



Fairfax County Acts on Climate Change . . .

- In July, 2007, Fairfax County partnered with the Sierra Club and counties around the country to create the *Cool Counties Program* to empower counties to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and fight global warming. They adopted a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 80 percent by 2050, or about 2 percent a year.
- Fairfax County has taken internal steps to lower their emissions, including:
 - Changed their vehicle fleet purchases to reduce the number of SUVs and added over 100 hybrid vehicles for county employee use.
 - Adopted a green building ordinance and constructed several county green buildings such as a library, a shelter and fire stations.
 - Purchased five percent of county electricity from renewable sources.

Furthermore, a Citizen's Task Force has developed a voluntary program for citizens called "*Cool Neighborhoods*".

The Who, What, and How of Cool Neighborhoods:

- **WHO:** A *Cool Neighborhood* can be a local homeowner's, condo or civic association, an elementary school district, or even a religious institution.
- **WHAT:** Each household records amounts of electricity, natural gas, oil, gasoline and water used by residents. The values are converted to annual CO2 emissions.
- **HOW:** Each household tracks greenhouse gas emissions using a simple record sheet or Excel spreadsheet (available on the Web site below) and submits progress reports to the neighborhood coordinator once a year. The coordinator tracks each household's progress toward a 2 percent reduction and reports to the County.

Get Started . . .

- Ask your neighborhood board or other coordinating body on becoming a Fairfax County *Cool Neighborhood*
- Choose a Neighborhood Coordinator who will receive information and suggestions on coordinating his or her neighborhood on the Web site.
- Enroll at least 20 percent of the neighborhood households to participate. Provide tracking and assistance as needed. Report to the County at yearend.

For more information:

<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/living/environment/coolcounties/>