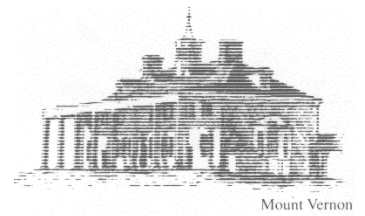




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To Proclaim October 6, 2021, Energy Efficiency Day in Fairfax County

Supervisor Dan Storck, Joint with Supervisor Penny Gross October 5, 2021

Each year, Energy Efficiency Day presents an opportunity to focus on the many benefits of taking action to save energy. Many energy and climate experts use the phrase “efficiency first” when talking about ways to make a real difference, and for good reason. Energy efficiency is fundamental to our clean energy future and is critically important to the reduction of greenhouse gases as well.

By taking action to become more energy efficient, we can address one of the two biggest sources of greenhouse gases in Fairfax County – energy use in buildings. The community has established a goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050, which is ambitious, but achievable if everyone does their part.

Efficiency measures are often inexpensive, quick, and easy to implement. Everyone can embrace energy efficiency. What’s more, becoming more energy efficient can reduce utility costs for residents and businesses. When we use energy wisely, we can cut back on our overall consumption and lower our monthly bills. In fact, reducing energy waste saves U.S. consumers billions of dollars on their utility bills every year, up to \$500 per household from appliance efficiency standards alone.

Energy efficiency is also an economic driver, with millions of Americans employed in the industry. By supporting efficiency measures with clean energy policies and programs, we can help to sustain those jobs and create new opportunities for employment right here in Fairfax County.

With the recent completion of the Community-wide Energy and Climate Action Plan, we now have a roadmap to help us achieve our greenhouse gas reduction goals. Existing County programs like Energy Action Fairfax and HomeWise stand ready to help residents make meaningful, lasting, efficiency improvements to their homes. In fact, the HomeWise program held their inaugural demonstration event in my District just this past weekend and handed out hundreds of LED lightbulbs, weatherstrips, socket sealers, and more to County residents, completely free of charge.

A nationwide network of energy efficiency groups and partners has designated the first Wednesday in October as the sixth national annual Energy Efficiency Day. Together the residents of Fairfax County can take steps to learn more about energy efficiency and to use energy wisely each and every day.

Therefore, Mr. Chairman, we ask, with unanimous consent, that a proclamation be prepared with my, Chairman McKay and Supervisor Gross' signatures designating October 6, 2021, as Energy Efficiency Day in Fairfax County. We also ask that the Office of Environmental and Energy Coordination register the County as a participant in Energy Efficiency Day 2021 on the official website <https://energyefficiencyday.org/>, where information can be found to publicize energy efficiency tips and information in recognition of this day.