolve around climate change, and possible include mitigation efforts.

Volunteers for Ad-Hoc Involvement:

- Flood Resilience Plan – Mr. Mobilia; Ms. Slayden as backup. Will coordinate with Stormwater Management.
- Housing Master Plan – Ms. Revers and Ms. Hoekstra
- Ellen Pickering Award – EPC members to discuss EPC's involvement, awards purpose and how to get more applicants. Possibly work with AlexRenew and the City. Commissioners: Mr. Boes and Ms. Revers.

RPCA's Community Connection Newsletter – Chair Schantz spoke with the Recreation, Parks, and Cultural Arts (RPCA) Director. Highlighted newsletter, which is linked in the Agenda PDF.

ABC's Beautification Award Ceremony – Awards ceremony is Oct 16th, where Commissioner Hoekstra is one of the award winners.

Update from Commissioner Hoekstra:

- Attended Planning Commission retreat. Discussed having Environmental Action Plan or Energy and Climate Change Action Plan higher in the priorities list for either the Small Area Plans, Coordinated Development District, or other plans.
- Ms. Hoekstra is part of the Climate Clean Energy Working group, which is part of the Virginia Grassroots Coalition that meets monthly to hear from legislators that are part of the coalition. Intent of group is to track bills during legislative session and focus energies on specific topics.
- Ms. Hoekstra's Sustain ALX, a not-for-profit, has been approved by the IRS and received some money that can be used to fund projects.

7. Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn: Mr. Charlie Garlow

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45p.m.

FY2026 Attendance

Member	Sept 15, 2025	Oct 20, 2025	Nov 17, 2025	Dec 15, 2025	Jan 26, 2026	Feb 23, 2026	Mar 16, 2026	Apr 20, 2026	TBD (Retreat)	May 18, 2026	Jun 15, 2026	TOTALS
Dan Beattie	PR											100%
Eldon Boes	P											100%
Benjamin Cuddy	E											100%
Jennifer Debias	P											100%
Charlie Garlow	P											100%
Kathie Hoekstra	P											100%
David Hole	P											100%
Perrin Krisko	P											100%
Philip Mobilia	P											100%
Marta Schantz	P											100%
Julia Slayden	P											100%
Yanique Revers	P											100%