

On December 7, 2021, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS) authorized the creation of a Sustainability Commission (SC) to guide the county on developing policies and programs for clean energy, greenhouse gas emission reduction, and climate resilience. The SC is charged with advising on the content of the Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan (CESMP), which will serve as a roadmap for the county to reach its climate mitigation and resiliency goals.

The resolution that created the SC included this provision on reporting: “The Sustainability Commission shall submit and make a report on its progress towards making recommendations for the Community Energy / Sustainability Master Plan to the Prince William Board of County Supervisors within twelve (12) months of being established.” This Status Report fulfills the reporting requirement, and continues with the following sections: (1) Climate and Resiliency Goals, (2) Key Participants in CESMP Planning, (3) Summary of Activities To Date, and (4) Planned Work for 2023.

### (1) [Climate and Resiliency Goals](#)

On November 17, 2020, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors (BOCS) adopted the following [Climate Mitigation and Resiliency Goals](#):

- 2030 - Reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emission to 50% below baseline 2005 levels
- 2030 - Achieving 100% renewable electricity in Prince William County Government operations
- 2030 - Becoming a Climate Ready Region and making significant progress to be a Climate Resilient Region
- 2035 - Sourcing 100% of PWC’s electricity from renewable sources
- 2050 - Achieving 100% carbon neutrality in Prince William County Government operations.

Several of these goals are identical to those in the [Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments’ 2030 Climate and Energy Action Plan](#).

### (2) [Key Participants in CESMP Planning](#)

The CESMP is being developed by several complementary teams, all operating through the coordination of Ms. Giulia Manno, the PWC Energy / Environmental Sustainability Officer (ESO).

#### Sustainability Commission

The Sustainability Commission functions as a citizen-led public advisory body with open meetings, with members appointed by the BOCS based on their relevant academic, professional, or non-profit experience in sustainability. The SC, consisting of eight members appointed by the BOCS, began meeting in May 2022, immediately after the last commissioner was appointed.

Commissioner	District	Appointed By:
Ms. Chinaka A. Barbour	Woodbridge	Vice-Chair Margaret Angela Franklin
Mr. Warren Beeton	At-Large	Chair-At-Large Ann B. Wheeler
Dr. Joseph P. Boutte	Potomac	Supervisor Andrea Bailey
Mr. Demetrius Miguel Brown	Neabsco	Supervisor Victor Angry
Mr. Christopher Carroll	Brentsville	Supervisor Jeanine Lawson
Mr. J. Randall Freed (Chair)	Occoquan	Supervisor Kenny A. Boddye
Ms. Elizabeth H. Ward (Vice-Chair)	Gainesville	Supervisor Pete Candland
Mr. Robert B. Weir	Coles	Supervisor Yesli Vega

#### Core Team – PWC Staff

Ms. Manno also convened a Core Team of county staff members who provide information to the support contractor, AECOM, and meet on a monthly basis to review AECOM's progress and deliverables. The core team consists of the following representatives from these departments and offices:

- Office of Sustainability – Giulia Manno, Environmental and Energy Sustainability Officer
- Office of Executive Management – Rebecca Horner, Deputy County Executive
- Planning Office – David McGettigan, Long-Range Planning Manager
- Risk and Wellness Services – Jennifer Boeder, Senior Environmental, Health and Safety Manager
- Office of Equity and Inclusion – Maria Burgos, Equity and Inclusion Executive Director
- Public Works – Thomas Smith, Director Public Works; Madan Mohan, Assistant Director of Public Works for Environmental Management; Benjamin Eib, Senior Environmental Program Manager for Environmental Management Division
- Office of Emergency Management – Katie Kitzmiller, Deputy Emergency Management Coordinator; Brian Misner, Emergency Management Coordinator
- Fleet and Facilities Management – Matthew Villareale, Director Facilities and Fleet Management; Kevin Milsted, Energy Coordinator
- Department of Transportation – Ricardo Canizales, Director Department of Transportation; Meagan Landis, Department of Transportation Senior Analyst; Paulo Belita, Department of Transportation Planning Manager
- Parks Recreation and Tourism – Seth Hendler-Voss, Director Parks Recreation and Tourism

#### Contractor Support – AECOM

Ms. Manno serves as Project Officer for a task order with AECOM, an internationally recognized consulting firm with expertise in climate and sustainability. AECOM is supporting the CESMP by reviewing baseline policy conditions, engaging stakeholders, analyzing priority climate mitigation actions, developing a climate vulnerability assessment, analyze action impacts and prioritizing actions; and delivering a Climate Action Plan (CAP). Within AECOM, the Project Director is Ida Namur, and Tauhirah Abdul-Matin is the Project Manager.

### (3) Summary of Activities to Date

Though it took over a year between the adoption of the climate goals and standing up the key participants formulating the CESMP, now that the ESO has been hired, the SC has been assembled, the contractor has been selected, and the Core Team has been mustered, there has been considerable progress.

#### Sustainability Commission Activities

The CESMP covers many different greenhouse gas-emitting sectors, as well as climate impacts across many key sectors (e.g., ecosystems, infrastructure). It is thus a remarkably multidisciplinary effort that must consider virtually every aspect of county government and operations. Moreover, the CESMP is but one of several key policy and strategy efforts underway in the county.

Given the policy and technical challenges intrinsic to this endeavor, PWC's CESMP would benefit from understanding broader experience from the MWCOG region and beyond on sustainability and climate. And given the short timeline PWC has on achieving the goals (several of which apply in 2030), there is some urgency to moving beyond planning and into implementation.

Thus, the SC's focus has been on establishing a governance framework, developing an understanding of the county's existing programs and policies relevant to the CESMP, engaging with other PWC planning efforts (the Strategic Plan and Comprehensive Plan) to improve coordination, and understanding the tools and experience available through similar efforts in the metropolitan region, via the following activities:

- Adopting bylaws and electing a chair and vice-chair
- Working to integrate the CESMP effort with the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan and Strategic Plan
- Receiving informational briefs from key county departments
- Reviewing Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (MWCOG) information on ongoing and planned sustainability programs
- Providing input to the *Pathway to 2040: Comprehensive Plan*, including the Mobility, Housing, and Land Use chapters, and the Comprehensive Plan Amendment on the Prince William Digital Gateway
- Providing input on the AECOM study to draft the sustainability plan
- Providing early recommendations on how to jump-start county sustainability efforts
- Receiving inputs from county residents
- Providing information regarding CESMP development and sustainability to residents via open meetings and the website at <https://www.pwcva.gov/department/sustainability/commission>
- Working with the Energy/Environment Sustainability Officer (ESO) to outline a community outreach strategy to engage and motivate PWC stakeholders on sustainability issues
- Identifying a representative (Commissioner Brown) to the Joint Environment Taskforce (JET) in coordinating environmental and sustainability issues across PWC government and PWC Schools

Key deliverables to date include the following resolutions:

- [Recommendation to BOCS to Consider Energy and Sustainability Impact Assessments to Support Major Decisions](#)
- [Recommendation to Endorse a Sustainability Communication and Outreach Plan](#)
- [Recommendation to Align the Land Use, Housing, and Mobility Chapters of the Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Comments on the Land Use Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan](#)
- [Comments on the PW Digital Gateway Comprehensive Plan Amendment](#)
- [Recommendations for Fast-Track Climate Mitigation and Resilience Measures](#)

In addition, the SC developed a [Greenhouse Gas Fact Sheet](#) summarizing the status and trends in GHG emissions in PWC. This fact sheet summarizes the challenge of the CESMP as follows:

“Given our emission profile, the Community Energy and Sustainability Master Plan will need to focus on reducing emissions from the transportation sector and from commercial and residential buildings. Federal and state-level actions to reduce the carbon intensity of the

electric grid and the transportation sector will help. But it is clear even now, at the early stages of our planning process, that we will need to take aggressive action at the county level – making dramatic changes to our business-as-usual approaches – if we are to deliver our fair share toward reducing the world’s climate change problem.”

It is our understanding that Supervisor Boddye has been working with the County Executive Officer and county staff on how to move forward with the Fast-Track Climate Mitigation and Resilience Measures, and in October 2023 he formally announced his intention to put these to a vote by the BOCS. Otherwise, despite the SC’s continued efforts to communicate an appropriate sense of urgency on the need to change business as usual, there is little evidence that the SC’s comments and recommendations to date have gotten traction with the BOCS. Moving forward, the SC and BOCS will need to work together more effectively if the Climate Mitigation and Resilience Goals are to be met.

#### Core Team Activities

To date, seven of the nine offices and departments that make up the core team have provided briefings to the Sustainability Commission on their history, current work, and priorities moving forward in relation to climate change mitigation and resiliency.

In addition, the core team has provided data to AECOM to complete a Vulnerability Assessment of the county’s assets. This assessment is expected to be complete in mid-November.

Finally, stakeholder engagement groups have been identified with the core team, along with proposed engagement activities and a timeline.

#### AECOM Activities

AECOM has developed a Greenhouse Gas Forecast that extends to the year 2050. The forecast was extrapolated using data from Prince William’s greenhouse gas inventories developed by MWCOG, and utilizing data provided by county staff from the draft 2040 Comprehensive Plan.

AECOM has also provided a briefing to the Sustainability Commission on the project goals and approach, and begun activities on several of the initial tasks.

#### (4) Planned Work for 2023

[Assuming that the SC wants the progress report to be prospective as well as retrospective, this section needs to be fleshed out based on SC inputs, as well as inputs from Giulia on tasks and schedule for the Core Team and AECOM.]

Key Dates from the SC Fact Sheet include:

- Summer 2023: Provide final recommendations on the CESMP to the BOCS
- Monthly Meetings: 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, 7PM, Powell’s Creek Conference Room