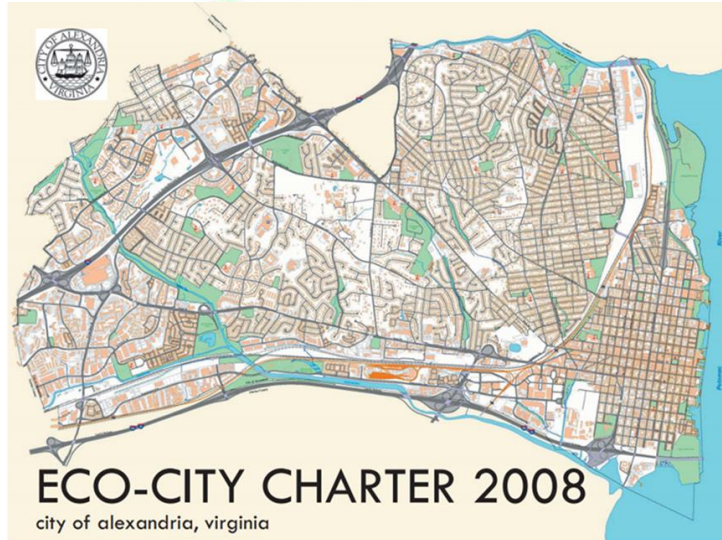
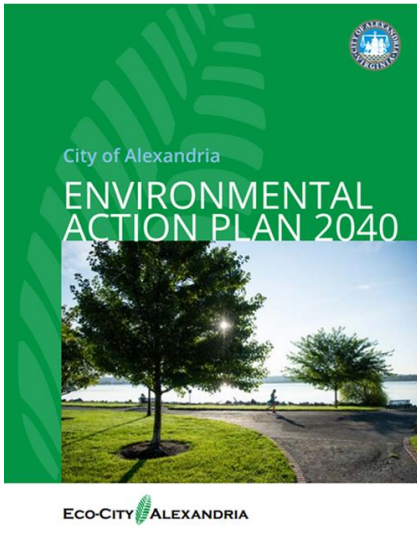




Environmental Policy Commission



FY2021 EPC ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 1, 2020 – JUNE 30, 2021

AUGUST 26, 2021

1. Introduction

The Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) was established under Chapter 4, Article M, of the City Code to “advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, when appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager.” This report provides a summary of EPC activities during Fiscal Year 2021.

2. Who We Are

The Alexandria City Council established the EPC in 1970 to advise and make recommendations to the City Council and, where appropriate, to the Planning Commission and City Manager, on matters relating to the following:

- Climate change and environmental sustainability
- Air quality;
- Land use;
- Noise pollution and abatement;
- Pesticides, herbicides and contaminants;
- Solid waste;
- Water quality and supply;
- Other matters referred to the EPC by the City and citizens; and
- Other topics relating to the conservation and protection of Alexandria’s environment.

The EPC, when fully appointed consists of 13 members, including five members from the field of environmental sciences, five citizen-at-large members, one member from the field of urban planning, one member with experience in Federal or state environmental statutes/regulations, and one representative from the Alexandria business community. The EPC regularly works with other organizations to further the environmental goals of the City.

The following is a list of Commissioners who served on the EPC during FY2021.

Humza Arshad	Praveen Kathpal (Chair) ¹
Michael Bahleda	Christine Maietta ²
Eldon Boes	Amber Myers ²
Edith Cecchini (Secretary)	Michael Olex (Vice-Chair)
Alexander Clark ²	Brendan Owens
Kathie Hoekstra (Chair)	William Pugh
Jennifer Debias Mabry ²	Marta Schantz

Notes: ¹Term ended in FY21; ²Term began in FY21

The EPC met virtually once a month during this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All meetings were open to the public, agendas and documents considered during the meetings as well as minutes of the meetings and videos were posted to the EPC page on the City website:

<https://www.alexandriava.gov/EnvironmentalPolicyCommission.html>

Throughout the year, the EPC was supported by staff of the Department of Transportation and Environmental Services (T&ES), Office of Environmental Quality. The EPC wishes to express its

thanks for the time, expertise and guidance provided by City leadership and staff.

3. FY21 EPC Annual Retreat

The EPC held its annual retreat in September, 2020, but its focus was more in line with an extra meeting than it was on what the EPC's agenda should focus on for the upcoming year due to the recent and complete shift in EPC leadership in August.

4. FY2021 EPC Activities and Accomplishments

The following are some of the major activities and accomplishments of the commission during FY2021 (July 1, 2020 thru June 30, 2021):

1. In August, the EPC urged the City Council to support the Planning Commission's acceptance of the North Potomac Yard (NPY) Environmental Sustainability Master Plan (ESMP) including the basis for its amendments and ensure that the sentiments of those amendments are required of the applicant¹.
2. In October, EPC submitted to the City its recommendations for Alexandria's Legislative Agenda to address its Climate Emergency Declaration².
3. In December, EPC expressed its support for the City Alternative Fuel Policy that has 100% electrification as the ultimate goal³.
4. In January, EPC wrote a letter to the City management to recommend budget priorities for FY2022 including the hiring of a green building manager⁴.
5. Over the course of FY2021, the EPC spent considerable time and effort evaluating the City's Taylor Run and other stream restoration projects. In March, the EPC made its recommendations to City Council and expressed its opposition to this project in its current design⁵.
6. In February, the EPC held a joint work session with the Planning Commission to discuss ways to embed sustainability goals into the City's development process. The EPC has subsequently participated in developing a sustainability framework for the Landmark and GenOn/PRGS site re-development projects⁶.
7. The EPC participated in the selection of Ms. Joyce Hylton as the 2021 winner of the Ellen Pickering Environmental Excellence Award.
8. The commission passed a new "Electronic Participation Policy" in June.

Members of the Commission also participated in the following City commissions, committees, and advisory groups in the capacity of voting members:

- Potomac Yard Metro Station Implementation Group
- Waterfront Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Eisenhower West Small Area Plan Advisory Group
- ECCAP Task Force

6. EPC Correspondence during FY2021

1. August 31, 2020, Letter to Chair Nathan Macek, Planning Commission, EPC Comments on the Draft NPY ESMP.
2. October 12, 2020, Email to Khoa Tran, Final EPC 2021 Legislative Agenda.
3. December 24, 2020, Letter to the Mayor and City Council, EPC Support for Alexandria's Alternative Fuel Policy.
4. January 13, 2021, Letter to Yon Lambert, Director, T&ES, EPC Recommendations for FY2022 Budget.
5. March 10, 2021, Letter to the Mayor and City Council, Taylor Run Stream Restoration and Natural Channel Design.
6. June 21, 2021, Letter to Chair Nathan Macek, Planning Commission, EPC Comments on Landmark Mall Redevelopment Proposal.
7. June 28, 2021, Letter to Councilwoman Amy Jackson, COG Chesapeake Bay & Water Resources Policy Committee Role in Supporting Local Government Stream Restoration Efforts.

7. EPC Membership Recruitment and Leadership

During FY21, four members left and four new members joined the commission. At the end of June, 2021, the Commission had the maximum number of 13 members.

Due to the pandemic, a Special Meeting was held on August 17, 2020 to hold its annual elections which had been delayed. Kathie Hoekstra, Mike Olex and Edith Cecchini were unanimously elected as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively. Chair Praveen Kathpal who elected not to stand for re-election, announced his resignation from the commission effectively immediately.

The Commission held its annual elections for FY2022 during its June 21, 2021 regular meeting. Kathie Hoekstra, Mike Olex and Edith Cecchini, were again approved unanimously as Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary, respectively.