Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee
Meeting Summary

May 20, 2025, at 11 A.M.
Government Center Conference Room 11

Board of Supervisors Members Present:
Chairman Jeffrey C. McKay
Supervisor Walter L. Alcorn, Hunter Mill District
Supervisor James N. Bierman, Jr., Dranesville District
Supervisor Patrick S. Herrity, Springfield District
Supervisor Andres F. Jimenez, Mason District (Committee Vice-Chairman)
Supervisor Rodney L. Lusk, Franconia District
Supervisor Dalia A. Palchik, Providence District
Supervisor Kathy L. Smith, Sully District
Supervisor Daniel G. Storck, Mount Vernon District
Supervisor James R. Walkinshaw, Braddock District (Committee Chairman)

Others Present:
Bryan Hill, County Executive
Jennifer Miller, Deputy County Executive
Elizabeth Teare, County Attorney

Link to agenda and meeting materials: Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee Meeting: May 20, 2025 | Board Of Supervisors

Item I: Opening Remarks

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 A.M. by Supervisor Walkinshaw, Committee Chairman. The February 25, 2025, meeting summary was accepted.

Item II: Zero Waste Program Update

Samantha Lee, Zero Waste Team Lead, and Nathalie Owen, Sustainable Procurement Team Lead with the Department of Procurement and Material Management (DPMM) shared an update on the county's operational Zero Waste Plan, including the history, goals, and implementation of the plan through the Zero Waste Core Team and Zero Waste Champions Network. The Champions Network develops departmental zero waste goals and annual action plans. Ms. Lee highlighted the Zero Waste Dashboard, an internal tracking tool that allows staff to explore the principles of zero waste and track the types and amount of waste generated across county operations. She shared the results of County Waste Facility Audits, that analyzed trash, recycling and composting at county facilities, and identified areas that could benefit from targeted waste reduction efforts. Ms. Lee noted the 2030 Zero Waste goals to reduce waste generation by 25% from 2018 levels and divert 90% of waste from disposal and the challenges ahead.

Ms. Owen added that a "Scope 3" supply chain greenhouse gas (GHG) analysis was completed on county facilities. This analysis estimated GHG emissions from purchased goods, services, and Capital Projects. These results are being shared with county departments and workshops are underway to explore emissions reduction opportunities.

The committee discussed the Departments' 2025 Zero Waste Action Plans, with Supervisor Walkinshaw asking for full county participation. Chairman McKay asked about progress at Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS), with a request to capture FCPS metrics in future reports. Supervisor Alcorn requested additional information on the county's progress toward its Zero Waste goals and how those calculations were made. The Board also discussed recycling contamination, zero waste party packs available to staff, and the waste audit report.

Item III: Climate Action Implementation Progress and Highlights, Part I

John Morrill, Director, Neely Law, Deputy Director and Allison Homer, Planner IV, with the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC), provided an update on climate action metrics from the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) and Resilient Fairfax. The plans are being implemented across agencies through six strategy groups to consolidate, streamline, and assign actions. Resilient Fairfax highlights were shared including flood risk reduction programs and projects, Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance amendments, extreme heat services, and the Resilient Trees initiative.

The Board discussed the pending GHG emissions inventory from the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG). They discussed the Virginia Clean Economy Act and how it intersects with the county's goals; Chairman McKay noted the importance of aligning those goals with the county's Legislative Program. Supervisor Smith asked for more information on the resilient tree research presented; staff noted that the information would be provided in the coming months as part of its planned outreach efforts. Finally, the Board discussed last year's action in Harmony Place to improve living conditions through air conditioner installations and plans for program expansion.

Item IV: Climate Action Implementation Progress and Highlights, Part II

John Morrill, Director, and Neely Law, Deputy Director, OEEC, shared an update and highlights from Fairfax County's emissions reduction programs. Deputy Director Law focused on public information and outreach resources and efforts, the Sustain Fairfax public awareness campaign, Charge Up Fairfax, solar programs and partnerships, energy upgrades and home energy retrofits, the Green Business Partners program, and tree plantings in urban heat islands. She concluded by sharing the priorities for 2025-2026 to deliver residential programming, develop and implement an EV Readiness Strategy, and implement the AC Rescue Program.

The Board discussed the county's solar campaigns, tracking of OEEC's social media and community engagement efforts, the EV Readiness Strategy and EV charger reliability, Board support for climate and energy programs, and the Green Business Partners program.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 P.M.