

MEETING SUMMARY
askHRgreen.org Environmental Education Committees

The askHRgreen.org Environmental Education Committees met in January and discussed the following ongoing programs and initiatives:

askHRgreen.org Recycling & Beautification Committee – January 10

- The Committee is preparing an application for the EPA Recycling & Education Outreach grant due on February 15, 2023.
- The Committee received 100 free wall mount cigarette waste receptacles from Keep Virginia Beautiful to use in the askHRgreen Cigarette Waste Receptacle Grant program. This is a joint program with the askHRgreen Stormwater Education Committee that provides local businesses with free cigarette waste receptacles.
- The Committee was awarded a \$12,500 grant from Virginia DEQ for the development of a litter prevention campaign.
- The Committee is recruiting volunteers for the 2023 Hampton Roads Great American Cleanup scheduled for March 24-25.

askHRgreen.org Fats, Oils, & Grease Education Committee – January 17

- The Committee mailed communications to all principals and cafeteria managers in Hampton Roads public schools to encourage kitchen best management practices for FOG prevention and regular cleaning and maintenance of grease control devices.
- The Committee finalized plans to host a Grease Interceptor Training Course on February 21, 2023.

askHRgreen.org Stormwater Education Committee – January 20

- The Committee continued to coordinate rain barrel workshops for spring 2023.
- The Committee was awarded a \$17,355 grant from the Chesapeake Bay Restoration Fund grant to support rain barrel workshops, pet waste stations, and K-12 education resources.

askHRgreen.org Water Awareness Committee – January 26

- The Committee discussed recent reports of high water bills and plans for the Fix a Leak Week media campaign in March.
- The Committee discussed additional possible areas of regional collaboration including LIHWAP funding and PFAS outreach.
- The Committee will hold a water bottle giveaway for Drinking Water Week in May 2023.

**MEETING SUMMARY
DIRECTORS OF UTILITIES COMMITTEE**

The Directors of Utilities Committee met in Newport News on February 1, 2023. The following items were discussed:

- Directors discussed the rising costs of water treatment chemical contracts and the impacts on operating costs.
- Mr. David Jurgens, Chesapeake, provided a brief on recent customer communication challenges related to high water bills. HRPDC staff led a round table discussion on leak detection and water meters. The committee directed staff to prepare a data call to compile information and lessons learned using different metering systems.
- Ms. Katchmark, HRPDC, updated the committee on the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program funds received across the region. The committee directed the HRPDC to publish a news release highlighting the program and its success.
- Ms. Jen Cobb, Newport News Waterworks, presented on water monitoring and response actions following detections of PFAS in the Chickahominy River.
- Ms. Cullipher, HRPDC, discussed public education and outreach materials for lead and PFAS. Directors were asked for a final review of the lead materials. The committee directed HRPDC staff to begin developing regional resources for PFAS based on available guidance from industry leaders.

MEETING SUMMARY
REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

The Regional Environmental Committee met on February 2, 2023. The following items were discussed.

- Ms. Sarah Sterzing, Keep Norfolk Beautiful, gave a presentation to the Committee on the City of Norfolk's recent litter fingerprint project, which provided the "who, what, when, and where" data on litter.
- Mr. Fernando Pasquel, Arcadis, gave a presentation to the Committee on the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality's 2023 Stormwater Handbook, which is scheduled to be completed by the end of the year.
- Mr. David Mergen, City of Chesapeake, gave a presentation to the Committee on the change of legal status of the northern long-eared bat from a threatened species to an endangered one and the impact on construction projects in Hampton Roads.
- Ms. Tammy Rosario, James City County, gave a presentation to the Committee on the County's recently adopted Natural and Cultural Assets Plan.