



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

April 15, 2020

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Garrett Toy, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Receive report from a Climate Action Committee (CAC) Subcommittee regarding the exploration of a solar battery back-up system at the Pavilion and microgrid concept

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report from a Climate Action Committee (CAC) Subcommittee regarding the exploration of a solar battery back-up system at the Pavilion and microgrid concept.

DISCUSSION

At the March 4th meeting, the Council discussed the workplan prepared by the CAC. The Council requested the workplan be placed on a future Council agenda for a further discussion. Staff indicated it would report back to the Council with cost estimates regarding some of the CAC recommended improvements. However, the impact of COVID-19 has delayed this process and staff will report on its findings at a future Council meeting.

In the interim, Vice Mayor Ackerman wanted the Council to receive the attached report from one CAC subcommittee regarding the concept of adding battery storage to the Pavilion solar system, which would allow the Pavilion itself to have electricity when the grid is down. The CAC subcommittee suggests that the Pavilion would then be able to serve as a Community Resiliency Center during prolonged power outages (e.g., PSPS). While there are staffing issues associated with using the Pavilion for this purpose, these issues can be discussed at a future Council meeting.

In the longer term, the CAC subcommittee would like to explore the concept of the other Town facilities (e.g., Town Hall, Community Center) being incorporated, along with additional solar generation and storage, to create what is referred to as a "microgrid". These "linked" buildings would share the storage resources and be able to keep operating during prolonged power shutoffs.

The CAC subcommittee wants to move forward with a design of a battery storage system for the Pavilion. The plans would be used to obtain estimates for the costs as well as provide the needed info for any grant applications. Vice Mayor Ackerman estimates the cost for the plans to be less than \$5,000. Unless the Council feels otherwise, staff will move forward with the work.

FISCAL IMPACT

The FY19-20 budget allocates \$20,000 in energy improvements for Town owned facilities.

ATTACHMENT

Climate Action Committee subcommittee report