



## **Arlington Sets Even More Ambitious Clean Energy Goals**

*by Rick Keller*

On September 21, by a 5-0 vote, the Arlington County Board adopted an update to the Community Energy Plan (CEP). Arlington was ahead of meeting the CEP goals that were adopted in 2013, but the progression of climate change impacts mandated more aggressive action.

Members of the Sierra Club's Mount Vernon Group had been involved in the Arlington Ready for 100 campaign, a nationally orchestrated effort that asked cities, counties, and states to commit to 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy across all sectors by 2050. Over three and a half years we held public forums and met with staff and County Board members with the hope of getting a resolution passed. We got more than that.

The Arlington County Board adopted update to the Community Energy Plan sets goals that include:

- 100% of Arlington's electricity will be from renewable sources by 2035;
- Arlington County Government operations will achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2025; and
- Arlington will be a carbon-neutral community by 2050.

Further, Arlington committed to consider energy equity during implementation of the Plan. This should ensure that the entire Arlington community reaps the benefits of the commitment, not just those who can afford it.

The adoption of the updated CEP 'checks the box' for the Arlington Ready for 100 campaign, but we are not done. Staff are working on the development of an implementation plan for the new goals, the map for how we get there. We will be working with staff to comment and assist in the plan development as it moves forward and monitor progress once it is in place.

For more on the CEP visit <https://environment.arlingtonva.us/energy/community-energy-plan-cep/>

*This content originally appeared in the December 2019 issue of the Mount Vernon Sierran, the Mount Vernon Group's quarterly newsletter. For more information about the Mount Vernon Group, please visit [virginia.sierraclub.org/mvg/](http://virginia.sierraclub.org/mvg/).*