

MOTION:

**June 22, 2021
Regular Meeting
Res. No. 21-**

SECOND:

**RE: ESTABLISH AND APPOINT _____ AND _____ TO A JOINT
COUNTY / SCHOOL ENVIRONMENTAL TASKFORCE**

ACTION:

WHEREAS, there is scientific consensus regarding the reality of climate change and the recognition that human activity, especially the combustion of fossil fuels that create greenhouse gases, is a key driver of climate change; and

WHEREAS, climate change has been widely recognized by government, business, academic, and other community leaders as a worldwide threat with the potential to harm our economy, safety, public health, and quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County Comprehensive Plan includes an Environment Plan which is designed “to ensure that in developing the County, the natural beauty is preserved, water quality is protected, property values and quality of life are enhanced, and ecological diversity is preserved”; and

WHEREAS, on November 17, 2020, the Prince William County Board of Supervisors passed a resolution pledging Prince William County to endorse and pursue Metropolitan Council of Government’s (COG) clean energy goals of 100% of Prince William County’s electricity to be from renewable sources by 2035, for Prince William County Government operations to achieve 100% renewable electricity by 2030, and for Prince William County to be 100% carbon neutral by 2050; and

WHEREAS, the aforementioned resolution included a countywide commitment to the need to incorporate equity principles and environmental justice into the Community Energy Master Plan as well as the entire Environment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, on June 10, 2020, the Prince William County School Board (PWCS) passed a sustainability initiative which, in part, “Request that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors, in concert with the School Board, create a countywide task force to address sustainability, clean energy opportunities, and operational resiliency for all government buildings, thereby leveraging the assets of the entire county to reduce the costs of moving toward clean energy options”; and

WHEREAS, the Prince William County School Board desires to create measurable standards of environmental literacy, to include a focus on sustainability, for all K-12 students in PWCS, as well as the establishment of project-based learning opportunities throughout the Prince William County community; and

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WHEREAS, all Prince William County residents should have the opportunity to engage in sustainability, including environmental educational experiences; connections to the outdoors; and access to a diverse portfolio of recreational facilities, services, and programs; and

WHEREAS, members of both the Board of County Supervisors and the School Board voice support for the need for collaboration to collectively address sustainability goals and initiatives in Prince William County;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby authorizes the creation of a Joint Environmental Taskforce with the Prince William County School Board to address sustainability, clean energy opportunities, and operational resiliency for all government buildings and services, thereby leveraging the assets of the entire county to reduce the costs of moving toward clean energy options, and herein defines the scope of its mission, membership, staff support, and reporting timeline;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Prince William Board of County Supervisors hereby appoints _____ as liaison and _____ as alternate liaison to serve as the Prince William Board of County Supervisors representatives and to the Joint Environmental Taskforce.

Mission: The mission of the Prince William County Board of Supervisors/School Board Joint Environmental Taskforce ("JET") is to collaboratively unify the political, operational, and administrative capabilities of the county and school division to proactively and equitably address climate change and environmental sustainability.

The JET will provide a forum for informing, advising, collaborating, and addressing countywide issues and aligning institutional policies and practices pertaining to climate change and environmental sustainability through the equity lens being continuously applied by both the county and the PWCS. In addition, it shall recommend to the Board of County Supervisors and to the School Board funding priorities that are identified by the Community Energy Master Plan (CEMP) and the relevant County and PWCS staff that would benefit from program collaboration between the county and PWCS. As the Taskforce will be a public body, meetings of the Taskforce are subject to the open meetings requirement of the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), and the records of the group are likewise subject to FOIA.

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Membership: The JET shall have not more than fourteen (14) members. These members shall consist of:

- A primary and alternate liaison from the Prince William County Board of Supervisors and School Board; alternate liaisons do not count toward the maximum count.
- 8 appointees made by the County Executive and Superintendent (4 by each) from the Prince William County and PWCS Offices of Sustainability or their equivalent and any other entities or individuals deemed relevant to the overall mission of the taskforce.
- An appointee each made by the Prince William Sustainability Commission and Superintendent's Advisory Council on Sustainability.
- A school-aged appointee each made by The Board of County Supervisors and School Board.

Members shall serve on the JET without compensation. The JET will elect a Chair and a Vice Chair among themselves, along with any other officers its membership deems appropriate, and establish its own rules of procedure.

Staff Support: The County Executive will provide staff support to the JET and the Board of County Supervisors requests that the Prince William County Schools Superintendent also provide PWCS staff support for the JET. The County Executive will have the authority to utilize existing county staff resources and/or identify new staff and resources necessary to support the JET.

Reporting: The JET will work throughout the year to collaborate on sustainability issues. No less frequently than annually it will report to the Board of County Supervisors and School Board on its activities. Additionally, not less frequently than annually it will make recommendations to both Boards regarding issues of concern, best practices, and needed funding to address climate change and improve environmental sustainability in Prince William County.

Votes:

Ayes:

Nays:

Absent from Vote:

Absent from Meeting:

ATTEST: _____

Clerk to the Board