



**Environmental Sustainability Committee Meeting  
October 17, 2019  
Meeting Notes**

**Purpose of Meeting:** To plan for the ESC's key goals over the coming year and to develop a structure / action plan for the Committee's work moving forward

**Desired outcomes for meeting:**

- Review the survey results (goal prioritization) and discuss our ideas for key goals/priorities
- Decide on goals / priorities for the coming year
- Determine the Committee structure that will best support our work
- Determine our plans for our communications with stakeholders

***The following notes from the conversation were recorded on flip charts.***

**Criteria for Defining Our Priorities: Our priorities will need to....**

- Have climate change impact
- Reduce energy usage
- Be practical – something we can have an impact on
- Support the key mission of the City, including water quality, infrastructure, etc.

**Initial Brainstorming of top Priorities based on the pre-meeting ESC survey results** (the Committee's vote for top priorities linked to the City's Comprehensive Plan):

- Tree Management / Urban Forest / Open spaces
  - A diverse, well managed urban forest dominated by native species
- Natives / Invasive Plants
- Restore and preserve natural open spaces and contiguous greenway corridors that provide natural habitats
- Renewable energy – increase use of renewable energy – sources and sustainable tools
- Educating ourselves and community about key issues to stay current
  - What does an effective urban forestry plan have?
  - State forestry department?
  - Arbor Day Foundation Training Program

**The Committee identified the following goals for their work over the coming year:**

- 1) **Tree Management / Urban Forest / Open Spaces**
  - a. Support and provide feedback to Urban Forestry Management Plan (scope of work, etc.)

- b. Be involved with the planning of the George Snyder trail project and provide input from Forestry / health perspective
- c. Review access map of unutilized land / parcels
- d. Get a Tree Commission up and running

**2) Native Vegetation Management**

- a. Support creation of invasive species management plan
- b. Integrate native plants into development plans, onto City properties, schools, homes
- c. Pursue partnership opportunities
  - i. Fairfax county, community groups, volunteer groups – invasive species removal

**3) Energy Renewables and Conservation**

- a. Consider policies / codes to promote technology and innovations (for example, solar panels requirement, tankless water systems, green buildings)
- b. Lead energy conservation and energy use by way of the City setting the example (city facilities)
- c. Support use of County's PPA
- d. Gain better understanding of City's energy usage data

**4) Education and Outreach** on key issues (for example glass, carbon, water, recycling)

**Decision on Committee Structure:** The ESC decided that the current subcommittee structure wasn't working well in part because of the small numbers of ESC members. The Committee decided for this year they would dismantle the previous subcommittees and would instead get offline work accomplished in an ad hoc fashion by ESC members who would volunteer as these opportunities arise. They agreed to revisit this process next year in light of possible additional seats on the committee and their evaluation of how working in an ad hoc fashion worked.

**Communication planning:** The ESC decided that at future meetings the Committee would discuss plans for outward facing communication efforts, including planning what they want to accomplish from their work session with City Council in December.