

Leading by Example: The Fairfax County Experience

John Morrill
Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination
Fairfax County, Virginia

Presented at the
NASEO National Buildings Summit
Arlington, VA
September 9, 2025



Fairfax County Goals in Climate Action Plans

County Operations (Operational Energy Strategy)

- Carbon neutrality (from energy) by 2040
- 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030

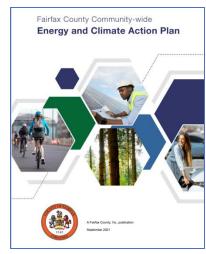
Through FY24, 28% reduction since FY18 baseline

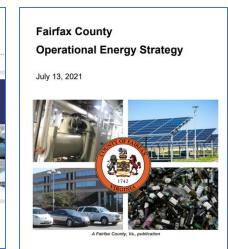
Community-wide

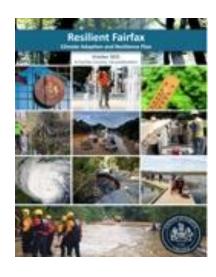
- Carbon neutrality by 2050
- 75% reduction in carbon emissions by 2040
- 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030

Resilient Fairfax

- Integrated Action Planning
- Climate Ready Communities
- Resilient Infrastructure and Buildings
- Adaptive Environments







Success Takes More Than a Village – many partnerships





- **150+ staff** from **20+ agencies** are involved in climate action plan implementation
- OEEC coordinates across all government agencies, plus community groups, contractors, businesses, utilities, and the general public
- Fairfax looks for leadership from the state, and actively collaborates with regional neighbors
- Fairfax joined the U.S. DOE Better Climate Challenge for guidance, peer learning

Growing Number of Energy Services Contract Successes

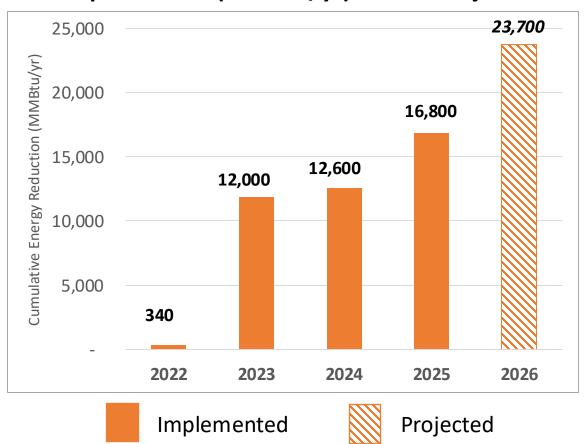


Cub Run

- Installed the county's first geothermal heat pump system, an electrification retrofit at Spring Hill Rec Center
- Project included 250 kW rooftop solar PV
- Over 40% energy use reduction, far beyond guarantee
- Project cited at U.S. DOE Better Buildings Summit
- Cub Run Rec Center has cut energy use 60% since retrofit project completion in 2022
- Solar on new roof now pending
- Project received awards for excellence from Virginia Energy Efficiency Council and ASHRAE

Growing Number of Energy Services Contract Successes

Cumulative Annual Energy Reductions Implemented (MMBtu/yr) – ESPC Projects

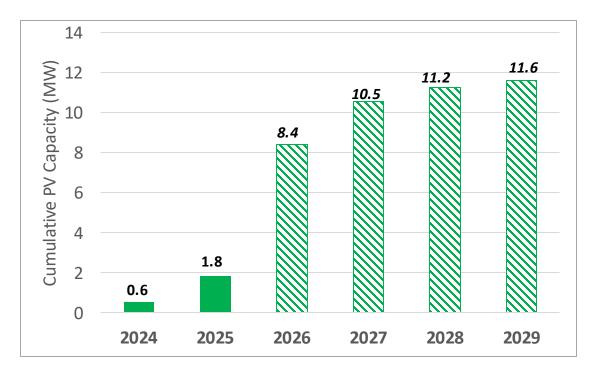




Reston Community Center Heating System Upgrade

Pursuing Solar Through Multiple Procurement Pathways

Cumulative Solar Photovoltaic Capacity Installed (MW)







Projected



