

Mayor Wilson and Members of the Council:

Webster's defines farce as *an empty or patently ridiculous act, proceeding, or situation*.

The ratification of this Environmental Action Plan fairly well meets that description.

Here we are: a city, the majority of whose citizens believe the science around climate change.

A Mayor and City Council who want to heed the dire warnings of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and take real action in the ten years we have left to act.

All, living in a state whose Dillon Rule prevents the very actions required.

And living in a country whose president is removing all the incentives for action developed over the last twenty years.

The result is this plan, a fig leaf of proud statements about goals and aspirations, masking our inability to do anything at all of real significance. The only true commitment in this plan is to make all new city buildings net zero. Laudable, but a small percentage of all the city-owned structures, which is an even smaller percentage of all of Alexandria's buildings.

So what can the City do?

- One, it can at least go all the way in doing the things it is allowed to do by law: by 2030 make all existing city-owned buildings net zero energy and its fleet all-electric.
- Two, It can anticipate the day when a Democratic legislature exempts us from the Dillon Rule, and require City staff to prepare a plan right now to achieve a 50% greenhouse gas reduction in Alexandria by 2030 – a plan that will be ready to go the very day we get out from under that onerous rule.
- Three, it can require City staff, in developing that plan, to consult with other metropolitan jurisdictions, and particularly the District of Columbia, who with New York is leading the country toward achieving the IPCC 2030 benchmarks. To not depend solely upon highly paid consultants and the US Green Building Council, who have given us the cumbersome and ineffective plan we see here today.
- Four, you can use your positions of influence to reach out to the private sector and galvanize the public around the urgency of climate change. Reaching out to everyone -- from national corporations who are or want to be located here to individual citizens. Putting accountability for one's carbon footprint front and center. Motivating citizens to factor carbon into their decision about a car purchase or changes to their home. This would achieve two things: a small but meaningful reduction in carbon emissions and an increase in citizen awareness of the crisis we face.
- And finally, with that kind of public awareness you can collaborate with other northern VA leaders and jurisdictions to create a virtual revolution against the tyranny of the Dillon Rule, one that would be backed by citizens ready to go down and march in Richmond. It is that important.

I don't have the answers. But I know that developing a toothless plan and ignoring our impotence in taking real action is not the way to go. And I know that I, with believe many other citizens, am prepared to work with the City in any way I can to help find the answers – and equally prepared to push the City relentlessly on this existential issue.

Thank you.

David Peabody, 3417 Halcyon drive, Alexandria, VA 22305

Docket 19-2200

Prepared Notes for Cindy Wasser/Home Innovation Research Labs

On behalf of Home Innovation Research Labs, I respectfully request that NGBS Green certification based on the **ICC/ASHRAE – 700 National Green Building Standard** (NGBS) be recognized as a named alternative to LEED, Green Globes, and EarthCraft for compliance with the City of Alexandria's proposed Green Building Policy.

The City of Alexandria is remiss in not recognizing the NGBS for several reasons. First, as an ANSI-approved green building rating system that is also an ASHRAE Standard and part of the ICC I-codes, it is a credible and rigorous definition of green, high-performance buildings and recognized nationwide. Second, NGBS Green is currently the leading green building rating program nationally, certifying more homes and multifamily buildings than any other green certification program. Finally, NGBS Green is already the program of choice for many local builders and multifamily developers located in Alexandria and is an option for Virginia low-income housing.

The NGBS covers all residential development. Any multifamily building, or the residential portions of mixed-use buildings, regardless of height and construction type, can earn NGBS Green certification. Further, the 2020 version of the NGBS, expected in late 2019, will also allow entire mixed-use buildings (where the non-residential portion is 49% or less) to be certified as compliant.

Home Innovation Research Labs serves as Adopting Entity and provides certification services to the NGBS. Home Innovation Labs is a 55-year old, internationally-recognized, accredited product testing and certification laboratory located in Upper Marlboro, Maryland. Our work is solely focused on the residential construction industry and our mission is to improve the affordability, performance, and durability of housing by helping overcome barriers to innovation. Our core competency is as an independent, third-party product testing and certification lab, making us uniquely suited to administer a green certification program for residential buildings.

The goal of the NGBS and the Home Innovation NGBS Green Certification Program is to recognize projects that reach exceptional levels of sustainable design. We have worked hard to develop a program that removes as many barriers as

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possible to high-performance green buildings without eliminating any of the rigor or verification necessary to ensure compliance. To this end, we have kept our certification fees low, minimize the time needed for interpretations and project review, and significantly reduced the costs required to incorporate green practices.

The NGBS was developed after the LEED rating system; therefore, at first the LEED rating system was more commonly recognized in legislative and regulatory initiatives. However, since 2009 when ANSI first approved the NGBS, without exception, the NGBS has been considered as on par or more stringent than LEED as a green building rating system for residential projects. To date, not a single jurisdiction has refused to recognize the NGBS as an alternative compliance path for any regulatory or incentive program where we have asked them to make an equivalency decision.

NGBS Green certification is already the program of choice for many local builders and developers, and NGBS Green Certified building have been woven into the fabric of our community. In Alexandria, 7 multifamily buildings, representing 1,278 units, and 52 single-family homes have successfully achieved NGBS Green certification. There are currently 3 multifamily buildings, representing 728 units, and 140 single-family homes in-process for certification.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that City of Alexandria recognize NGBS Green certification as a compliance option in the proposed Green Building Policy. Thank you for your consideration.

#10

Gloria Sitton

From: Erin Lee via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, June 19, 2019 12:20 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Alexis Lacy; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #181996: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council I oppose the recommended LEED Silver...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 181996.

Request Details:

This is a "private" request. Information should only be provided to the original customer.

- Name: Erin Lee
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 7039530022
- Email: els51@yahoo.com
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: I oppose the recommended LEED Silver certification for private development as it does not hold the private sector accountable for doing their part to tackle the climate crisis. Protect the health and welfare of Alexandria citizens, not the economic benefit of the private sector. If TC Williams is LEED Gold certified as a public sector project, why can't we hold the private sector to the same standards. I urge the Council to pass a policy that requires LEED Gold certification for private development on this Saturday, June 22.
- Expected Response Date: Monday, June 24

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

This is an automated email notification of a *Call.Click.Connect.* request. Please do not reply to this email.

Gloria Sitton

From: Arthur Impastato via Call.Click.Connect. <CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 4:38 PM
To: City Council; City Council Aides; Alexis Lacy; Call Click Connect; Gloria Sitton
Subject: Call.Click.Connect. #181897: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council Item 10 June 24 Public Hearing...

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear *Call.Click.Connect.* User

A request was just created using *Call.Click.Connect.* The request ID is 181897.

Request Details:

This is a "public" request. Information may be provided to anyone who requests it.

- Name: Arthur Impastato
- Approximate Address: No Address Specified
- Phone Number: 703-567-5075
- Email: aimpastato@earthlink.net
- Service Type: Mayor, Vice Mayor, City Council
- Request Description: Item 10 June 24 Public Hearing Docket:

I oppose the recommended LEED Silver certification for private development since climate change is at a world crisis situation. No valid reason was presented by the task force as to why LEED Silver was chosen other than its economic benefit for the private sector. If we want to truly be a Green City we need to have both the public and private sector working together to achieve this goal. The City has already done much to make things easier for the private sector to build and expand in Alexandria and we should not bend to the will of the private sector at the expense of the health of our citizens and of our very planet. Please adopt LEED Gold certification for private development .

Respectfully submitted,

Arthur "Sash" Impastato

- Expected Response Date: Sunday, June 23

Please take the necessary actions in responding, handling and/or updating this request at the *Call.Click.Connect.* staff interface.

If you need assistance with handling this request, please contact CallClickConnect@alexandriava.gov or call 703.746.HELP.

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