

# BUILD OUR FUTURE

October 22, 2021

To Candidates for City Council and Mayor of Alexandria:

RE: Our Built Environment and Climate Change Mitigation

Alexandria City Council unanimously approved a [resolution to declare a climate emergency](#) over Mayor Wilson's signature on October 22nd, 2019. A clear and compelling evaluation of our dire situation, the resolution concluded that the fundamental well-being of our community is at stake.

Since then the crisis has intensified and accelerated. Dangerous impacts and disruptions are growing, and only major mitigation efforts now can constrain the massive adaptation costs we are already starting to incur.

Our Environmental Action Plan calls for a 50% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 to limit the scale of damage we face. This necessitates immediate, concerted action to dramatically improve our progress. Since more than half of our community's emissions are associated with energy use in the built environment, we must prioritize reductions in this area. If we fail to do this over the course of the next three Council terms, our resources will be consumed by attempts to ameliorate catastrophe.

If you succeed in being elected or re-elected, we urge you to collaborate with your colleagues to:

- Expand the scope and extent of current programs to retrofit existing buildings through electrification, energy efficiency and renewable energy;
- Build upon Alexandria's commitment to net zero energy performance in new civic facilities by extending this policy to all projects supported by public funds, including affordable housing;
- Establish a policy that all new private development shall be net zero energy upon completion;
- Incentivize on-site solar, battery storage, and microgrids to strengthen the resilience of our neighborhoods and advance decarbonization of the grid;
- Direct the new City Manager to organize and administer this work as a critical priority;
- Assemble Federal, State, and Municipal funding and authority at a scale equal to the task.

Resolute, pragmatic, and creative governance is vital. City Council has a responsibility to engage the true dimension of this crisis, which will require a sustained effort from us all.

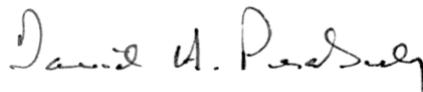
Rapid transition to a zero-carbon built environment will be an essential component of an effective climate emergency response. It will simultaneously afford us an opportunity to enhance the quality, equity, and economic vitality of life in Alexandria.

We will support your work in every way we can.

Sincerely,



Stephen Koenig



David Peabody



Scott Barstow