



# ENERGY MASTERS

2023-2024

## Community 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.

Volunteers who:	Will then:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an online application (before September 30th deadline)</li> <li>• Successfully complete a brief telephone screening/interview, and</li> <li>• Pay a \$110 registration fee (Early Bird rate of \$90 by September 9) to help defer the cost of the program (Needs-based waivers available. Just ask!**)</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Train</li> <li>2. Serve</li> <li>3. Report</li> </ol>

Note- Background check is required for participation. Once accepted into the program, volunteers will submit a secure online form to initiate a background check.

\*\* All are welcome and encouraged to participate in this program, regardless of financial means. If the registration fee is a barrier to your participation, please contact us at [bill@ecoactionarlington.org](mailto:bill@ecoactionarlington.org). Fee not required for Energy Masters Student Volunteers.

### 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 two hours each week.

## **Training Schedule (subject to change)**

<b>Thursday, October 5, 2023</b> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Session 1: Introduction and Overview (In-Person at Fairlington Community Center)</b>
<b>Thursday, October 12, 2023</b> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Session 2: Get to Know Your Community (Virtual Class)</b>
<b>Thursday, October 19, 2023</b> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Session 3: Energy Masters' Fundamentals (In-Person Fairlington Community Center)</b>
<b>Thursday, October 26, 2023</b> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Session 4: Building Science (In-Person Fairlington Community Center)</b>
<b>Saturday, November 4, 2023</b> 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Session 5: Hands-on Training (In-Person at an Apartment Complex)</b>
<b>Thursday, November 9, 2023</b> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Session 6: Training Reflections &amp; Energy/Housing Policy (Virtual Class)</b>
<b>Thursday, November 16, 2023</b> 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.	<b>Celebration and Recognition Ceremony (In-Person at Fairlington Community Center)</b>

Prior to the start of the training, volunteers are asked to choose a subject-matter team (including Tenant Education, Community Engagement and Marketing, Continuing Education, and Data Collection and Analysis) to join for the duration of the program and will provide assistance and feedback in these areas.

**1) Continuing Education** - This group plans occasional 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, a 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 activities such as energy bingo events and developing other tenant education 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 who live in the units we served previously. They will also help analyze energy usage data from completed apartment units to support our funder's reporting requirements.

**4) Community Engagement and Marketing** - This group will also work on PowerPoint presentations or content for online or in-person education and outreach, which entails coming up with ideas for events that can engage the public and educate on energy and water conservation. Additionally, this group will help take photographs and create flyers, social media posts, and other marketing 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.

## **2. Serve**

Following the completion of the training, volunteers are expected to contribute a **minimum of 25 annual community service hours**.

Given the opportunities to complete energy/water upgrades at alternate locations, we have set the following *tentative* work days. During work days, volunteers will work in teams to provide energy and water upgrades at facilities in Arlington and Alexandria. A typical work day is 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Work days for the 2023-2024 volunteer year are tentatively set for the first 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 9, 2024**
- **Saturday, February 3, 2024**
- **Saturday March 2, 2024**
- **Saturday, March 16, 2024**
- **Saturday, April 13, 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. Community volunteers can become certified Energy Master Volunteers after completing 25 volunteer hours, although this requirement will be contingent on the opportunities we are able to offer this year.

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