

Date of Meeting: September 5, 2023

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**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BUSINESS MEETING
ACTION ITEM**

**SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION AND LAND USE COMMITTEE
REPORT: FY 2024 Environment and Energy Work Plan**

2011 ELECTION DISTRICT(S): Countywide

2022 ELECTION DISTRICT(S) Countywide

CRITICAL ACTION DATE: At the pleasure of the Committee

STAFF CONTACTS: Marc Aveni, General Services
Ernest N. Brown, General Services

PURPOSE: To update the Board of Supervisors (Board) on progress made on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 Environment and Energy Work Plan (FY 2023 Work Plan) and get endorsement for the FY 2024 Environment and Energy Work Plan (FY 2024 Work Plan).

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Transportation and Land Use Committee (TLUC): At the TLUC meeting on July 19, 2023, TLUC recommended (3-0-2: Buffington and Kershner absent) that the Board endorse the FY 2024 Environment and Energy Work Plan and direct the Department of General Services (DGS) to implement it as provided in Attachment 1.

Staff Recommendation: Staff concurs with the recommendation of TLUC.

BACKGROUND: In the *Loudoun County 2019 General Plan (2019 GP)*, the County states its vision to “*protect and enhance the County’s natural, environmental, and heritage resources, which are fundamental to the health, safety, welfare, sustainability, and enjoyment of current and future generations.*” At the [December 1, 2020, Board Business Meeting](#), the Board reviewed existing County environmental initiatives and approved (9-0) several new environmental planning recommendations including the establishment of a County Environmental Commission (Commission). The Commission began meeting on July 21, 2021.

With input from the Commission, staff developed the FY 2023 Work Plan which was endorsed by the Board at the [July 27, 2022, Environmental Summit](#) (6-0-3: Buffington, Kershner, and Letourneau absent). The FY 2023 Work Plan presented 17 items in five initiatives: Sustainable Energy, Natural Resources, Environmental Justice, Public Engagement, and Government by example. Each item outlined tasks to be carried out with existing staffing and financial resources in FY 2023, as well as tasks that might be addressed in the future with additional resources. The FY 2023 Work Plan also stated that staff would provide annual updates to the Board each July. Since July 2022, County staff and the Commission have been working to implement the FY 2023 tasks. Funding for further efforts on the FY 2023 Work Plan items was included in the [FY 2024 Budget](#) adopted by the Board on April 4, 2023.

UPDATED FY 2024 WORK PLAN: Staff has updated the FY 2023 Work Plan to make the FY 2024 Work Plan (Attachment 1) based on the progress of tasks to date and funding in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. The FY 2024 Work Plan now includes 19 items, as some of the original 17 have been completed and others have led to more targeted actions. For each item, the FY 2024 Work Plan reports the status of the issue at the end of FY 2023, as well as new actions to be undertaken in FY 2024 and whether the action is currently underway or will be initiated later in the fiscal year. Staff will collaborate with the Commission, as appropriate, on these activities. Staff will request feedback from the Board throughout the year as individual action items reach decision points requiring Board direction. As before, the FY 2024 Work Plan is structured around the following five initiatives.

Initiative 1: Sustainable Energy

In FY 2023, the County completed the [County Energy Strategy](#) (Strategy) that will guide sustainable energy efforts in the coming years, with goals defined through 2050. The Strategy was adopted (8-0-1: Randall absent) at the [Board Business Meeting on February 21, 2023](#). The final Strategy report was released in March 2023. Some specific tasks within the Strategy had already begun and were in the FY 2023 Work Plan. Others have already been selected for attention in FY 2024 and have been added to the FY 2024 Work Plan.

- **County Energy Strategy (Strategy):** (*Near-term action*) In FY 2024, the primary task will be to develop an implementation plan for the Strategy. The first step will be to hire an Energy Program Manager to lead this effort. The Board authorized a new position in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget and the recruiting process is underway.

County staff will be implementing a subset of activities in the Strategy, including those listed below. An application is in process for a federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant to fund some of these activities.

- **Power Purchase Agreements:** (*Near-term action*) At the [April 19, 2022, Board Business Meeting](#), the Board directed staff to proceed with a Request for Proposals (RFP) to evaluate Renewable Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) opportunities on County-owned facilities. After additional staff research and development of necessary PPA terms and conditions,

the RFP was published to the County website on June 28, 2023, with proposals due on August 15, 2023. Three responsive proposals have been received and are currently under review by staff. Staff anticipates the results to be presented to the Board for direction in late 2023 or the first quarter of 2024.

- **Beneficial Use of Landfill Gas:** *(Near-term action)* At the [March 15, 2023, Business Meeting](#), the Board directed staff to conduct a Request for Information (RFI) on waste reuse technologies such as green hydrogen and potential public-private partnerships for County participation. At the July 11, 2023, Finance/Government Operations and Economic Development Committee (FGOEDC) meeting, staff presented the responses to the RFI and the FGOEDC recommended (5-0) that the Board direct staff to conduct a feasibility study on the beneficial use of landfill gas at the Loudoun County landfill. Results from the study will then be presented to the Board for further direction in early 2024.
- **Solar Regulations – Primary and Accessory Uses:** *(Dependent on ongoing Board decision-making)* Solar development both at the utility scale and as a site-specific use (accessory use) have recently been issues of great interest to the public. In FY 2023, through the Zoning Ordinance Rewrite process, the Department of Planning and Zoning (DPZ) worked with the Planning Commission in developing a draft Zoning Ordinance that included regulations for utility-scale and site-specific solar issues. The draft ZOR is currently under review by the Board. At the same time, the Planning Commission recommended that a Comprehensive Plan Amendment for Community-Scale Solar be addressed in a future DPZ Work Plan after adopting a new Zoning Ordinance. Energy storage facilities are commonly placed within the same project site or in proximity to solar uses and will also necessitate further zoning research and development. The Commission also included in its FY 2023 Annual Report a goal to “develop a position regarding commercial solar zoning throughout the County that balances renewable energy generation and natural resources protection and report [its] findings to the Board.”
- **Green Bank:** *(Longer-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item)* A green bank is a public, quasi-public, or nonprofit financing entity that leverages public and private capital to promote clean energy technologies. In 2021, Virginia passed a [state law](#) allowing localities to establish green banks and there is also federal funding that may be available. No Virginia locality has implemented green banks at this time, although Fairfax County is currently establishing one. In FY 2023, staff made connections with regional programs engaged in creating or operating green banks including the state, Fairfax County, and Washington, D.C. The FY 2024 Adopted Budget includes funding for a green bank feasibility study and staff will be evaluating the next step best options on this front.
- **Data Center Partnerships:** *(Longer-term action)* The Strategy includes an action to work with data centers and other entities to study cleaner energy for data center operations. County staff proposes developing an agreement with the Department of Energy’s National

Renewable Energy Laboratory to better track greenhouse gas emissions and study clean energy options for data center operations. County actions will be informed by a Commission effort to develop a concept of a partnership to balance data center energy demand with clean energy supply.

- **Energy Equity – Weatherization:** (*Near-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) In defining long-term energy equity goals, staff identified a shorter-term opportunity focused on reducing energy burden for residents through a joint pilot program between DGS and the Department of Housing and Community Development. This Energy Equity Weatherization Program would support home energy audits and subsequent home energy efficiency efforts for households meeting already established criteria. Efforts could include weatherization and building envelope improvements, electrification, and installation of more efficient methods of heating, cooling, and lighting. The County anticipates coordination through partnerships with existing non-profit organizations. In FY 2024, County staff will formalize joint program metrics and begin implementing the program, including promoting it in the community.
- **Energy Equity – Long-Term Energy Equity Plan:** (*Longer-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) Energy Equity can be defined as the utilization of strategies and tools to ensure fair distribution of costs, benefits, and accessibility to affordable and clean energy in a manner that promotes inclusive participation for all residents. The Strategy makes it a goal to prioritize energy equity and includes an action to “ensure equity across all populations in access to financing, equipment, and programs for zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs), energy efficiency retrofits for buildings and clean energy.” In FY 2023, County staff identified preliminary goals for an Energy Equity Plan and will use FY 2024 funding to work with a consultant to develop a plan for Board consideration. The development will include public engagement with diverse communities.
- **Community Choice Aggregation:** (*Completed from FY 2023 Plan*) The FY 2023 Work Plan included an item to analyze the possible establishment of Community Choice Aggregation as an option for power supply in the County. After further analysis, the Board decided to discontinue work on this effort; therefore, it has been removed from the FY 2024 Work Plan.

Initiative 2: Natural Resources

The FY 2023 Work Plan included Natural Resources items about Watershed Management Plans, tree protection, and wildlife crossings. Some work is currently underway on these items and all initiatives have received funding in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget.

- **Engineering Analysis for Floodplain Projects:** (*Ongoing*) In FY 2023, the County provided \$200,000 of funding for engineering analyses required for riparian buffer and tree planting projects in the Floodplain Overlay District. The funding was provided to the

Loudoun Soil and Water Conservation District (LSWCD) to support engineering analysis for LSWCD's Cost-Share conservation practices. To date, this has been used successfully to support projects with established average engineering costs of \$2,075 for fencing projects and \$6,700 for tree-planting projects. An estimated \$110,000 remains for future analyses and an additional \$75,000 is included in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget. Staff will use derived data to develop standardized Best Management Practices (BMPs) that may mitigate the need for individual engineering work to determine floodplain impacts and submit a request to the Department of Conservation and Recreation for pre-approval for BMPs that require no additional engineering studies.

- **Watershed Management Projects – Existing Plan:** (*Near-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) In recent years, Loudoun County watershed management planning has resulted in two final Watershed Management Plans (WMPs), one for the Upper Broad Run watershed and one for the Western Hills watershed. In FY 2023, staff presented the Western Hills WMP to the Board and made it publicly available online. Staff worked with the Commission to evaluate recommendations in the plans and determined that partnering with a non-profit to support local neighborhoods in carrying out project types from the WMPs would be the most effective way to use any small-scale funding. This year, using funds allocated in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget, staff will collaborate with existing conservation partners to further define and implement this strategy.
- **Watershed Management Plan – New:** (*Longer-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) Watershed management planning is a process that assesses current and future watershed conditions in a specific watershed to identify problems and develop projects and actions to correct the problems. The two WMPs, already completed, only cover a portion of the County and the FY 2024 Adopted Budget includes funding to conduct a WMP for an additional watershed. Later in the fiscal year, staff will work with the Commission in considering the next watershed to be studied. Using lessons learned from the recent evaluations of existing plans, staff will create a scope of work to hire a consultant to develop a plan for this watershed. DGS will lead this effort with support from the Department of Building and Development.
- **Tree Canopy Baseline Study:** (*Longer-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) The tree canopy in the County is a diverse mix of forest types and tree species. Current threats to the canopy are development pressures, invasive species, excessive deer browse pressure, and lack of forest management. A better understanding of current tree resources can help inform decision-making. With funding from the FY 2024 Adopted Budget, staff will work with a consultant to conduct a tree canopy baseline study.
- **Wildlife Corridors:** (*Near-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) Wildlife corridors can benefit the public by reducing wildlife-vehicle collisions, an issue for which the County has the highest number in the state, as well as providing ecosystem benefits. In FY 2023, staff connected with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and Department of

Transportation, which released a state-mandated Wildlife Corridor Action Plan (WCAP) in March 2023. In FY 2024, DGS and the Department of Transportation and Capital Infrastructure will collaborate with the state agencies to build on and benefit from the work already being done through the WCAP.

Initiative 3: Environmental Justice

At the [January 17, 2023, Business Meeting](#), the Board adopted (6-1-1-1: Kershner opposed; Letourneau absent; Buffington abstained) a resolution identifying social and racial equity as fundamental values for Loudoun County government, and environmental justice is one aspect of equity. The Commission Bylaws also specifically state that a duty of the Commission is “*advancing environmental justice policies to ensure equity across all populations.*”

- **Environmental Justice Needs Assessment:** (*Longer-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) Identifying the greatest needs is essential to targeting resources effectively. A first step in advancing environmental justice would be to assess community risks and environmental health impacts to determine where County engagement would be of most value. With resources appropriated in the FY 2024 Adopted Budget, DGS will coordinate with the Office of Equity and Inclusion to initiate an Environmental Justice Needs Assessment to inform future action. Staff will also coordinate with the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality’s Office of Environmental Justice as needed.
- **Energy Equity:** The energy equity items discussed as part of the Sustainable Energy Initiative are also relevant to environmental justice and had been included in this initiative in the FY 2023 Work Plan.

Initiative 4: Public Engagement

The Commission Bylaws specifically define key public engagement actions to be taken by the Commission. In addition to conducting these specific events defined in the Bylaws, broader public engagement is critical for the success of local government actions in environmental efforts, which ultimately depends on support from residents and businesses.

- **Environmental Excellence Awards and Environment & Energy Public Forum:** (*April and May 2024*) According to its Bylaws, the Commission has duties to present the Loudoun County Environmental Excellence Awards for leadership on environmental issues and to “*hold an annual public forum to engage the public in issues of environmental concern.*” This year, the Commission held both events for the first time, with the awards presentation in April 2023 and the Public Forum in May 2023. The events were successful in bringing attention to environmental issues and the work of the County. In 2024, the second annual event for each program will again be held, applying lessons learned in 2023 to make the events even better. In particular, the Commission will look at ways to reach a broader audience and improve direct engagement with the public.

- **Environment and Energy Information Hub:** The County holds a great deal of information about environmental conditions and practices, but it is not always easy for external parties to access. In FY 2023, the County posted several existing documents online that the public had requested such as past water quality reports. Staff also had multiple discussions with the Commission to get input about topics of interest, currently available data, and possible platforms for future sharing. DGS and the Office of Mapping and Geographic Information will collaborate with the Office of Public Affairs and Communications to make data and interactive maps accessible via the GeoHub, the County's online platform for interactive maps and spatial data. The first step in FY 2024 will be to consolidate access to existing tools such as ones related to conservation easements or prime agricultural soils. Future actions will be to use already available information to create new interactive maps and other tools. For example, a map that identifies all of the County's stormwater actions and one that will show energy use at County facilities have been discussed as options.

Initiative 5: Government by Example

Government by Example recognizes that when the government, especially at the local level, provides a visible and replicable example for residents and businesses to follow with energy and environmental practices, higher adoption by these groups generally follows. County government operations use a substantial amount of energy, primarily through building electricity and fuel for vehicles. Reducing energy use at County facilities could provide cost savings as well as reduced greenhouse gas emissions.

- **Energy Use at County Facilities:** (*Near-term actions; FY 2024 Adopted Budget items*) In addition to tasks in the Sustainable Energy Initiative such as exploring Renewable PPAs and adopting an Electric and Plug-in Hybrid Fleet Plan, the County has taken other steps in FY 2023 to reduce energy use in County facilities and will be continuing these steps in FY 2024. For buildings, one building energy audit has been conducted, 19 more are planned in the coming year, and actions will be taken to begin implementing recommendations from the audits. Additionally, this year, an employee committee to encourage more energy conservation was established and will begin meeting in FY 2024. This committee will help inform plans to develop an Energy Policy for the County's overall operations.
- **Electric and Low-Emission Vehicles:** (*Longer-term action; FY 2024 Adopted Budget item*) The Board adopted an [Electric and Plug-In Hybrid Fleet Plan](#) in December 2022 and in FY 2024, staff will continue to take appropriate steps to implement as planned. For community use, the first round of County-owned electric vehicle (EV) charging stations is expected to be installed in each of the election districts this year and two compressed natural gas (CNG) buses will be on the road as a pilot of the technology. The County was also awarded \$13.8 million from the Federal Transit Administration to purchase 37 CNG buses, construct a fueling station, and update its maintenance facility. DGS anticipates future expansion of no or low emission vehicles across the Transit and Commuter Services

Fleet. The FY 2024 Adopted Budget also included funding for additional efforts associated with EVs. Specific projects remain to be determined and could include things such as pilot projects in purchasing EVs or installing charging stations.

ISSUES: Staff has not identified any outstanding issues.

FISCAL IMPACT: The FY 2024 Adopted Budget includes \$1.08 million for action items in the FY 2023 Work Plan that have been carried over into the FY 2024 Work Plan. These action items are intended to be implemented without additional fiscal impact at this time. Fiscal impact in future years will be dependent upon Board direction, as informed by the results of FY 2024 feasibility studies and the development of action items pursued by the Commission. Additional budget and staff time may be requested in the FY 2025 Budget Process.

ALTERNATIVES:

1. The Board may endorse the FY 2024 Work Plan and direct DGS to implement it as provided in this Action Item.
2. The Board may endorse the FY 2024 Work Plan with revisions and direct DGS to implement it as provided in this Action Item with the appropriate edits.
3. The Board may not endorse the FY 2024 Work Plan and direct staff on how to proceed with FY 2024 Work Plan implementation.

DRAFT MOTIONS:

1. I move the recommendation of the Transportation and Land Use Committee that the Board of Supervisors endorse the FY 2024 Environment and Energy Work Plan and direct the Department of General Services to implement the Work Plan as provided in Attachment 1 to the September 5, 2023, Board of Supervisors Business Meeting Action Item.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.

ATTACHMENT(S):

1. FY 2024 Environment and Energy Work Plan Table

Environment and Energy Work Plan Table FY 2024

Issue	Dep't	Current Status (end of FY 2023)	FY 2024 Actions
Initiative 1. Sustainable Energy			
County Energy Strategy (CES)	DGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The final approved County Energy Strategy was made public in March 2023. Staff have established relationships with businesses, non-profits, and other potential partners. Funding is included in the FY 2024 budget for 1 FTE and grant money is expected from the federal Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Program (EECBG). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hire Energy Program Manager Apply for EECBG grant funds. Develop an Energy Strategy implementation plan for Board approval. Implement a sub-set of activities in the Strategy, including those listed below and others that might be identified through the planning process
Power Purchase Agreements (PPA)	DGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Request for Proposal (RFP) published to County website with proposals due on August 15, 2023 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present RFP results to the Board for consideration
Beneficial Use of Landfill Gas ¹	DGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Presented cost estimate for feasibility study to FGOEDC on July 11, 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement Board direction on feasibility study
Solar Regulations (Solar as Principal Use, e.g. Solar Farms)	DPZ DGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Draft Zoning Ordinance, recommended to the Board by the Planning Commission on June 8, 2023, addresses utility-scale and site-specific (accessory use) solar facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to Board direction on Draft Zoning Ordinance Environmental Commission (EC) developing a position on commercial solar zoning
Solar Regulations (Solar as Accessory Use, e.g., Residential)	DPZ DGS B&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Planning Commission recommended that a CPAM for Community-Scale Solar be addressed in a future DPZ Work Plan after adopting a new Zoning Ordinance. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Act on Board direction

¹ In FY 2023 Work Plan, referred to as "Waste Reuse for Renewable Energy."

Environment and Energy Work Plan Table FY 2024

Issue	Dep't	Current Status (end of FY 2023)	FY 2024 Actions
Green Bank	DGS DFB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff have established connections with regional green bank projects including the state, Fairfax County, and DC. Funding in the FY 2024 budget for green bank evaluation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with regional partners to develop a concept proposal for Board action
Data Center Partnerships ²	DGS ED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partnering with data centers is an action in the County Energy Strategy. The County has met with the Department of Energy's National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) to discuss possible options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop agreements with partners to better track GHG emissions and study cleaner energy options for data center operation. EC working to develop a concept for a data center partnership to balance data center energy demand with a clean energy supply
Energy Equity – Weatherization Projects ³	DGS DHCD OEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discussions underway with non-profit Community Housing Partners for a joint program focusing on energy audits and efficiency improvements in underserved residences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Create a joint Energy Equity Housing Weatherization Program for Board review. Actively promote Board approved programs in the targeted communities to generate strong participation
Energy Equity – Equity Plan ³	DGS OEI PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preliminary goals for an Energy Equity Plan have been defined. Funding in the FY 2024 budget for Energy Equity efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a draft County Energy Equity Plan for Board consideration. Use consultant support for extensive outreach to get input from diverse communities
Initiative 2. Natural Resources			
Engineering Analysis for	DGS LSWCD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Initial funding was allocated in FY 2023 to support engineering analysis for projects in the 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to work with LSWCD to obtain project cost data and track funding usage.

² This is an item from the County Energy Strategy that is new as an individual item in the FY 2024 Work Plan.

³ Overlaps with Environmental Justice Initiative. Energy Equity was a single item in the FY 2023 Work Plan but has been split here into two separate items.

Environment and Energy Work Plan Table FY 2024

Issue	Dep't	Current Status (end of FY 2023)	FY 2024 Actions
Floodplain Projects ⁴		Floodplain Overlay District. Funding remains currently to support further projects in FY 2024.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use data to develop standardized BMPs that may mitigate the need for individual engineering work to determine floodplain impacts. • Submit request to DCR for pre-approval of BMPs that require no additional engineering study
Watershed Management Plans (WMPs) – Existing ⁵	DGS B&D DPZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An initiative to support local neighborhoods in implementing project types suggested in existing WMPs has been defined. • Funding in the FY 2024 budget for implementing WMP projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with existing conservation partners to fund, incentivize, and accelerate neighborhood water quality projects
WMP – New ⁵	DGS B&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding in the FY 2024 budget for new WMP. • Departments have agreed that DGS will lead the effort. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct new WMP. Select watershed, define scope of work, develop RFP
Tree Protection	DGS B&D	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding in the FY 2024 budget to conduct a Tree Canopy Baseline study 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a Tree Canopy Baseline study. Define the scope of work and develop an RFP
Wildlife Corridors	DGS DTCI PRCS B&D DPZ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan (WCAP) has been released. • Staff have established connections with the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources and the Department of Transportation. • Funding in the FY 2024 budget to act on related to wildlife corridors efforts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with state agencies to identify the best ways for the County to collaborate with ongoing state efforts. This could include studying where corridors are in the County or participating in a pilot program to reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions through the installation of fencing or other methods. • EC will review WCAP and prioritize recommendations

⁴ In FY 2023 Work Plan, this was referred to as “Conservation Projects in the Floodplain.”

⁵ WMPs was a single item in the FY 2023 Work Plan but has been split here into two separate items.

Environment and Energy Work Plan Table FY 2024

Issue	Dep't	Current Status (end of FY 2023)	FY 2024 Actions
Initiative 3. Environmental Justice			
Environmental Justice (General)	DGS OEI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding in the FY 2024 budget to conduct an Environmental Justice Needs Assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collaborate with Virginia DEQ Office of Environmental Justice Conduct Environmental Justice Needs Assessment. Define the scope of work and develop an RFP.
Initiative 4. Public Engagement			
Environment and Energy Information Hub ⁶	DGS OMAGI PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identified topics of interest and defined structure to organize existing information for greater public access 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce new Environment and Energy sub-hubs and consolidate existing materials. Create new maps and tools to include on the sub-hub with existing data
Environmental Excellence Awards	DGS PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugural awards presented in April 2023. Included two lifetime achievement awards, a student, a non-profit, a small business, and a government employee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Awards (<i>April 2024</i>) Improve public engagement in the awards program.
Public Forum on Environment and Energy	DGS PAC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inaugural Public Forum held in May 2023. Had approximately 100 attendees and received positive feedback and public input. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hold forum (<i>May 2024</i>) Improve public engagement in public forums.
Initiative 5. Government by Example			
County Facilities Energy Use	DGS DTCI PRCS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The County Energy Strategy includes action items related to County Facilities Energy Use, some of which are already underway. One building audit has been conducted and nine more are planned. An Employee Energy Conservation Committee (E2C2) has been initiated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct additional building audits. Begin E2C2 meetings and incorporate its recommendations in planning. Perform other items included in the County Energy Strategy, such as developing an Energy Policy for County operations.

⁶ Overlaps with Sustainable Energy and Natural Resources Initiatives.

Environment and Energy Work Plan Table FY 2024

Issue	Dep't	Current Status (end of FY 2023)	FY 2024 Actions
Electric Vehicles ⁷	DGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Board adopted an Electric and Plug-In Hybrid Fleet Plan in December 2022. • Funding in the FY 2024 budget for electric vehicle and charging projects. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implement Fleet Plan as directed by the Board. • Identify and implement other electric vehicle projects with guidance from the County Energy Strategy

⁷ This is an item from the County Energy Strategy and other recent activities that is new as an individual item in the FY 2024 Work Plan.