

To echo what Mr. Flint Webb, Environmental Co-Chair, said, I also encourage the County to take full advantage of their new taxing authorities soon to be granted.

From: FY 2021 Advertised Budget Summary (pg. 18 Health and Environment)

Environmental Projects

An increase of \$0.38 million – which results in total FY 2021 funding of \$1.30 million – is included for projects that advance the County's Environmental Vision and Operational Energy Strategy.

Comment: I welcome the increase in funding.

Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination

An increase of \$0.32 million and 2/2.0 FTE new positions support the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination (OEEC) in the Office of the County Executive.

Environmental Planning Capacity

An increase of \$0.14 million and 1/1.0 FTE new position in the Department of Planning and Development is provided to address current and projected workloads in the Environment and Development Review Branch.

Position for Forest Pest Program

An increase of 1/1.0 FTE new position is included in Fund 40080, Integrated Pest Management, due to increased departmental and programmatic requirements in the Forest Pest Program.

Comment: The new positions show the County's commitment to the environment and reducing energy use. I applaud the County for adding these positions and the associated funding.

From: Fund 30015

\$250,000 to continue Invasive Management Area Program.

Comment: Restoration of natural areas and protecting the tree canopy is important to support the ecological integrity of natural areas. I welcome the continued funding for the Invasive Management Area Program.

\$75,000 for Watershed Protection and Energy Conservation Matching Grant Program

Comment: Supporting energy education and outreach initiatives and promoting community engagement are very important for sustainability and conservation issues. Financial incentives for implementing sustainability projects are a good move to drive these types of projects forward.

\$272,000 to fund restoration of 12.5 acres of Parks meadows.

Comment: Once again, I applaud the County's commitment to restore native plants, birds, and pollinators by removing non-native invasive plants, remedying prior inappropriate management choices and improving habitat. I would encourage the county to continue funding park restorations in the future.

\$45,500 for Phase 2 of the Pollinator Meadow at the DVS Alban Road maintenance facility.

Comment: Strongly support funding phase 2, which converts 16,000 square feet of highly compacted gravel surface to a pollinator meadow within the lower Accotink Creek watershed.

This will reduce stormwater runoff, sediment and other pollutants while extending native habitat for birds and other pollinators. Important for the watershed and supports natural habitat.

\$110,000 is included to fund the purchase and installation of HVAC controls at Parks facilities that are not staffed.

Comment: We need to be reducing energy use wherever is possible, and this moves us in the right direction.

\$130,000 Phase 1 natural landscaping initiative at the Gov't Center. Converting 5,600 square feet of mowed lawn to perennial beds, planting up to 40 canopy trees and adding interpretive signage.

Comment: Again, the county continues to show support for native plants species that are the foundation for our Virginia environment and support pollinators and native birds. I would encourage the County to assess implementing this type of landscaping initiative at more County sites.

\$91,385 for Energy Masters Program at low-income housing facilities in Fairfax County. Energy Masters train volunteers to perform simple energy efficiency upgrades in apts and in low-income housing. More energy and water efficient and training residents to continue saving energy and water in the future.

Comment: I applaud the County for the Energy Masters Program because the benefits are two-fold. Housing units will be made more energy and water efficient, and low-income housing residents will see financial benefit of saving energy and water.

\$86,000 for 1.25 acres of wetland restoration at Green Springs Garden, magnolia bog. One of 11 in Virginia. Adjacent to pedestrian trail offering unique interpretative and educational opportunities for visitors.

Comment: We must protect unique environmental areas. These areas are essential to native plants and wildlife. Glad to see specific funding for the magnolia bog in Green Springs Garden, and the development of interpretative and educational opportunities for the public.

\$58,140 provided in Fund 10030 to continue partnering with two non-profit agencies to support tree planting efforts throughout the County.

Comment: Strongly support the continued efforts to bolster the County's tree canopy into the future.

From: FY 2021-FY 2025 Advertised CIP, Environmental and Energy Programs (Current Project Descriptions)

Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan (CECAP) (Countywide)

Energy Service Companies (ESCO) Contract (Countywide)

Energy Strategy Program – FMD (Countywide)

Energy Strategy Program – Parks (County Wide)

Electric Vehicle Stations (Countywide)

Comment: I applaud and welcome the continued support and funding for these measures

Composting at Government Facilities (Countywide): This program will support a Composting Pilot Program at Fairfax County government offices.

Comment: This is a good start for managing waste. I look forward to the County's evaluation of the pilot program and the potential continuation and expansion of a composting program.

LED Streetlights (Countywide): \$1,800,000 has been approved to date to support the first year of a five-year LED streetlight conversion plan, totaling \$9,000,000.

Comment: I welcome the County's LED streetlight conversion plan. Approximately \$1.4 million in annual savings is anticipated from complete conversion of all streetlights. I would encourage the County to apply this towards future energy efficiency and conservation projects, as well as maintenance costs.

Parks Lighting and Energy Retrofits (Countywide): This project supports lighting retrofits and upgrades at Fairfax County Park Authority facilities for energy efficiency and conservation.

Comment: This countywide project is in step with the LED streetlights conversion plan. I applaud the County for upgrading to LED fixtures. Upgrading Fairfax County Park Authority facilities reduces energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. By reducing energy usage, the FCPA will also reduce energy costs. I would encourage the County to use the reduced energy cost savings for future energy efficiency and conservation projects as well as maintenance costs.