

## **Environmental Policy Commission (EPC)**

### **Annual Report July 2024 – June 2025**

#### **Summary of Accomplishments**

The mission of the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC), which was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code includes “advising and making recommendations to the City Council and, when appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager on matters relating to 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. Within these guidelines, the EPC membership completed the following activities during its 2024/25 year.

#### **EPC Policy and Membership Accomplishments**

- Membership remained steady throughout the year as three members left and three new members joined the commission. While a quorum was missed two months during the year, EPC leadership met with the City Attorney’s Office to understand requirements of virtual attendance and reinforce meeting requirements among members. A sustained effort was made to recruit applicants for the Business Community Representative position.
- EPC participated in a multi-commission Joint Letter of Support for Transitioning to Electric Leaf Blowers & Other Alternatives in March 2025
- Coordinated support of the Draft 2025 Green Building Policy Update with the Planning Commission, in May 2025 prior to submitting independent, complementary letters to City Council

#### **EPC Member Activities**

- 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
- Throughout the year, the EPC also promoted environmental actions by publishing a Zebra article in collaboration with the Alexandria Beautification Commission.
- Throughout the year, EPC leadership reached out to various city divisions and environmental advocates/organizations to increase collaboration within the city and among neighboring jurisdictions.
- EPC held its annual retreat in May 2025. The focus included a discussion from the Office of Climate Action and the VA League of Conservation Voters; a discussion with City Council members on priorities and focus areas, how the EPC can be most helpful, and actions to

achieve the EAP2040 goals; and a working session to discuss EPC strategy and priorities for FY26.

- EPC supported selection and celebration of the annual Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award, which was granted to Bill Hendrickson for 2025
- EPC wrote letters of support for city initiatives, projects, and grants related to transportation, buildings, and air pollution, which are provided below.
- EPC encouraged City education and exploration of Community Choice Aggregation, by inviting experts from Loudoun County (consultant) and Montgomery County (government staff) to share their experiences and advice

### **Program and/or Legislative Accomplishments**

- In October and November, the EPC wrote letters to City Council and the City Manager for the EPC's Legislative Agenda and to provide input on Budget priorities for the City in FY 2026. The legislative agenda includes support of climate action and further advancement of Alexandria's Eco-City agenda to help meet climate goals, advance resilience, and support environmental justice. The budget priorities were provided as an Eco-City view of climate action for Alexandria, versus identifying specific budget numbers. Overall, the EPC supports climate action that advances the decarbonization of buildings and transportation, improves climate resilience and adoption, and focuses on environmental justice.
- In April, EPC members voiced opposition to a proposed budget amendment that would have reduced the Office of Climate Action's operating budget by half.
- In June, the commission wrote a letter to the City Manager to encourage the city to consult with the Office of Climate Action on possible carry-over of funds to continue funding OCA work that will help advance critical efforts aimed at protecting the health, safety, and welfare of Alexandria.

### **Goals for 2025-2026**

- EPC's four ongoing priorities remain: decarbonizing buildings, decarbonizing transportation, improving resilience against physical climate risks, and focusing on environmental justice
- For FY26 specifically, the EPC is focusing on a few key focus areas: Community Choice Aggregation, the T&ES Flood Resilience Plan, the updated Green Building Policy, the Housing Master Plan, as well as compiling its annual Legislative Priorities and Budget Priorities

### **Leadership**

- Officers for the upcoming year were elected at the June meeting: Ms. Marta Schantz will serve as Chair and Mr. Dan Beattie as Vice-Chair. Mr. Phil Mobilia was elected as Secretary.
- Mr. Alexander Clark's term expired and Ms. Kishla Askins and Mr. James Vandeputte resigned. New membership includes Mr. Charlie Garlow (November 2024), Ms. Yanique Revers (December 2024), and Ms. Perrin Krisko (March 2025). Ms. Jennifer Debias' term expired, but she was reappointed the following month (January 2025).
- During the course of the year, membership included the following individuals:
  - Kishla Askins
  - Dan Beattie
  - Eldon Boes
  - Alexander Clark
  - Benjamin Cuddy (Vice-Chair)
  - Jennifer Debias
  - Charlie Garlow
  - Kathie Hoekstra
  - David Hole
  - Perrin Krisko
  - Philip Mobilia (Secretary)
  - Marta Schantz (Chair)
  - Julia Slayden
  - Yanique Revers
  - James Vandeputte
- Melissa Atwood, Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Environmental Quality section, acted as the staff liaison to the EPC during the course of the 2024/2025 year.

### **Attachments**

1. Letter of Support. Alexandria's 2024 U.S. Department of Transportation's *Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program* application, July 12, 2024
2. Letter of Support. Endorse Sustainability Elements of Alexandria West Small Area Plan, August 6, 2024
3. Letter to City Council. Support for Option 2 of the Duke Street in Motion, Duke at West Taylor Run Intersection sub-project, September 5, 2024
4. Letter to City Council and City Manager. EPC's 2025 Legislative Agenda to drive climate action and support Eco-City Alexandria, October 4, 2024
5. Letter to City Council and City Manager. EPC's Budget Priorities for the City of Alexandria in FY 2026, November 1, 2024
6. Letter to City Council and Planning Commission. Letter of Support for 5001 Eisenhower Avenue Office Building Conversion (Victory Center Redevelopment) Project, November 27, 2024
7. Letter to City Council. Joint Letter of Support for Transitioning to Electric Leaf Blowers & Other Alternatives, March 21, 2025
8. Letter to City Council. Letter of Support of the City Hall/Market Square New Zero

Renovation, Including Geothermal, April 3, 2025

9. Letter to City Council. Letter in Support of the Draft 2025 Green Building Policy Update, May 23, 2025
10. Letter of Support from EPC Chair. Application for the Federal Transit Administration's Low or No Emissions Vehicles and Bus and Bus Facilities discretionary grant programs, June 23, 2025
11. Letter to City Manager. Office of Climate Action Carryover Work – FY2025 to FY2026, June 23, 2025