

Kate Walker

From: Andrew Crawford <andrewcrawford230@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 2, 2019 8:57 AM
To: Carly Aubrey
Cc: Kate Walker
Subject: ESC comments on draft housing chapter for comprehensive plan

Notice: External E-mail.

Dear Carly,

The ESC appreciates the opportunity to submit the following comments on the draft housing chapter of the City's comprehensive plan.

The ESC is concerned that currently there is virtually no mention of environmental sustainability in the City's vision for housing or in other sections of the chapter. Housing is an important driver of the City's energy and natural resources consumption. The ESC would like to see the chapter reflect the aspiration that the City maximizes the sustainability of its housing stock through density, energy efficient design, use of sustainable materials and other features.

The ESC encourages the City to consider undertaking targeted activities that help promote environmentally sustainable housing. The City can best make progress on its overall environmental goals if it thoughtfully incorporates sustainability into its housing-related vision and initiatives. The ESC also believes that affordable housing should also be built to sustainable standards to increase home comfort and reduce cost of ownership/occupancy.

Specifically, the ESC recommends the following points be included in the draft chapter:

- The City supports denser forms of housing wherever possible as it is generally more environmentally friendly.
- The City encourages new forms of sustainable housing such as cottage housing.
- The City supports a diverse range of housing types to help provide housing for Falls Church City government and schools staff and private sector employees who work in the City, thereby minimizing energy consumption from commuting.
- The City promotes redevelopment of housing properties in the most sustainable fashion. (We suggest adding the following words to Appendix 1: "Rehabilitation of houses should encourage the use of environmentally sustainable design and practices and encourage use of solar panels and geothermal heating and cooling where feasible.)"

Thank you very much.

Best regards,

Andy Crawford

ESC Chair