



Supporting Alexandria's Environmental Action Plan

By Carolyn Lyle

The Alexandrians for the Environmental Action Plan (Alex4EAP) is an organization recently formed by members of the Mount Vernon Group and other Alexandria activists. Alex4EAP's mission is to support the City of Alexandria Environmental Action Plan 2040 (EAP) which was passed by City Council in July 2019.

One of the primary goals in the EAP is the 50% reduction of Green House Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 using baseline data from 2005. Alex4EAP is particularly concerned with the energy, climate change and transportation sections of the EAP that support this overall goal of GHG reductions.

Alex4EAP is currently monitoring the City's promise to create a Energy and Climate Change Task force of Alexandria citizens drawn from all sectors of the community. This task force will be responsible for updating the City's Energy and Climate Change Action Plan and will have significant input on how—or if—the City will successfully reduce GHG emissions by 50%.

Additionally, Alex4EAP is monitoring the massive development projects on Rte 1- North Potomac Yard and Oakville Triangle which as planned will construct 35 new buildings within the next 10 years. Alex4EAP is concerned that unless these buildings are designed to be net carbon buildings, the City's GHG reduction goal will not be achieved.

We need more persons to help us in these and other activities related to the City's Environmental Action Plan and the Council's resolution to declare a climate emergency in Alexandria. If you would like to explore how you can be involved, please email Carolyn Lyle Coordinator of Alex4EAP at lylecni@gmail.com.

In an effort to engage more Alexandrians in confronting the threats of climate change, Alex4EAP reached out to the Faith Alliance for Climate Solutions (FACS) organization. FACS assisted in the Fairfax to Zero initiative to reduce greenhouse gases in the County in order to reach carbon neutrality. The FACS mission is to unite people of faith to develop local solutions to the climate crisis, sharing their core values of reverence for life, stewardship, and compassion.

This partnership is in the beginning stages. FACS and Alex4EAP are looking for more persons who are willing to get this group started in Alexandria. If you are interested in helping to establish this group in Alexandria please contact Bill Pugh, Chair, FACS Alexandria at William.e.pugh@gmail.org or Meg Mall, Executive Director, FACS at meg@faithforclimate.org.

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