



Climate Change

We need bold actions to tackle the climate crisis head on.

The Opportunity

Climate change affects all of our lives. It's effects, however, are not always felt equally. The inequities exacerbated by climate change are apparent not only on a national scale, but also within our City. Communities of color, low-income communities, and other vulnerable populations, such as persons with disabilities, children, and the elderly, are disproportionately burdened by the effects of climate change and environmental injustices like lack of equitable access to green spaces, public transportation, and unhealthy housing. The reality of our changing climate means that every decision we make is a climate change decision and our decisions--whether transportation, economic development, or housing--must be rooted in equity.

Like with our other challenges, the climate crisis also presents an opportunity: to manage, design, plan, and build our community in a way that ensures we can all breathe clean air, drink clean water, live in healthy and efficient buildings, and share the benefits of a prosperous community. It also offers an opportunity to build a sustainable economy, one that can better withstand future climate impacts, enhance our community resilience, and grow local job opportunities. We cannot approach this piecemeal. There isn't a silver bullet. We must look at the set of tools we have across all sectors and ensure that we are creating multiplier effects that help us address this crisis.

Goals:

- Ensure we fulfill the environmental sustainability commitments outlined in the Environmental Action Plan and that we do so with an explicit focus on equity to ensure fair and just treatment in the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental policies.
- Guarantee that when our City Council considers infrastructure issues--sidewalks, transportation, stormwater, housing--we draw upon our community's expertise and the latest science, expand opportunities for co-decision making and transparent engagement.
- Accelerate our efforts to create affordable, healthy, safe and energy efficient homes and commercial buildings through promoting green building and more clean energy options such as rooftop solar for citizens and commercial enterprises.
- Prioritize transit-oriented development that promotes multimodal options such as biking, walking and mass transit in a manner that places safety for both users and drivers in the forefront.
- Use creative approaches to discover opportunities, use public resources efficiently, consider development tradeoffs in order to increase climate resilience for all of Alexandria.
- Increase the walkability of our city by prioritizing Vision Zero, ensuring ADA accessibility, and eliminating food and other amenity deserts, all of which have measurable effects on our greenhouse gas emissions.

- Engage youth, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders in shaping and advancing solutions, as well as developing metrics to hold us accountable.
- Incorporate nature-based solutions, including tree planting and living shorelines, to ensure climate and biodiversity benefits.
- Work with businesses across the city to help reduce private sector carbon emissions, including incentivizing operators and owners to make existing buildings more efficient and to develop energy plans.
- Work with the City's Race and Social Justice Officer to develop and facilitate more community engagement and to develop and outreach strategy and resources tailored to communities of color, low-income communities, and other communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change and environmental injustices.

Let's Work Together

- What would it take to ensure that every decision we make is filtered through a climate equity lens?
- What are the innovative solutions we can adapt to upgrade and modernize our existing buildings and infrastructure in the face of changing climate, including our stormwater management system?
- How can we educate and empower everyone to contribute to our goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 80% by 2050?
- How can our development process ensure that all of our future development is sustainable, equitable and respectful to our communities?

Alyia's Approach

Alyia is committed to advancing equitable results. Alyia knows that the people who are affected by a problem are most likely to know what's needed to fix it. She is prepared to reach out, ask questions, hear all perspectives, and review the data. She will work with the community to marshal our collective imagination to figure out next steps and implement a plan.