County of Fairfax, Virginia

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 8, 2026

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: John Morrill, Director, Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

SUBJECT: Climate Action Highlights Report and Dashboards, and Plastic Bag Use Update

We are pleased to share the 2025 Climate Action Progress and Highlights Report and updated Climate Action Dashboard summarizing progress implementing three climate action plans: the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP), the Operational Energy Strategy (OES), and Resilient Fairfax.

Implementation of these plans is coordinated by the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) in collaboration with more than 25 agencies and many community partners. The progress captured in the report is a result of the county's whole-of-government approach. The report and dashboard are available at the following links:

- 2025 Climate Action Progress and Highlights Report
- Climate Action Dashboard

The dashboard provides details on key metrics for CECAP, OES, and Resilient Fairfax. Several climate action indicators are also headline metrics for the Countywide Strategic Plan Environment and Energy Community Outcome Area. These headline metrics include greenhouse gas emissions reduction, electric vehicle registrations, solar installations, tree canopy, waste diversion, and trends in flood events and extreme heat.

In addition, at the Board of Supervisors Environmental Committee meeting of February 24, 2026, several Supervisors expressed interest in an update on plastic bag use in the county since the enactment of the plastic bag tax. As shown in the table below, use of plastic bags has fallen steadily since 2022, the first year of the five-cents-per-bag tax collection by the state. Specifically, 66.8 million plastic bags were used by consumers in calendar year 2022. In calendar year 2025, only 59.8 million bags were used, **a reduction of 7 million bags** or over 10 percent from the 2022 level of use.

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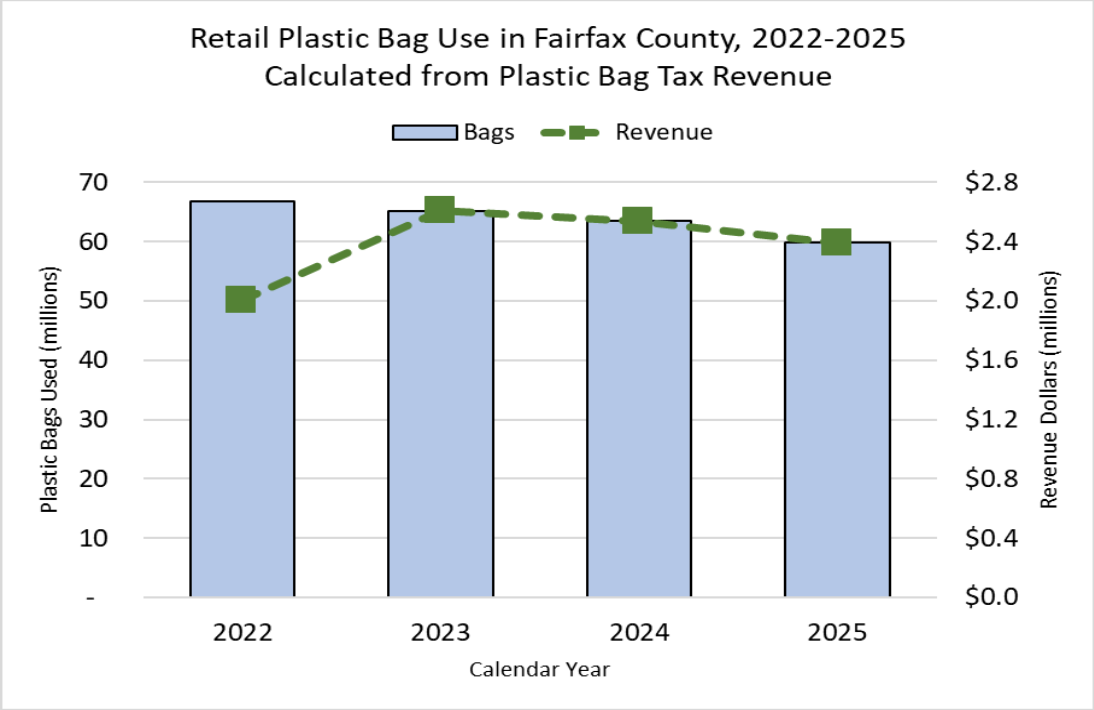

Note: In 2022, the first year of the tax, the state distributed three cents per bag to localities, allowing retailers to keep two cents per bag. In 2023 and thereafter, the state remits four cents per bag to localities and retailers keep one cent per bag.

Additional information on the plastic bag tax, including how the county is allocating the $9.5 million generated to date, can be found at the following link.
Disposable Plastic Bag Tax in Fairfax County | Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

For any further information, please contact John Morrill, at John.Morrill@fairfaxcounty.gov.

cc: Bryan Hill, County Executive
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