



Fresh AIRE: Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions

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Overview

Climate disruption is one of the most serious challenges facing our world today. Local governments must take steps to address this growing threat. Arlington County is launching an ambitious initiative to significantly reduce its own emissions. Paul Ferguson, Arlington County Board Chairman for 2007, is championing **Fresh AIRE – Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions** -- a collaboration between County government, businesses, organizations, and individuals.

Key elements of Arlington Initiative to Reduce Emissions

- **Reduce Arlington County government's greenhouse gas emissions 10%** from 2000 to 2012, by:
 - Increasing purchase of **wind-generated electricity to 5%** of the County government's total electricity use in 2007 – up from 3% currently.
 - Installing **solar energy technology** (e.g., solar water heating) in one or two County facilities, to demonstrate its use and feasibility.
 - Continuing to invest in energy efficiency in County facilities, **reducing energy usage by at least 2% a year.**
 - Preparing a **strategic energy plan** and **climate action plan** for County operations and the community.
 - Strengthening the County's green building policy for public buildings by **requiring new major public buildings to achieve LEED™** (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) certification.
 - **Planting at least 1,200 trees** as a key component of an integrated environmental strategy.
- **Work with other localities** around the region and the nation and join other existing efforts, in addition to our membership in [ICLEI](#) (International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives).
- Recognize, assist and **encourage businesses** to reduce emissions and energy needs. Partner with the federal **ENERGY STAR™ program** and other resources to help businesses cut energy use.
- **Encourage residents** to reduce their energy usage by:
 - Driving a **fuel-efficient car**, walking, biking, or taking **transit**.
 - Conducting free **energy audits** for 20 Arlington households and sharing their stories with others.
 - Using ENERGY STAR-rated **compact fluorescent light bulbs**. If every household in Arlington replaced one frequently-used incandescent light bulb with a compact fluorescent, Arlingtonians would **save half a million dollars a year** and reduce as much CO₂ as **removing 1,000 cars from our roads**.
- Launch a **website**, www.arlingtonva.us/climate, which will include self-assessments, tips, case studies, information, and a **blog**. This website will keep the community updated on efforts in the County, across the region, and around the world on best practices to cut emissions.

Arlington County government will reduce its greenhouse gas emissions by 10% from 2000 to 2012.

What you can do

- **Learn more.** Visit our website, www.arlingtonva.us/climate, to learn more about climate disruption and what we can do as individuals to reduce our own energy usage and greenhouse gas emissions. If we all do our part, together we can make a tremendous difference.
- **Stay informed.** Sign up for your free subscription to [Arlington Insider](#), a **free biweekly e-newsletter**. You'll learn the latest news on the Fresh AIRE initiative.

"Arlington will be a diverse and inclusive world-class urban community with secure, attractive residential and commercial neighborhoods where people unite to form a caring, learning, participating, sustainable community in which each person is important."