



# ENERGY MASTERS

2023-2024

## Student Volunteer Program Overview

### The Energy Masters Program...

1. **Trains volunteers** in energy efficiency and water conservation through an intensive seven session training program.
2. **Helps low-income residents** to reduce their water and energy use, save money on their utility bills, and improve the comfort of their homes.
3. **Creates a more sustainable community** by reducing carbon emissions through energy and water conservation improvements.

Since the program launched in 2011, we have trained more than 300 volunteers who have provided thousands of hours of community service to improve the lives of over 1,000 families living in affordable housing developments in Arlington and Alexandria. Energy Masters is a program operated jointly by EcoAction Arlington and Virginia Cooperative Extension.

**Are you ready to become part of this  
highly motivated and engaged community of volunteers?**

Although our work will be performed in Arlington County and the City of Alexandria, residents from neighboring jurisdictions are welcome and encouraged to apply.

<b>Volunteers who:</b>	<b>Will then:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Review Program Overview (this document)</li> <li>● Complete an online application before September 30th</li> <li>● Successfully complete a brief telephone screening/interview</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Train</li> <li>2. Serve</li> <li>3. Report</li> </ol>

## 1. Train

Training sessions are traditionally held at Fairlington Community Center, 3308 S. Stafford Street, Arlington, and virtually with the exception of one session which is held on location at an affordable housing community in either Arlington or Alexandria. Each session will include recommended and required readings and activities, which should take no more than one hour each week.

Prior to the start of the training, student volunteers are asked to choose a subject-matter team: 1) Continuing Education; 2) Tenant Education; 3) Data Collection and Analysis; 4) Community Engagement and Marketing. By participating in these teams, volunteers will provide assistance and feedback in these areas. Student volunteers will be on teams with community volunteers.

Subject Matter Team options:

**1) Continuing Education** - This group plans educational opportunities during the year that further fellow volunteers knowledge of energy or conservation issues. Examples include a guest speaker at a happy hour, eco-house tour, hands on learning opportunity or a virtual learning opportunity.

**2) Tenant Education** - This group develops tenant education materials or demonstration tools for tabling events and helps plan and conduct on-site and virtual educational activities. This group may be tasked with developing energy and water efficiency educational materials that could be translated into different languages and distributed to low income families.

**3) Data Collection and Analysis** - This group helps the management team in our ongoing efforts to survey and interview tenants served in previous years. They will also help analyze energy usage data from completed apartment units.

**4) Community Engagement and Marketing** - This group will help take photographs and create flyers, social media posts, update presentation slide decks, and other materials. They will also reach out to community groups and organizations by email and/or phone to spread word about the program and/or our events. Furthermore, this group will help expand Energy Masters' marketing lists.

### Training Schedule (subject to change)

Thursday, October 5, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Session 1: Introduction and Overview (In-Person at Fairlington Community Center)
Thursday, October 12, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Session 2: Get to Know Your Community (Virtual Class)
Thursday, October 19, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Session 3: Energy Masters' Fundamentals (In-Person Fairlington Community Center)
Thursday, October 26, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Session 4: Building Science (Virtual Class)
Saturday, November 4, 2023 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	Session 5: Hands-on Training (In-Person at Gates of Ballston)
Thursday, November 9, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Session 6: Training Reflections & Diving Into Policy (Virtual Class)
Thursday, November 16, 2023 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	Celebration and Recognition Ceremony (In-Person at Fairlington Community Center)

## 2. Serve

Following the completion of the training, student volunteers are typically expected to contribute a **minimum of 20 community service hours**, although we can be flexible on this requirement for students' schedules and case-by-case situations.

Given the opportunities to complete energy/water upgrades at alternate locations, we have set the following *tentative* work days. During work days, volunteers would work in teams to provide energy and water upgrades at facilities in Arlington and Alexandria. A typical work day is 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. The ability to get into occupied apartments depends on the status of COVID-19 and vaccination rates. Any volunteer who would be uncomfortable or unable to provide in-person assistance would not be required to participate.

Work days for the 2022-2023 volunteer year are tentatively set for the second Saturday of each month (with the exception of April, which is the third Saturday) on the following dates. Locations are TBD and dates are subject to change.

- Saturday, December 2, 2023

- Saturday, January 6, 2024

- **Saturday, February 3, 2024**

- **Saturday March 2, 2024**

- **Saturday, April 13, 2024**

- **Saturday, May 4, 2024**

There may also be opportunities to expand our programming by developing learning content to be used for events.

### **3. Report**

Upon completing your service hours, report them through our online reporting Better Impact system at [myimpactpage.com](https://myimpactpage.com). This information is critical in measuring the impact of our work, and in completing reports for our funders. It is also how we track progress towards your total volunteer requirement and your achievement of certified status. Student volunteers can become certified Energy Master Volunteers after completing 20 volunteer hours, although this requirement will be contingent on the opportunities we are able to offer this year.

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