

## ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY COUNCIL (ESC)

### ENERGY TRANSITION SUBCOMMITTEE (ETS)

Thursday, April 1, 2021, Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams, 7:30 – 9:30 p.m.

#### DRAFT MINUTES

1. **Attendees:** Jon Ward (Chair), Mike Trauberman (ESC), Stacy Noblet. **City Staff:** Kate Walker (ESC ETS Staff Liaison). **City Council Liaison:** Debbie Hiscott. **Guest Speaker:** Ryan Van Patten (Local Energy Alliance Program [LEAP])

This meeting was held via electronic communications using ‘Microsoft Teams.’ This meeting was held pursuant to and in compliance with the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, Section 2.2-3708.2 and state and local legislation adopted to allow for continued government operation during the COVID-19 declared emergency. The recording of the meeting is available at [https://fallschurch-va.granicus.com/player/clip/1435?view\\_id=2&redirect=true](https://fallschurch-va.granicus.com/player/clip/1435?view_id=2&redirect=true).

2. **Home Energy Assessments:** Ryan Van Patten discussed LEAP’s energy audit and retrofit services, many of which are heavily subsidized by Dominion and Washington Gas programs and free for income-, age-, and disability-qualifying residents. Renters require property-owner approval, which can make implementation challenging. LEAP also offers a \$45 market-rate audit and services to homeowners in the Falls Church area. Kate & Debbie discussed outreach through the City’s Health and Human Services department and to seniors using existing mailing lists. Jon noted that the property manager for a City-owned low-income building had declined LEAP’s offer for an audit, for reasons unknown.
3. **Founders Row 2 Early Comments:** Attendees developed comments to be presented by the ESC at the Planning Commission’s April 7 Town Hall regarding the proposed Founders Row 2 project across from Founders Row 1. The proposal is for 319 rental units (339k sq.ft.) and a modest amount of ground-floor retail (16k sq.ft.). To support electric vehicle (EV) use, Stacy noted the benefit of installing Level 2 (208V/240V) chargers to support newer, longer-range vehicles; owners’ desires for fully charging overnight; and data interconnectivity for management of charging schedules.  
Action Item #1: Jon will draft and distribute comments recommending at least 5% of spaces initially equipped with chargers, and a site and electrical plan that facilitates adding extensive EV-charging infrastructure through the life of the building.  
Action Item #2: Mike will draft and distribute comments recommending LEED Gold certification (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) with energy consumption at least 10% below the LEED baseline if certifying under LEED version 4.1, or 20% if certifying under LEED version 4.0.
4. **Rooftop Solar:** Kate reported that the Capital Area Solar Co-Op has launched. It will have an April 5 info session. The co-op, covering D.C., Arlington, Falls Church, and multiple Maryland jurisdictions including Montgomery County, will seek bulk pricing from installers of solar panels and EV chargers. Separately, LEAP’s Solarize program selected the same contractor as in 2020.
5. **Next Meeting**
  - May 6, 2021, 7:30 p.m., likely virtual via Microsoft Teams.