

SUMMARY OF EARTH DAY LEGISLATION SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBER ROGER BERLINER Passed Unanimously by the County Council

- Bill 2-14 Environmental Sustainability Buildings Benchmarking -- This legislation, modeled after laws in New York,
 Chicago, the District of Columbia, Seattle and a dozen jurisdictions, requires building owners to measure the energy
 efficiency of their buildings and make that information public. It is designed to work with the recently passed PACE
 program that I sponsored to create market based incentives for building owners to increase the efficiency of their
 buildings. Information provided would also aid tenants in forecasting future utility costs.
- <u>Bill 4-14 Streets and Roads County Street Lights</u> -- It is generally recognized that LED lighting is far more energy efficient and requires far less maintenance. This bill requires the DOT, upon the expiration of its current contract for street lighting in 2015, to contract with a company which commits to install LED lights or the best technology available over a set period of time. LED lights save money in the long haul due to increased reliability and lower maintenance costs.
- <u>Bill 5-14 Environmental Sustainability Social Cost of Carbon Assessments</u> -- The use of conventional fuels, particularly coal, extracts a cost on society that is not reflected in its price. These "external" costs should be factored into the cost/benefit calculations that the county utilizes when it assesses the potential for energy efficiency improvements. This bill requires the County to use EPA's "social cost of carbon" calculation or a comparable methodology for those purposes.
- <u>Bill 9-14 Environmental Sustainability Renewable Energy County Purchase</u> -- Today the County purchases approximately 30% of its energy from renewable energy resources. Washington, DC; Austin, Texas; and Portland, Oregon are already at 100% renewable energy. This bill requires the County move to 50% renewable purchasing by next year and 100% renewable purchasing by 2016.
- <u>Bill 10-14, Buildings Solar Permits Expedited Review</u> -- Two of the impediments to increased solar utilization are the cost and time involved in getting permits. This measure, patterned after a successful program in Chicago, requires the Department of Permitting Services to implement an expedited review process for permits to install rooftop solar photovoltaic systems, which will lead to significantly reduced fees for those permits.
- <u>Bill 11-14, Buildings EV Charging Station Permits Expedited Review</u> -- Just as in solar installations, EV charging stations can be subject to a lengthy and costly permitting process. This bill would require DPS to institute an expedited and less costly permitting process.
- <u>Bill 12-14, Personnel Telecommuting</u> -- Telecommuting is becoming far more common and accepted. Other jurisdictions, including Fairfax, have made significantly more progress in establishing telecommuting goals and meeting them. This legislation requires the County Executive to publish regulations that set forth a definitive telecommuting policy and a requirement to designate a telecommuting manager.
- Zoning Text Amendment 14-01, Parking Design Charging Stations -- Electric Vehicles will only become mainstream when there are sufficient charging stations to inspire confidence in the public. This ZTA would require all buildings that are constructing over 100 additional spaces to their already owned/constructed amount to be "EV ready" in anticipation of a growing EV market.
- Zoning Text Amendment 14-02, Exemptions Solar Panels -- Current set back requirements limit the use of solar in residential dwellings. This ZTA would exempt solar panels from height limits and would allow them to extend to 1.5 3 feet into side/rear setbacks consistent with roofs and porches.