



# **Opportunities for Climate Action in Fairfax County**

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

March 26, 2024

# Climate Plans in Fairfax County

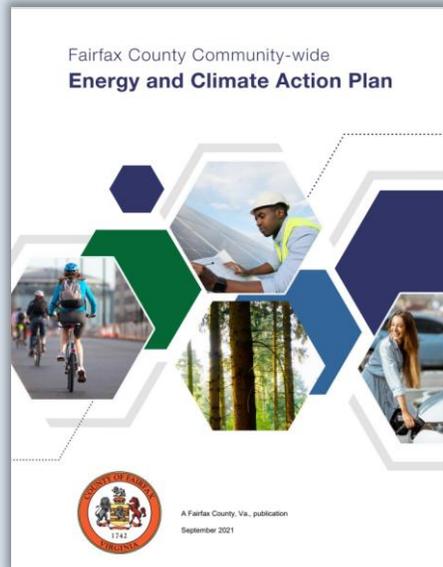
We are addressing both the **cause** and the **effects** of climate change.



**Addressing the Cause:**  
by doing our part  
in the global effort to reduce emissions

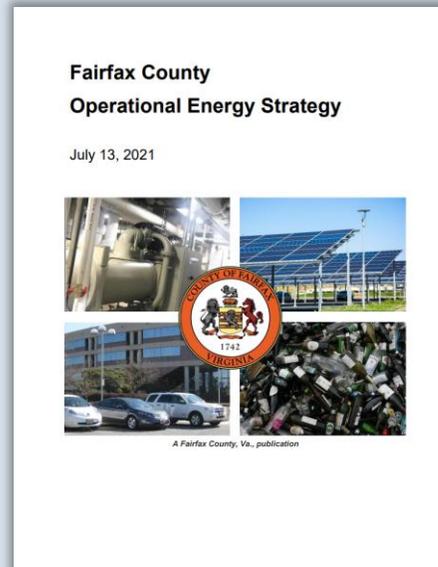
## CECAP

*(Community-wide)*



## Operational Energy Strategy

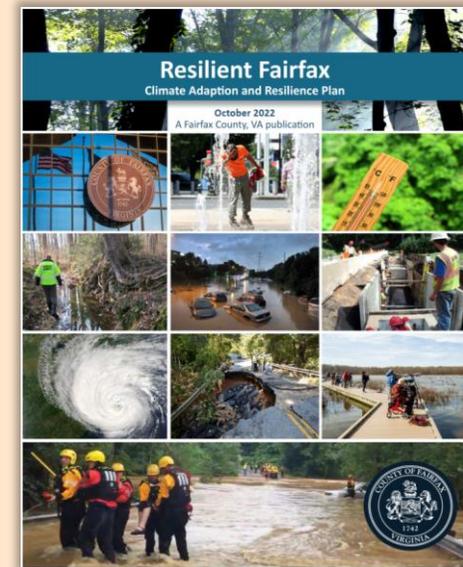
*(Government operations only)*



**Addressing the Effects:**  
adapting/building resilience to the  
impacts we experience locally

## Resilient Fairfax

*(Government and community)*



# Climate Plans in Fairfax County, Cont.



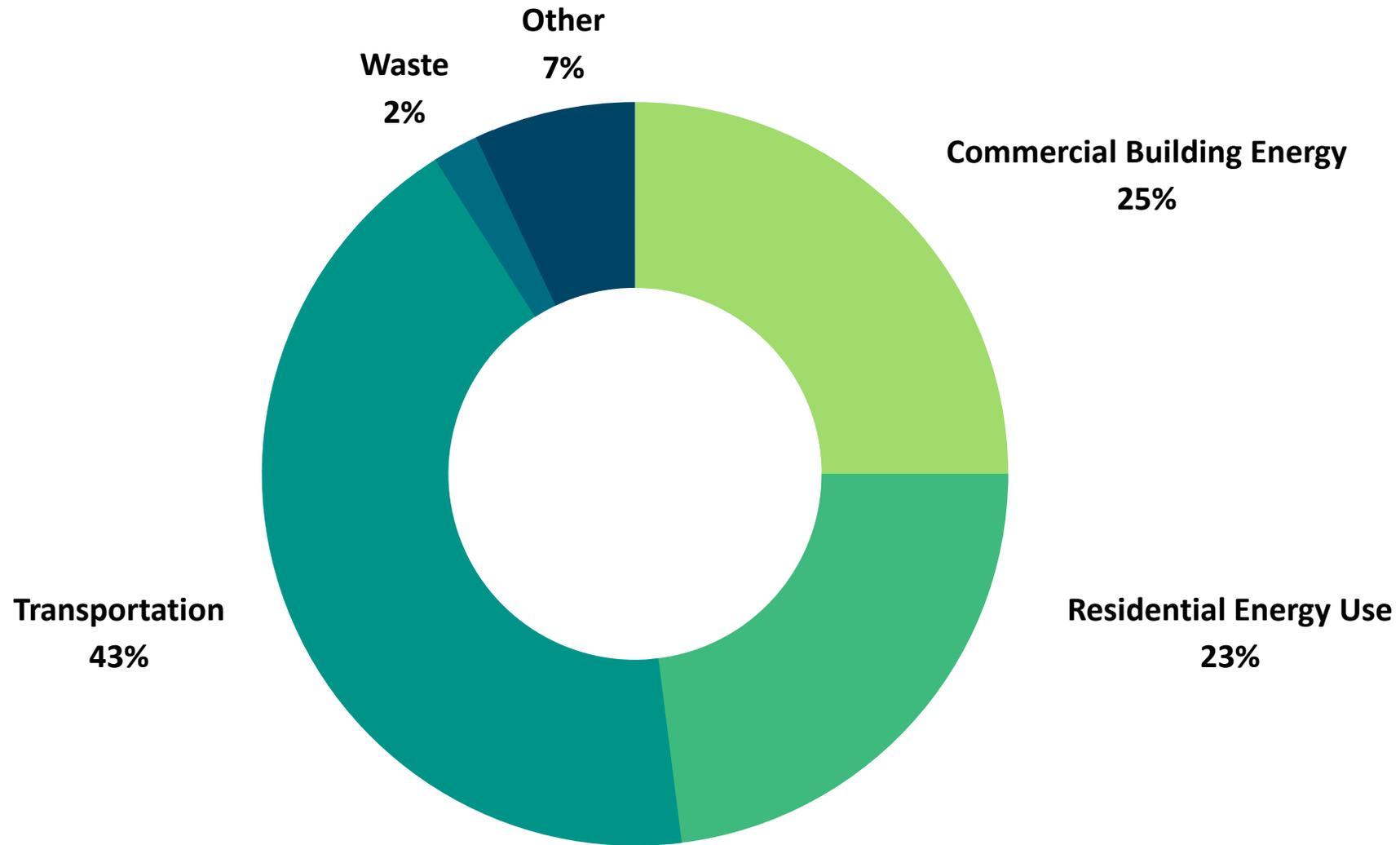
**150+ staff** from  
**25+ agencies** are involved  
in climate plan implementation.

**OEEC coordinates**  
across all agencies and with  
community groups, businesses, other  
localities, utilities, state and federal  
government, and the general public.

# Addressing the Cause and Effects, with Coordinated Implementation



# Fairfax County's GHG Emissions Inventory (2020)



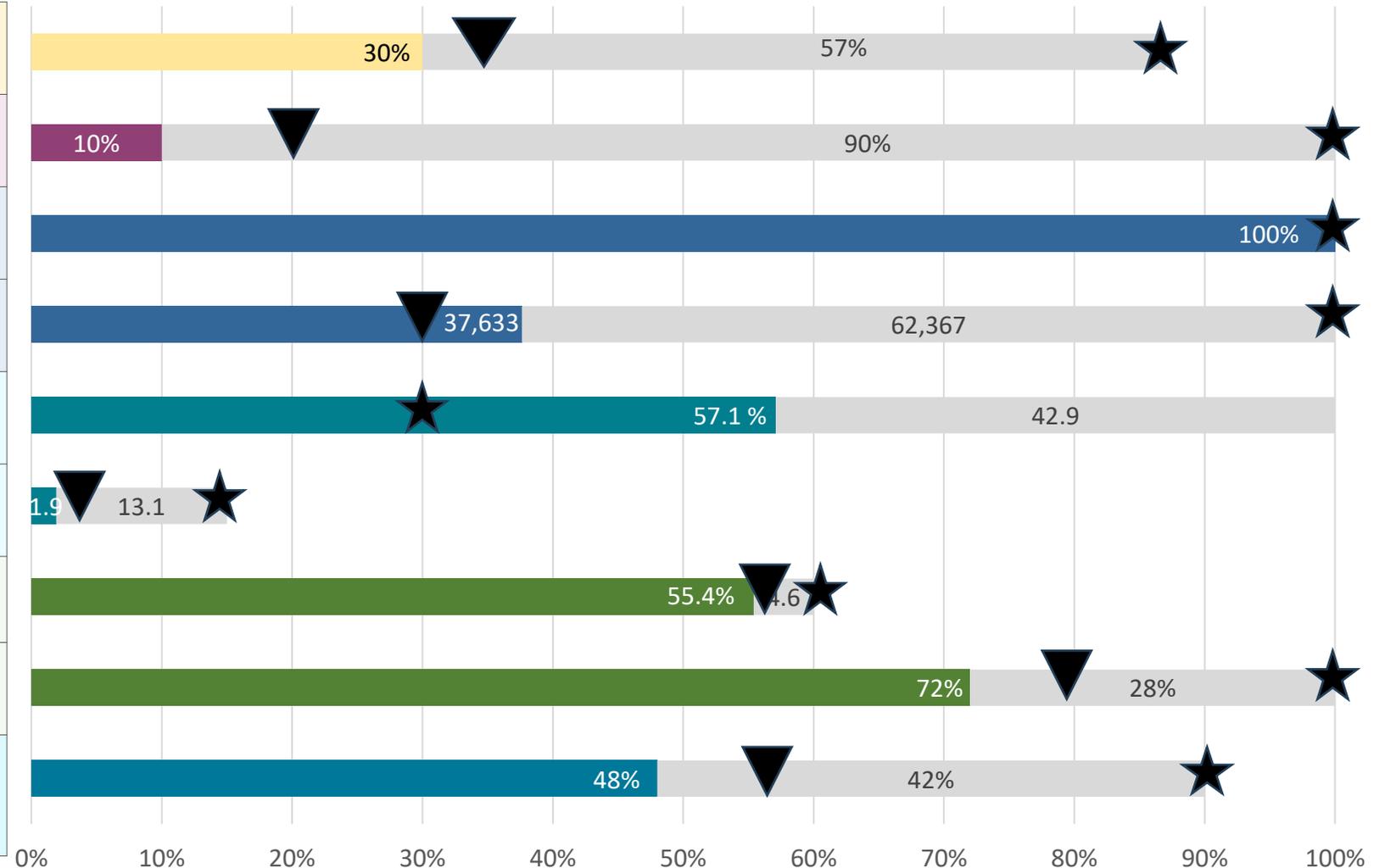
\*Commercial energy consumption includes many apartment and condominium buildings as well as offices and businesses.

Source: [Community-Wide Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventory Summaries | Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments \(mwcog.org\)](https://www.mwcog.org/Community-Wide-Greenhouse-Gas-Emissions-Inventory-Summaries)



# Outcomes: CECAP (Emissions Reduction in the Community)

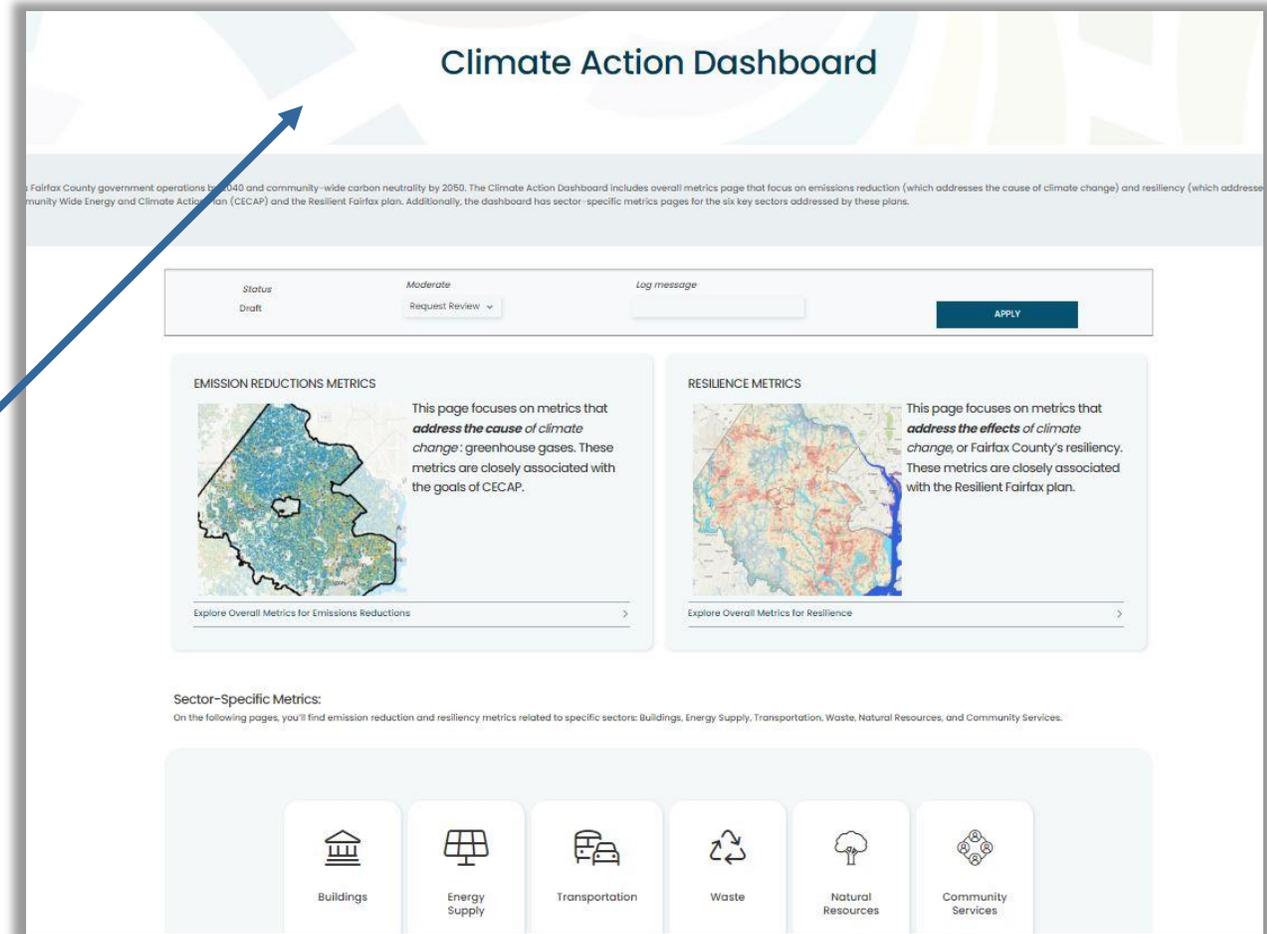
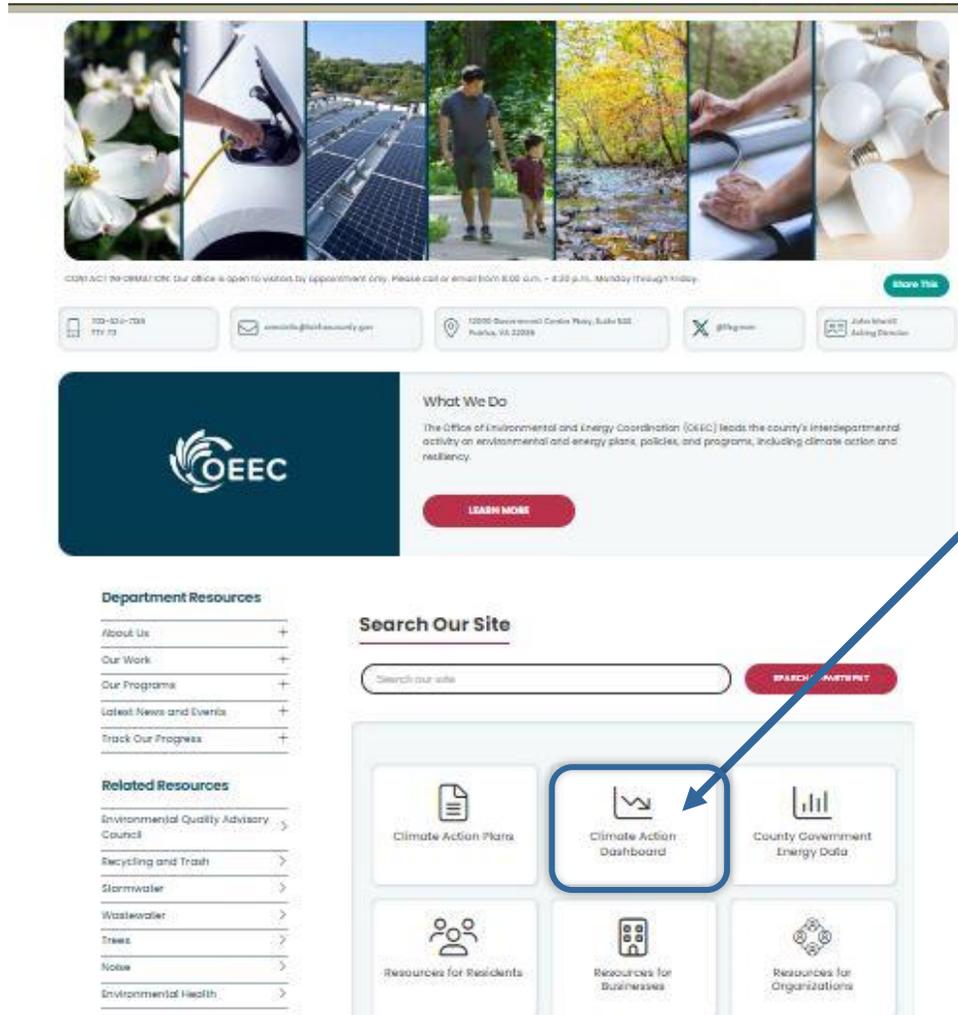
<b>Carbon Neutrality</b>	Carbon neutrality for the population by 2050 (87% reduction)
<b>Energy Supply</b>	Virginia Clean Economy Act (100% clean by 2045)
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	All new, eligible buildings have a commitment to green building
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	Retrofit at least 100,000 housing units with energy efficiency by 2030
<b>Transport</b>	Increase transit, non-motorized, and telework* commuting to 30% by 2030
<b>Transport</b>	Electric vehicle registrations (PHEVs and BEVs) to 15% by 2030
<b>Natural Resources</b>	60% tree canopy overall in the County
<b>Natural Resources</b>	100% of Census Tracts have >=40% canopy by 2030
<b>Waste</b>	Zero waste by 2040 (90% waste diverted from the landfill/incineration)



\*Due to teleworking during the pandemic, this goal was surpassed, but will likely regress as workers return to the office

Bars = Where we are    ▼ = Where we should be    ★ = Final Goal

# These metrics and are available on the updated Climate Action Dashboard!



# Group 3 Highlights: for Businesses and Community Associations

Coordination,  
Funding,  
Legislation

Development  
Codes, Plans,  
Policies

Community  
Services, Aid,  
Engagement,  
Incentives

Natural  
Resources

County  
Facilities and  
Operations

Data and  
Research

## Green Business Partners

Growing network of private sector Leaders, Members, and Allies learning about sustainability and sharing experiences in climate action. Participants range from sole proprietorships to Fortune 100 companies.



## Charge Up Fairfax

Program helps community associations access electric vehicle charging for residents and their guests. 10 communities engaged in pilot; new application round to come in May 2024.



## Energy Conservation Assistance Program

Expanded program provides reimbursement for clean energy and resiliency upgrades at community associations, non-profits and places of worship.



Energy Conservation  
Assistance Program

## Green Business Partners

- Supports Fairfax County businesses in creating a **carbon neutral economy** through collaboration and learning opportunities that advance climate action
- Three categories: **Leaders, Members, Allies**
- **Program benefits:**
  - Get Recognition
  - Enhance Your Sustainability Efforts
  - Save Money and Time
  - It's free!



[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/  
environment-energy-  
coordination/green-business](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/green-business)

# Charge Up Fairfax

- Designed to help community associations provide **at-home electric vehicle (EV) charging** for residents and their guests.
- Currently working with **10 pilot communities** to offer engineering site visit, feasibility memo and grants.
- Communities are eligible for reimbursement:
  - 1/3 of eligible costs, **up to \$5,000**
  - **\$10,000** for communities in high vulnerability areas
- Applications open again **May 1!**



[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/  
environment-energy-  
coordination/charge-up-fairfax](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/charge-up-fairfax)

# Energy Conservation Assistance Program



- A cost-share program managed by OEEC and NVSWCD
- Eligible applicants:
  - **HOAs, Places of Worship, Non-Profit organizations**
- Qualifying projects are eligible for reimbursement
  - **50% or up to \$5,000** for an energy audit
  - **50% or up to \$10,000** for energy efficiency, solar or resilience projects

**\*\* Applications MUST be pre-approved** prior to start of work\*\*



<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/going-solar>

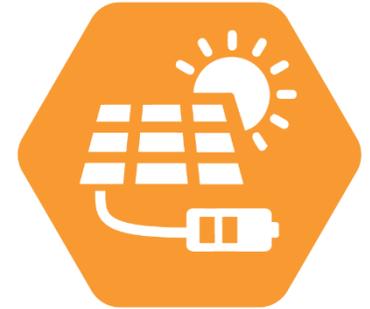
# Going Solar in Fairfax County

- ☀️ Works year-round in any weather
- ☀️ Reduces your energy bills
- ☀️ Boosts your home's value
- ☀️ Reduces your environmental impact



With **Solarize Virginia and Solar Switch**, homeowners can sign up to receive a free solar satellite assessment, discounted prices from vetted installer and customer support throughout the process.

Fairfax County also offer waived permit fees and [tax exemptions on solar equipment](#).



[www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/energy-conservation-assistance-program](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/energy-conservation-assistance-program)

# Resources: Videos, Fact Sheets, Checklists and More!



### SWITCHING TO AN EV: A RESOURCE GUIDE



- English (PDF)
- Spanish / Español (PDF)
- Korean / 한국어 (PDF)
- Vietnamese / Tiếng Việt (PDF)
- Arabic / العربية (PDF)

## MYTH vs. FACT: SOLAR POWER



- MYTH:** Solar doesn't work in the winter or when it's cloudy.  
**FACT:** Solar panels are effective throughout all four seasons, no matter where you live. They can withstand rain, snow, or cloudy weather.<sup>1</sup>
- MYTH:** The cost of solar outweighs the benefits.  
**FACT:** Solar pays for itself in 10 years, and you'll enjoy reduced energy bills, tax incentives, and extra protection during extreme weather.<sup>2</sup>
- MYTH:** It's not worth installing solar because I could move one day.  
**FACT:** Solar energy can save money on utility bills and boost your home's market and property values.<sup>3</sup>
- MYTH:** Installing solar is too complicated.  
**FACT:** Solar group purchasing programs make getting solar easier by providing information and benefits to participants.
- MYTH:** Solar doesn't make a big environmental difference.  
**FACT:** By using renewable energy instead of fossil fuels, you help reduce pollution and planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

1 <https://www.energy.gov/ene/solar/how-does-solar-work>  
2 <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/solarize-fairfax-county>  
3 <https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/benefits-residential-solar-electricity>

### Home Energy Checklist

10 actions to take at home to save money and lower your carbon footprint

Action	Cost Up Front	Yearly Savings	CO2e Reduction (lbs per year)
1 Estimate your current carbon footprint using an online calculator. Write down your current yearly emissions.	Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
2 Reserve a thermal camera and a free energy efficiency kit from a Fairfax County public library to give you a head start with DIY home energy solutions.	Free	Does Not Apply	Does Not Apply
3 Adjust your thermostat up or down a few degrees during the summer (78F degrees) and winter months (68F degrees) to reduce energy used by air conditioning and heating.	Free	\$160	↓↓↓ 1,700
6 Replace your incandescent and CFL bulbs with LED light bulbs, which are much more energy-efficient while producing the same light.	\$70	\$160	↓↓↓ 1,400

### Fairfax County Climate Action Checklist

for Individuals

Check when complete	Action	Picture	Incentives and Resources for Residents	Climate Action Type	Category	\$ Cost Up Front	\$ Yearly Savings (estimate)	CO2e Yearly savings (lbs per year) (estimate)
	temperature rises again.		<a href="#">DOE</a>	Emissions	Buildings	FREE		
11	Thermostat settings during warm months: Turn your thermostat up a few degrees (78° recommended) during the summer months to reduce energy used by air conditioning.		<a href="#">See 11 Things You Didn't Know About Saving Energy at Home</a>	Emissions	Buildings	FREE	\$50	460
12	Thermostat settings during cold months: Turn your thermostat down a few degrees (68° recommended) in the winter months to save on heating. Wear an extra layer of clothing.		<a href="#">Thermostat Settings This Winter   DOE</a>	Emissions	Buildings	FREE	\$113	1,270
13	Dry your clothes on a clothesline or drying rack instead of in a dryer to eliminate energy used drying clothes.		<a href="#">16 Ways to Save Money in the Laundry Room   DOE</a>	Emissions	Buildings	FREE	\$91	830
14	Wash your clothes in cold water instead of hot water to save energy on water heating.		<a href="#">16 Ways to Save Money in the Laundry Room   DOE</a>	Emissions	Buildings	FREE	\$42	377
15	Turn on the power management features of your computer so that the computer uses less unnecessary energy.		<a href="#">Energy Efficient Computers, Home Office Equipment, and Electronics   DOE</a>	Emissions	Buildings	FREE	\$13	116

For more please see: <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-residents>

## More Information and Resources

- **Website:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination)
- **Climate Action Dashboard:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/climate-action](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/climate-action)
- **Resources for Organizations:** [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-organizations](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/resources-organizations)
- **X/Twitter:** [@ffxgreen](https://twitter.com/ffxgreen)
- **Facebook:** [/fairfaxcountyclimate](https://www.facebook.com/fairfaxcountyclimate)

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[https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/  
environment-energy-  
coordination/newsletters](https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/environment-energy-coordination/newsletters)

# Thank you!



**Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination**

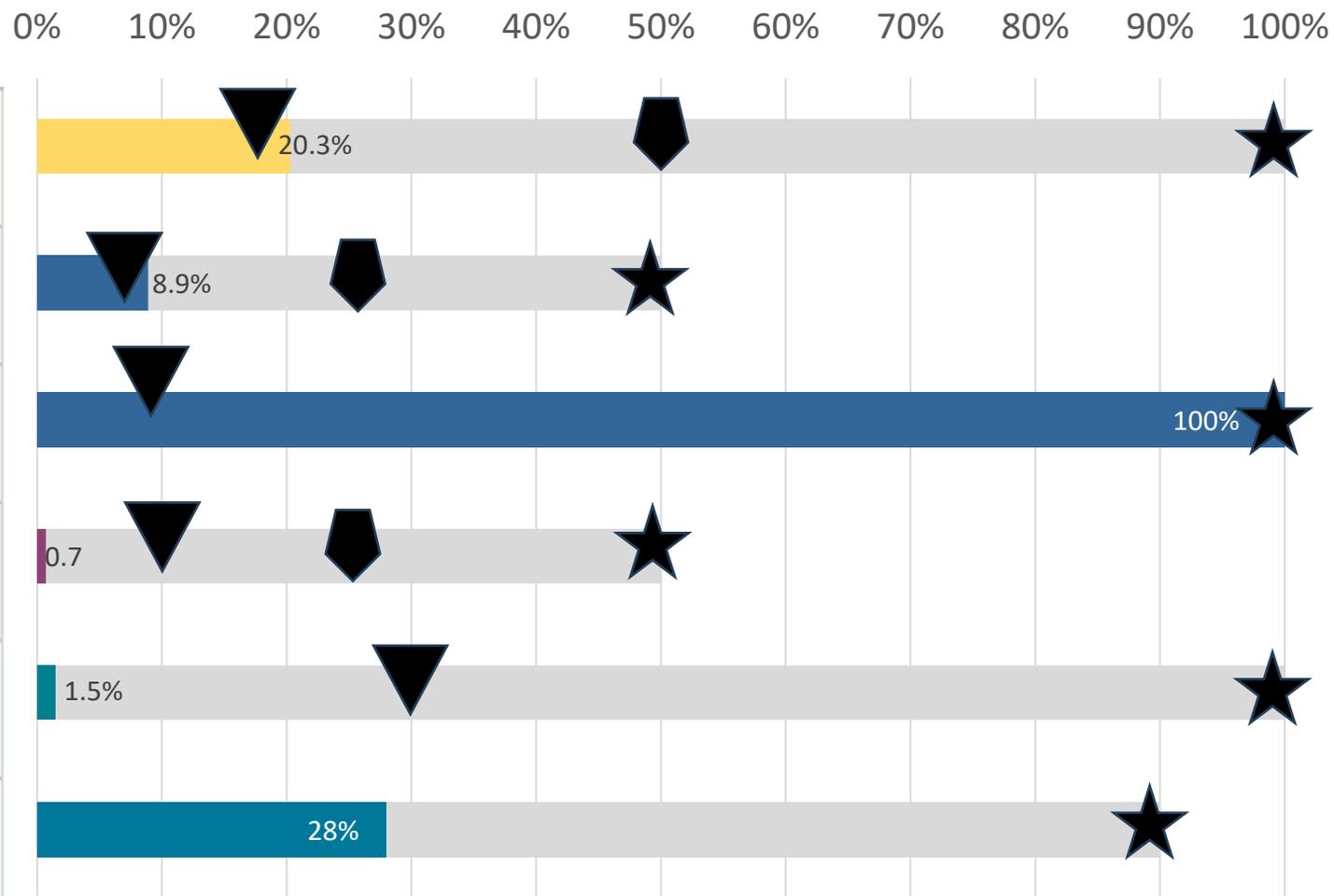
**703-324-7136 TTY 711**

**[oeecinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:oeecinfo@fairfaxcounty.gov)**



# Outcomes: OES (*Emissions Reduction for County Government*)

<b>Carbon Neutrality</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Energy Carbon Neutrality by 2040</li> <li>• 50% GHG emissions reduction by 2030</li> </ul>
<b>Energy Efficiency</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% building energy reduction by 2040</li> <li>• 25% building energy reduction by 2030</li> </ul>
<b>Green Buildings</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New bldgs. LEED Gold + 50% Savings</li> <li>• <i>[Future]</i> Net Zero Energy + All-Electric</li> </ul>
<b>Renewables</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 50% renewable electricity by 2040</li> <li>• 25% renewable electricity by 2030</li> </ul>
<b>Fleet</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fleet is fully electric or non-carbon by 2035</li> </ul>
<b>Waste</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Achieve Zero Waste by 2030 (% waste tonnage diverted from landfill)</li> </ul>



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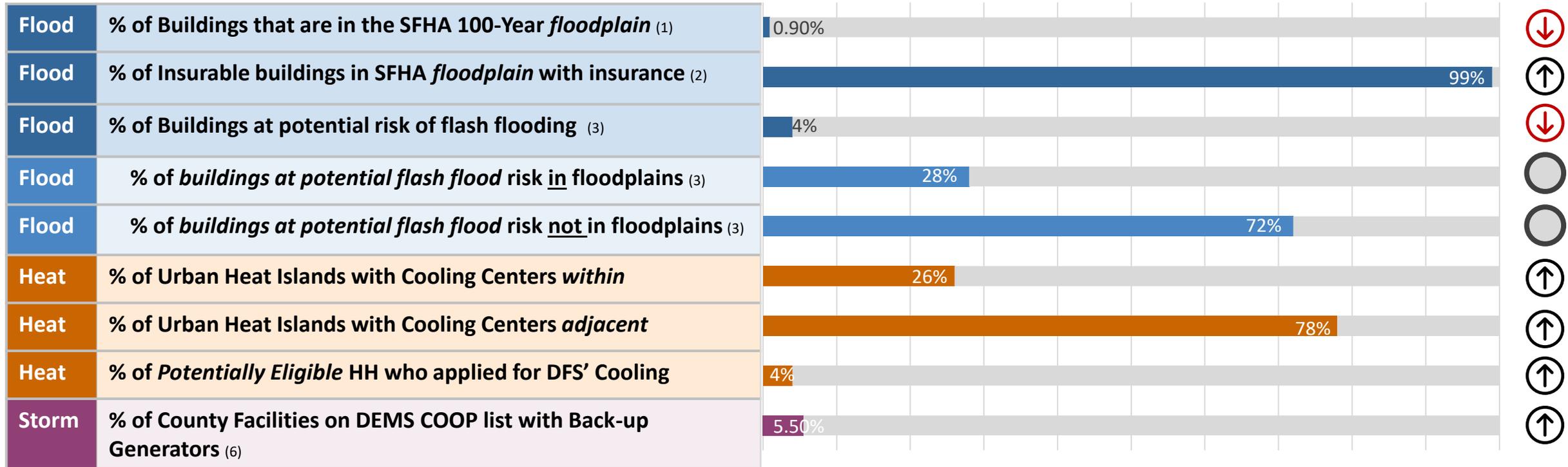


# Outcome Tracking: *Resilient Fairfax*

Please note: There are dozens of additional Resilient Fairfax metrics that cannot be logically expressed as status bars.

⬇️ Goal is to decrease.   ⬆️ Goal is to increase.   ○ General tracking to understand issues.

0% 10% 20% 30% 40% 50% 60% 70% 80% 90% 100%



(1) Data is based on the 2010 FEMA FIRM.

(2) Buildings in the SFHA have a mandatory flood insurance purchase requirement as a condition for obtaining a federally backed mortgage.

(3) Based on DPWES' [Analyzing Flood Risk Story Map](#)