



## Electric Vehicles and a “Whole-of-Government” Approach for Arlington

by John Bloom

This spring, the Arlington County Board took two important actions as part of its FY2022 budget approval process:

### 1. Creating a “whole of government” approach to climate change and sustainability

The Board adopted language directing the County Manager to “develop a recommendation to coordinate a “whole of government” approach to achieving Arlington’s Climate Change and Sustainability goals.” This move is in response to suggestions by the Sierra Club, EcoAction Arlington, the Climate Change, Energy and Environment Commission, and others that the County needs to create clarity and accountability in every department for achieving climate change and sustainability goals. The Board’s directive requires the County Manager to develop a detailed plan to “integrate sustainability goals and best practices into County plans, procurement, programs and operations consistent with the CEP [Community Energy Plan] Roadmap (under development) which will provide near, mid, and long-term strategies to achieve climate change goals.”

### 2. Making EVs the “default” for all County vehicles

The Board adopted language declaring that “It shall be the default policy of the County to convert from internal-combustion-engine vehicles to electric vehicles (EVs) as vehicles are replaced, where EVs meet mission requirements and where charging infrastructure is feasible.” This clarifies the County’s intention to make purchases of EVs the norm for all replacement vehicles in all County vehicle fleets. This is a change from past practice, in which fossil fuel vehicles were routinely purchased, along with the occasional Nissan Leaf. The Board’s new policy requires the County Manager to report annually, and to include information in that report on any fossil fuel vehicles purchased or leased and “why an EV option was infeasible.”

The Sierra Club’s letter to the County Board requesting these actions is available [here](#).

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