



TOWN OF FAIRFAX

STAFF REPORT

August 4, 2021

TO: Mayor and Town Council

FROM: Michele Gardner, Town Clerk

SUBJECT: Receive annual report from the Fairfax Climate Action Committee

RECOMMENDATION

Receive report.

DISCUSSION

The Climate Action Committee (CAC) prepared the attached report for the Town Council's information.

FISCAL IMPACT

N/a

ATTACHMENT

CAC report

To: Fairfax Town Council
From: Fairfax Climate Action Committee
Re: Report on Committee Progress, FY 2020-2021
Date: 2021.06.15

In early 2020, the CAC hosted a half-day retreat to build our plan for the remainder of 2020 and the FY 2020-2021. Included with that plan was a budget request to support our activities.

Due to the Coronavirus, the Town was unable to allocate any funding to the CAC. Also, we were greatly constrained in our possible activities. Nonetheless, we persisted, and did everything we could to support you and the people of this Town, and ultimately the health of the environment we all inhabit and on which we all depend.

The purpose of this report is to document the successes we were able to manage in the face of these challenging circumstances.

Effort 1: Build Capacity and Effectiveness of the CAC. Specifically, we intended to do the following:

- 1.1. *Goal: Our committee will be operating smoothly, and people will have long-range clear notice of upcoming CAC events and activities.* ACCOMPLISHED.
- 1.2. *Goal: We will have 10 strongly contributing members of the CAC.* ACCOMPLISHED. But, we recently had one member move to another city and we continue to seek new members to build our strength.
- 1.3. *Goal: We will have the support of, and collaboration with the Town Council.* Accomplished. We are very grateful for the leadership and participation of Mayor Ackerman and Vice-Mayor Hellman, as well as the support from the other members of the Council.
- 1.4. *Goal: We will have the support of, and collaboration with the Town Staff.* Partially accomplished. We have established, through Mayor Ackerman and Vice-Mayor Hellman, a more productive relationship with the Town Staff. We have struggled to have needed support with representation at MCE. We hope to continue to build links and productive relations with Town staff.
- 1.5. *Goal: We have a youth member on the sub-committees of the CAC.* Partially accomplished. We had one youth member who participated in a number of our meetings, but he was unable to complete his term. We continue to seek youth membership on our committee.

Effort 2: Build Community Engagement and Support. Specifically, we intended to do the following:

- 2.1 *Goal: Council has developed a funding plan for Climate Change Mitigation, including serious consideration of adding staff for this purpose.* Not accomplished. As noted earlier, the Covid crisis prevented the Town from supporting this goal.

- 2.2 *Goal: The Meter is active and updated monthly, with content that is interesting and talked about in Fairfax and beyond.* Not accomplished. This is one of the tasks that would have been fulfilled by the proposed staff person.
- 2.3 *Goal: CAC has held several town meetings.* Accomplished. We hosted monthly meetings through the fall and winter to talk with Town residents about the Climate Action Plan.
- 2.4 *Goal: ClimateFX.org and mailing lists are up to date and in active use.* Accomplished. Our social media presence continues to improve, and this is helping us to build engagement in the community.
- 2.5 *Goal: All town channels for official communications are available to promote FXCAC goals.* Accomplished. We now publish a weekly article in the Town Newsletter.

Effort 3: Carbon-Neutral Town Operations. Specifically, we intended to do the following:

- 3.1 *Goal: We will achieve carbon neutrality for all Town Operations by June, 2021.* Not accomplished. The funds we had allocated for a first phase to electrify the Women's center were diverted to other uses. No other efforts were made in this direction. We still have the Energy Audit results that we can act upon, when funds become available. We have included progress on this goal in our 2021-22 Annual Plan.
- 3.2 *Goal: We will implement Phase I of a microgrid for the Town buildings.* Not accomplished. We hope to complete the first phase of this project during this current fiscal year.

Effort 4: Double-Down MCE. Specifically, we intended to do the following:

- 4.1 *Goal: Get Deep Green participation from 262 to 525 participants.* Not accomplished. We had previously made progress on this one by in-person events and a grant that Council member Coler had secured. With the virus and without the grant, we were shut down from our primary tools. We spent considerable time working with MCE staff to try to promote the program. We did publish on the blog, our website, and the Town Newsletter, as well as sporadic mentions at the Town council meeting during public expression. We entered into a competition with San Anselmo in an attempt to excite our residents. We deployed MCE promotional materials in the Town. These efforts did not bear fruit, and our numbers remain where they were.
- 4.2 *Goal: Raise \$6,000 to support this effort.* Not accomplished. As noted, a big reason for our success in earlier years was the grant secured by Council member Coler. Our hope was to replicate this accomplishment but the business conditions from the virus made it impossible.

Effort 5: Complete Fairfax Action Plan Update. Specifically, we intended to do the following:

- 5.1 *Goal: The Fairfax 2030 Climate Action Plan will be completed and approved by the Fairfax Town Council by the end of this fiscal year.* Accomplished.

Effort 6: Implementing Ordinances. Specifically, we intended to do the following:

- 6.1 *Goal: Pass Tier 2 Cal Green.* Not accomplished. Included in the Climate Action Plan for future implementation.
- 6.2 *Goal: Pass Marin County Reach Codes Ordinance for Energy.* Partially accomplished. As you know, due to delays in taking this up, the County Staff advised us to implement an All-Electric ordinance in lieu of the Electric-preferred code. The Town Council has accepted this recommendation and staff are currently developing the needed ordinance.
- 6.3 *Goal: Pass low-carbon concrete ordinance.* Not accomplished. Included in the pending Climate Action Plan for future implementation.
- 6.4 *Goal: Pass vehicle idling ordinance.* Not accomplished. Included in the pending Climate Action Plan for future implementation.
- 6.5 *Goal: Pass ordinance to phase out fossil-fuel burning yard equipment, beginning in 2027.* Not accomplished. Included in the pending Climate Action Plan for future implementation.
- 6.6 *Goal: Pass Methane phase-out by 2030.* Not accomplished. Included in the pending Climate Action Plan for future implementation.
- 6.7 *Goal: Explore ordinance to put air quality fee on gas-powered vehicles.* Not accomplished. Included in the pending Climate Action Plan for future implementation.