

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 2023 Environmental Commission Annual  
Report**

**2011 ELECTION DISTRICT(S):** Countywide

**2022 ELECTION DISTRICT(S):** Countywide

**CRITICAL ACTION DATE:** At the pleasure of the Committee

**STAFF CONTACT(S):** Marc Aveni, General Services  
Ernest N. Brown, General Services

**PURPOSE:** To provide the Board of Supervisors (Board) with the Environmental Commission's (Commission) Annual Report (the Annual Report is Sections 1, 2, and 3 outlined below), outlining accomplishments in Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 and goals for FY 2024, and to request Board approval for a slate of candidates nominated for each of the three standing committees, as required in the Commission's Bylaws (Bylaws).

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**Transportation and Land Use Committee:** At the TLUC meeting on July 19, 2023, TLUC recommended (3-0-2: Buffington and Kershner absent) that the Board endorse the FY 2023 Environmental Commission Annual Report and approve the slate of candidates nominated for each standing committee.

**Environmental Commission:** The Commission recommends that the Board endorse the FY 2023 Environmental Commission Annual Report and approve the slate of candidates nominated for each standing committee.

**Staff:** Staff concurs with the recommendation of TLUC.

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**BACKGROUND:** The Commission was established by the Board in December 2020 to advise and make recommendations to the Board regarding policies and practices dealing with the environment, sustainability, and the management of energy. The [Commission Bylaws](#) state, "The

*Commission shall create an annual work plan and work plans for each permanent standing committee to manage the implementation of new initiatives approved by the Board. The work plans for a new initiative shall be subject to approval by the Board.”* Furthermore, the Bylaws require the Commission to prepare an annual report that outlines the Commission's activities, identify problems affecting the environment, sustainability, and the management of energy, and make recommendations that will serve to enhance the environment, sustainability, and the management of energy. This annual report is being presented to the Board after public input throughout Fiscal Year 2023 and in particular from the May 11 2023 Energy and Environment Forum.

The Commission held its first meeting virtually on July 21, 2021, and presented its [first annual report](#) at the Board Environmental Summit on July 27, 2022. In the first report, the Commission defined a vision of supporting “*A thriving, resilient community, shaped by equitable, environmentally responsible actions that minimize Loudoun’s climate impacts and nurture healthy ecosystems.*” The Commission is supported by staff in the Department of General Services.

**SECTION 1. STRUCTURE AND MEETINGS**

**Members and Standing Committees:** As defined in the Bylaws, the Commission includes 17 members appointed by the Board to represent specific categories including public utilities, Loudoun County Public Schools (LCPS), Data Center Coalition, and subject matter experts in areas such as water quality, sustainable energy, clean transportation, and environmental justice, as well as several citizen representatives and one Loudoun County high school student. Members serve four-year terms. Because this was the inaugural session, the Bylaws directed that some members would serve an initial term of two years and then be re-appointed to a new term that is not subject to a consecutive two-term limit. Re-appointed members were confirmed by the Board in June 2023 and began their second terms on July 1, 2023. Two members are ending their terms without re-appointment, leaving those seats currently vacant. Table 1 provides the current roster of members, their term expiration date, and their FY 2023 standing committee assignments, which are also proposed as their FY 2024 assignments, to be confirmed by the Board. The Chair and Vice-Chair for a two-year term beginning in FY 2024 will be elected at the next Committee meeting.

**Table 1. Environmental Commission Members**

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term End <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Standing Committee Assignment</b>
Gem Bingol (FY 2023 Chair)	6/30/2025	Environmental Planner	Natural Resources, Public Engagement
William Marsh (FY 2023 Vice-Chair)	6/30/2025	Engineer	Sustainable Energy
Eric Deaver	6/30/2025	Natural Resources/ Water Quality	Natural Resources

<b>Member</b>	<b>Term End <sup>a</sup></b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Standing Committee Assignment</b>
Scott Emery	6/30/2027 <sup>c</sup>	Citizen Representative	Sustainable Energy
Ria Kulkarni	6/30/2025 (Confirmed, 3/21/2023)	Clean Transportation	Sustainable Energy
Kathleen Leonard	6/30/2025 (Confirmed 5/16/2023)	Public Utility – Electric	Sustainable Energy
Scott McGeary	6/30/2025	Public Utility – Gas	Sustainable Energy
Morris Meyer	6/30/2025	Sustainable Energy	Sustainable Energy (Chair), Public Engagement
Michael Myers	6/30/2027 <sup>b</sup>	Environmental Conservation Organization	Natural Resources (Chair)
Prescott Noll	6/30/2024 <sup>b</sup> (Confirmed 6/6/2023)	LCPS Student	Natural Resources
Mark Peterson	Upon, Removal, Resignation, or Successor’s Appointment	Public Utility – Water ( <i>non-voting</i> )	Natural Resources
Emily Southgate	6/30/2027 <sup>b</sup>	Collegiate Faculty	Natural Resources, Public Engagement
Chris Tandy	6/30/2025	Environmental Organization for Underrepresented Population	Natural Resources, Public Engagement (Co-chair)
Don Treanor	Upon, Removal, Resignation, or Successor’s Appointment	LCPS Energy and Environment Team Manager ( <i>non-voting</i> )	Sustainable Energy
Miriam Westervelt	6/30/2027 <sup>b</sup>	Citizen Representative	Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, Public Engagement (Co-chair)
Jeffery Hanson	6/30/2023 (Term Ended/To Be Filled)	Data Center Coalition	Sustainable Energy

Member	Term End <sup>a</sup>	Category	Standing Committee Assignment
Carrie-Anne Mosley <i>Vacancy</i>	6/30/2023 (Term Ended/To Be Filled)	Citizen Representative	Natural Resources, Public Engagement

<sup>a</sup> Terms began 7/1/2021 unless otherwise noted.

<sup>b</sup> Terms began 7/1/2023 either as a consecutive term for members whose inaugural term ended 6/30/2023 or as the original term for the student position.

The original Commission Bylaws required that the Commission create, at a minimum, two permanent standing committees: 1) *Sustainable Energy*: to advise the Commission on initiatives to advance energy efficiency and renewable energy; and 2) *Natural Resources Conservation and Protection*: to advise the Commission on matters related to water and natural resources. The Board also approved the Commission’s recommendation to create a third standing committee for Public Engagement to advise the Commission on methods to increase public participation in its current and future initiatives and efforts, which is named the Public Engagement Standing Committee.<sup>1</sup> From December 2022 to April 2023, the Commission had an Ad Hoc Committee to lead planning for the Commission’s Public Forum, which was named the Public Forum Ad Hoc Committee. The Bylaws require the Commission to nominate a slate of candidates to all standing committees to be approved by the Board.

**Meetings:** The Commission meets on the first and third Wednesday of each month and had 18 meetings in FY 2023, as well as holding one half-day retreat. The standing committees meet on an as-needed basis. In FY 2023, the Sustainable Energy Standing Committee met five times, the Natural Resources Standing Committee met three times, the Public Engagement Standing Committee met twice, and the Public Forum Ad Hoc Committee met five times.

## SECTION 2. ACCOMPLISHMENTS

A primary accomplishment of the Commission for FY 2022 had been to establish strategic environmental initiatives and related actions for the County to consider. These initiatives and actions were the foundation of the FY 2023 Environment and Energy Work Plan (Work Plan). Since then, the Commission has taken steps to implement the Work Plan and has made a great deal of progress.

### **General**

- *Groundwork in Commission Operations:* In its second year of operation, the Commission took steps to build a strong foundation for future activity. This included updating the Bylaws to meet the new Board-directed template, holding a retreat for Commission members to establish connections, and having discussions to clarify its role to fulfill its advisory responsibilities most effectively. The Commission also welcomed several guest speakers to

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<sup>1</sup> Board Environmental Summit on July 27, 2022

expand their background knowledge, including the LCPS, the Fairfax County Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination, Loudoun Water, the Data Center Coalition, and multiple County departments.

- *Budget Priorities:* The Work Plan included initial actions to be taken in FY 2023 with existing resources but acknowledged that additional staffing and financial resources would be needed for future action to meet the Board’s environmental vision to “protect and enhance the County’s natural, environmental, and heritage resources.”<sup>2</sup> Given the extent of the Work Plan, the Commission recognized the importance of prioritizing items for allocating resources in FY 2024 and developed recommendations for the highest priority. The Commission presented these recommendations in a letter to the Board (See Attachment 1) as well as in presentations by the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Commission at Board Public Hearings.

### **Sustainable Energy**

- *County Energy Strategy:* The [County Energy Strategy](#) published in March 2023 contains tasks intended to be accomplished by 2050. In addition to providing feedback on Strategy development, the Commission identified tasks for which the Commission can take a lead on how to support longer-term accomplishments. For example, the Commission has initiated work on analyzing zoning issues for commercial solar projects, as well as brainstorming ideas for partnerships with data centers. These items are both goals for further progress in FY 2024.

### **Natural Resources**

- *Watershed Management Projects:* Commission members provided extensive subject matter expertise and insight in evaluating existing Watershed Management Plans for low-cost projects that the County could implement in the short term. The Commission provided feedback and agreed to support a staff proposal to encourage community action to implement neighborhood watershed improvement projects. The extensive analysis done by the Commission on these plans will be applied in future discussions of broader watershed protection activities.

### **Public Engagement**

- *Public Forum:* The Bylaws direct the Commission to “*hold an annual public forum to engage the public in issues of environmental concern.*” The Commission held its first public forum on May 11, 2023. The forum included two external speakers intended to inspire the audience as well as eight information booths staffed by Commission members to provide information and seek input. The large majority of the 57 evaluations of the forum submitted by attendees

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<sup>2</sup> [Adopted Loudoun County 2019 General Plan](#)

ranked it as “very” positive in all categories. Fifty public commenters also provided input through an online survey as discussed below in Section 3.

- *Environmental Excellence Awards*: The Bylaws direct the Commission to present Environmental Excellence Awards annually to citizens for leadership on environmental issues. This year, the Commission implemented an awards program using a structure created by the Commission and approved by the Board in the previous year. The Commission awarded two Lifetime Achievement Awards, as well as awards to a community group, a government employee, a small business, and a student.

### **SECTION 3. PUBLIC INPUT**

The Bylaws direct the Commission to engage the public on issues of environmental concern. At its 2023 Public Forum and through an online survey, the Commission requested public input on issues in the Work Plan. From fifty online responses, members of the public identified Tree Protection, Watershed Management Plans, County Energy Strategy, and Solar Energy as the highest priority topics for County action. Comments emphasized responsible management of development, with data centers identified specifically by some. There was great public interest in individual action to reduce carbon footprints, including through home energy efficiency and the use of solar panels, protection of native plants, and improving water quality, as well as interest in getting information about how individuals can achieve these goals. See Attachment 2 for more detailed public input survey response statistics.

### **SECTION 4. GOALS**

For the coming year, the Commission has defined a set of goals to focus on while the County implements the updated Work Plan with funding provided in the FY 2024 budget. These goals were approved by the Commission with no objections at Commission meetings on June 7, 2023, and June 21, 2023, and are outlined below.

#### **Sustainable Energy**

- Develop a position regarding commercial solar zoning throughout the County that balances renewable energy generation and natural resources protection and report our findings to the Board.
- Develop a concept and initiate work on a data center partnership to balance data center energy demand with clean energy supply.
- Gather information on emerging clean energy trends and recommend topics for further consideration and development (e.g., green banks, hydrogen hub).
- Provide guidance on the implementation of the County Energy Strategy.

### **Natural Resources**

- Provide guidance for planning and implementing a tree canopy baseline study by the County and expand public engagement in tree protection efforts on their own properties and within the county.
- Review the Virginia Wildlife Corridor Action Plan and prioritize recommendations to improve habitat connectivity and reduce wildlife-vehicle collisions.
- Provide guidance on developing and implementing new and existing watershed management plans.
- Develop a concept and propose the next steps for the County to create a Natural Resources Strategy. Similar to the County Energy Strategy, it would provide a framework of practical steps to realize the vision outlined in the *Loudoun County 2019 General Plan (2019 GP)* and build upon the County's existing natural resources programs.

### **Public Information and Engagement**

- Provide input on the design and content of an online hub containing environmental and energy-related information using maps, documents, and other tools. The purpose of the hub would be to improve the availability of information to the public in a format that supports understanding and engagement.
- Conduct and improve participation in both the 2024 Environmental Excellence Awards and the Second Annual Environment and Energy Public Forum.
- Recommend specific County activities and take actions that improve public education, outreach, and partnerships in support of Commission goals.

### **General Environmental Program**

- Explore an optimal County organizational structure to effectively manage communication and coordinate action to achieve the desired environmental and energy goals in the Loudoun County 2019 General Plan (2019 GP), the Board's Open Space and Environment Strategic Plan, and the broad scope of tasks in the Work Plan's five initiatives.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** There is no fiscal impact associated with this action item.

**ISSUES:** Staff has not identified any outstanding issues.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

1. The Board may accept the Environmental Commission Annual Report and approve the full nominated slate of candidates for all assignments in the Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Public Engagement Standing Committees, as listed in Table 1.
2. The Board may accept the Environmental Commission Annual Report and approve a revised slate of candidates for assignments in the Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Public Engagement Standing Committees, other than that of the slate listed in Table 1.
3. The Board may not accept the Environmental Commission Annual Report, and not approve candidates for the Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Public Engagement Standing Committees, and direct staff on how to proceed.

**DRAFT MOTIONS:**

1. I move the recommendation of the Transportation and Land Use Committee that the Board of Supervisors endorse the FY 2023 Environmental Commission Annual Report and approve the full nominated slate of candidates for all assignments in the Natural Resources, Sustainable Energy, and Public Engagement Standing Committees, as listed in Table 1.

OR

2. I move an alternate motion.

**ATTACHMENT(S):**

1. Commission Letter to the Board on FY 2024 Budget Priorities
2. Energy and Environment Public Input Survey Results

February 23, 2023

Loudoun County Board of Supervisors  
1 Harrison St.  
Leesburg, VA 20175

RE: FY 24 Budget Considerations

Dear Chair Randall and Board Members:

The Environmental Commission appreciates the Board's approval of our work plan last July which represents the first of the recommendations and advice we've been tasked to provide you per our bylaws. We strive to help address the many environmental, sustainability, and energy management challenges you face while also recognizing the County's fiscal constraints. Accordingly, despite considering all of our projects important, this fiscal year we have prioritized those that have not required additional funding.

**FY23 Accomplishments:**

- Reviewing already completed Watershed Management Plans to identify projects and outreach that could be implemented quickly and effectively,
- Providing input into the County Energy Strategy,
- Considering elements of a strong solar ordinance,
- Brainstorming on an Environment and Energy Information Hub with input from multiple County departments,
- Considering a program to boost energy equity,
- Improving outreach to, and inclusion of, our diverse population,
- Kicking off the Environmental Excellence Awards,
  - Applications are coming in
- Preparing for the Environmental Forum
  - Scheduled for May 11 at the Academies of Loudoun.

We will continue to advance the full scope of our work plan in the next fiscal year. While ideally, we would like to see all of the projects fully funded, again we recognize the constraints you face. In FY24, however, there is a need for resources to enable progress and critical action on our work plan.

**FY 24 Priorities:**

- **The proposed Energy Program Manager position with some consultant support,** represents our highest priority and therefore our primary recommendation for funding in the County budget. This position is essential to start planning and implementing the Energy Strategy with actions that support all residents regardless of their electricity provider. Funding and filling the Energy Program Manager position will also pay dividends quickly. This person will be key for identifying appropriate grants from the Federal Department of Energy to help accomplish the Energy Strategy goals. Without this position, the Strategy will be just another good idea on the shelf at a time when urgent action is needed.
- **Next steps for three other work plan projects:**
  - Developing and implementing an Energy Equity program with projects that involve other departments and diverse stakeholders.

**ATTACHMENT 1**

- Working with the Office of Mapping and Geographic Information Systems to implement ideas developed in FY23 to create an “Information Hub on Energy and Natural Resources” with existing data.
- Taking action on initial Watershed Management Plan projects we’ve identified this year.

We hope these three relatively small funding requests will allow staff to advance the work plan without a major impact on the FY24 budget and look forward to helping the County accomplish its environmental objectives.

Thank you for your consideration as you weigh and prioritize your decisions.

Sincerely,

The Environmental Commission

**Energy & Environment Public Forum – May 11, 2023**  
**Public Input Survey Results**

These results include responses from both the online survey and the paper surveys at the Public Forum.

- **Online Survey: 50 responses.** Open from May 11 to May 22 and included all questions. (Note that, due to a technology error, the first six respondents were only able to select one answer, even when the question allowed for more, which may slightly skew the results.)
- **Paper Survey: Zero to 15 responses, by topic.** Paper surveys were available for hand-written responses at each information station at the Public Forum and only included topic-specific questions.

**TOP PRIORITIES**

**These are items in the Loudoun County 2023 Environment and Energy Work Plan. Which should be the top priorities to be considered? (Please select up to 4.)**

- 31 Tree Protection
- 27 Watershed Management Plans
- 26 County Energy Strategy
- 25 Solar Energy
- 23 Wildlife Corridors
- 17 Financing Sustainable Energy Projects (Green Bank, Power Purchase Agreements, etc.)
- 14 Public Engagement
- 11 Environmental Justice
- 10 Energy Equity
- 8 Environment and Energy Information Availability

**ENERGY EQUITY**

**1. Are you aware of existing programs that provide financial assistance for energy benefits such as home weatherization, solar panels, or electric vehicles?**

- 31 No
- 22 Yes

**2. What are the most important issues in energy equity? (Choose top 3)**

- 30 Home energy costs
- 28 Access to renewable energy such as solar
- 21 Expanded transportation options such as commuter buses and bike shares
- 19 Health impacts of energy production
- 15 Workforce training for clean energy jobs
- 15 Access to electric vehicles and charging

## **COUNTY ENERGY STRATEGY**

### **1. Are you familiar with the County's recently approved Energy Strategy?**

- 17 Yes
- 32 No

### **2. What steps have you taken, or would you consider taking to reduce your carbon footprint?**

- 48 Increase energy efficiency at home
- 44 Change my food-related practices (eat less meat, substitute local food, compost waste food)
- 43 Plant native trees and other plants
- 43 Reduce transportation carbon footprint (use electric vehicles, reduce vehicle miles)
- 36 Use renewable energy

## **SOLAR**

### **1. Are you interested in installing solar energy in your home?**

- 25 Interested, but have obstacles or not sure where to start
- 9 Plan to install it in the future
- 8 Looked into it and decided not to
- 6 Already use it
- 5 Have not thought about it

### **2. What do you think about large-scale solar in Loudoun County? (such as solar arrays that provide utility-scale energy)**

- 34 I support it.
- 15 I support it if some concerns are addressed through appropriate regulation.
- 8 I support it but only in certain locations.
- 4 I do not support it.

## **INFORMATION HUB**

### **1. How have you gotten information about energy and the environment in Loudoun County?**

- 20 Through newspapers or other news media
- 16 From the Loudoun County government website
- 9 Through social media
- 1 By contacting the County

*\* Note that, due to an IT error, the digital version of this question only allowed one answer. There were no paper surveys.*

## 2. What kind of information would you be interested in?

- 42 What actions the county is taking in relation to the environment?
- 33 What is the status of the environment in Loudoun County?
- 31 What actions could I be taking?
- 26 What is the status of the environment in my neighborhood?

## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT

### 1. What are the most important aspects of watershed management planning for you?

- 47 Protecting/improving watershed ecosystem health
- 25 Protecting drinking water quality and minimizing cost to provide it
- 23 Protecting/improving water quality in Loudoun streams
- 23 Educating the public on the impacts of how we live on the land

*\* Note that, due to an IT error, the digital version of this question only allowed one answer. Ten paper surveys are also included here, of which 8 selected all four options.*

### 2. Are you interested in participating in projects to improve water quality in your watershed? (Mark all that apply)

- 32 I would consider making changes on my own property (e.g. redirecting downspouts away from driveways and sidewalks, planting trees, using rain barrels).
- 25 I would encourage my HOA board and neighbors to do projects on HOA common open space when possible.
- 25 I would volunteer to help with tree plantings.
- 23 I want to know more and would like to attend an informational meeting.

## TREES

### 1. What do you think is the greatest threat to trees in your neighborhood or elsewhere in Loudoun County?

- 45 Tree destruction by development and other projects
- 13 Diseases/pests
- 12 Invasive trees/vine

### 2. What are obstacles you would face for tree protection or planting?

- 22 Do not know what is best to plant
- 17 Too expensive
- 14 Interferes with other uses of property
- 14 Interferes with local rules

## **WILDLIFE CORRIDORS**

### **1. What are the most important aspects of wildlife corridors for you?**

- 33 Improving habitat connectivity
- 20 Implementing state-mandated Wildlife Corridors Action Plan
- 17 Reducing vehicle collisions with wildlife
- 13 Having places to view wildlife for outdoor recreation and economic benefits

### **2. What actions should the county consider to reduce vehicle wildlife collisions and improve habitat connectivity?**

- 39 Identify areas with highest risk for human/wildlife collisions
- 38 Identify wildlife habitat corridors
- 36 Protect wildlife corridors via linear parks as part of implementation of Linear Parks and Trails framework plan
- 35 Identify existing barriers to wildlife movement
- 33 Recommend and prioritize projects to promote driver safety and habitat connectivity (e.g. retrofit existing infrastructure such as underpasses and culverts)

*Specific locations of concern for wildlife/vehicle collisions (hand-written on paper surveys)*

- Dry Mill Road by former Dry Mill Winery (deer/foxes)
- Woodbridge Blvd – Lansdowne Woods (deer/foxes/possums)
- Rt 7 overpass at Round Hill
- 690 between Alder School and Asbury Church
- Parks
- Rt 15 between 7 and 50
- Reduce speeds on Rt 7, 15, 28, 50

<b>Are there items missing that should be considered in the future?</b>
The longer view of solar initiatives: We need more than just installers- we need maintenance and repair resources. My 6.5-year-old solar system needs a new inverter- it has been challenging to find help. (Bought through Solarize NOVA program in 2016)
Hope to learn about the County energy plan, and help with it if needed or participate in its implementation
Farmland conservation
Composting; biodiversity restoration; replacing at least 50% of high maintenance toxic monoculture lawns with biodiverse no mow; high albedo white roofs on homes and businesses to instantly slash CO2 29% and help reflect the sun; white or light grey parking lots to protect car tires and cars
Invasive species
Datacenter impact mitigation and control
Improvements to pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure
Public transit - removing combustion engine vehicles from the roads; Walkability/Bike-ability across the county - mandatory protected bike lanes on larger roads, bike storage
Data centers. They use a massive amount of energy.
Complete system impact assessment,
Groundwater
Data bank restrictions
<p>Aside from these efforts, I think it would be amazing for our town to take a green initiative in other ways as well. Restaurants and businesses could use materials that are environmentally friendly. In Bar Harbor, ME all of the restaurants only use environmentally friendly take-out containers, silverware, and straws. Working together, these items would save so much waste.</p> <p>Also, I recently read an article about a community in Belgium offering families 3 chickens, if they wanted them. The experiment was a huge success "eliminating food waste, providing fresh eggs and managing pesky insects. It also eliminates the need for harmful insect sprays. It could be interesting to allow Leesburg residents to home 3 chickens to see if our town experiences the same improvements. <a href="https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/belgians-egged-on-to-keep-chickens-ndash-but-they-re-not-for-eating-1942124.html">https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/belgians-egged-on-to-keep-chickens-ndash-but-they-re-not-for-eating-1942124.html</a></p> <p>It would also be helpful to have more education about what can actually be recycled and what goes to the landfill. There are programs that collect specific items that the recycling programs cannot support. It would be interesting to look into options.</p>

Are there items missing that should be considered in the future? (p. 2)
Small farm support
Climate Resilience planning
Education. What does our current energy mix look like? Where do we get our energy from? Stick to the basics, please! Assume we are all energy illiterate.
Cooperation with environmental organizations, like LEEA, which represent 45 organizations.
Nuclear Energy. Small Modular Reactors. The public needs to understand that nuclear energy has come a long way. Nuclear fuel can be recycled. France has been doing it for years. And it is truly green energy. It produces no carbon into the air. And it is the ONLY green energy that can load follow. Solar and wind are great, but when the sun doesn't shine and the wind doesn't blow, you're out of luck. Those types of energy cannot follow peak demand as nuclear energy can. Nuclear energy can be dialed up or down depending on demand.
Limiting and controlling data centers and emissions release and water and power usage.
Environmental preservation of natural resources and green spaces.
Cutting Food waste, explore community composting
updated and efficient HVAC systems in older schools
No, there are items that should be removed, such as environmental justice, financing sustainable energy projects, energy equity.

**What else should the Environmental Commission consider in making further recommendations to the Board of Supervisors?**

The Environmental Commission should recommend that the BOS stop approving residential and business development that destroys trees, nature, and wildlife habitat in Loudoun County. I have lived here for 23 years. I am heartbroken to see the vast destruction of the natural environment in Loudoun County. The BOS prioritizes greed and overdevelopment over environmental protection.

Educating a green energy workforce.

Follow LCPS leaf

All new homes and buildings should be built with federal green standards as well as white roofs and driveways.

Data Center energy policy as it relates to requisite investments in alternative energy for new construction.

Availability of fast EV charging stations.

Incentives/mandates of on-site renewable energy (solar/wind/geothermal) for large commercial properties, schools, and data centers. We are a 'Dillon' state, so it may be hard to require, but we need these large energy users to contribute to the grid.

Localized mini energy grids and energy storage (as 'green' as possible e.g. <https://polarnightenergy.fi/sand-battery>)

Data centers. They use a massive amount of energy. The county should be requiring them to be as green as possible - solar panels, recycled water, etc... Loudoun needs to have a plan to support their huge energy drain that does not include diesel generators. This should be the number one priority.

A timeline for meeting the State guidelines for net zero carbon pollution and how we will meet it.

Use common sense

Groundwater protection of both water supply and protection from contamination and severe drought

Affordable housing, efficient multi family units

Energy efficiency in county and school buildings

It is important to stress the cost and complexity to achieve these goals. Also, reaching ambitious community-wide goals requires buy-in and participation from across the county, not just the county government.

Need natural resources department so decision-making about impacts is integrated into all county projects

**What else should the Environmental Commission consider in making further recommendations to the Board of Supervisors? (p. 2)**

Education. What does our current energy mix look like? Where do we get our energy from? Stick to the basics, please! Assume we are all energy illiterate.

Discussions with the LCPS school board on establishing an environmental education office. The NW VA Regional GREENetwork has over 175 school garden club teachers and other environmentalists. Fairfax County Public Schools' Get2Green program has 4 staff.

Every data center should have solar panels on the roof. The roofs of the Dulles parking garages and any other suitable structure should have solar panels installed. The area west of Dulles should NOT be used as a solar farm. The Wetlands and trees should be protected at all costs.

Growing population, need for environmental education including for new citizens, energy and water conservation, livestock degradation of streams.

There should be an environmental education office within LCPS. We should be teaching the youth about sustainability and protecting our environment. They are the future.

Preservation of natural resources and slowing residential and business growth to enable current residents to meet future energy and natural resource needs.

Additional solar and recycling programs in public schools

Always consider costs.

**Respondents**

**Zip Code**

20105	2	20158	2
20117	1	20164	3
20132	8	20165	5
20141	3	20166	1
20147	10	20175	6
20148	2	20176	1
20151	1	20180	2
20152	1	20197	2

**Type**

Resident	45
Business Owner	2
Resident & Business Owner	3