



**FOCUS 2015**  
**US FRENCH EMBASSY, MARCH 5-6, 2015**  
**PLENARY SESSION 1 – TALKING POINTS FOR ALEXANDRIA**  
**MAYOR WILLIAM D. EUILLE**

Ladies, gentlemen and distinguished guests, my name is Bill Euille and I am the mayor of the City of Alexandria in Virginia. It is a pleasure to have an opportunity to address this plenary session on US and French shared insights on sustainability – a subject of increasing concern to local governments. I would like to thank the French Ambassador to the US, Mr. Gerard Araud, and French embassy staff for their foresight and fine efforts in organizing this conference. I am also delighted to have the opportunity to work and share this platform today with my fellow mayor of the City of Caen, Mr. Joel Brunneau. As some of you might know, the City of Caen and our City are sister cities and Alexandria looks forward to collaborating with and learning from Caen as much as we can to enhance our City's sustainability efforts.

Alexandria is a coastal city located on the shore of the Potomac River. The City and its 141,000 residents have a long history of working together for a cleaner environment for all who visit, work and live here. We are fortunate to have an educated, informed and engaged citizenry that has strong interest

in environmental issues. The City established an Alexandria Environmental Policy Commission in January 1970, actually 11 months prior to the formation of the US Environmental Protection Agency. This commission is one of the 80 or so boards and commissions that are led by concerned citizens and that advise the City government on several issues of interest to the City and its residents.

Eco-City Alexandria is our sustainability platform. We define sustainability as meeting our community's present needs while preserving our historic character and ensuring the ability of future generation to meet their own needs. Eco-City Alexandria serves as the City's strategic and holistic guide for our sustainability planning and the sustainability actions we take over the next 20 years in our evolution to being an Eco-City—a place where people can live healthier and economically productive lives, while reducing their environmental impact.

We are making good progress on more than 350 actions stipulated in the Eco-City Environmental Action Plan. In 2012, and after 10 years of intensive efforts, Alexandria and its residents achieved the City's long-term goal of permanently shutting down the antiquated GenOn power plant, which had been the single largest air pollution source in Northern Virginia.

As part of our sustainability initiatives, as well as many more efforts throughout Alexandria, we are acutely aware of climate change as one of the most – if not the most – pressing global issues of our current generation and certainly of our future generations. As mayor, and a lifelong resident of Alexandria, I am truly concerned about the significant impacts climate change has been having on our coastal city and Alexandria's residents in the form of more frequent and severe flooding events along our waterfront. On behalf of the City, I endorsed and signed the 2005 U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement, along with 278 other U.S. mayors, committing Alexandria to meet or exceed the Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Our City commits to managing energy usage and supply in a sustainable, resilient, and secure manner. Our City operations reduced their energy use by more than 20% as compared to energy use in the year 2006 and continue to implement energy efficiency and energy conservation measures to reduce even more.

The City in 2009 adopted and implemented a Green Building policy for commercial and multi-family developments that to date has resulted in more than 90% of square footage of approved developments conforming to at least the Silver standard of the U.S. Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy & Environmental Design – "LEED for short."

The City also focuses on development of transit-oriented, pedestrian-friendly village centers. Recent examples include the new Potomac Yard development centered around a planned new, \$268 million Potomac Yard Metrorail station and the new Metroway Premium Bus Service on the Crystal City - Potomac Yard Transitway -the Washington metropolitan area's first right-of-way dedicated to bus rapid transit. The City also participates in the region's Capital Bikeshare network and has a fleet of 31 hybrid and electric vehicles. By the end of 2015, 50% of the City's DASH bus fleet will be energy-efficient hybrid-electric buses.

A few other successes include an 81% increase in the City's solid waste recycling rate to 48.8% currently. The City and its neighboring jurisdiction, Arlington County, co-own the COVANTA energy-from-waste facility. This facility, which combusts municipal waste from these two jurisdictions, produces 23 megawatts of electricity, enough to power about 20,000 homes.

Very recently, Alexandria was selected by the Chesapeake Crescent Initiative (CCI) for its second "Safe + Smart Cities" pilot program. The City will develop a blueprint to enhance our sustainability and resilience, and maximize operational performance, through the efficient use of technology. We are excited to kick-off this program very soon and look forward to sharing the results with our friends at our Sister City of Caen.

I see a number of fertile areas that Alexandria can really benefit from collaboration with our Sister City of Caen due to our similarities such as having a river. We definitely can learn from Caen on combined sewer system upgrades as well as stormwater and wastewater management in general. We are also interested in how Caen manage and mitigate the flooding issue common to both our cities. Policies, plans and projects on green building, energy and transportation would also be of great interest to our city.

I would like to conclude by saying that improved resiliency of a locality such as ours requires the close collaboration and participation of all neighboring

jurisdictions as well as the transfer of knowledge and technologies from around the world. We are happy to have Caen as our sister City. Thank you for your attention and I would be delighted to answer your questions.