

A Tribute to

Flint Webb

**Chairman
Environment and Conservation Committee
and
Federation Board Member
Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations
2006 - 2023**

Presented at the Federation Membership meeting on 16 November 2023

**Compilation of
Resolutions and Legislative Issues from 2011 thru 2023
Researched and written by the
Federation Environment Committee
Under the Chairmanship of
Flint Webb**



A tribute to Flint Webb’s outstanding contributions to the environmental and conservation issues that affect the welfare of Fairfax citizens, Fairfax County, and the Commonwealth of Virginia, and to the recognition the Federation receives from county and state representatives for Flint bringing forth these timely issues.

Flint has been Chairman of the Federation Environment and Conservation Committee for over 16 years. Under his dedicated leadership, it has had many members and consulting contributors, including Alex Vassalotti, Monica Billger, Betsy Martin, Merilee Pierce, Edward Monroe, Greg Dougherty, Ned Poffenbenberger, Ana Prados, Kathy Ledec, and Jack Dobbyn.

Flint also represented the Federation on, or coordinated with, several Fairfax County Boards and Commissions, including the Engineering Standards Review Committee, the Community-Wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Plan Community Advisory Group, and the Metropolitan Washington Air & Climate Public Advisory Committee.

**This tribute is available on the Federation’s website at
<https://www.fairfaxfederation.org/environment>**

**Federation Legislative Issues, Resolutions, and Letters
produced by Flint Web and the Environment Committee**

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<p>Issue ID: 22C03 Renewable Distributed Energy</p>
<p>This Issue is for: <u> X </u> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <u> </u> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 23 September 2021</p>
<p>Issue: Virginia needs a comprehensive policy on distributed energy.</p>
<p>Background: Virginia faces an immense challenge to transition to clean energy while ensuring electricity reliability. To do this Virginia will need to deploy renewable energy in all its forms.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: The traditional power generation model involves long-distance transmission and shorter distance distribution of electricity. With distributed generation of roof-top solar and distributing long-term battery storage projects we can transform the distribution model to a micro-grid model where local generation can be used to maintain service even if there is a major transmission interruption.</p>
<p>Preferred Position:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Dominion Energy shared solar program to all customers. • Prohibit utilities from charging unreasonably high minimum bills for shared solar customers. • Support solar-plus-storage for buildings that can serve as resiliency hubs for communities. • Increase the renewable portfolio distributed energy set-aside from 1% to 10%, and allocate new funds for clean energy projects in low income neighborhoods and for state grants for clean energy projects at schools. • Create a 25% investment tax credit for state customer-owned renewable power generation. • Prohibit standby or demand charges that apply only to distributed generation customers.
<p>Benefits: A healthier and more reliable electricity grid.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Appalachian Voices, Lynnhaven River NOW, Southern Environmental Law Center</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by & Federation email: Flint Webb, Environment@FairfaxFederation.org</p>



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Issue ID: 22C02 Lawn-care Company Regulatory Authority
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 23 September 2021
Issue: The County needs to be able to regulate the use of (1) leaf blowers and similar loud equipment, and (2) the application of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides by landscape and lawn-care firms.
<p>Background: Leaf-blowers are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Loud: From fifty feet away, the noise from leaf-blowers is typically over 65 decibels. 2. Polluting: 2-cycle gasoline engines emit carbon dioxide, fine particulates, carbon monoxide, ozone-pollution-causing volatile organic compounds and hazardous air pollutants, including 1-3 butadiene, benzene, acetaldehyde, and formaldehyde. 3. Unsafe for workers: Pollution emissions from gas-powered equipment will lead to various health impacts to the workers including cancer and all loud equipment pose a risk of deafness. 4. Destroys the habitat of butterflies, bees, moths and similar creatures that lay their eggs or make their homes in leaf-litter. <p>Other lawn care equipment such as lawn mowers have similar loud-volume issues. Additionally, landscape and lawn-care firms are typically responsible for the (over-) application of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides which cause additional environmental harm.</p>
Existing Conditions/Impacts: The County does not have the legislative authority to regulate landscaping and lawn-care firms. The County does have noise ordinances designed to limit the use of noisy equipment such as leaf-blowers, but only limit the time of day usage and don't address the combined impact from large commercial firms.
<p>Preferred Position: The Legislature authorize Counties to license landscaping and lawn-care firms so they can locally enforce noise ordinances and regulate the application of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides by these firms.</p> <p>The Fairfax County Board of Supervisors should regulate these industries once they have been given authority to do so by the Legislature.</p>
<p>Benefits: Regulating landscaping and lawn-care firms will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the noise from leaf-blowers and other landscaping equipment, • Reduce the pollution from leaf-blowers and other landscaping equipment, • Reduce the run-off of fertilizers, pesticides and herbicides that pollute our streams
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Quiet and Clean NOVA, Virginia League of Conservation Voters.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment



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Prepared by & Federation email: Flint Webb, Environment@FairfaxFederation.org .
Issue ID: 22C01 Stormwater
This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 23 September 2021
Issue: Funding for the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) should be increased by \$80 million. Fairfax County should require that infill developments install stormwater improvements to ensure that this new stormwater retention be sufficient to meet expected stormwater retention requirements due to climate change.
Background: Suburban growth of urban and suburban areas is the main reason many of our urban streams are impaired. By-right infill construction is particularly a problem since the County has the least ability to control this development. The SLAF has been used by local governments to fund \$95 million in grants for 216 projects across Virginia (VCN 2022, pg. 5). Demand for this program is only growing and will be important source of funding for stormwater retention projects. In Fairfax County stormwater runoff from infill developments are particularly problematic since these developments usually lead to significant increases in impervious surfaces.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Over 45% of Fairfax County’s streams have Poor or Very Poor water quality (https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/publicworks/stormwater/stream-quality-assessment-program). This is a considerable improvement from the 70% of streams that were rated Poor or Very Poor in 2004, but show that there is still a lot of work to be done. As the County is mostly fully developed, it is clear that further progress will not be possible without addressing the infill development issues. The SLAF can be used to fund stormwater retention projects on infill developments.
Preferred Position: The Legislature to appropriate more funds to the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund. Fairfax County to develop ordinances that would charge a stormwater management fee and/or to require developers utilize the SLAF to ensure that infill developments at least maintain the stormwater retention prior to development..
Benefits: With climate change storm intensities are likely to continue to increase adding to the erosion and the deterioration of our streams. At the same time the County is nearly entirely developed and most of the new development is infill development which are difficult for the County to require controls on. By requiring new developers to apply for SLAF funding for infill developments to ensure that stromwater runoff will not be impaired by the new development will minimize the impacts of increased storm intensities.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): The League of Conservation Voters has proposed the increased funding for the SLAF and the MVCCA has been studying the issue of increased runoff from infill development.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment
Prepared by & Federation email: Flint Webb, Environment@FairfaxFederation.org

<p>Issue ID: 21C03 Maintain and Increase Tree Canopy and Leaf Area</p>
<p>This Issue is for: <u> X </u> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <u> X </u> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 22 October 2020</p>
<p>Issue: The growth in Fairfax County has been at the expense of our tree canopy despite County goals to increase the tree canopy.</p>
<p>Background: Trees provide numerous benefits to our environment and our quality of life: 1) Trees sequester carbon dioxide (CO₂), 2) Trees remove particulates and other pollutants from the air, 3) Trees remove water and cool the environment via transpiring water vapor, 4) Trees help stop erosion, and 5) Trees cool our streets and neighborhoods by providing shade. All of these advantages are achievable by planting and preserving trees and by using green, or vegetated, walls and roofs.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: It is difficult to maintain tree canopy goals and still continue the growth of the county. As a result, the tree canopy has suffered. The Environmental section of the Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan Objective 10 is to conserve and restore tree cover on developed and developing sites. The County has also developed standards for green roofs in the Public Facilities Manual (PFM) but no standards for green walls.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: Since many of the advantages of the trees can be realized by use of green roofs and walls, Objective 10 should be revised to include a new policy for maintaining the pre-construction leaf area. This would require that the tree inventory include a calculation of the pre-construction leaf area. Developers could use green roofs and green walls to attain the goal of maintaining the same leaf area post-construction. The County should also ensure that green roofs and walls are maintained similarly as storm-water improvements are maintained.</p> <p>The Public Facilities Manual should be revised to include specifications for green walls.</p> <p>The Federation encourages other organizations to review and engage these two issues.</p>
<p>Benefits: Requiring that new construction at least provide the leaf area of the pre-construction site it will ensure that we can at least maintain the same rate of CO₂ sequestration that has been occurring historically.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): 350 Fairfax, Friends of Accotink Creek, the Sierra Club, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by: Flint Webb, Chairman, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org.</p>

<p>Issue ID: 21C02 Break Free From Plastic Pollution</p>
<p><u>This Issue is for:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p><u>Date Approved by Federation:</u> 22 October 2020</p>
<p><u>Issue:</u> Most plastic ends up in landfills or in our streams, and in the ocean where it either is eaten by fish or other sea creatures and/or sea birds, or breaks down to smaller plastic pieces which enter our food chain. We need to reduce the use of single use plastic containers. Even the plastic that is burned adds to air pollution.</p>
<p><u>Background:</u> Because of the proliferation of forms of plastic, most plastics can't be recycled cost effectively. The whole scheme for putting the recycling symbol on plastic containers was a marketing ploy to sell more plastic. Legislation has been introduced in Congress (HR 5845) and US Senate (SB 3263) to 1) make producers fiscally responsible for collecting, managing and recycling or composting plastic containers, and 2) increases the percentage of recycled content of beverage containers. Virginia could enact similar legislation that would accomplish these goals for the Commonwealth as a natural expansion of the legislation that passed last year (SB11) and signed by the Governor giving local governments the ability to levy a 5 cents per bag..</p>
<p><u>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</u> Plastic does not degrade in the environment – it only breaks down into smaller particles that can ultimately enter the food chair or causes air pollution if burned. Because of the proliferation of forms of plastic, it is not cost effective to recycle. Last year the Commonwealth permitted local governments to enact a 5-cent plastic bag tax.</p>
<p><u>Preferred Position:</u> The Fairfax County delegation to Congress should support the Federal legislation (HR 5845 and SB 3263) that would make producers responsible for collecting and managing single use plastic containers and increase the percentage of recycled content. Similar legislation in Virginia could apply a tax on the sale of plastic containers in Virginia that would require producers and wholesalers in to take responsibility for the products they sell in Commonwealth. Fairfax County should also enact the 5-cent plastic bag tax that was authorized last year. This tax will reduce the plastic bag pollution and reduce the burden on residential property taxes</p>
<p><u>Benefits:</u> It would reduce the plastic pollution in our streams, along our streets, in our farmland, in the oceans, and in our food.</p>
<p><u>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</u> 350 Fairfax, Friends of Accotink Creek, the Sierra Club, Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions.</p>
<p><u>Lead Federation Committee:</u> Environment</p>
<p><u>Prepared by & Federation email:</u> Flint Webb, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org.</p>

<p>Issue ID: 21C01 Virginia Environmental Policy Act</p>
<p><u>This Issue is for:</u> <u> X </u> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <u> </u> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p><u>Date Approved by Federation:</u> 22 October 2020</p>
<p><u>Issue:</u> Not all projects get the environmental review and public engagement that will adequately protect our health or wellbeing.</p>
<p><u>Background:</u> The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) helps ensure that projects undertaken or approved by the Federal Government get an environmental review according to the environmental requirements set by the Federal Administration in power at the time the decision is made. Some limitations are: 1) What gets consideration is based on Federal laws and are somewhat subject to the priorities of the Federal Administration and not responsive to State and Local concerns. 2) Projects that do not involve Federal permitting do not get as rigorous environmental review.</p>
<p><u>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</u> There are several limitations to NEPA:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Air Quality: NEPA reviews only consider criteria pollutants which generally have regional significance, they do not include air toxins which generally have more localized impacts and can dominate health impacts locally. 2. Water Quality: NEPA does not have to take into consideration local design goals, including erosion and sediment control guidelines. 3. Gaps: NEPA does not cover actions that don't have Federal guidelines such as actions that only require State or local permits.
<p><u>Preferred Position:</u> Several States have state environmental policy acts that can address the shortcomings of NEPA discussed above. In California actions taken by Counties or the State are required to go through the extensive California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. A Virginia Environmental Policy Act could take into consideration hazardous air pollutants, additional public engagement – particularly for smaller projects which may not hit Federal Environmental Impact Statement thresholds, and set other requirements such as climate change that are not currently incorporated into the Federal requirements.</p>
<p><u>Benefits:</u> Better public involvement in projects that could impair the environment, our health and/or our future.</p>
<p><u>Potential Supporters</u> (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</p> <p>.</p>
<p><u>Lead Federation Committee:</u> Environment</p>
<p><u>Prepared by:</u> Flint Webb, Chairman, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org.</p>

<p>Issue ID: 20C03 Climate Change Impact on Stormwater Infrastructure</p>
<p>This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019</p>
<p>Issue: Storm Intensity Duration Frequencies (IDF) are likely to increase due to climate change. The design of new infrastructure projects that are expected to last for decades should take into consideration climate change.</p>
<p>Background: IDF curves provide an estimate of the rainfall intensity (in inches for a single storm event) over various expected repeat periods. For instance the current IDF curve indicates that the peak rainfall over a 1-hour period every year to be 1.21 inches (the peak 1-hour, 1-year storm). But in July 2019 we had a rainstorm that dumped over 3 inches in 50 minutes. Climate change models indicate that we should expect more intense storms in the future – regardless of how fast we decrease out greenhouse gas emissions.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: IDF curves are issued by the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) prepares IDF curves by looking at the historic weather data. With the climate changing backward looking IDF curves are obsolete as soon as they are prepared. But these curves are used to design: the size of culverts under roadways, the size and shape that streams should have to minimize soil erosion, damns, the height of bridges, and thousands of other construction projects that are designed to last for decades. NOAA and the Federal Emergency Planning Agency (FEMA) recognizes that the current approach to develop IDF curves is inadequate to account for climate change, but can't keep up with the changing climate.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: The State needs to develop IDF curves for infrastructure construction that reflects how climate change is expected to affect storm intensities and different expected infrastructure life expectancies. The County needs to incorporate IDF curves that account for climate change impacts into the Public Facilities Manual (PFM).</p>
<p>Benefits: By planning for increased storm intensities when we build new projects we will not need to replace the infrastructure as often and there will be less flooding.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Friends of Accotink Creek, the Sierra Club, 350 Fairfax, and other environmental groups.</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by: Flint Webb, Chairman, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org.</p>

<p>Issue ID: 20C02 Management of Deicing & Anti-icing Salts</p>
<p>This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019</p>
<p>Issue: Salt (sodium chloride, NaCl) and other chlorides are used for both pre-treatment before winter storms and for de-icing on roadways, parking lots, and sidewalks. Levels of service for salt application are variable by jurisdiction and private owners: In many cases, commercial property operators simply rely on “hearing the crunch” of rock salt as a standard for adequate treatment, without regard to the environmental impact. Salt treatment runs off into our streams, preventing healthy aquatic life, and ultimately it leads to unacceptable levels of chloride in water supplies.</p>
<p>Background: The Commonwealth needs to identify and enforce best management practices (BMPs) for salt treatment in order to prevent further erosion of local water quality. Stormwater runoff is the fastest growing source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and local streams. The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has identified chloride associated with winter deicing/anti-icing activities as one of four stressors contributing to the impaired Accotink water quality. Already Fairfax Water has had to warn people with high blood pressure to be careful about drinking tap water due to high sodium levels.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: The Virginia Department of Environment is developing a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) for northern Virginia driven by the Accotink Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. Based on specific conductivity studies, the Accotink chloride loading exceeds “Acute criteria” (860 mg/L) in multiple winter storm events each year. While the Accotink does not flow into a reservoir for drinking water, the impact of salt treatment on reservoirs is widespread: For example, during technical training at the Griffith Water Treatment Plant, the SaMS Stakeholders Action Committee learned that Occoquon Reservoir already exceeds warning thresholds on increasing frequency, and that no filtration system in place to prevent further contamination of treated water, to the detriment of vulnerable customers. The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is not committing to SaMS which would reduce roadway salts.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: The Legislature should direct VDOT and other agencies to adopt best management practices throughout the Commonwealth. Fairfax County should facilitate training sessions to train de-icing salt applicators: 1) on the risks of excess salt application, 2) how to pick alternative de-icing alternatives depending on weather conditions, and 3) how to apply deicing substances appropriately.</p>
<p>Benefits: Better water quality, cost reductions.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth, public drinking water treatment facilities, American Water Works Association, Trout Unlimited and other fishing advocacy groups, Sierra Club, Friends of Accotink Creek and other environmental groups.</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by & Federation email: Flint Webb, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org.</p>

<p>Issue ID: 20C01 Drinking Water Quality</p>
<p>This Issue is for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax County Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 24 October 2019</p>
<p>Issue: Drinking Water Quality: Many residents are concerned about drinking water quality so much so that they already are buying bottled water. But bottled water is not tested and is not necessarily any better quality than tap water. In addition, the use of bottled water leads to the additional problem of disposal of plastic bottles.</p>
<p>Background: Drinking water quality tests are largely conducted at the water treatment plant and do not take into consideration contaminants that may come from the pipes conveying drinking water to your tap. The experiences of the District of Columbia, Flint Michigan, and, more recently, Newark New Jersey are examples of distribution system contamination. Leaching of lead from lead pipes or lead solder have been of concern as well as concerns about polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and chlorides.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: Homes built prior to 1986 may have lead pipes. PFAS drinking water contamination would most likely be identified from the water source and is not likely to be an issue in Fairfax County, but in many counties in Virginia it may be an issue. Chloride may be an issue for some members of the community with high blood pressure even at concentrations that may not be identified as an issue at the water treatment facility.</p> <p>The Commonwealth already has a program to test drinking water from wells through the Cooperative Extension offices that tests for lead and teaches homeowners how to take valid drinking water samples from their taps.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: It would be good if we could expand the drinking water testing program for homes supplied by well water to residents built prior to 1986. The program should not have a significant cost impact to the Commonwealth since there is a cost for participating in the program that offsets the costs of analysis.</p>
<p>Benefits: Homeowners and renters that are concerned about their drinking water could have their water tested at a nominal cost.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Friends of Accotink Creek, the Sierra Club, Audubon Naturalist Society, 350 Fairfax and other environmental groups.</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by: Flint Webb, Chairman, FedEnvironmentChr2020@FairfaxFederation.org.</p>

<u>Issue ID:</u> 19C03 Plastic Bags
<u>Issue for:</u> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Board of Supervisors
<u>Date Approved by Federation:</u>
<u>Issue:</u> Single use plastic is critical issue. In the environment plastic either is consumed by fish, sea mammals, or birds killing them; degrades to form micro plastics consumed by fish and absorbed into their flesh, eventually entering the human food chain.
<u>Background:</u> Over 76% of the respondents to the Federation’s legislative priorities survey considered single use plastic trash as being either “Very Important”, or “Most Important” of the list of environmental issues. Plastic trash also affects the Chesapeake Bay Health which was considered “Very Important” or “Most Important” by over 62% of the survey respondents.
<u>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</u> Plastic bags are particularly bad because they degrade more easily than other single use plastic; get tangled up in trees and bushes in our neighborhoods creating an eye sore; or get tangled up in tree roots or fallen trees clogging our streams. Furthermore, plastic waste plastic bags not only are difficult to recycle but they gum up equipment in single-stream recycling facilities. Similarly, they gum up farm equipment if they should drift onto farm land. They also drift onto roadways and get trapped in motor vehicles and gum up equipment and cause accidents. Plastic shopping bags are also less expensive and stronger than paper shopping bags, making them the favorites of retail businesses.
<u>Preferred Position:</u> Plastic bags should be banned or taxed.
<u>Benefits:</u> Banning or taxing plastic shopping bags would make a big difference in the amount of plastic waste cluttering up our roadways, clogging up our streams, entering our food chain, killing our wildlife and contributing to climate change.
<u>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</u> Senator Chap Peterson has been carrying a plastic bag bill for many years – it is long past time that the Federation should support him in this effort. Friends of Accotink Creek, Clean Virginia Waterways, Ocean Conservancy, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and many other environmental groups.
<u>Lead Federation Committee:</u> Environment
<u>Prepared by:</u> Flint Webb, Co-Chair



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Issue ID: 19C02 Roadway Salt and Lawn Fertilizer
Issue for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Board of Supervisors
Date Approved by Federation: 25 October 2018
Issue: The Commonwealth needs to identify and enforce best management practices (BMPs) in improving local water quality. Stormwater runoff is the fastest growing source of pollution to the Chesapeake Bay and local streams. Lawn fertilizer is the leading cause of non-source point pollution in stormwater runoff resulting in algae overgrowth and dead zones. Recently, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has identified chloride associated with winter deicing/anti-icing activities as contributing to a water quality impairment. Drinking water systems are also subject to the negative impacts of salt applications.
Background: The environmental issue with the highest average ranking in the Federation legislative priorities survey was stream water quality and the third highest average rating was Chesapeake Bay Health. Seventy-two (72) percent of respondents rated stream water quality “Very Important” or “Most Important”.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: ROAD SALT - The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality is developing a Salt Management Strategy (SaMS) for northern Virginia driven by the Accotink Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. LAWN FERTILIZER - As of 2017, Fairfax County had 66,231 acres of turf grass. In Fiscal Year 2017, 21,000 tons of fertilizer was applied in Fairfax County. A recent Virginia Cooperative Extension publication on lawn care points out that a single fall application of fertilizer on well-established cool season lawns will suffice to meet the turf’s needs. Despite this fact, lawn care companies in Fairfax County regularly recommend as many as six fertilizer applications per year, significantly contributing to causing the algae-covered ponds in our residential areas.
Preferred Position: ROAD SALT - Support SaMS in the identification and promote adoption of BMP’s that seek to reduce winter salt use. SaMS programs should be expanded to include public outreach and educating private de-icing salt appliers. LAWN FERTILIZER - The Virginia Nutrient Management Standards and Criteria (VNMSC) should be reassessed to (1) determine whether reductions in amounts of fertilizer allowed for residential use would be appropriate, and (2) determine whether contractor-operators who hold permits to apply fertilizer in Virginia are complying with the VNMSC as they apply to residential lawns. If the assessment finds noncompliance, enforcement should be tightened. Public outreach and education should be expanded.
Benefits: ROAD SALT - Not only will SaMS programs improve stream water quality and by extension Chesapeake Bay Health, but it will also decrease salt damage to personal automobiles, roadways and drinking water systems. LAWN FERTILIZER - Not only will these actions improve stream and pond water quality and by extension Chesapeake Bay health, but they will also reduce costs to home owners and make our residential ponds healthier and “aesthetically pleasing.”
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Soil and Water Conservation Districts across the Commonwealth, public drinking water treatment facilities, American Water Works Association, Trout Unlimited and other fishing advocacy groups, Sierra Club, Friends of Accotink Creek and other environmental groups.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment
Prepared by: Flint Webb & Monica Billger (Co-Chairs)

<p>Issue ID: 19C01 Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE)</p>
<p>Issue for: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Delegation to the General Assembly <input type="checkbox"/> Fairfax Board of Supervisors</p>
<p>Date Approved by Federation: 25 October 2018</p>
<p>Issue: Climate change is the most important environmental issue of our time. If nothing is done about reducing our emissions of greenhouse gasses (GhGs) very soon it is likely that we will see sea level rises on the order of 200 feet based on studies the geologic record. The single most cost effective way to reduce electric demand is to implement clean energy capital improvements.</p>
<p>Background: Thirty percent of Federation legislative priority survey participants consider climate change the most important environmental issue facing the Commonwealth. Fifty-nine percent consider climate change “Very Important” or “Most Important” on the Federation’s Survey. Additionally Air quality was identified as the second most important environmental issue in the Federation survey with 63% ranking it as either “Most Important” or “Very Important”.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: The Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) is a no-cost program that allows property owners to pay for cost effective clean energy capital improvements through property taxes over the useful life of the improvement. In many instances the result of PACE funding means that the savings on energy bills exceed the cost of funding as soon as the improvement is installed. Currently in Virginia PACE is only available to commercial properties and specifically not allowed for condo associations. The PACE program in Virginia also requires specific enabling legislation from each jurisdiction.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: Expand the PACE program to include condominiums and homeowners and/or establish a Commonwealth-wide program rather than requiring local Government enabling legislation.</p>
<p>Benefits: PACE programs are reducing energy use, and costs across the country. Reducing GhG emissions not only reduces the risks due to climate change but also air pollution in general by reducing emissions from burning fossil fuels.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC), Chambers of Commerce, Sierra Club, 350 Fairfax, homeowner and condominium associations.</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by: Flint Webb, Co-Chair</p>



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<p>Issue ID: 18C03 Greening Communities through Biophilic Planning and Land Conservation</p>
<p>Issue: Developing comprehensive conservation policy that will enable Fairfax County to improve and protect the natural environment through biophilic planning during redevelopment of aging infrastructure and communities.</p>
<p>Background:</p> <p>Biologist E.O Wilson coined the term “biophilia” two decades ago, describing it as “the innately emotional affiliation of human beings to other living organisms. Innate means hereditary, and hence, part of ultimate human nature.” In a recent study, sectors across industry are reaping the economic benefits of biophilic design.</p> <p>The Biophilic Cities Project, begun by Tim Beatley at the University of Virginia, aims to explore innovative ways cities can incorporate nature into design and planning. Washington, DC recently became a biophilic city partner. Arlington is currently exploring the partnership.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</p> <p>Fairfax County is undergoing several initiatives to redevelop aging community areas into walkable mixed use development projects. The majority of the projects center around communities with little or no access to a park, have little tree canopy, are closest to the counties most heavily polluted streams, and disproportionately affect low-income and/or minority communities in the greatest need of connectivity to nature.</p> <p>Loss of urban forests, increased impervious surface, degradation of streams, diminishing tree canopy, and invasive tree and plant species continue to threaten what little remains of our diverse ecological habitats and has a negative impact on our environmental health.</p>
<p>Preferred Position:</p> <p>Support Commonwealth endorsing Biophilic Community Partnerships. Support legislation to include biophilic design in urban planning. Support policy language that increases tree canopy (and tree preservation when applicable), pervious surface, and native planting for multi-use development projects.</p>
<p>Benefits:</p> <p>Improve air and water quality. Increases green space for community health and outdoor connectivity. Improves local habitat biodiversity. Improves economic prosperity. Incorporates One Fairfax visionary policy by providing low-income and socio-economically disadvantaged communities with access to nature, increased and increased walkable green space that also fosters biodiversity.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Faith Based Communities, FCPS Get2Green, Audubon Naturalist Society, Audubon National, Sierra Club, Virginia Conservation Network, VA Dept. of Forestry, VA Universities (George Mason, VA Tech), local park Friend’s Of groups, Fairfax Master Naturalists, MOMS Airforce, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Chesapeake Bay Foundation</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by: Monica Billger and Flint Webb, Co-chairs</p>
<p>Email & Phone: FedEnvironmentChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org</p>

<p>Issue ID: 18C02 Improve Local Authority to Increase Land and Tree Conservation</p>
<p>Issue: Citizens are concerned about the impact of land development, removal of natural spaces and diminished tree canopy throughout the County. The county needs to focus and prioritize green infrastructure and support an increase in urban forest preservation and tree canopy goals.</p>
<p>Background: As recommended in the Tree Action Plan, the Board of Supervisors initiated a countywide tree planting program to improve our air and water quality, and to achieve objectives of the board’s environmental agenda. To support the tree planting program, the board established the Tree Preservation and Planting Fund as a mechanism to administer tree-related donations and funding identified in the annual Environmental Improvement Program. However, long term impacts are threatening our tree canopy goal and do not adequately address improving tree canopy in socio-economically disadvantaged areas or give tree preservation the protection it needs in development/redevelopment projects.</p> <p>Threats to worsening air and water quality as well as loss of environmental biodiversity through tree loss exists because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Zoning required landscaping is maturing and needs proactive management. • Screening and parking lot landscaping ordinances need updating. • Additional tree cover will be lost due to infill and redevelopment. • Effects of urbanized environment on trees. • Introduction and damage caused by exotic forest pests, such as emerald ash borer and Asian long-horned beetle. • Expansion of public roads, highways and other transportation corridors. • Continual fragmentation of forested tracts to facilitate installation, expansion and maintenance of utilities and other infrastructure. • Development and expansion of governmental facilities. • Development and expansion of active recreational facilities such as athletic fields. • Tree removal in residential areas brought about by differing cultural values. • Continual introduction and proliferation of invasive plant species. • Degradation of native forests by unmanaged deer populations. • Disposal of yard debris and household chemicals. • Turf grass expansion, forest understory clearing and other human-related impacts. • Impacts of climate change on tree species and other organisms that inhabit forest ecosystems
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: Fairfax County has implemented the Tree Action Plan, a 20-year strategy for conservation and management of the county's tree resources. The Tree Action Plan was developed using a collaborative process that involved the Tree Commission, county staff, residents and builders. In June of 2007, the board of supervisors formally adopted a 30-year tree canopy goal based on the recommendations in the Tree Action Plan. The goal is to increase Fairfax County's tree cover to 45% by the year 2037. This does not address the current issues of little to no tree canopy in socio-economically disadvantaged areas primed for redevelopment. It does not address urban planning with conscientious green best management practices.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: The Federation supports legislation that would optimize tree conservation in county policies, strengthen state-enabling authority for tree conservation, optimize tree conservation in land development and optimize tree conservation in utility and public facilities projects including allowing the use of proffers to increase open space.</p>
<p>Benefits: “The trees of our residential areas, schoolyards, parks, and along downtown streets are more than just pretty niceties; they are necessities. They increase property values, cool buildings, take in carbon dioxide, and mitigate air pollution – all valuable economic and ecological benefits. A 2012 analysis shows that there are more than 3.4 million trees in five communities alone and that these urban forests provide nearly \$7 million in annual benefits.” <i>VA Department of Forestry</i>. “Research has shown that properly managed street trees provide up to \$3 in annual benefits for every \$1 invested in their care” (<i>McPherson et al. 2005</i>). Tree conservation improves: (a) Air quality, (b) Reduction in climate change, (c) Water quality and storm water management, (d) Sustainment of the health and diversity of our urban forests.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Faith Based Communities, FCPS Get2Green, Audubon Naturalist Society, Audubon National, Sierra Club, Virginia Conservation Network, VA Dept. of Forestry, VA Universities (George Mason, VA Tech), local park Friend’s Of groups, Fairfax Master Naturalists, MOMS Airforce, Choose Clean Water Coalition, Chesapeake Bay Foundation</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment & Conservation</p>
<p>Prepared by: Monica Billger and Flint Webb, Co-chairs</p>
<p>Email: FedEnvironmentChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org</p>

<p>Issue ID: 18C01 Support Net Metering for Renewable Energy in Virginia</p>
<p>Issue: Virginia lags well behind its neighboring states on renewable energy. Virginia ranks among the worst states in renewable energy development. Distributed generation is a cost effective way to achieve our energy goals, at the same time create economic development and grid resiliency for the Commonwealth. Distributed “rooftop” solar needs to be a vital part of Virginia’s booming solar economy because of the high value it brings to all Virginians. Distributed solar needs the proper policy and regulatory support commensurate with its benefits.</p>
<p>Background: Solar is coming on strong—and it is the cheapest energy in Virginia today. Having grown 65% in 2016 alone, there are now more solar jobs than coal jobs in the Commonwealth (3,236 vs. 2,866 in 2016). While solar makes up less than 1% of the electricity supply currently, a PJM study concluded the grid could handle up to 20% solar right now, without any new battery storage. Wind and solar together could make up as much as 30% of our electricity with no significant issues. The result would be less pollution and \$15.6 billion in energy savings. None of the solar under development includes battery storage because electricity from solar all goes into the grid. Bath County, Virginia is home to the world’s largest “battery”, in the form of “pumped storage.” A pair of lake reservoirs provide over 3,000 megawatts of hydropower generating capacity to balance out electric supply and demand.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: Dominion Energy Virginia’s latest integrated resource plan (IRP) reveals utility-scale solar farms, 20 megawatts (MW) and up, can produce electricity at a cost that beats coal, gas and nuclear. That’s why Dominion’s IRP proposes a build-out of 240 MW of solar per year. This is why: (a) Amazon Web Services has been building 260 MW of solar in five Virginia counties to supply its data centers; (b) over the past year, developers have proposed more than 1,600 MW of additional solar capacity in counties across the state; and (c) solar already employs more Virginians than coal. Residential solar system owners in Dominion and Appalachian Power service territories are forced to pay a punitive and excessive “stand by charge” for systems over a certain size. Homeowners are also prohibited from building a solar system producing in excess of their previous year’s electric usage. These rules violate our right to be energy self-sufficient on our own property with our own money. VA net metering is a weak program in that it requires that customers create a power purchase agreement with their utility, which is up to the utility’s discretion, prior to connecting their photovoltaic (PV) solar system to the grid. This barrier prevents potential solar customers from accessing net-metering program benefits and ultimately gives all power to the utility rather than ensuring solar customers are compensated fairly for the energy they provide.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: Support legislation HB 1286 introduced last year. HB 1286 would have stripped away impediments to private investments in renewable energy. As introduced, the legislation would have confirmed the legality of third-party power-purchase agreements (PPAs) for facilities located on a customer’s property, lifted the current 1 percent cap on net metering programs relative to total utility sales, removed the authorization for standby charges on residential and agricultural facilities, removed constraints on system sizes based on historical demand, and authorized community net metering programs.</p>
<p>Benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Provides Virginia consumers choices and a direct role in choosing their energy sources •Reduces peak loads on the distribution grid and improve reliability • Provide the benefits of affordable clean energy resources to Virginians of all income levels and in the Commonwealth •Supports Virginia job creation and economic opportunity through the development and deployment of solar generation
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Virginia Distributed Solar Collaborative; VASUN; Interfaith Power & Light, Virginia Conservation Network, VA League of Conservation Voters</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment / Conservation</p>
<p>Prepared by: Monica Billger and Flint Webb, Co-chairs</p>
<p>Email: FedEnvironmentChr2018@FairfaxFederation.org</p>



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Issue ID: 17C02 -Stormwater Controls
Date Submitted to Legislative Committee: 17October 2016
Issue: Local Governments need the authority to require developers to prove that new developments will not impair or degrade Waters of the State.
Background: The rapid development in Fairfax County has had a major impact on the groundwater and surface water problems we face today as a result, most of the streams in Fairfax County are designated as impaired and most of the County has already been built up. The comprehensive plan process is inadequate for improving the water quality of our streams. The County needs the authority to require new projects do no further damage to impaired waters of the State. .
Existing Conditions/Impacts: The Comprehensive planning process focuses on individual projects rather than looking holistically at impaired streams. Watershed management plans are focusing on improving existing remediating major stream impairments but do not look at new projects. County ordinances are state-of-the-art but will not be sufficient to address problems in impaired watersheds. New development and redevelopment activities often offer opportunities to design and implement modern, permanent site and building features that may reduce or eliminate stormwater pollution throughout the lifetime of a facility or development. On the other hand, construction activities associated with development can contribute significant amounts of pollutants if best management practices (BMPs) are not properly executed. Prior to the recent legislation prohibiting the use of proffers, the Board of Supervisors could use the proffer process to ensure better stormwater controls.
Preferred Position: Local communities, (Counties and Cities) need authority to require that developers demonstrate that new projects will not increase the stormwater runoff water quality or volume from their property. We call on elected officials to give local Governments authority to use the proffers to require stormwater controls on new developments or redevelopments and the Board of Supervisors needs to support construction projects that observe local zoning laws, re-purpose previous developments rather than develop open space, and make use of new technologies to reduce runoff, capture nitrogen and reduce water consumption – specifically focusing on Low Impact Development (LID) technologies. Infiltration and volume reduction is critical and should be a requirement for all projects.
Benefits: Allowing Counties and Cities to require developers demonstrate that new projects will not worsen the impaired status of waterways will decrease the need for County funds for remediation of stormwater impairments. Encouraging/requiring LID projects would create smaller overall development footprints, reduce the amount of runoff generated and increase the amount of natural areas on a site, thereby reducing costs when compared to traditional stormwater management and flood control. Besides reducing the capital and other actual costs, using LID practices provide: improved aesthetics for communities, expanded recreational opportunities, increased property values due to the desirability of the lots and their proximity to open space, increased marketing potential and faster sales for residential and commercial properties, and reduced stream channel damage and pollutant loadings in downstream waters.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): The many steam friends of organizations such as the Friends of Accotink Creek, Sierra Club, Audubon Society, Tree stewards, Coalition for Smarter Growth.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment
Prepared by: Flint Webb & Monica Billger, Environment Committee Co-Chairs
Email & Phone: FedEnvironmentChr2017@fairfaxfederation.org , 703-582-8094

<p><u>Issue ID:</u> 17C01-Renewable Power</p>
<p><u>Date Submitted to Legislative Committee:</u> 17 October 2016</p>
<p><u>Issue:</u> Virginia needs to increase the generation of electric power from renewable sources.</p>
<p><u>Background:</u> Opening the solar market to private sector competition and larger amounts of customer-owned generation is a cost-effective approach to accelerate solar development in a way that builds on Virginians’ preference for competitive, market-based solutions. Solar energy can keep power bills low both for homeowners and businesses who install solar systems and for customers who don’t. Private investment in solar benefits all of us by reducing strain on the distribution and transmission grids and avoiding or delaying the need for costly new power plants. All Virginians should be able to benefit from clean energy, regardless of their income, where they live, or whether they own their home. (This was taken from the Virginia Conservation Network’s 2017 Environmental Briefing Book, page 21).</p>
<p><u>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</u> Virginia lags behind our neighboring States largely because Dominion Virginia Power has been able to block third party solar energy providers which has made it difficult to install solar power on or in residences.</p>
<p><u>Preferred Position:</u> The Virginia General Assembly should support measures that encourage innovative solar companies to compete fairly and lower the cost of electricity for us all. These measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stopping power companies from attempts to block private, third-party financing of electricity generated by solar or wind energy through Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) or solar leases; • Eliminating standby charges, project size caps, and other barriers to customer-sited electricity generation; • Permitting customers to share the benefits of solar energy through Community Solar projects; and • Protecting 1:1 net metering credits, so solar customers receive fair value for all of the solar energy they provide to their power company. <p>(This was taken from the Virginia Conservation Network’s 2017 Environmental Briefing Book, page 22).</p>
<p><u>Benefits:</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allows homeowners and businesses to generate their own power or to hire a third party solar power provider. 2. Ensures that homeowners and businesses get a fair rate for the power they generate absent of unreasonable fees. 3. Improves the resiliency of the system by allowing local electricity generation when elements of the distribution system are damaged.
<p><u>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</u> Virginia Conservation Network (which includes 98 organizations throughout Virginia, including the Virginia Chapter of the Sierra Club, Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Virginia League of Conservation Voters, Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Audubon Naturalist Society)</p>
<p><u>Lead Federation Committee:</u> Environment Committee</p>
<p><u>Prepared by:</u> Flint Webb</p>
<p><u>Email & Phone:</u> FedEnvironmentChr2017@fairfaxfederation.org, cell: 703.582.8094.</p>



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Issue ID: 16C03 Chesapeake Bay Protection
Date Submitted to Federation Board: 10/24/15
Issue: Additional funding sources and tighter regulations to protect the waters of the Chesapeake Bay and its tributaries from “nonpoint source pollution” also known as polluted runoff throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
Background: Previously, the protection of the Chesapeake Bay was acknowledged as the primary responsibility of Counties east of the I-95 corridor. The evolving consensus by conservation groups now recognizes the contribution of storm water pollution from other parts of the Commonwealth and their tributaries that drain to the bay either directly or indirectly through other tributaries. The rivers and streams in the Chesapeake Bay watershed send about 51 billion gallons of fresh water into the Bay each day. Almost 90 percent of this fresh water comes from just five of these tributaries - four of which are in or border the Commonwealth: the Potomac, Rappahannock, York and James.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Though responsible for greater percentages of pollution, agriculture and sewage treatment plants have made progress to minimize their environmental impact on our local water resources. Now, urban and suburban polluted runoff is the only major source of nitrogen pollution in the Bay still growing. Better stormwater management through public/private partnerships and individual/community practices are becoming increasingly necessary to improve local stream conditions as well as the overall health of the Bay. Almost three-fourths of the state's 8 million residents live within the watershed with over half of Virginia's streams and rivers flowing to the Bay. According to 2012 305(b)/303(d) Water Quality Assessment Integrated Report 71% of assessed rivers in the Commonwealth are considered impaired.
Preferred Position: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.) Require all counties with streams that directly or indirectly drain to the Chesapeake Bay to have more strict regulations reducing sediment, and nutrient loads. 2.) The Federation encourages continued funding of the Stormwater Local Assistance Fund (SLAF) and includes supporting the position of Senator Emmett Hanger and Delegate Ed Scotts’ proposed budget amendments in early this year that would authorize an additional \$40 million in Virginia Public Building Authority bonds to support the fund. Note that the additional grant funding would assist localities in accomplishing mandated upgrades to their urban stormwater systems.
Benefits: Improvement of stormwater systems would help localities meet mandated water quality standards and improve flood control. There are hundreds of thousands of creeks, streams and rivers in the Chesapeake Bay watershed. These tributaries send fresh water into the Bay and offer vital habitat to aquatic plants and animals. These tributaries also provide people with public access points where they can fish, boat and swim. Local stormwater management can conserve the health of local streams, serve in flood protection, provide recreation, fish and wildlife benefits and increase overall community wellness.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): Potentially - community “Friends of” organizations, homeowner organizations, local conservation groups, recreational sport organizations, fishing and wildlife organizations, Plant NoVa Natives, NVSWCD, FCRP, FCFCA
Lead Federation Committee: Environment & Conservation
Prepared by: Flint Webb & Monica Billger
Email & Phone: fedEnvironmentchr2016@FairfaxFederation.org , Webb 703-582-8094, Billger 571-278-5535

<p>Issue ID: 16C02 Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions</p>
<p>Date Submitted to Federation Board: 10/24/15</p>
<p>Issue: Virginia needs to reduce greenhouse gas (GhG) emissions and adapt to climate change.</p>
<p>Background:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Virginia is already experiencing the effects of climate change in the form of increased flooding in Hampton Roads and elsewhere in Virginia. 2) The EPA has proposed regulations that will require the Commonwealth to develop regulations to reduce greenhouse gasses from existing power plants
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</p> <p>Failure to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions will cause drastic impacts to the economy of the Commonwealth. Climate Change is causing sea level rise which has lead to increase flooding in tidewater Virginia. Increased carbon dioxide concentrations in the ocean causes acidification which will be devastating to the oyster and crab industry. Warmer ocean waters will lead to more intense or more frequent tropical storms.</p>
<p>Preferred Position:</p> <p>Virginia should join the North Eastern States in the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI) and use the proceeds from the sale of GhG emission credits to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help communities like coastal Virginia adapt to climate change, • Help consumers reduce their energy consumption through energy efficiency, and • Help southwestern Virginia adapt a low carbon economy.
<p>Benefits:</p> <p>The Coastal Protection Act will encourage the development of a domestic renewable energy economy and fund adaptation and energy efficiency purchases.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</p> <p>In the 2015 session The Coastal Protection Act was introduced in both houses; HB2205 was introduced by Villanueva and SB1428 was introduced by McEachin. The bill failed in this year's session it has been building support.</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment</p>
<p>Prepared by: Flint Webb, Environment Chair.</p>
<p>Email & Phone: FHWebb@aol.com, (h) 703-560-5203, (w) x571-526-7706, (c) 703-582-8094</p>

<p><u>Issue ID:</u> 15C03 Plastic bag fee-credit</p>
<p><u>Date Submitted to Federation Board:</u> 2 October 2014</p>
<p><u>Issue:</u> Litter from plastic shopping bags on our streets, in our neighborhoods, and in our streams</p>
<p><u>Background:</u> A similar legislative issue was proposed and accepted by the Federation in 2013.</p>
<p><u>Existing Conditions/Impacts:</u> Litter in general and plastic shopping bags in particular in our community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clogs and undermines the storm water infrastructure, • Degrades our stream corridor parks for residents and wild life, • Gets blown onto our streets where it gets entwined in and damages our vehicles, and • Reduces home values. <p>Ultimately this costs us not only money in repairs and lost value but in community pride and quality of life.</p>
<p><u>Preferred Position:</u> Support legislation and measures to reduce litter from plastic shopping bags on our streets, in our neighborhoods and in our streams. Legislation could take the form of either increasing the cost to shoppers or retailers in the form of a plastic bag tax, or requiring that retailers provide a credit to shoppers that provide their own bags.</p>
<p><u>Benefits:</u> Increased property values, fewer auto repair bills, less flooding of roadways and yards, and cleaner, healthier streams.</p>
<p><u>Potential Supporters</u> (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations):</p> <p>Soil and Water Conservation District, Park Authority, stream cleanup organizations such as the Friends of Accotink Creek and the Alice Ferguson Foundation.</p>
<p><u>Lead Federation Committee:</u> Environment/Conservation</p>
<p><u>Prepared by:</u> Flint Webb, PE</p>
<p><u>Email & Phone:</u> FedEnvironmentChr2015@fairfaxfederation.org.</p>



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<p>Issue ID: 15C02 Solid waste-debris control</p>
<p>Lead Federation Committee: Environment/Conservation</p>
<p>Date Submitted to Federation Board: 2 October 2014</p>
<p>Issue: Give counties authority develop a regional approach to Solid Waste Management including implementing an aggressive County-wide Recycling programs to include recycling of Construction and Demolition Debris.</p>
<p>Background: As stated in the Comprehensive Plan for Fairfax County Environment Objective 13 states: "encourage the application of energy conservation, water conservation and other green building practices." including "recycling/salvage of non-hazardous construction, demolition, and land clearing debris. As evidenced by the recent decision to close the Lorton Landfill in 2018 the Fairfax County Planning Commission began drafting language to be included in the proffers for development projects requiring recycling of a significant portion of CDD. The County is in the process of developing a 20-year waste management plan. We are quickly running out of areas to bury our trash and must implement source point recycling programs in order to be able to continue to manage our Solid Waste (including CDD) at reasonable costs and not at the expense of the environment (or some other rural locality that becomes the recipient of our Solid Waste for burial). Last year the Federation took a position supporting a bag tax. Recycling and reducing the need to landfill CDD wastes as the second highest environmental priority identified by the Members.</p>
<p>Existing Conditions/Impacts: With the closure of the Lorton Landfill in 2018 and recognizing that 75% of CDD could be recycled nationally by 2030 (or sooner as evidenced by Massachusetts already achieving this goal!) Developing a regional approach to this issue will provide Fairfax County with the opportunity to implement regulations that encourage source reduction, reuse and recycling over landfilling. Recycling programs should be expanded to include all residential, business, federal state and local government agencies in the Commonwealth of Virginia. The County needs authority to mandate recycling goals more stringent than are required by State and Federal regulation. This approach would discourage landfilling and support effective land use practices in a heavily urbanized area where continuing to bury our solid waste, or ship it to other less populated areas with landfills becomes less of an option while at the same time becomes more expensive.</p>
<p>Preferred Position: Give Counties authority to regulate the recycling of wastes generated and disposed of within the county. The regional solid waste management plan should expanding recycling to include CDD and requirements that all residential, business, federal, state and local government agencies actively engage in this activity that sets as a priority source point recycling and takes landfilling for the most part out of the set of options available forcing a more environmentally respectful approach setting us up to become leader in recycling for the US.</p>
<p>Benefits: Implementing a regional approach to Solid Waste Management and Recycling (including CDD) will provide us with the opportunity to become a leader and an example of best practice in our heavily urbanized area. The practice to recycle, and reuse vs dispose of in landfills can benefit urban as well as rural communities. Increased recycling within the County would reduce air pollution from truck traffic and improve property values by helping to keep trash off our roads and out of our streams.</p>
<p>Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): This would include Developers (who for the Tyson's Corner Development are recycling a significant portion of CDD Solid Waste, and developer for the Laurel Hill Adaptive use project who has committed to recycling 100% of CDD Solid Waste), Environmental Groups, Federal, State and County Agencies and home owner associations and civic communities.</p>
<p>Prepared by: Cathy Ledec, Katherine Ward</p>
<p>Email & Phone: MVCCA rep to the Federation Katherine Ward, kward47@cox.net</p>



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Issue ID: 15C01 Climate change & energy conservation
Lead Federation Committee: Environment/Conservation
Date Submitted to Federation Board: 2 October 2015
Issue: Revise the renewable portfolio standards for electric power generation to require renewable emission credits come from new projects developed in the Commonwealth of Virginia. It would also require that the State Corporations Commission develop a registry of renewable projects in Virginia. The registry would evaluate environmental impacts of the projects and ensure that the greenhouse gas reductions are properly and consistently counted.
Background: There were several bills introduced that would have reformed the process but the changes that were made last year to the process were only minor. The one piece of legislation that was passed in 2014 SB 653 Renewable energy property tax credits: This bill provides tax credits for biomass, geothermal, hydroelectric, solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, and wind energy systems. Passed both houses and was signed by the Governor. Climate change and energy issues were identified by the most survey results of any issues in the Environmental area. Eleven respondents identified climate change or energy as proposed legislative priorities. The Federation has taken a similar position since 2009.
Existing Conditions/Impacts: Virginia's renewable portfolio standards allows power generators to use renewable energy credits from outside the commonwealth and old projects such as hydroelectric dams on the west cost.
Preferred Position: What Virginia needs is a registry of renewable emission credits and a requirement that renewable energy credits for energy sold in Virginia come ONLY from renewable projects in Virginia.
Benefits: The climate is changing due to the buildup in greenhouse gasses - particularly carbon dioxide (CO2). Additionally the least disruptive approach to meeting the new Clean Power Plant regulations would be to increase the renewable power generation. Finally, between off-shore wind and solar, Virginia has sufficient renewable energy sources to be able to meet all of the Commonwealth's energy needs.
Potential Supporters (Community leaders, Public/Private Partnership Opportunities, Organizations): The following bills introduced in 2014 that would be examples of bills that would be supported by the proposed position: HB 821 Electric utility regulation; renewable energy portfolio standard program, etc.: The regulation would require the State Corporation Commission to establish a registry for renewable energy certificates. The bill was "Left" in the Commerce and Labor Committee. HB 1081 Electric utility regulation; renewable energy portfolio standard program: This bill would reform the renewable energy portfolio standards requirements. The bill was "Stricken" from docket by Health, Welfare and Institutions committee by voice vote.
Lead Federation Committee: Environment
Prepared by: Flint Webb
Email & Phone: FedenvironmentChr2015@FairfaxFederation.org

(Listed in the format as submitted since this Issue was before the use of the Federation's standardized full-text Legislative Issues template.)

Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations - Legislative Proposal Analysis Sheet - 2014 Legislative Session	
Committee: Environment Committee	
Issue ID: 2014 Reduce Litter	
Position:	
Support legislation and measures to reduce litter on our streets, in our neighborhoods and in our streams including bottle deposits, shopping bag fees, and/or increased litter tax	
Rationale:	
Litter in our community clogs and undermines the storm water infrastructure, degrades our stream corridor parks for residents and wild life, and reduces home values. Ultimately this costs us; not only money in repairs and lost value, but in community pride and quality of life.	
Impact on Membership (county homeowners)	
	Benefits: Increased property values, less flooding of roadways and yards and cleaner, healthier streams.
	Costs: A bag bill could cost residents who forget to bring their own shopping bags. A bottle bill could cost residents that don't recycle their bottles. But an increased the litter tax would increase the tax for everyone - not just people who don't do the right thing.
Potential Allies:	
Soil and Water Conservation District, Park Authority, stream cleanup organizations such as the Friends of Accotink Creek and the Alice Ferguson Foundation	
Actual & Potential Opponents:	
	Major beverage (soft drink, water, beer) marketers, Retail stores, Chambers of Commerce
	Arguments against Federation Position: Cost
	Response to opposition arguments: The funds raised by these litter measures should be used only for beautification efforts such as stream cleanups and roadway litter collection efforts.
Prepared by: Flint Webb, Environment Committee Chair	
Contact Information: Flint Webb, FedEnvironmentChr2014@fairfaxfederation.org	

Issues 2011 to 2013 Environment, Conservation, & Energy

During 2010 thru 2012, Flint advocated for, researched, introduced, or wrote the following Legislative Issues pertaining to the environment and conservation of natural resources. Several are repeat submissions since an Issue in that General Assembly session year may not have been introduced, debated, or passed or signed by the Governor. (Listed by title only since these Issues are before the use of the Federation’s standardized full-text Legislative Issues template.)

<u>November 20, 2012 for 2013 Legislature</u>		
OPEN SPACE LAND CONSERVATION	1	Conservation
MANDATORY RENEWABLE PORTFOLIO STANDARD	4a	Energy
ENERGY END-USER CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION	4b	Energy
DEVELOP VIRGINIA’S OFF-SHORE WIND RESOURCES	4c	Energy
REPEAL THE TAX CREDITS FOR UTILITIES AND COAL COMPANIES FOR THE EXTRACTION AND CONSUMPTION OF VIRGINIA COAL	4d	Energy
PURCHASE OF ENERGY SAVING PRODUCTS	4e	Energy
CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION ACT	5a	Environment
CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING	5b	Environment
MAINTAIN THE EXISTING BAN ON URANIUM MINING IN VIRGINIA	5c	Environment
WHITE TAIL DEER POPULATION CONTROL	5d	Environment
ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR COMPOUNDS, PHARMACEUTICALS, AND HORMONE WATER POLLUTION	5e	Environment

<u>November 17, 2011 for 2012 Legislature</u>		
OPEN SPACE LAND CONSERVATION	1a	CONSERVATION
MANDATORY RENEWABLE ENERGY PORTFOLIO STANDARD	4a	ENERGY
ENERGY END-USER CONSERVATION AND RENEWABLE ENERGY PRODUCTION	4b	ENERGY
DEVELOP VIRGINIA’S OFF-SHORE WIND RESOURCES	4c	ENERGY
REPEAL THE TAX CREDITS FOR UTILITIES	4d	ENERGY

AND COAL COMPANIES FOR THE EXTRACTION AND CONSUMPTION OF VIRGINIA COAL		
PURCHASE OF ENERGY SAVING PRODUCTS	4e	ENERGY
CHESAPEAKE BAY PRESERVATION ACT	5a	ENVIRONMENT
INCLUDE CLIMATE CHANGE EFFECTS IN INFRASTRUCTURE PLANNING	5b	ENVIRONMENT
MAINTAIN THE EXISTING BAN ON URANIUM MINING IN VIRGINIA	5c	ENVIRONMENT
WILDLIFE CONFLICT	5d	ENVIRONMENT
ENDOCRINE DISRUPTOR COMPOUNDS, PHARMACEUTICALS, AND HORMONE WATER POLLUTION	5e	ENVIRONMENT
SOLID WASTE	5f	ENVIRONMENT
STREAM AND GROUNDWATER PROTECTION	5g	ENVIRONMENT
UNDERGROUND UTILITIES	5h	ENVIRONMENT
UTILITY EASEMENTS	5i	ENVIRONMENT
PETROLEUM TANK FARMS	17d	OTHER - CITIZEN INTERESTS

<u>October 21, 2010</u> for 2011 Legislature		
Open Space Land Conservation	1a	CONSERVATION
Energy End-User Conservation and Renewable Energy Production	3a	ENERGY
Purchase of Energy Saving Products	3b	ENERGY
Renewable Portfolio Standard	3c	ENERGY
Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act	12a	Environment
Endocrine Disruptor Compounds, Pharmaceuticals, and Hormone	12b	Environment
Petroleum Tank Farms	12c	Environment
Solid Waste	12d	Environment
Stream and Groundwater Protection	12e	Environment
Underground Utilities	12f	Environment
Utility Easements	12g	Environment



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Federation Letter 9/2020 & Resolution 10/2018 on Undergrounding

Fairfax County Board of Supervisors
12000 Government Center Pkwy
Fairfax, VA 22035

September 21, 2020

Reference: Federation resolution “Supporting the Undergrounding of Utilities & Communication Lines Throughout Fairfax County”, October 24, 2019, (enclosed)

Dear Chairman McKay and Board Members,

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations members and Board of Directors have previously recommend that all utility lines and communication lines be placed underground, particularly during Fairfax County road projects (reference the enclosed). This letter encourages your support to make this important planning action a reality.

The Federation believes undergrounding of utility lines and communication lines should be a County policy. Federation members want streets that are pedestrian and biker friendly, beautifully tree-lined, vehicular safe, storm-tolerant, and free of unsightly overhead utility wires. Undergrounding fulfills these desirable community attributes.

Federation committees reviewed several factors of undergrounding and concluded five that the Board of Supervisors may consider:

1. **Continuity of services** - Underground lines will provide greater assurance of continuity of services to residential and commercial customers. Downed power lines in inclement weather are a hazard to the public and to buildings. Frequently, many utility workers will be needed to repair damaged lines and restore services. Undergrounding is a safer option for these utilities.
2. **Opportunity** - The Federation recommends that utility lines and communication lines be installed underground during major roadway improvements such as road improvements, safety or operations repairs, repaving, or roadway extensions. The road projects in the Richmond Highway Transit Oriented Development (TOD) area is an easy example of the opportunity for burying utility lines.

- 3. **Urban Heat Island Effects** - Urban Heat Island Effects are real because of the increasing area of urban concrete and asphalt roads. Environmentally friendly urban design and planning can mitigate heat island effects by reducing the width of concrete and asphalt roads and planting native shade trees in wider right-of-ways. According to a July 29, 2020, EPA report Urban Heat Island Effects contribute to higher daytime temperatures, slower nighttime cooling, and higher air-pollution levels. These effects contribute to health exhaustion and heat stroke for all ages and ethnicities. Planting trees over undergrounded utilities greatly reduces Urban Heat Island Effects.

- 4. **Trees** – Street-side trees provide cooling shade, absorb greenhouse gases and automotive pollutants, and are an appealing beauty with a calming impact to busy lives. Shaded roadways contribute to safer traffic conditions brought about by narrower lanes having reduced speed limits. Shaded roadways enhance livable communities that encourage residents to walk to work and to shopping.

- 5. **Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan** - Several areas of the current Fairfax County Comprehensive Plan address the issue of undergrounding utility lines and the enhancing of streetscapes by planting of native shade trees and vegetation. The City of Alexandria on their portion of Richmond Highway in the Metro Way/Potomac Yard area developed narrower, tree lined streets with reduced speed limits. Fairfax has the ability to enhance its Comprehensive Plan with respect to long-term undergrounding planning.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations, the Mount Vernon Council of Citizens Associations, and the Reston Citizens Association look forward to your support of this continuing request for the undergrounding of utility lines. Further, we seek your support for the narrowing of road widths, reducing speed limits, and the planting of native road-side shade trees.

Queries may be directed to the Chair, Undergrounding Committee.

Respectfully submitted,



Pete Sitnik

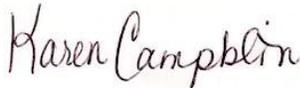


Patrick Smaldore

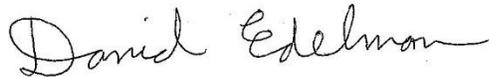
FAIRFAX COUNTY
FEDERATION
of Citizens Associations Established 1940

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Undergrounding Committee Member
Chair, Land Use Committee, FCFCA
Sully District



David Edelman
Chair, Budget Committee, FCFCA
Providence District



John Millikin
Undergrounding Committee Member
Corporation Counsel
Hayfield Citizens Association
Lee District



Dennis Hays
President
Reston Citizens Association
Hunter Mill District

Undergrounding Committee Member
Chair, Public Safety Committee, FCFCA
Drainsville District



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cc: Bryan Hill, Fairfax County Executive

Enclosure: Federation Resolution on Supporting the Undergrounding of Utilities
& Communication Lines Throughout Fairfax County, October 24, 2019

Federation Resolution

on

**Supporting the Undergrounding of Utilities & Communication Lines
Throughout Fairfax County**

Approved by the Federation Membership
October 24, 2019

WHEREAS, the Board of Supervisor's (BOS) adopted a Policy Plan Objective 41 which encourages County citizens to "Construct underground transmission and distribution lines, whenever possible, along existing or planned utility or road rights-of-way, preferably on lot lines which will least disturb future development of the site"; and that "Visual impact should be a key element in the evaluation of proposed transmission line locations."; and,

WHEREAS, the BOS's Board Matter (dated March 5, 2019) directed the County Executive to invite the utility companies (Dominion, Cox, Comcast, Verizon, etc.) to attend a future Revitalization Board Committee Meeting to address undergrounding; and,

WHEREAS, the utility companies joined the BOS's Revitalization Committee on June 18, 2019 and stated that they were willing to work with the County on this matter for the Route 1 corridor; and,

WHEREAS, the Virginia Legislature passed and the Governor signed a bill on March 22, 2019, establishing a pilot program, running until June 30, 2022, for the undergrounding of utilities that allows local governments to request undergrounding of utilities in areas of transit oriented development, and for which the County, in a letter to the Governor, stated the costs to underground utilities cabling should be shared by the entity, the County and the utility; and,

WHEREAS, 75% of the Fairfax County Citizens that responded to the 2019 Fairfax Federation Legislative survey were in favor of undergrounding of utilities in conjunction with road widening and improvements and were willing to financially support such undergrounding; and,

WHEREAS, Washington, DC, is pursuing a 7 year project of undergrounding its utilities; and,

WHEREAS, Maryland has completed a thorough analysis of undergrounding its utilities; and,

WHEREAS, James City County and Prince William County have undergrounded utilities using a variety of funding measures; and,

WHEREAS, the value added to hardening the grid by undergrounding of utilities and communication lines is multifold; that is, undergrounding

- a. Improves safety and reduces maintenance risks;
- b. Reduces vehicular utility poles accidents and the consequent related injuries, fatalities, and outages;
- c. Reduces outages from storms, from which damages are costly for business and citizens;
- d. Removes overhead power and communications lines and their supporting structures and fencing, thus reducing deaths of birds and other wildlife;
- e. Improves environmental and property aesthetics for communities and businesses.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations supports the undergrounding of utilities and communication lines throughout the County during the widening of or improvement to roadways and transportation projects; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations urges the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors and staff to make undergrounding an infrastructure improvement priority throughout Fairfax County.

Federation Resolution 12/2018 on Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

Federation Resolution on Outdoor Lighting Ordinance and Public Facilities Manual Outdoor Lighting Requirements

December 20, 2018

WHEREAS, updates to the 2003 Outdoor Lighting Ordinance of Fairfax County were recently discussed with County Staff and stakeholders in a May 1, 2018 work group; and

WHEREAS, in August 2018, Fairfax County entered a regional agreement with Dominion Energy for conversion of existing streetlights to Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs) to reduce energy usage and costs (affecting approximately 58,000 streetlights in Fairfax County); and

WHEREAS, the current, as well as proposed amendments to the Public Facilities Manual of Fairfax County do not currently provide lighting level standards for LED conversions (including spacing, height, lumens, and blue light emissions); and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the American Medical Association (AMA) adopted recommendations for LED color temperatures of 3,000 Kelvin or lower, based on studies indicating that blue light emissions from LEDs at higher color temperatures can create glare, impact human sleep patterns, and disorient animal species; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the AMA, the National Institutes of Health (NIH), the International Dark Sky Association (IDS), and the National Optic Astronomy Observatory (NOAO) have adopted guidance encouraging communities to minimize blue emissions from LEDs; and

WHEREAS, LED streetlight color temperature ratings above 3,000 Kelvin produce significantly more blue light than traditional Mercury Vapor and High Pressure Sodium streetlights; and

WHEREAS, a number of communities (e.g., Phoenix, AZ; Davis, CA; and Los Angeles, CA) are either converting public street lighting or considering conversion to LEDs (Takoma Park, MD) at the warmer color temperature of 2,700 Kelvin for reduction in the amount of intense blue light and increase in the amount of light towards the red portion of the visible spectrum, typically associated with natural nighttime colors.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations (Federation) supports Fairfax County streetlight conversions to LEDs with lower blue light emissions; and
2. The Federation requests, that in the updating of the Public Facilities Manual and the Outdoor Lighting Ordinance, lighting industry best practices are encouraged, including: warmer color temperatures; shielded fixtures to prevent upward light; adaptive controls such as dimmers, timers, and motion sensors where applicable; and installations that ensure that lighting is minimized to specific needs and applications; and
3. The Federation requests that Fairfax County continue to monitor research on artificial blue light emissions from LEDs, and the possible impacts upon ocular health, circadian systems, and animal species for consideration of installation requirements in both outdoor and indoor environments.

The Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations acknowledges the excellent work done by the McLean Citizens Association in drafting the resolution upon which this Federation resolution is based.

Federation Resolution 12/2018 on Supporting the Flood Plain Ordinance

Federation Resolution on

Supporting the Flood Plain and Chesapeake Bay Ordinances

December 20, 2018

WHEREAS, Fairfax County is a leader in the protection and restoration of our local streams initiated by the Environmental Quality Corridor (EQC) policy that set aside stream valley buffers for protection, ultimately improving the Potomac River and the Chesapeake Bay;

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Floodplain Ordinance is “to protect against loss of life, health, or property from flood or other dangers”;

WHEREAS, a proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendment intends to develop housing in the 100-year floodplain, Environment Quality Corridor (EQC) and Resource Protection Area (RPA);

WHEREAS, it is expected that the mid-Atlantic region will experience more intense storms in the future due to climate change;

WHEREAS, Fairfax County is one of just two (2) jurisdictions in Virginia with a FEMA rating entitling Fairfax County residents to a discount on flood insurance;

WHEREAS, the FEMA rating is based on the strength and vigorous enforcement of the Floodplain Ordinance;

WHEREAS, implementation of Fairfax County watershed improvement plans will involve hundreds of millions of dollars of expenditures of monies collected from the Stormwater Utility fee that is paid by every property owner in Fairfax.

WHEREAS, land use decisions that allow for new residential lots within the Environment Quality Corridor (EQC), Resource Protection Area (RPA) and Floodplain (FP) without satisfying Comprehensive Plan Policy Guidance criteria jeopardize present stream protection will likely increase costs for future protection and restoration.

WHEREAS, there are other sites in the county with similar levels of degradation, this proposed Comprehensive Plan change has the capacity to create a precedent that would undermine EQC policy that has been in place since the mid-1970s;

WHEREAS, the EQC Policy has resulted in a significant number of acres of stream valley land being protected and remaining in a natural vegetated buffer state, providing ecosystem services in support of improved public health;

WHEREAS, the EQC guidance further states that disturbances should only be supported in “extraordinary circumstances” and result in a clear and substantial net environmental benefit;

WHEREAS, in 1993 the County adopted a Chesapeake Bay Preservation Ordinance in which lands adjacent to the perennial portion (as delineated by USGS maps) of streams were designated as Resource Protection Areas (RPAs);

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Fairfax Federation of Citizens Associations urges the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors to deny any amendments to the comprehensive plan which potentially creates a county-wide precedent with significant adverse impact to local environmental and stream protections reversing policies that have been successful at reducing risks that County residents may lose valuable flood insurance discounts; and
2. The Fairfax County Federation of Citizen Associations fully supports the August 2018 position of the Environmental Quality Advisory Council urging the Planning Commission and the Board of Supervisors to deny a proposed change to the Comprehensive Plan.¹

¹ <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/planning-zoning/sites/planning-zoning/files/Assets/documents/EQAC/Resolutions%20and%20Positions/2018/2018%2C%20August--EQAC%20position%20on%20proposed%20Plan%20Amendment%20PA%202018-IV-MV2.pdf>

Federation Resolution 6/2018 on C-PACE

Federation Resolution

on

Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE)

Approved by the Federation Membership

June 21, 2018

BACKGROUND

Efforts are underway to bring Commercial Property Assessed Clean Energy (C-PACE) to Northern Virginia. Progress has been seen in three local jurisdictions and support from a variety of stakeholders will help ensure the implementation of C-PACE.

C-PACE is an effective tool to help localities reduce greenhouse gas emissions by increasing energy efficiency in the private sector. A market-based financing tool for building owners and developers, C-PACE allows for upgrades and installation of energy efficiency, renewable energy, and water saving property enhancements, without upfront costs. Private capital providers fund building improvements or new construction after a rigorous assessment of the project. C-PACE repayments are collected through local property taxes, and therefore passage of an ordinance is required by law in each local jurisdiction. Currently property assessed clean energy is only available for commercial properties, not individual residences, but commercial properties include common property under the management of nonprofit organizations such as homeowner associations and places of worship.

In a mark of real progress, Arlington County was the first locality to pass an ordinance. Authorized last November, the program is now up and running. Loudoun County voting 9-0 to direct staff to move forward to draft a C-PACE ordinance and develop recommendations on the structure of the program. In Fairfax County, staff has begun to study C-PACE and will report their findings to the Board of Supervisors' Environment Committee in June. The goal is to have an ordinance passed this summer in Virginia's largest jurisdiction.

WHEREAS, the 2009 and 2015 Virginia Legislatures approved Property Assessed Clean Energy programs; and

WHEREAS, the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors approved the "Cool Counties Pledge" in 2007 committing to reducing 2005 County greenhouse gases (GhG) emissions by 80% by 2050; and

WHEREAS, in June 2017 the Board of Supervisors committed to meeting the limits in the Paris Climate Accord calling for taking action to keep global temperature increases below 2.7°F; and

WHEREAS, multi-family residential facilities with five or more units and nonprofit organizations can benefit from C-PACE; and

WHEREAS, the Virginia Energy Efficiency Council (VAEEC) estimates that energy efficiency industry accounts for 10,000 jobs in Fairfax County; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Fairfax County Federation of Citizens Associations calls for the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors to enact a C-PACE ordinance.