

# Connecting Voices and Actions for a Safer Planet

Each year, EcoAction Arlington works more urgently to achieve our mission to preserve and enhance Arlington's atmosphere, waterways, and open spaces.

The "2020-2021 Annual Report Highlights" offers a view of strategies employed to increase our impact. Through these efforts, we are strengthening existing programs that connect residents to the vital work of maintaining the safety and viability of our natural resources.

2020-2021  
Annual Report  
Highlights



## Reduced Carbon Emissions



Most of us can do more to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and conserve water. For some families, these changes require access to resources they may not have. Despite the limitations on in-person activity during COVID-19, Energy Masters helped seven families decrease energy and water use by installing 16 LED light bulbs and six low-flow aerator faucets and showerheads and sealing areas to reduce air loss.

## Planted More Trees



How much value did Arlington's environment receive by planting 448 trees last year? The list is long, but some of the most significant benefits include producing oxygen for 1,792 people, with each tree delivering enough oxygen for four individuals. Each new tree increases air purification, decreases stormwater pollution, and increases the capture of carbon dioxide.

## Removed Harmful Debris



The job of collecting litter and debris from our waterways, parks, and along roadways has no end date. This year, we improved the environment for wildlife and humanity by removing and properly disposing of 336 bags.



## Sowed Seeds for a Healthier Planet



Some of the most vocal advocates for protecting our resources are the youth in our country. Working with Arlington Public Schools, we shared hands-on lessons with 751 students, planting seeds of knowledge to encourage actions, habits, and decisions that will improve our environment and slow the warming of our planet.

## Led Community Engagement



Volunteer participation empowers and energizes the work of our programs, events, and advocacy initiatives. Last year, 565 individuals devoted 2,818 hours to support programs and activities that make Arlington a more sustainable place to live.

## Collaborated to Protect Nature



Understanding the environmental impact of our actions can change behavior. EcoAction Arlington and Arlington County's Department of Environmental Services partnered to mark 65 storm drains, reminding the public not to dispose of anything in the storm drains. Small activities like these play a crucial role in maintaining the safety of our water supply.

## Empowered Voices for Change



Widespread participation is needed to ensure our planet is safe and healthy for all. Through targeted advocacy campaigns, we've successfully increased engagement, uniting our voices and perspectives to help secure a plastic bag tax, support the County's Community Energy Plan, and work with restaurants and businesses to reduce the use of single-use plastics.