



# **Cool Fairfax and the Cool Neighborhoods Program**

## **Global Warming**

**More and more people are concerned...**

**More and more people are asking:**

**What can ordinary citizens do?**

## Why Should We Act?

Because together we can ...

- Address a serious global threat
- Have a healthier environment
- Save money
- Model responsible behavior for others
- Leave a better world for our children

On July 16, 2007  
**Fairfax County**  
joined King County, WA and the Sierra Club to  
create  
**“Cool Counties”**  
within the National Association of  
Counties

Members of Cool Counties agreed to reduce  
greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050 or about  
2% a year.

## By 2008, 33 Cool Counties in 16 States had signed on



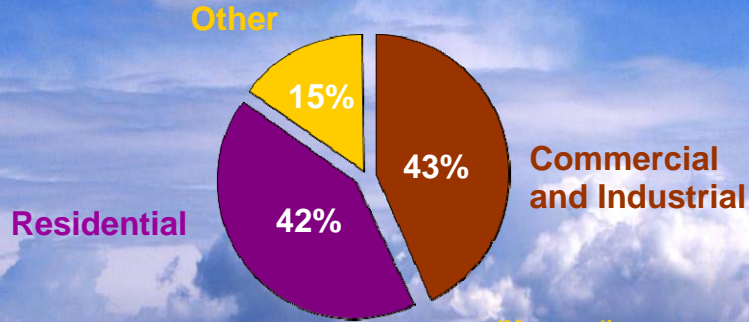
Five are in Virginia: Fairfax, Arlington, Albemarle, New Kent, James City

## Why Is Action Important?

- **Fairfax County emits nearly 16 million tons of carbon emissions each year**
- **This is largely from the fossil-based energy we consume (especially coal, natural gas, oil, and gasoline)**

## County Carbon Emissions

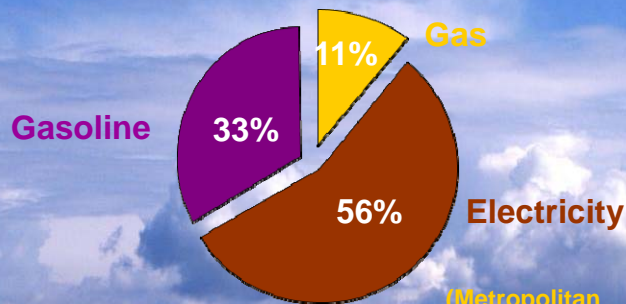
85% come from homes and businesses



(Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 2005 figures)

## County Carbon Emissions

Most carbon emissions in Virginia come from coal burned to generate electricity



(Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments 2005 figures)

## The County Takes Action

- Reducing emissions from County vehicles (cars, buses, trucks)



Priuses and electric vehicles

## The County Takes Action

- Helping citizens lower emissions (mass transit, bike/walking trails, recycling)



## The County Takes Action

- **Building green County buildings and passing Green Building Ordinance**



Green roof: Herry parking structure



Green building: Oakton Library

**Fairfax County Has Made a Good Start**

**And Now Your Participation Is Important**

**Households can help lower total County carbon emissions by working together to reduce energy use**



## **Introducing Cool Neighborhoods**

**A Voluntary Citizen's Program to  
Address Climate Change**

**... Household by Household ...**

**...Community by Community...**



## **How Does It Work?**

**Each Participating household that reduces its carbon emissions annually by 2% earns a 'cool neighbor' recognition by the county (\*)**

**If at least 20% of homeowners qualify as cool neighbors, the county recognizes the community as a 'cool neighborhood'**

**\* Households who show an emission level already 20% below the county average are automatically recognized as 'cool neighbors'**

## Who are the key players?

**Community Leaders (e.g. HOA boards)**  
Support the effort

**Liaison(s)**  
Communicate with homeowners and county\*  
*\* 1 liaison per roughly 70 households*

**Homeowners**  
Inventory, select and take actions

## Leadership

- **Commits to supporting the program**
- **Identifies Liaison(s) within the community to facilitate the program**
- **Introduces the program to neighbors by e-mail, flyers, meeting, etc.**
- **Gets participants to pledge/agree to the overall goals**

## Liaisons

**Follow up introduction by leadership to identify participants**

**Communicate intent to participate to the county**

**Inform participants about resources available for taking actions**

**Record and send to the county data summary from homeowners**

*(Guidelines are on the Website)*

## Homeowners

- **Inventory annual emissions (using county's calculator)**
- **Select and implement actions during the year**
- **Monitor progress\* annually and report it to the liaison**

*\*Progress is measured in terms of reduction in the ratio of household emissions to the Fairfax County average for a family of similar size.*

## What Data Do Homeowners Record?

- Name, address and number of full time and part time residents
- Electricity consumption, past 12 months\*
- Natural gas and/or fuel oil consumption, past 12 months\*
- Water used, last four quarters\*
- Estimated gasoline and/or diesel consumption\*\*

\* Data available by calling utilities, on the web or on the last bill

\*\* Estimated from miles driven and average mpg

## Calculator

### Household Energy and Carbon Dioxide Tabulation

(Complete shaded cells, as applicable)

Name  
Address 1  
Address 2  
Start: (Month, Year)  
End: (Month, Year)

Yearly Energy Consumption Type: Units	Amount	Lbs CO2 per unit	Lbs CO2 Subtotals	Vehicle	Miles/Yr	MPG	Gal. fuel
Electricity: kwh		1.54	1.54	Vehicle 1			
Natural gas: therms		12.3	12.3	Vehicle 2			
Oil: gallons		22.4	22.4	Vehicle 3			
Propane: gallons		12.7	12.7	Vehicle 4			
Gasoline: gallons		19.6	19.6				0.0
Diesel: gallons		22.4	22.4	Diesel Vehicle			
Aviation: miles (FYI - not used)		18.4		No 1			
Water: 1000 gallons		8.5	8.5	No 2			0.0
<b>Household CO2 Emissions (HCE) - Total</b>			<b>99</b>				

Adjusted Household Standard (AHS) and Ratio			Calculation of number of residents	
Number of residents	2.74	0.0	No. Full time	
Multiplier	1	0.300	Part time, months	
Adjusted Household Standard	53,800	16140	Average	0.0
My Performance Ratio (HCE/AHS)		<b>0.006</b>		

## Resources Available on the Web

1. Flyer to introduce the program (pdf)
2. Power point to present program to homeowners (ppt)
3. Guidelines for Liaisons (or Coordinator)
4. Form to compile and record emission data (pdf)
5. Excel Calculator for the above
6. Excel spreadsheet to help the liaisons to record data
7. Suggested “cool” actions (pdf)

## Other Benefits

- Lower utility bills
- Community spirit
- Better property values
- Teaching your kids through actions
- Serve as model for other neighborhoods

## For More Information

- Check out [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/)
- Contact the Chairman's Office, Board of Supervisors at 703-324-2321 or [chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov](mailto:chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov)