

# City of Alexandria, Virginia

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## MEMORANDUM

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2008

TO: THE HONORABLE MAYOR AND MEMBERS OF CITY COUNCIL

FROM: JAMES K. HARTMANN, CITY MANAGER *J*

SUBJECT: PROPOSED FUNDING FOR ECO-CITY ACTION PLAN

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**ISSUES:** Proposed funding for Eco-City Action Plan.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** That the City Council approve the allocation of \$71,000 from environmental settlement funds to the Office of Environmental Quality to fund the Eco-City Action Plan.

**BACKGROUND:** In FY 2008, City Council funded and directed the Environmental Policy Commission (EPC) and City staff to work with Virginia Tech on the Eco-City Alexandria project with the original objective of: (i) taking an inventory of City's existing environmental policies, plans and programs; (ii) developing an Environmental Action Plan; and (iii) organizing and hosting an Eco-City Summit. During the implementation of this task, based on the input received from the EPC, the public, and the Eco-City Alexandria Steering Committee which includes Vice Mayor Pepper and Councilman Krupicka, the scope and amount of public outreach was substantially enhanced. Development and adoption of the Eco-City Charter, along with associated extensive public outreach (Eco City Summit, Eco-City Cafe, the use of the Place Matters electronic voting system, mailings etc.), became the major task completed in FY 2008. As a result, the original funds that were budgeted for development of the Environmental Action Plan ("Action Plan") were used to develop the Eco-City Charter. Therefore, the original goal/task for the development of the Action Plan was shifted to FY 2009 and the project team including the EPC, City staff and Virginia Tech has already begun working on it.

This Action Plan is proposed as a two phase project costing \$71,000 and entailing one year of additional public outreach, and consulting work by Virginia Tech. The first Phase (\$43,000 cost) started in conjunction, with Virginia Tech's fall semester with the second phase (\$28,000 cost) starting after January 2009 in conjunction with Virginia Tech's spring semester. Virginia Tech was previously authorized by the Office of Environmental Quality (OEQ) to start work on Phase I. The development of the two-phased Environmental Action Plan was based on the input from the Steering Committee and its desire to keep momentum and to show progress rather than

waiting an entire year. The goal is to complete Phase I in January 2009. The Environmental Policy Commission has scheduled an Open House on November 17, 2008, to share the draft of the Phase I Action Plan with the community. Phase II, which, if funded, is scheduled to be started in January 2009 and completed in June 2009, will also include similar outreach efforts.

These funds will be used for professional services from Virginia Tech and associated public outreach efforts. As previously recognized by City Council during the adoption of the Environmental Charter, the partnership with Virginia Tech on this project has been very successful, has been well received.

**FISCAL IMPACT:** The cost of Phase I is \$43,000, and the cost of Phase II is \$28,000 for a total cost of \$71,000. If approved, these funds would derive from environmental settlement funds received in 2002 from Jiffy Lube International after they had discharged used motor oil into City storm drains. These funds were set aside for environmental initiatives, and can be used for Eco-City initiatives.

**STAFF:**

Richard Baier, P.E., Director, T&ES

William Skrabak, Director, Office of Environmental Quality, T&ES

Edward Mandley, Director, General Services

Lalit Sharma, P.E., Division Chief, Office of Environmental Quality, T&ES

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